

THE SENATE, Thursday, 2nd June, 1887.

The following communications were read to the Committee :

"PORT HOPE, 31st May, 1887.

"DEAR SIR,—Though I have spent 34 years of my life in the Hudson Bay Company's service, I was never out of Temiscamingue District which is chiefly in the Province of Quebec, on the upper waters of the Ottawa. Consequently, I am unable to answer any of the Committee's questions from my own personal knowledge which I must regret.

"I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

"CHAS. STEUART.

"J. G. A. CREIGHTON Esq.,

" Law Clerk of the Senate,

" Ottawa."

To Hon. J. SCHULTZ.

In reply to the Select Committee of Canada on the natural food productions of the North-West Territories of Canada I have the honor to submit for the information of the Committee as follows :—

1. I have not been further west of Lake Superior than Brandon.

2. From information I have received and from observation I believe the "wild rice" indigenous to Rice Lake in this County of Northumberland, and which from time immemorial has been the chief food of the Indian tribes living in this neighborhood is admirably adapted as a means of subsistence for the Indians of the North-West, especially as it grows annually and spontaneously, when once planted the seed of the year falling and supplying next year's crop. It requires no other labor than that of harvesting, which is done by driving a canoe into the bed, and knocking the ripe grain into the bottom with a paddle, until the canoe is filled, a mode of harvesting well suited to Indian tastes and habits. The natives here parch it before cooking, but this is a matter of taste. It is very nutritious and is now considered a delicacy by the white man.

The water stretches of the west where there is little, if any, current, and a rich, alluvial, muddy bottom will reproduce this valuable grain.

It should be planted in a muddy silty bottom, in water from two to three feet in depth, in the month of September, or perhaps later would do, as the crop is gathered here the latter part of that month, varying according to the season.

Rice Lake, where this grain is found in perfection, is twenty miles long, and three wide, in the County of Northumberland, Province of Ontario, and is reached from Cobourg by rail; it is twelve miles distant from that place; the rice can be procured in any quantity that may be required.

In addition to the above, I would suggest the stocking of the lakes of the North-West with the "Black Bass" and "Maskinongé," both which fish are very prolific, and can protect themselves against the ordinary enemies to young fish life.

These fish, as well as the rice, appear to flourish better in the dark waters of which Rice Lake forms one of the chain which extends to the head waters of the Ottawa, than in the clear water of Lake Ontario and water of that kind.

In regard to the other questions asked, not having had sufficient experience, I would not presume to offer an opinion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. VANCE GRAVELY.

SIDBROOK, COBOURG, Ont.