

doubt it would do the lakes good to take a number of fish out of them. Witness recalled that when they started to fish in Candle lake the fish were poor and thin. After they fished that lake for a couple of years, the fish became good again. You do not do the lakes harm by fishing. It is like the timber in that respect. If you cut out the big timber you protect the smaller timber, and it grows faster.

Hon. Mr. Power asked if it was not possible that a certain amount of food went into the lake after the settlement, and that would be one reason.

Mr. Cook replied that was not the case.

Commercially there had been very little use made of the fish. This year they are shipping again to the United States.

Lac La Ronge is an immense beautiful lake teeming with fish.

MINERALS.

Mr. Cook explained that he could not say much about minerals. There is a coal seam about seven miles east of Prince Albert which runs under the Saskatchewan river. At the Mackenzie coal mine there is a shaft sunk 20 feet probably, and there is fairly good bituminous coal. You can trace the seam across the Saskatchewan. You can find coal up to the size of your fist for a certain distance, and then it ceases. There must be an outcropping under the river. Nobody is bothered about the coal. Coal has also been discovered at Lac La Ronge, there is no doubt about that. Good samples have been brought in, but nobody bothers with it yet because wood is so plentiful.

CLIMATE.

Mr. Cook did not consider the climate of the country north of the Saskatchewan as severe as that at Winnipeg, for the simple reason that the timber tempers it, and the altitude is lower. There was a Chinook at Prince Albert on February 14, 15 and 16 of this year. The snow was pretty much gone.

The average fall of snow is about ten inches. It had been reported that Prince Albert had about 54 inches of snow during this year, but witness was prepared to swear that there was not more than 15 inches. He measured it purposely. The Chinook wind strikes Prince Albert about three times during the winter. They are generally sure of a thaw in January. This year they did not get it until February. It was late. Witness had a letter from his wife in his pocket dated February 16. She wrote that the snow was going very rapidly, and she was afraid the meat in the store house was spoiled. It is not a country of deep snow at all. Last year there was scarcely enough to get sleighing all winter, and the same the winter before. There was no sleighing until about January 1.

Some of the farmers allow their cattle to run out of doors all winter, but it is not a good practice. They have to feed them, of course. Last year witness was harrowing on March 17 and seeding about three days after. He had a good deal of his crop in April 1. With regard to the fall frost, if you do not get the frost by August 25, you do not get it until the end of September. Prince Albert occasionally gets it in August, and the farmers get their crop harvested before that time. The old system of broadcast farming and seeding in the spring has gone out of date. It is a thing of the past.

Fall wheat has never been attempted at Prince Albert. Witness thought it would grow there. He had only had one year that was too dry for farming, that was in 1886. He had never had crops cut down by the frost so that the wheat field would look like the street.

The country is well watered all through. He has a well on his farm only four feet deep, and he waters fifty head of cattle and four horses.