

from Moose Jaw to Wood Mountain, about half way, I happened to leave the camp and walk out on the plains to some high hills, and on the top of one of them we found a little piece of pottery. Mr. Goulet who was accompanying me at the time who was one of the commissioners on the Half-breed claims, told me it was almost identical with the pottery found in those pits in the Red River. How it came to be found on the top of that hill is a matter of surmise. Of course this shows that pottery must have been made there at one time or another by the population residing in that part of the country. So there certainly must have been means of making it.

By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :

Q. Might it not have been carried there? A. Most likely.

By the Honorable Mr. Girard :

Q. In reference to mines, do you know if gold or silver or any kinds of mines are worked there, in which Indians are employed? A. Gold is found in the Saskatchewan River, and has been worked there for years back. I do not know but it is worked there yet. They find gold but not in very large quantities, and an ordinary laborer provided with ordinary tools will make from \$1.50 to \$2 a day working hard in the Saskatchewan River?

By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :

Q. What tools do they use there? A. I do not know; they just wash the sands:

Q. With a little rocker? A. I do not know. I have never seen the process, but I know they do wash the sands there, and if they happened on a good bar they make as much wages as that; but before they strike a good bar they might perhaps lose some little time for it. However you will find gold in all our sand bars on the Saskatchewan in smaller or greater quantities.

By the Honorable Mr. Girard :

Q. Are there any Indians working in those mines? A. They always search more or less for pebbles that may look precious to them for the purpose of selling them to the white men; but there is no regular working of those mines by the Indians.

Q. Is there no company formed for the exploration of mines? A. I believe there are companies working coal mines. The coal beds in the North-West are inexhaustible.

By the Chairman :

Q. Is there not good brick clay found there? A. I believe you can find good brick clay within easy access of almost any settlement, and also limestone in a great number of places.

The Committee adjourned.

THE SENATE, OTTAWA, 6th June, 1887.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock A. M.

Professor Bell appeared and was examined by the Committee as follows:—

By the Chairman :

Q. When you were last before the Committee you had given answers to some of the questions on the printed paper before us. Could you give us any further information on those questions, keeping in view the fact that we first wish to obtain information specially with regard to the existence of food products; secondly, their preservation, and thirdly, the possibility of replacing the denuded districts with such as are fitted for that purpose. If you give us that first, then you can go on with any other portion of the evidence you choose? A. In the wooded region fishes are the great resources of all the Indians, as you are aware, in the summer time especially, and rabbits in winter. As to the existing food there is not very much on the plains for the plain Indians. The waters of the plains—rivers and ponds—produce comparatively few fishes, and they are so far apart that the Indians cannot depend on fish to any great extent. The buffalo being gone we have to face the problem as to feeding the plain Indians principally from the Government stores.