

Q. Have you heard of sulphur being found round the Athabasca? A. I believe I have heard of sulphur, and I have seen gold that came from there. I also saw coming down this time a man, at one of the stopping places on the prairie, with samples of gold quartz that he had brought from the Yukon, 200 miles within the boundary—that is in the region covered by your enquiry.

Q. I once had a specimen of amber from the neighborhood of Great Silver Lake. It was got on one of the Franklin expeditions. Have you heard of any being found? A. No.

*By Honorable Mr. Macdonald:*

Q. Have you heard of lime or gypsum being discovered? A. The lime used in the district of Prince Albert is made altogether from boulders. There is a large deposit of boulders on both sides of the river exactly on the flat at which Prince Albert is built, and although there is a considerable quantity out every year and burnt, it never seems to decrease, and on the Red Deer Hill, which is a small elevation between the rivers six miles from the town of Prince Albert, limestone is dug out in detached pieces. It is not stratified

*By Honorable Mr. McClelan:*

Q. Does it make white lime when it is burnt? A. Yes.

Q. How about gypsum? A. I do not know that it is found there at all.

Q. Is freestone found in that country? A. No; we have no rocks of that kind at all.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. The soil is all alluvial? A. Yes.

Q. Have you reason to believe that that character of soil extends a considerable distance to the north? A. Yes; as far as I understand from travellers, surveyors and freighters the soil is very much the same.

Q. Do you know anything, from reliable information, of this immense region called the barren grounds? A. No; it seems to be very much unknown to those who are in our district. As to the Mackenzie River, we have parties resident in Prince Albert who are very capable of giving information. I remember one man in particular who I think would give you some interesting information—Mr. Andrew Flett, of Prince Albert. He was 40 years on the Mackenzie River in the Hudson's Bay Company's service. He is married to an Indian woman, and they are both very intelligent. Speaking of the coal on the river, it is so easily mined at Edmonton that the price is very moderate. It is sold in Edmonton, delivered there for \$1.75 per ton. It could be freighted all over the river district.

Q. What is the rate of transportation from Edmonton by river? A. There is none brought down. It is brought as far as Battleford.

*By Honorable Mr. Macdonald:*

Q. What is the quality of that coal? A. It is pretty good.

Q. It is soft coal, of course? A. Yes.

Q. Is there much slate or shale in it? A. No; it seems to burn very clean. It does not give much flame.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, 4th April, 1888.

Dr. HUGH BAIN, Prince Albert, N.W.T., called and examined.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You were present yesterday, I think, when we informed Capt. Craig that while we would like to have evidence derived from actual observation and travel through the country, yet we wished to obtain information all the same even if it came from other sources that you considered reliable; so that we will not confine you to that portion which has come directly under your own observation. You were present to-day when the list of questions was read to the Committee? A. Of course,