

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Can you think of any other plants or fruits? A. We have a fruit called the saskatoon. It grows on trees alongside of most of the rivers all through the country—the Saskatchewan, the Battle and the Qu'Appelle Rivers—alongside of streams everywhere. They are very plentiful. It is a fruit resembling blueberries very much in appearance. It is not quite as blue; it is darker than the blueberry, but in shape it is very much the same. In taste it differs in this respect—it is much sweeter. You can eat a great deal of it, and I have seen Indians living entirely on those berries for days running with nothing else. They collect them during the ripening season in August, and dry them, and use the berries in winter with their meat.

*By the Honorable Mr. Ogilvie :*

Q. Do they not mix them with pemmican? A. They used to when pemmican was plentiful.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. What sizes are the trees? A. Various sizes. In the bush you will find them up to twenty feet high. Outside the bush you will find little bushes like currant bushes, and they grow from that up to about twenty or twenty-five feet, but the best berries are those found on medium size bushes.

Q. About the size of the ordinary currant bush? A. About six or seven feet high—you will find the best berries on those trees.

*By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :*

Q. Are they like the huckleberry we have in our country? A. Yes, something like that. An experiment has been tried in two different years—last year and the year before—by a friend of mine living at Round Lake, on the Qu'Appelle River, Mr. Decazes; he has made wine with these berries. He exhibited some at the Exposition held last fall at Regina. He had a few bottles of this wine, and as a friend of his I was given a couple, which I had in my house during the winter, and with which I have treated some of my friends passing that way. It certainly is a good wine. It was the first time, as he explained to us, that he had tested it. The second time showed great improvement on his first experiment, and he is quite sure that next year he will produce much better wine than he did last fall. He is very confident as to his success in making wine of the saskatoon berry.

Q. What is the nature of it? A. In color it resembles port wine or claret of that color, and in consistency it is like claret. In taste it is a little sweeter than claret, but still it can be used at the table as ordinary claret.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Has he tried that experiment with any other berries? A. I think he has, but I have not seen the result myself. He feels confident as to the success of it, and if he does succeed, he says there are hundreds of acres of those berries right around his place there.

Q. Has he tried the experiment of improving the size or the quality of those berries by cultivation? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Have you in that country the high and the low bush cranberry? A. We have. They are very plentiful around Prince Albert settlement.

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :*

Q. That is the high bush cranberry? A. We have the two kinds. We have none, I believe, in the country resembling those we get from the east here. They are very large that you send us from the east; ours are much smaller, but they are more pungent—more sour than those we get from the east. They are very good. The high bush cranberries are more plentiful in the country generally, but they are not used extensively. We make jam of it—that is all—on account of those flat stones in them. We cannot use them as we do the others.

*By the Honorable Mr. Ogilvie :*

Q. Have you the wild plum too? A. No, I do not know of any wild plum in the country.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. Is this saskatoon berry found in any great quantity in the North-West country? A. It grows in enormous quantities.