

Q. Do you know what means the half-breeds and others take to keep those fish, by drying or salting? A. They dry and smoke them. We have almost constantly at Regina dried and smoked fish for sale caught in Long Lake, 25 miles from Regina.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard:*

Q. Does the smoked fish keep long? A. We have not tried the experiment. They are generally sold before they are long out of the water.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Do you think that the Indians in those parts of the country where fish exist in great abundance could salt or smoke them or by any other means preserve them in sufficient quantities to be carried to the west and served as rations to the Indians with other ordinary food? A. I believe it is possible, but of course we have no knowledge of the subject. My opinion on this point can be of no value; I never saw the regular process of drying or smoking fish. What we have dried or smoked in our part of the country are disposed of so quickly that I do not know how long they would keep in the rude way they are prepared; but, like fish elsewhere, I believe our fish could be treated the same way and kept the same length of time by adopting a proper process.

Q. You were going on to mention as to the varieties of fish with which you believe the lakes west in the North-West Territories could be restocked, and you mentioned whitefish, jackfish and trout. A. Of course other fish from other parts of the Dominion of Canada might be tried with our fish as an experiment, but I am quite sure that our fish in the country could be transferred from one lake to another to supply the deficiency created in one lake by over-fishing or in lakes in which they do not yet exist. I believe there would be no trouble in transferring them.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard:*

Q. Is the fish in sufficient quantity to be exported either from the country or to the eastern Provinces as an article of commerce? A. I do not think it is the case with our lakes, at least in the portions of the North-West Territories I am speaking about now—that is south of the Saskatchewan River. I do not think that our lakes are sufficiently stocked to make fish an article for export: the supply would be exhausted.

*By the Honorable Mr. Almon:*

Q. The Indians must understand all about preserving fish. Do those settled on the shores of lakes and rivers preserve and export fish? A. No, they do not export the fish. It is simply done by a few persons, and the fish are prepared alongside of the lake and sold in the adjoining country. I do not know a single instance where a fish smoked or dried in the country has been exported east out of the territory.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard:*

Q. Is there any protection for the fish in the territories? A. Yes. The fishery laws of the Dominion apply to the North-West Territories, and there are certain regulations in force there now fixing the close season.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. I suppose frozen fish could be depended on for five months in the year? A. Yes. As long as they are in the frozen condition they will keep.

Q. That is for how many months? A. From the end of October until the commencement of spring. There is no thaw in the winter there so that they would keep. I have looked through this list of questions and I really do not see that any information that I can give will throw light on the subjects referred to. Of course I am only expected to speak on matters with which I am personally acquainted.

The Committee adjourned.

OTTAWA, Friday, 3rd June, 1887.

The following communications were read:—

Honorable Mr. Girard read a letter from His Grace Archbishop Taché stating that it was impossible for him to devote himself to the subjects referred to the Committee, being at present too weak to undertake any work. He suggested that his Brother, Dr. Taché, would be a useful witness.