

*By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :*

Q. Do cabbages grow there to any great size? A. Yes, to an enormous size.

*By the Honorable Mr. Ogilvie :*

Q. Have not the Stony Indians in the Rocky Mountains been actually supporting themselves for some years? A. I do not know that personally, but I have heard it frequently stated, and I have no reason to disbelieve the report. I lived at Battleford five years, and had more intercourse with the Indians there than I have had since. I am speaking now of the years from 1877 to 1880. I saw them then more frequently, and they were about commencing to cultivate the land. In all cases where an Indian started a garden he seemed to be giving more care to it than we did ourselves. At any time during the summer you could hardly detect one blade of grass growing between their vegetables. Their gardens were kept clean. I am speaking now of seven or eight years ago. I have not seen them since, but I believe they must have improved. At Qu'Appelle we have several reserves along the Qu'Appelle River and the Indians are doing well in that line. Last year the crops were a failure in our part of the country, so they were not very successful in that respect any more than we ourselves were, and to show the endeavors they made to work for their own support, I may mention that they turned their attention to cutting hay. It so happened that on their reserves and in the vicinity of them there were good hay marshes and they cut a large quantity of hay which they sold to the North-West Mounted Police during the winter. On my visit to the North West Mounted Police I do not remember a day passing without meeting on the way some loads of hay coming in, brought in by the Indians; and their cattle were kept in good condition too.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. How did they spend their money that they got in that way: did they spend it foolishly in trinkets or did they purchase food? A. So far as I am aware they spent their money wisely.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. Is there any expectation that the amount of public money spent to supply the Indians with food, will be diminished before long? A. I cannot speak about that.

Q. You have seen how they are managing to maintain themselves? A. Of course the Indians, as well as the white men, will have to contend with the difficulties in the way of cultivating the country. Of course it will prove worse for them than for us if the difficulties are serious. When the Indian sows seed and does not get a return he is discouraged and does not want to try again. It will take some years before the appropriation for the support of the Indians is diminished.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Do you think the Indians are increasing? A. I do not think they are. I think they have rather diminished in number than increased.

Q. The reports of the Government show that in sixteen years the Treaty Indians alone have increased by ten thousand? A. This may be accounted for in this way: I suppose the Indians are counted on the pay list. They say there are so many Indians because they have paid money to so many. For a number of years there were Indians outside of the treaty, but every year brought more of them in so that they appeared to increase every year in the statistics of the Indian Department. That is accounted for in this way: There was an increase in the number of Indians paid, and that is due to the fact that new Indians were coming into the treaty. I believe they are all in now.

Q. Do you think they committed fraud by representing their families to be larger than they were? A. No, I do not think they committed fraud. That has been tried three or four times without success. It has been detected every time and has been stopped. The first case of the kind occurred three or four years ago. Before that it never occurred to an Indian to attempt anything of the kind. When an Indian was questioned as to his family he generally gave the exact number. It was only later on that they tried to play this trick. At first there was no attempt at deception. So far as my knowledge goes all the Indians of the North-West Territories have taken