

*By Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. Where were those Indians brought from to the reserves? A. From the plains.

Q. How far south from that? A. Of course, the plains come right up to Carleton. Carleton used to be, in the days of the buffalo, the headquarters of those Indians, and they used to hunt southward several hundred miles.

Q. Their occupation prior to the extinction of the buffalo was that of hunter? A. Yes.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. You think that half-breeds can in course of time become perfectly successful farmers? A. Certainly.

Q. The French as well as the Scotch half-breed? A. Certainly.

*By Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. How many years are the Indians settled on those reserves? A. I should say eight or ten years, or something about that. Those Indians, on those reserves, were the few Indians in the Saskatchewan district who remained loyal during the whole rebellion.

Q. They are all Christians, I suppose? A. Yes. Missionaries are stationed on the three reserves.

*By Honorable Mr. Alexander :*

Q. You have had perhaps a better opportunity than many other men of observing the Indians; what would you think of the policy of the Government, finding out sections upon more northern rivers, where the climate and soil will admit of growing potatoes and the coarser grains and transferring many of those tribes from their present reserves to where they will combine all the advantages of agriculture with the hunting of the larger animals which are to be found there, the moose and cariboo and abundance of fish? Do you not think, if that could be done, the Indians would be happier and better, and that it would be a sound policy for the Government to try the experiment? A. I believe that the Indians would be happier, but I do not think that it would be the best way to make farmers of them. I believe that the more the Indian is disassociated from hunting the better it will be for the Government if the policy is to make a farmer of him.

Q. It would be only leaving it to their choice. Supposing a few from different tribes were to be offered their choice? A. It would be their choice no doubt, if it were submitted to them. The Indian prefers hunting to farming, but hunting is now so precarious that he cannot make a living by it, and it would demoralize him.

*By Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. Do the Indians on the reserves have different tribal languages among each other? A. No, they all speak the same language and there is more or less inter-marriage among them. One great objection to having the Indian on the reserve, it seems to me, is that the industrious man is to a certain extent handicapped. The lazy man lives to a very great extent on him. There is a sort of community of goods amongst them.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. We wish to elicit from you some knowledge of the climate of the region north of Prince Albert; what can you tell us about the different seasons of the year—the opening in the spring, the commencement of cultivation in the spring, the ripening of the grain and summer frosts? A. Spring opens generally some time in April, and from the middle of April, until the first week of May ploughing is commenced. Harvesting is generally done from the second week of August until the first week in September. The summer frost is generally found there from the second to the third week in August. That is my experience in the last eight years.

Q. Does this apply to the country north of Prince Albert? A. This is the country north of Prince Albert country—not the Prince Albert country.

Q. That applies to the country as far north as you have any knowledge of? A. Yes.