

Winnipeg sturgeon, I am sure, would also succeed if placed in any of the large lakes through the country, and from there would naturally find their way up the various rivers at the proper seasons. Lake Athabasca, for instance, as well as Lac la Rouge and Isle à la Croisse. Jackfish live anywhere, but are destructive to other kinds, and are not so good for food. Salmon can only be placed on rivers running into the salt water.

4th. Districts denuded of animals can only be restocked by the same animals by finding some other method of feeding the Indians and enforcing stringent laws about killing during the breeding season. If such measures were carried out, in a very few years the whole of this country would be again full of moose, deer, buffalo, beaver and other game. Without that, in a few years most of those animals will become extinct, as they are diminishing very fast since the country has been taken out of the hands of the Hudson Bay Company. The Indians are now encouraged by the free traders to kill all they can both in and out of season.

5th. As I do not know what has been furnished from the Government Experimental Farm Station, having never seen anything furnished where I have resided, I can give no opinion on the subject.

6th. Transplacing the various kinds of fish that I have above mentioned could in most cases be done by carrying over live fish from one lake to another, as the distances in most cases would be short. It would be almost impossible to give a correct idea of the expense, as it would be so much varied in different parts of the country, and men well acquainted with the work would have to be secured to overlook it. Men also who know the country well would have to be with the parties so employed. Where the distances are too great or the obstacles too many, breeding the fish from the spawn would have to be had recourse to.

7th. In years of scarcity in the Saskatchewan valley where fish are not numerous, I think flour and bacon would be the best and cheapest food that could be sent in to them. Into any of the further districts, flour bought in the Saskatchewan and bacon would be the best and cheapest to bring in from the outside. In Peace River, flour bought in Saskatchewan would cost 16 cents per lb. to freight it in. Bacon the same. To the Athabasca Valley, in the upper parts, it would cost 6, 8, or 10 cents per lb., according to the place taken. I think, as a general rule, a great mistake has been made with regard to the feeding of Indians in the ceded parts of the country, and where game has failed. Too much stress has been laid on the teaching of farming as a commencement, and the Indians cannot settle down at once from a roaming life and become farmers in a few years. But they can become fishermen, and if more care was taken to settle them at fish lakes and supply them with the means of fishing, it would be done much cheaper and much more satisfactorily. Let an examination be made all through the country and it will be found that where Indians are settled at a good fish lake and have means to use (nets, &c.), that very seldom starvation is heard of, and as they are kept employed in a work they like and understand, they are, as a rule, peaceable and well satisfied. Where they are only farmers they are dissatisfied, have to be fed at an enormous cost and always starve. In making the reservation for Indians good farming land and a game country seem to be the great objects to combine. My opinion is that fish should be the first thing considered, and once they become accustomed to live in one place about a lake, then a little farming, such as they are capable of doing, would naturally follow, as it has already done all through the country wherever it has been tried. In some places where it has failed it has been caused by a few settling down at a lake that would have kept them well; afterwards other bands that were roaming about seeing them so well off, came in, and, as a natural consequence, eat out the first settlers. Had they been settled at other fish lakes, of which there are plenty, starvation in this country would seldom be heard of.

8th. Ans. to Ques. 11.—At the time of the transfer of the country to Canada the food of the Indians varied according to the part of the country they lived in. In the Saskatchewan it was buffalo meat entirely, on the plains; in the woods it was buffalo meat, moose meat and in some places fish at times; in the Rocky Mountains