

for the Indians. In the north they are generally given bacon; at first they were given bacon exclusively; now occasionally they receive rations of beef also, more in the way of change than from economy. It has been ascertained that when the Indians are fed exclusively on bacon it produces disease among them, and after some years of experience the Indian Department have decided on making an occasional distribution of beef to counteract the effect of the continuous use of bacon. With regard to vegetables, they are not supplied by the Indian Department as food. So far, I believe, the Indians have grown sufficient for their own consumption, and in some cases have had enough for sale to outside parties.

Q. When they have more than enough for themselves does the Indian Department become a purchaser? A. I do not know whether transactions of that kind take place. I believe not. I think that in all cases where an Indian has more produce than his family can consume he is permitted to sell the balance. That permission allows him to sell wherever he likes, and as he can in almost all cases obtain a better price from the white man than from his Indian neighbors he generally goes to the white man and sells for cash. At the Black Foot Crossing I understand they had a large quantity of potatoes last year, and they sold quite a quantity of them.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald:*

Q. Does the Government forbid the sale of food by the Indians? A. They can only sell with the permission of the Department. Of course anything they have produced with the implements and seeds given them by the Department they require permission to sell, but they can sell any game that they secure without permission. I think this restriction is quite proper, but it has created a great deal of discontent amongst the Indians. However I think it is a wise provision, because otherwise, if facilities were offered to sell to the white men, they would take advantage of it and buy from the Indian for almost nothing; and if the Indian had the privilege of selling as he pleased, although he might not have enough for himself and his family, in order to get money he would sell what was absolutely necessary for his own support.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. It is not the object of the Committee to go over the ground covered by the Government, or to take their mode of dealing with the Indians into consideration. Our object is to suggest means that the Government can avail themselves of or not of increasing the natural food supplies in the North-West. You have mentioned beef and bacon; I suppose you include flour? A. Of course, flour, bacon and beef are the three main articles.

Q. Could you suggest any other healthful food which in your opinion the Indians could be supplied with? The white man would consider those three articles as not much of a variety of diet? A. I cannot suggest anything else.

Q. What grains, grasses, fruit, roots and vegetables will, in your opinion, yield the greatest results from the indifferent tillage which is to be expected from such bands of Indians as are new to agricultural pursuits? A. Barley is one, and potatoes and turnips. Barley is a sure crop in our country under almost any circumstances.

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. Do you know how does rye grow? Have you seen it grow? A. It may be cultivated but I am not sure that it is. I have not seen it. Barley is a sure crop and an abundant one.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell:*

Q. Has buckwheat been tried? A. I do not think it has been tried. We have wild buckwheat in our country. It is considered a weed there. It generally grows in a piece of land that is ploughed year after year for several years in succession. It is one of the weeds that we are anxious to destroy.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. It is simply called buckwheat from its resemblance to the cultivated buckwheat? A. I think so. It is eaten by horses.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is real buckwheat only the grains are smaller, and if it were ground it might make flour.