

Q. How far does it extend along the river? A. It does not extend far westward; it goes more in a north-west direction from Prince Albert. To the eastward for some distance east of Prince Albert, down to the Forks, a distance of about 30 miles, the land is very good; and from that down to some place about Fort à la Corne, the land is very good. East of that along the river, the land is very low and swampy, what I have seen of it, and so far as I have been able to learn from those who know of it, it is quite unsuitable for cultivation.

Q. Are there any indications of coal? A. Indications of coal have been found around Prince Albert, but no tests have been made, and it has not been developed at all.

*By Honorable Mr. McCallum :*

Q. Are there any lakes north of Prince Albert within a distance of 100 miles north? A. There are a great many lakes. The Indian reserve of Atahkacoop is on Sandy Lake.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Sandy Lake is distant how far from Prince Albert? A. I suppose Sandy Lake would be about 75 miles. I have been some little distance north of that, to a lake further north.

Q. Do the waters of that lake find their way northwards into Churchill River? A. I fancy not; I will not speak positively.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. What is the most extreme northern point you have been? A. About 100 miles north of Prince Albert.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. The waters of those lakes find their way into the Beaver River? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a chain of the Beaver River and lakes through which the Hudson's Bay Company used to transport four ton boats? A. Yes.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. Is there any white population in the region 100 miles north? A. Yes, there are quite a number of families of half-breeds and a few white settlers round those lakes.

Q. Do any of these families cultivate potatoes 100 miles north of Prince Albert? A. Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Can you give us a list of the fishes of that northern district? A. The fish that are generally found there are the whitefish and lake trout.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. How large are the whitefish? A. They will average perhaps 3 lbs.; but I have seen them weigh up to 12 lbs.

Q. Of good quality? A. The finest whitefish I have ever seen in my life. They are better even than those from Lake Superior.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. What is the variety of trout? A. Lake trout, weighing from 5 lbs. up to 40 lbs. I have frequently seen them weighing 25 and 30 lbs.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. They are a good nourishing food? A. Yes.

Q. What is your opinion from what you have observed altogether of Indian tribes of the practicability, in the course of time, of bringing those Indians and their children to cultivate the soil? A. Judging specially of the Indians from these reserves on the north of the river, I certainly think they could be trained to agriculture.

Q. You think that in the course of thirty or forty years the descendants of the tribes there at present could be brought to farm successfully? A. Yes, I am fully of that opinion, judging from what I have seen on those reserves. The finest barns that I have seen on the whole Saskatchewan country are to be found there. They are built of course by the Government, but the Indians appreciate them and are careful in the management of their stock, and are endeavoring to farm and have been farming with fair success.