

“(b.) The cultivation of hops, hemp, sugar beet, tobacco, and other economic plants ;

“(c.) The best means of developing, transporting and economizing such deposits of coal, iron, gold, silver, copper, petroleum, salt, sulphur, slate, limestone, granite, marble, sandstone, brick, pottery, clay, asphaltum ochre, amber and others, as are found in that part of Canada west of Ontario.” This opens up a very large subject. You have lived in that country a long time and the Committee would be very glad to hear your opinion on any of the points there mentioned? A. I believe that the best tree adapted, for transplanting, is the Balm of Gilead or cotton wood, and the next best one would be soft maple.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. That is what we call the ash maple? A. It may be ash maple, but it generally goes by the name of soft maple in our country. The soft or ash maple and Balm of Gilead are about the only trees that are sure to succeed when transplanted. We have tried white poplar, but it is very uncertain. I have known of a settler, Father St. Germain, who has lived a number of years in the Qu'Appelle Valley at Wood Bottom and other parts. He is a gardener by choice and spends his leisure hours in cultivating a very large garden that he has. He has tried all varieties of trees that we have in that country, and he advised me strongly not to try to transplant the white poplar. He says under the most favorable circumstances it will live only two or at least three years and then die.

Q. How about elm? A. We have no elm there. It is not indigenous to the country.

Q. But if it were planted there do you think it would succeed? A. I do not know.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. There is another variety—the aspen and balsam poplar. You have that already in clumps? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that could be reproduced? A. I do not know from personal knowledge, but it might be tried, perhaps, with some success, and if it were desired to re-stock the prairies with sure growing timber, the Balm of Gilead is the best variety. Take even a rail of that tree and leave it on the ground and turn a furrow over it and it will grow wherever you make a notch in the bark. That is the hardiest tree that we have to transplant.

**THE CHAIRMAN**—In that connection I would like to make a statement, and those who have not been in Manitoba will hardly believe it is a fact. I have seen in a hastily constructed telegraph line where green poles of Balm of Gilead were stuck down that they have taken root and have leaves growing on them. I have seen the same with fence posts made of that kind of tree.

**MR. FORGET**—With regard to other trees I may say that at St. Albert, at the Bishop's Place, they have a grove which is in existence only for the last four years, and they have not failed in a single tree that they transplanted, and they have transplanted every kind of tree in the country. But that is a peculiar place. It is a peculiar soil. It is a rich garden soil, such as you will see in a garden which has been thoroughly cultivated for twenty-five or thirty years, well manured and well cultivated, so that anything almost can grow there. They have succeeded with fir there although I have seen the fir fail in other parts of the country.

Q. What kind of fir tree? A. The spruce.

Q. In your former evidence you referred to hops, tobacco and hemp. Sugar beets are also referred to in the list of roots that we desire to know about? A. I have nothing else to add in regard to that. The sugar beet I believe would grow in any part of our country, because all other kinds of beets are grown there.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. Were any of them exhibited at your exhibition? A. I believe there must have been, because Mr. Decazes had specimens of all varieties of beets grown in our country on exhibition, and he must have had the sugar beet amongst them.

Q. Will you tell us about the limestones and other mineral products, and about the metals of that country? A. I may say with regard to pottery, during a journey