

North-West Territories if this wild rice could be introduced there, and I think there is, on the part of the white population generally, a desire to try it. I could refer you to an article published in the *Bulletin of Edmonton*, in which the editor called upon its readers to give a description of its growth, and how it could be cultivated—on what land or in what lakes. He did not know anything about it, and he invited the public at large to contribute communications to his paper on the subject. That article also created a desire on the part of the population there to try it.

Q. In addition to adding hops and rice to those districts, can you suggest any other native vegetable or plant that could with benefit be introduced there from where it grows? A. No. The only vegetable I know natural to the country is the wild turnip. It would certainly be worth while to try its improvement, if you could improve it considerably, as it partakes somewhat of the character of the parsnip—that is to say, it is of use in the spring. It might be found very advantageous to have this root on the Indian reserves at that particular season of the year. In the spring the potatoes of the former season are nearly all exhausted or are required for seed, and this wild turnip would supply the place of the potato at that season of the year.

Q. Is the Committee to understand that, in addition to the cultivation of the ordinary turnip, it would be an advantage to cultivate this wild variety also? A. I believe so, for the same purpose as you cultivate the parsnip.

Q. It would yield earlier? A. Yes; you can use them in the spring instead of in the fall.

Q. Give the Committee your opinion as to the best means of re-stocking denuded districts with the plants, animals and fish which were once indigenous there? A. I could not give you any information on that point. I have never made a practical study of the subject, and I think it has not been tried by anybody in the North-West.

Q. Will you please state generally to the Committee how such transplanting, re-stocking and adding to the indigenous food supplies can best be effected, and at what probable cost? A. No; for the same reason this question might be passed over.

Q. What food, in your opinion, can most economically and healthfully be supplied to the Indians of the North-West in times of scarcity? From what districts and at what cost can such food be supplied? A. I believe beef at present would be one of the most economical kinds of food to give them, because we have large ranches which are getting to be well stocked, and this beef is grown near the reserves, especially Treaty No. 7, and could be easily and more economically supplied, I think, than any other food.

Q. What is the average price of beef on the hoof where it is grown there? A. I could only mention from hearsay; I never bought any in that way. Our market is at Regina, and all my purchases are made in small quantities. I think you could, on the spot, procure your beef for four or five cents per pound, live weight.

Q. What is considered a ration for an Indian in time of scarcity? A. They have a capacity for consuming food that most white people cannot understand. The quantity in their case is somewhat different from what you would supply to a white man. I believe they must have at least thirty ounces of solid food a day. They might live with less, certainly: they frequently live with less than that, but when they come across food they consume a much larger quantity than white men would. I have had an Indian at my own place—I might give his name since he is dead now, Poundmaker,—I had him at my own table at Battleford. His reserve is about twenty-five miles from there, and whenever he came into Battleford I always invited him to take dinner at my house. He was as clean as most people, but he took more than any white man would, and the first time that he took a meal at my place he ate as much as three white men would. I dare say that this extraordinary appetite on the part of the Indians may be accounted for in this way. Since the extinction of the buffalo they are always more or less in a state of want. With all the good will in the world, the Indian Department cannot be expected to feed them fully all the time. They give them sufficient food to keep them alive, and they are expected to work and besides to earn something else by the chase and otherwise. Sometimes there is a scarcity of game, so that they have to depend entirely on what the Indian Depart-