

Q. Do you know how it is prepared? A. Exactly the same way as the buffalo pemmican. The meat is dried and partially roasted and then mixed with the hot fat. It is sifted to get out the sinews and coarser portions and then it is all put into a trough and mixed. The Indians sometimes tramp it with their feet. Then it is put into bags or any receptacle. They mix it with sugar if they have it, and dried berries to make the finer kinds.

Q. It is what is called pemmican of extra quality when it is prepared with sugar and fruit? A. Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. What was the cost of what you purchased from the Indians? A. I got mine second hand, from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. Do you recollect what it cost? A. I do not recollect, but in the country where I got it—Fort Chipewyan—it would be worth fully one shilling sterling a pound.

Q. Can you tell us the ration of buffalo pemmican that is allowed by the Hudson's Bay Company to their men? A. No, I do not remember that.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. Have you seen many wild fowl in the Hudson's Bay region? Have you seen them in very large quantities at any one place? Is it true what I read of once, that when you disturb them and they rise, they obscure the sun to such an extent that it darkens the country at mid-day? A. I have seen them in large numbers, and if you are close enough up to them and surprise them in a marsh, they rise in such clouds that they obscure the sky for a few moments until they get away. They would not darken the land in their flight, but they would prevent you seeing the sky or the sun for a few seconds.

Q. Are there many of these birds destroyed? Do you think they could be utilized to feed the Indians? A. Yes, they would go a long way towards feeding Indians. As it is the Indians feed on them for some weeks in the fall and perhaps a week in the spring. They are easily shot wherever they touch to rest in their migration. For instance at the west end of Lake Athabasca and on both shores of Hudson's Bay towards the south end, they accumulate in vast numbers—at the south end of James' Bay—before they start for the south-west—both the Canada geese and the waxies. There are also two or three other species found in the northern country—what is called the laughing goose and also a small waxy called Ross' goose.

*By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :*

Q. Are wild pigeons found in the North-West? A. Not very far north or west: You find the wild pigeon north of Lake Superior.

Q. They used to be very numerous in Nova Scotia, but of late years they have disappeared. Is it the same in any parts of the North-West? A. They are very scarce with us, but during the season when blueberries are ripe the pigeons feed on them, and you find them in considerable numbers north of Lake Superior even yet.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Do you think the Indians can live as well now in the North-West without being fed as they are now by the Government? A. Certainly not in the prairie country. They had no trouble at all formerly to live when the buffalo was abundant. The buffalo furnished their principal food—they thought of nothing else.

Q. But the settlers in the North-West have driven out the buffalo, it is said—is that so? A. The buffalo are completely exterminated on the plains.

Q. But that is not because the white settlers have gone in there? A. To a great extent, and also because the Indians and half-breeds slaughtered them without restriction. Formerly before the white men went in there, the Indian tribes were obliged to leave the buffalo alone, because they made war on each other. The theoretical reason of their frequent tribal fights was that they tried to exterminate each other in their rivalry for the buffalo.

*By the Honorable Mr. Allan :*

Q. Has not the improvement of late years in firearms been the principal cause of the extermination of the buffalo? Formerly the buffalo were shot with muzzle-loading guns, which the Indians necessarily loaded more slowly than breech-loaders: