

- Q. Was it frost? A. It was drought chiefly, and the rebellion we had one year.
By Honorable Mr. Alexander :
- Q. Still you had some good returns? A. Yes, we could manage to live there.
By Honorable Mr. McClelan :
- Q. Can you inform us as to the extremes of heat and cold at Prince Albert?
 Q. I cannot speak of the extreme cold, from my own observation, further than this, that it has frozen the mercury in my thermometer. Still it is very enjoyable even at that.
- Q. It is a dry atmosphere? A. Yes, it is a very dry atmosphere. I was used to the milder atmosphere of Scotland, although it is 250 miles nearer the north pole than Prince Albert, and the mercury was never below zero like that; still we feel the climate very comfortable in Prince Albert when properly clad for it.
- Q. Is it extremely hot there? A. The mercury goes above eighty in the shade sometimes.
- Q. I suppose you have plenty of mosquitoes? A. We have a few mosquitoes there.
By Honorable Mr. Alexander :
- Q. During those five years, have you experienced such blizzards as prevail in Dakota? A. We have never had anything resembling a blizzard since I came to Prince Albert, and I never heard of any; and the best evidence I could give to the people in the old country when writing home to them was, that I never had to thatch a grain stack or tie it down in any way on my farm. There is little wind at any time of the year. There is usually a little blow about April—about seed time.
By Honorable Mr. Almon :
- Q. Do your forests suffer from fire? A. They have suffered considerably since I have been there.
- Q. Is the tamarac a short lived tree? A. No, I think not.
- Q. Have you noticed it die off with a disease? A. No, there is no disease in our country in anything—either in cattle, wood or vegetables. There is no potato disease. We are entirely free from anything of that sort.
By Honorable Mr. Alexander :
- Q. From your experience there, do you think that the masses of the population from Scotland would be satisfied on going there and getting land such as you have there and such a climate, provided you had railway communication? A. I should think they would. I happen to know a good deal about Scotland, and I know that the farming population there is in a very bad state, and so are the landlords, because their rentals are being reduced and it does not altogether make the tenant right either, and neither of them is satisfied.
By Honorable Mr. Almon :
- Q. Would they express themselves satisfied, even though they were? A. It is a question.
By Honorable Mr. Gowan :
- Q. How many years have you been in the Prince Albert district? A. Five years.
- Q. Have you noticed the time when spring fairly opens there? A. Yes, very carefully, I think.
- Q. In what month? A. I take my data from the seed time; I sowed wheat last year on the 16th day of April, which was a Saturday; and in the previous year on the 19th April.
By Honorable Mr. McClelan :
- Q. Would that be on the frost? A. There was frost in the ground, but the surface was sufficiently dry to harrow.
By Honorable Mr. McCallum :
- Q. You had soil enough to cover the seed on top of the frost? A. Yes, quite sufficient. The frost has a different effect there from what it has here, on the soil?
By Honorable Mr. Gowan :
- Q. What would you say was the average time for seeding during the five years you were there? A. From the 16th to the 20th April.