

Q. I see you have some other specimens with you; would you please give the Committee a description of them? A. They are specimens of wheat and barley which I got at Norway House in 1879. While I was there they happened to be cutting their grain and I brought these as specimens of the wheat and barley grown in that district. It is grown there every year. I remarked to Mr. Roderick Ross, who was in charge of the fort, that it was interesting as showing that the climate was fit for wheat. He said yes, he grew wheat there and that he never resided anywhere where wheat did not grow, although this is north of the wheat belt as laid down by the maps. The fact that it is a sure crop at Norway House is, I think, owing to its proximity to Lake Winnipeg.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Then it will grow much further north as you go westward? A. Yes; but I think in every place where wheat is successfully raised in these northern districts, it is owing to local circumstances—to the proximity of large sheets of water. Lake Winnipeg is a large body of water and sends the warm air from it over a large district of country.

Q. What is the northern limit of barley, in your experience? A. Barley has been raised at Oxford House nearly half way from Norway House to York Factory. It has been grown there as a regular crop. It has also been grown at Osnaburg House, and Moose Factory.

Q. How far north along the Mackenzie River? A. I am not certain, but I know it has been grown at Fort Providence on Great Slave Lake, and it is grown at Fort Chipewyan on Athabasca Lake, every year.

Q. Is it the case that the yield of all these grains is more abundant the nearer you get to the northern limits of growth? A. I understand it is the case, that the grain is more perfect at all events—that any plant is more perfect the nearer you can grow it to its northern limit, provided it can attain to its full development.

Q. It will not grow in larger quantities though? A. No, not perhaps in larger quantities, but of better quality. This applies to grain and vegetables, and it may have something to do with the theory of the natural migration of plants. It is supposed by some that the first home of tropical plants was in the polar regions, and afterwards they travelled south. If, as is supposed to be the case, that plants attain their greatest perfection within the northern limit of their growth, it may have something to do with this theory in natural history.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow.

OTTAWA, Tuesday, 7th June, 1887.

Mr. BEDSON, Warden of the Penitentiary at Stony Mountain, Manitoba, appeared and was examined as follows:—

*By the Chairman:*

Q. With your permission we will not adhere to the order of those questions, but simply allow you to make statements, which you think will bear on the questions on the printed paper and in answer to those put to you by members of the Committee, keeping in view, of course, that the object of the Committee is, primarily, information regarding the existing food products; secondly, the manner in which they can be conserved; and, third, the manner in which they can be improved or increased. So that keeping those objects in view, we will ask you first what food products in the North-West are you familiar with? A. Of the animal kind or vegetable?

Q. The order in which you like. You may commence with animals or birds? A. More particularly with birds. There are geese, ducks, partridges, prairie chickens and then there is the rabbit.

Q. Are there any large animals in the North-West? A. I think not.

Q. The Committee were informed by a previous witness, that you were possessed of a herd of buffaloes? A. Yes, but I do not include those, because they are not now a natural product of the North-West.