

form to them as well as the white man. The Indians are so improvident that they do not see the effect of the destruction of game and fish as we would. They are fond of destroying life when they can make no use of the game. I have known them, when they could not eat the eggs of partridges and ducks, when they found them, to deliberately jump upon them and destroy them. They also destroy young gelatinous birds, with the down on them, which they have no occasion to eat and would not eat. When they come across a covey of young birds they hunt them about until they destroy them, never thinking that if they left them alone until the fall they might have a good dinner from these same birds. The love of destroying life is characteristic of Indians. I think there would be no hardship in compelling them to comply with the laws which are beneficial for white men and would be equally so for themselves.

Hon. Mr. SCHULTZ:—The sixth question is: "Will you please state generally to the Committee how such transplanting, restocking and adding to the indigenous food supplies can best be effected, and at what probable cost."

Prof. BELL:—As far as the plants are concerned, which are referred to in this question, I think it would be most economically done on a small scale first at some of the Experimental Farms. It might be as well not to go into too great expense until some encouragement was received from the first experiment. Then with regard to animals, I think that if some steps were taken to preserve the wood buffaloes that still exist in the north and possibly to continue the experiment at Stony Mountain—but that is in private hands, and we could not interfere in that—the buffalo would be a most important animal to preserve for the Indians.

*By the Honorable Mr. Allan:*

Q. Do you know the number of the herd at Stony Mountain? A. When I saw them in 1879, there were nine or ten; they were not then the property of Mr. Bedson, the Warden of the Penitentiary, but they are now in his charge. I don't know whether they are now his private property or not.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN:—There was a company supposed to be formed for breeding these animals. They were going to buy this herd, for I had a circular sent me asking me to take stock in the company. Perhaps Mr. Sutherland will tell us whether there has been any progress made in that direction.

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND:—As far as I know there has been no material progress made since. I don't know a great deal about it, only from hearsay, and I have not heard much of it since the first rumor came out.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN:—You saw the prospectus?

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND:—Yes.

Prof. BELL:—I think in the future if the experiment of raising the buffalo were successful they would be much more useful to the Indians than native cattle, because they can live in the winter time by getting at the grass underneath the snow, which domesticated cattle cannot do.

Hon. Mr. SCHULTZ:—Is there any other question relating to the sixth printed question.

Prof. BELL:—The beaver is another animal which might be domesticated with advantage. It is an animal of which the Indians understand the nature already, whereas sheep, pigs and cattle are strangers to them. They look upon these animals when they first see them as we would on creatures from Africa. I have seen Indians as much interested on first seeing sheep and pigs for instance as our boys would be on first seeing buffalo. But they know the habit of the beavers, and they are easily domesticated. They can be domesticated in one season, and they afford better food than either beef or mutton. They produce one litter each year and increase very rapidly in numbers.

*By the Honorable Mr. McDonald:*

Q. How would the common goat do in that country? A. They might do very well. They are very hardy.

Q. They give milk as well as flesh, and require very little food in winter? A. Yes. They are raised in the Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia for their milk. They thrive well in barren, rocky places.