

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. Do the Indians on their reserves cultivate gardens near their dwellings and raise vegetables? A. Yes, they cultivate all kinds of vegetables, and the products of their gardens were exhibited at the exhibition at Regina last year, and certainly were equal to any vegetables grown by the white man. They carried off prizes for their garden stuff.

Q. In what departments were they? A. Vegetables principally. I have not the list of prizes which they took, but they could easily be obtained on reference to the *Regina Leader* which published the names of the prize winners. Ultimately, there is no doubt that the Government will have to enfranchise the Indians and give them lands individually. Of course the question to-day is whether a plan of that kind would be premature or not on account of the large number still amongst them who have no particular ambition. With what success it would be attended I do not know, but with a number of them it could be done now. A few of them could be enfranchised and given land separately from the others, and perhaps the example might have a beneficial effect on the others and gradually you would have them all enfranchised.

Q. Have you visited Ermine Skin's reserve? A. Yes, it is on the trail from Calgary to Edmonton, in the vicinity of Peace Hills. I passed through his reserve and saw him there. I passed through in the spring of 1885, during the rebellion.

Q. He has considerable stock, has he not? A. Yes; it is a very good reserve, and apparently it must have been well cultivated the year before, because there were a number of fields ploughed and fenced in, and pretty fair houses built in various parts of the reserve. They appear to be a well-to-do band of Indians. Of course, that year the excitement attending what was going on at Batoche prevented them from going extensively into agriculture, and they did not reap anything that year.

Q. Ermine Skin had horses and horned cattle? A. Yes. I understand that Ermine Skin is no longer an Indian: that he has been admitted to take scrip as a half-breed. I do not know personally that it is the fact.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Although it is not in the limit, or within the scope of our instruction, I would like to ask you this question: Some of those reserves are near the boundary line, and on those reserves efforts are made by the Government to induce the Indians to till the soil. No doubt efforts in the same direction are made by the American Government in their reserves on the southern side of the boundary line. Could you give us a comparison of the results in each country? A. I would not venture on a statement on that subject, in view of the fact that there are reports of the Indian Department which gives more accurate information than I could give. What I might say would perhaps conflict with those reports.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. I suppose all those Indians are supplied with agricultural implements? A. Yes, they are all supplied with agricultural implements by the Government; and every facility has been given them, undoubtedly, by the Government.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. In your answer to the seventh question you have mentioned beef as one of the foods that can be healthfully and economically supplied to the Indians in times of scarcity. Would vegetables not form a good addition? A. Of course, if there is a scarcity of vegetables amongst the Indians, it will also prove to be a scarcity among the white men. The scarcity cannot occur on the Indian reserve except through failure of the crops; if there is a failure of crops on the Indian reserve, they are a failure elsewhere, and there is a scarcity all over the country, and it might perhaps be difficult to obtain vegetables. If there was a large crop of vegetables, I daresay that would be an acceptable addition to the beef, because the Indians are fond of vegetables.

Q. What is the food actually supplied to the Indians by the Department? A. Of course you could get better information on the subject from the Indian Department than you can from me, but in the south-west they are generally given beef, for the simple reason that the beef is there and it is the most economical food that can be procured