

notice, say at the opening of navigation, was given, double this quantity could be got out. The grain itself, as it is gathered and simply dried, as wheat is for future treatment in the mill or for seed, which in my opinion is the best way to get a supply, could be obtained much easier, as very much skilled labor is not required to gather it. Of course this is the condition it would have to be delivered in for seed. The improvements and appliances required for supplying a large quantity of dressed rice would cost an outlay of capital, which, perhaps, an experiment would not warrant, so I would suggest, that if the Government considered it was desirable to try and introduce it in the west, that a supply of four or five tons of dressed rice divided and introduced on different reservations in sufficient quantities to obtain a data to work from, and say a similar quantity of raw grain for seeding purposes placed in the hands of suitable men for experimenting, would be all that was requisite. All this, however, is merely suggestion; no doubt you have already determined on some line of action in this matter. I would be willing to undertake to supply from two and a half to five tons of dressed rice at five cents a pound, and a similar quantity of raw rice at three and a half cents a pound, or I would furnish a smaller quantity at the same price. I would deliver it on the steamer at Rice River in the summer months, or on the teams at Rice River Lake in winter, cutting the road and making what improvements are required to do this. Both of these places are under 85 miles from settlements at Red River.

I send you per sample post specimens of the green and smoked rice.

I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,

(Sgd.) ADRIAN NEISON.

AMÉDÉE E. FORGET, of Regina, Clerk of the North-West Council, called and examined.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. We have taken you a little at a disadvantage. In all other cases we have presented this list of questions to gentlemen called upon to give evidence a few days before their examination. Unfortunately we have not been able to do that in your case, but these questions will be put to you in the order in which they appear on the printed list, and you can either answer orally or in writing as you prefer. The first question is, Over what portions of Canada west of Lake Superior, have you travelled, and what other portions of that region are you familiar with, from the reports of reliable persons? A. I have travelled over the whole of the North-West Territories south of the North Saskatchewan River, and also in most parts of Manitoba.

Q. Will you give a list to the Committee, of the plants, animals, birds and fishes suitable for food with which you are acquainted, and the districts in which they are chiefly to be found? A. I would prefer to give a list in writing of those. Just now I may not be able to remember all the plants and birds with which I am acquainted and my evidence would be incomplete in consequence.

Q. Perhaps you could mention a few prominent ones? A. Do you mean by plants those which are indigenous to the country which are fit for food?

Q. Yes. A. The only one I remember now is the wild turnip. This grows extensively throughout the whole of the North-West Territories. It is fit for food in the spring—in May and the first part of June—up to about the 15th of June. I have eaten some of them myself. I do not particularly fancy the taste of them, but still I found there was nourishment in them, and the Indians make extensive use of this root whenever they have nothing else to eat. We have also mushrooms growing in large numbers everywhere almost. Those are very good and most of the mushrooms in our country are edible. You are ordinarily subjected to danger from poisoning, but it is not so in our country. I have often tried one which is considered there to