

*By Mr. Ross (Middlesex):*

Q. Where were these baskets made, Miss Moodie?—A. At Spanish River reserve, in Soo agency.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions?

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. Do you go to Morley?—A. I have never been west of Winnipeg, although I have had correspondence with Mr. Graham of Morley.

*By Mr. Ross (Calgary):*

Q. From what you have already said, I think you will agree with me that before the advent of the white men the Indians possessed a talent for arts and crafts?—A. The Indians used such materials as were at hand, and they made useful articles and things that they needed to use.

Q. And a number of them had talent along that line?—A. When a little family competition entered into the matter they began to decorate and ornament them for special occasions. Those articles would be of a better type. Now, when anybody makes something which he wants to be beautiful, and to use for some special occasion, he will try to turn out something better than an article manufactured by the dozen.

Q. And in order to do that sort of thing they actually developed a talent along that line?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, following up what Mr. MacNicol and Mr. Castleden were saying about the department taking steps to search out these talents and try to find their practical application as far as possible—

The CHAIRMAN: Wouldn't that be a question, rather, for Mr. Hoey? My point is that I want to avoid the asking of the same questions over and over again of different witnesses, as they come along. Now, Mr. Hoey is in charge of general education and it might be wise to reserve questions on education for him to answer. On the other hand, if you would be satisfied with what Miss Moodie might answer—

Mr. Ross (*Calgary*): I do not know. Whoever can give the answer would be satisfactory to me.

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest Mr. Hoey.

The WITNESS: I can only answer part of the question. Where I found Indian workers who stood out above the general run and make goods of a sort which do not fit into the ordinary lines of our markets, I advised them to go to the handicraft guilds in the different cities because there they would have a better chance to cultivate and market their better class of goods. I think I had better leave the balance of the question for Mr. Hoey.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, by Mr. Hoey.

Mr. Ross (*Middlesex*): A moment ago Miss Moodie mentioned a communication about which she appeared to be a bit wild.

The WITNESS: This communication is from a man whose name I will not mention. He is a prominent basket manufacturer. The letter reads as follows:—

Dear Miss MOODIE,—We have yours of May 12, and note your various remarks. We haven't any argument about these costs that you mention, nevertheless the ceiling is on our prices, and we have argued and argued with the government about that, but they won't grant us any release, and that is the reason these picking baskets are very scarce, and will be more scarce. It seems too bad that some of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board didn't have a little experience in the practical working out of some of these matters, it seems to be their one and only idea that prices cannot go up. We wonder if any of them really believe in practical experience