

lakes in which fish will flourish and thrive but it is quite different with the alkali lakes; in the winter the fish would be killed.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. Have you many real salt lakes in the North-West? A. There are some salt lakes.

Q. Is it just whitefish that you find in those lakes? A. Most kinds of fish are found in the fresh water lakes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :*

Q. The water in the alkali lakes is too strong for fish to live in them? A. Yes. There are some lakes slightly touched with salt, and the fish can live in those.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Will you please state generally to the Committee how such transplanting, restocking and adding to the indigenous food supplies can best be effected, and at what probable cost? A. I cannot say anything as to the cost, of course, but the only practical way, in my opinion, to restock and transplant would be to have it done by the Government. The Government might establish a fish hatchery at Grand Rapids, and it would be very easy to restock a great many of those lakes. In my opinion the Grand Rapids would be a very central point. They could get plenty of spawn there, and there is boat communication both ways.

Q. It would be a central point from which to distribute spawn? A. Yes.

Q. And the lake would be a reservoir for saving fish life? A. Yes.

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. In some portions of the country of course fish can be supplied very economically, and it is a very wholesome food, and in other parts of the country, beef, pork and flour.

Q. Do you include wild rice? A. Yes, and wild rice.

*By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :*

Q. Can potatoes be produced nearly all over that country? A. Yes, everywhere.

Q. And do they ripen sufficiently so that they could be replanted? A. Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Which of the indigenous plants can, in your opinion, be materially improved in quality, quantity and size by cultivation, grafting or budding? A. As far as the plants go, I do not think you could improve them. In fact, I do not think it would be profitable to cultivate any of the wild plants that we have in the North-West, but the berries, if they were simply cultivated, I think would be greatly improved.

Q. What grafts would you suggest? A. Just cultivate them as they are. I think the wild berries that we have are very good as they are. I do not think they could be improved in flavor, but I think they could be improved in size by cultivation.

Q. What grains, grasses, fruits, roots and vegetables will, in your opinion, yield the greatest results from the indifferent tillage which is to be expected from such bands of Indians as are new to agricultural pursuits? A. The roots are potatoes, turnips and onions. They are largely cultivated among the Indians now.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. Do the Indians care for onions? A. Yes, they are very fond of them.

Q. And beets? A. Yes, beets, carrots, parsnips, cauliflower, &c.

*By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :*

Q. Do the Indians know how to cultivate those vegetables? A. They go in for roots. They do not know much about cultivating vegetables. A few are commencing.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. It has been suggested by some witnesses that barley and Indian corn would be useful to cultivate, because the Indians use them for soup? A. Barley would do. Corn is a very delicate plant, and I do not think it could be grown by the Indians with advantage. Barley grows well and is a sure crop. If you allow it to ripen too much it shells and there is a second growth.