

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Are they a prominent article of the Indians' food? A. Yes, the Indians use them largely.

*By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :*

Q. Then from your experience there is no necessity of using any means to increase or propagate them? A. No, there are animals enough. Of course in the years when they begin to increase they are hardly to be found there at all, but a few begin to come in the second year, and if the Indians are hard up for food they can hardly find them.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. Has any reason been assigned for that increase and diminution of their numbers? A. No, that is something we are looking into ourselves.

Q. You have never heard any explanation? A. No, except that there is a disease, and the only explanation I have had of this disease from the half-breeds is that it is something in the throat, and then it turns into a sort of diarrhoea, and they die in a few days.

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :*

Q. You have never heard of them being affected by a large bug? A. No, we have instigated research on the subject quite recently. Possibly at some future day the result will be published in the papers. The Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories received a communication through the Secretary of State here from the New Zealand Government. It appears that the rabbits are very numerous there, and are a regular pest in the island. They have heard of our rabbits disappearing every seventh year in the North-West Territories, and they want to find out if they can introduce the same disease there amongst their rabbits, so we have been investigating the matter, making enquiries of old settlers in the country in order to find out what the disease is and what causes it.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. I suppose you have no objection to giving them the disease and let it disappear for ever in the North-West Territories? A. Not the slightest.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. In these years of great abundance is there any means by which those rabbits could be preserved for food? A. I do not know of any.

Q. Has it ever been tried? A. I do not know; possibly it might be done.

Q. My hon. friend, Mr. Girard, tells me that he has had them smoked and preserved in his own house? A. I suppose rabbit flesh could be treated the same as beef or mutton, and canned.

Q. Do you see any reason why their flesh with the addition of ordinary tallow should not be pemmicanized? A. I do not know about that. They are not very fat, as a rule.

Q. They would need some additional fat? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell :*

Q. I have heard that the rabbit was likely to become a pest in the Edmonton district, so rapidly was it increasing; have you heard anything about that? A. No. The first year, to my knowledge, in which they were very numerous was during the winter of 1876. Of course there was hardly any crop in the country at the time. The second time was in 1883, if I am not mistaken, and although there were some extensive fields of grain I have not heard of any complaint about them. I daresay after the country is well settled during those years when the rabbit is plentiful, it will become a pest, but it is a pest that will cure itself if this disease continues to exist among them.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow.