

tered just for the tongues and tallow in the summer time. It was the custom of the Indians to make bounds and enclosures for the buffalo in the winter months. Of course in those days the Indians had to keep in large parties. The different tribes were at war with one another, and of course, for self-protection, they had to live in large parties. They would make these bounds and enclosures and drive hundreds of buffalo at a time into them, and it was their policy to kill everything that came in, calves or anything else, because they reasoned—and very naturally too—that if these animals got out, and they had occasion to drive them in again, they would know what was up and lead the others astray, and they thought it better to kill everything that came in so that they would not profit by their experience.

By the Honorable Mr. Allan :

Q. Is not the disappearance of the buffalo largely due to the improved firearms?
A. Of course the improved firearms had something to do with it.

Q. Repeating rifles, for instance? A. Yes; but it was really the traffic in robes that lead to the extermination of the buffalo. Of course a man with a repeating rifle could do a great deal more execution than a man with the old-fashioned firearms. The robes were valuable, and the buffaloes were killed to obtain them.

Q. In fact, they killed the goose that laid the golden eggs? A. Yes.

By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :

Q. How early in the season do the robes become valuable? A. In October. The most valuable robes were those obtained in November.

Q. After the weather was fully cold? A. Yes.

By the Chairman :

Q. Have you seen any crosses with the buffalo? A. Yes; I have seen some.

Q. What is the hybrid animal? A. The robe, of course, is very good, but as a beef producing animal I do not think it is any better than our domestic cattle.

Q. Is it as good? A. It is not as heavy and I do not think it is as good.

By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :

Q. Are not the hind quarters heavier? A. No. The animal is much lighter than the buffalo, but it is not as heavy as our domestic animals.

By the Honorable Mr. Allan :

Q. Even the fur of those I saw was straight; there was no curl in it? A. It just depends on how many crosses there are. Of course a robe deteriorates the oftener the animal is crossed.

Q. The nearer it gets to the domestic animal? A. Yes.

By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :

Q. The hybrids will breed again? A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any crosses with the Galloway cattle? A. I have never seen any.

By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :

Q. Is there any marked difference in the character and habits of the prairie Indian as compared with the Indian of the wooded districts? A. Yes.

Q. Can the prairie Indian thrive in the locality inhabited by the others? A. Yes; but the habits of the two are very different. The wood Indian is much more industrious than the prairie Indian, and is more careful of anything he gets. His habits are entirely different. Even in the old days when game was plentiful, the hunting of the wood Indian was not different from that of the prairie Indian. He had to get up before daylight as a rule and start out with his snowshoes and tramp around all day, which is hard work when the snow is two or three feet deep. Hunting the moose is very hard work and requires a great deal of patience and perseverance. It is the same with hunting beaver; it is hard work chopping at frozen earth, three or four feet deep, or cutting ice on a lake or river, so that they actually became more industrious, and they appreciated anything they got, because they had to work harder for it. Now, all the plain Indian had to do was to get his horse and mount him, and it was only pleasure hunting the buffalo. I have had some experience of it and know what it is—it is something like fox hunting. All that the Indian of the plain had to do was to get his horse out and kill as many buffalo as he required