

treaty at present so that by following up the statement made before the House every year you will be in a position to see whether the population is increasing or not.

Q. We would like to have your opinion as to the crops: are they as secure against frost in the North-West country that you have visited as they are in the country between Lake Superior and Manitoba? A. I think so.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Will you please give us some information now regarding the animals and fish? A. In the line of animals we used to have the buffalo. It is extinct now.

Q. Wholly extinct? A. Yes. We have moose and a variety of deer—I am not acquainted with the different varieties, but we have the red deer and the jumping deer. I have three of the latter kind at home that I tamed. We have bears—the cinnamon and the black bear. I have never seen a grizzly bear in the North-West Territories. I am told they used to be there. We have other animals such as the beaver, but those are not fit for eating, and wolves and dogs. Dogs are considered a great feast with the Indians. We have also the beaver.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell:*

Q. And frogs? A. Yes, and frogs.

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. The beaver is not very plentiful south of the Saskatchewan—is it? A. No; they are getting more scarce every year.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes:*

Q. Have you plenty of frogs in the North-West Territories? A. Yes they are very plentiful.

Q. Do the Indians eat the frogs. A. I am not aware of it.

Q. Not even when they are in a starving condition? A. No; I have never heard of an Indian eating a frog. They eat what we call the gopher. They were very numerous last year, and the Indians ate them.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you the rabbit? A. Yes; I was forgetting the rabbit.

Q. In what part of the country is it to be found? A. We have them everywhere in that country. At least, I have killed them every place I have been myself.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner:*

Q. Have you the hare? A. Yes, we have the prairie hare, which is a much larger animal than the wood rabbit.

Q. Are they good for food? A. I have never tasted them myself. What I call the prairie hare is certainly double the size of what we call in that country the rabbit.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes:*

Q. I presume that is what they call the jackass rabbit on the Pacific coast? A. Yes, we have them but they are not so numerous as the others.

Q. Are the rabbits found in very large numbers? A. Yes; they are not so numerous just now. There is a peculiarity about them—every seventh year, according to tradition existing among the Indians, and half breeds and old countrymen—they disappear, or nearly entirely disappear, and immediately after every year they increase in numbers until they become almost a pest—they become very numerous—and then at the height, as it were, of their numbers, a disease overtakes them, and you find them dead everywhere.

Q. How do they become a pest? A. They are not actually a pest, because the country is so large and they disappear in the way I have described, and do not destroy anything. At least they have nothing yet to destroy. The last time they were numerous was in the winter of 1883. If I am not mistaken that is the last year in which they were very numerous, so we have three years more to run.

Q. And to your knowledge they increase each year in numbers? A. Yes, undoubtedly. The year before last they were hardly to be seen anywhere. Last year more of them were brought in, and I have no doubt this year more still will be brought in.

Q. Have they destroyed any of the gardens there? A. No, not yet, that is why I withdraw the word pest.