

Q. I suppose the lack of shelter would be a great drawback in the North-West?

A. Yes, but the goat is very hardy, and I suppose would be easily kept.]

By the Chairman :

Q. You mention the beaver as a source of food supply. You are aware, I suppose, that it is now amongst the furs, very difficult to get, and has gone up in price at a more rapid rate than any other fur? A. Yes.

Q. I take it for granted that their skins would be an additional source of profit to those Indians? A. Yes, and the black variety being the most valuable, could be propagated to the exclusion of the others. The Indian would make enough from the sale of one black beaver skin to enable him to buy a considerable quantity of food.

Q. Can you give the Committee an idea of the price black beaver skins would bring? A. In the best markets black beaver now sells for \$15 or upwards. Common beaver is worth from \$5 to \$9 at the present time.

By the Honorable Mr. Chaffers :

Q. Are antelopes numerous in the North-West? A. Yes, there are plenty of them, but I don't know whether they can be domesticated or not. They are extremely shy.

By the Honorable Mr. McDonald :

Q. I believe in the winter they migrate to the south? A. Yes. They seem to thrive best on the most barren places—the salt plains. They appear to feed upon a plant which grows around the saline ponds, more than on common grass.

By the Chairman :

Q. In reference to the suggestion of Mr. Chaffers, speaking of the antelope, it is very excellent food, is it not? A. Yes, nothing better.

Q. And its principal enemy is the prairie wolf? A. Yes. It is the most delicious meat I suppose that exists, when fresh and in good condition.

By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :

Q. Except buffalo hump and buffalo tongue? A. The antelope is finer meat than the buffalo.

By the Honorable Mr. Girard :

Q. You have travelled around Hudson's Bay? A. Yes.

Q. Is the cariboo abundant there? A. It is.

Q. Do the Indians live on antelope meat? A. Yes.

Q. I read in an old history that those cariboo could at one time be found in that country in vast herds? A. Yes, and they are abundant yet. There are two kinds of cariboo, the woodland and the barren-ground varieties. The latter roam about in herds of many thousands, travelling in various directions. They are somewhat migratory.

Q. Is it difficult to reach them? A. No. The great trouble is the uncertainty of their migrations. I have known Indians to go from the woodland regions to hunt for them in the barren-grounds, and if the cariboo did not follow their usual migrations, the Indians have been obliged to go for a long time without food. The Indians have been known, in some of those hunting expeditions, to miss the cariboo and to starve to death in considerable numbers. Then, after they were dead, the cariboo have come into the vicinity in countless numbers. If the Indians had the means of waiting for the cariboo until they did come, they could have an abundant supply of excellent food. The cariboo is very easily killed. The Esquimaux shoot them with bows and arrows. They waylay them and shoot them from behind rocks with arrows tipped with iron or with flint.

Q. You spoke of a wood buffalo? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the same as the musk ox? A. No, it is the same as the prairie buffalo.

Q. Have you met the musk ox in your travels? A. I have been in the country they inhabit, but I have not seen them in the flesh. I have seen their skins, their bones and horns, but not the animal itself. They are migratory, like the cariboo. They do not go as far south as the forests, but they are abundant in the country north west of Hudson's Bay, and thence westward to Mackenzie River, and also in the Northern Archipelago. They are found abundantly as far north as human beings have