

*By the Chairman :*

Q. In season of great plenty is there any economic use that you can make of them? A. They are a source of food to the people wherever they are found. They are used largely by the Indians and the whites as well.

Q. Could they be preserved in any way? A. They kill them and dry the meat, but of course the flesh of the rabbit is very insipid.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Do they freeze them? A. They catch them all winter but they begin to die towards spring. They have nothing to eat; they simply die of starvation. They nibble away at the roots of the young trees, and as I have explained it causes an irritation of the throat and they die of a disease brought about in that way.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. Have you any squirrels or chipmunks in that country? A. Yes; we have the grey squirrel and two or three varieties of chipmunks.

Q. Are they good for food? A. The Indians eat them, but they do not make good food.

*By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :*

Q. The gopher is a species of squirrel, is it not? A. Yes. The gopher is found in the prairie country. The gopher thrives best in short prairie grass where there is plenty of sunshine.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. You mentioned that the flesh of the rabbit can be preserved by drying? A. Yes.

Q. And the objection to it as an article of food is its dryness—the absence of fat? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think the Indians could preserve it if a certain proportion of fat were added to it? A. Yes. When rabbits are plentiful the Indians require very little assistance. You give them pork and bacon. The last few years the principal food supplied to the Indians has been bacon. It is very good and they have a large supply of rabbits.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Are the rations graded according to the condition of the country? A. Yes; lessened or increased as required. The southern Indians have to be fed pretty much all the year round, summer and winter. In fact the Blackfeet I believe get a daily ration, but with the northern Indians it is different.

Q. If the Indians were removed to the part of the country where there is hunting and fishing they could live better? A. The Indians should be moved to the northern part of the country where there are large sections or territories still vacant and they are in the neighborhood of the fishing lakes and hunting grounds.

Q. I suppose they do not like to be removed? A. No. As long as they are left to themselves they are indolent, and they are perfectly aware that as long as they remain where they are at present the Government must feed them. Take the Indians north of the Saskatchewan and around Lake Winnipeg; they require very little assistance in the way of food; in fact, in the summer time they get nothing at all only when they are getting their annuities, then for two or three days they are fed by the Department.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. If the Hudson's Bay Company had the country now, as they had it before, would the Indians be better off than they are? A. No; they would be worse off than they are to-day, because I do not believe the Hudson's Bay Company or any private company would aid them to the extent that the Government assists them.

Q. Do you think the disappearance of the buffalo is the result of the settlement of the country? A. No; the scarcity of the buffalo began before the country passed out of the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. To what is it to be attributed then? A. To the traffic in robes. The slaughter had been going on from year to year. I have seen people go out and kill hundreds of buffalo just for the fun of doing it. I have seen hundreds of buffalo slaugh-