

AMADEE FORGET, Clerk of the North-West Council, re-called and examined.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. When we closed yesterday you had come to the question relating to fishes; will you be good enough to inform the Committee about the fisheries of the North-West? A. All I can say about that question is to give the names of the fishes in our rivers and lakes. We have the whitefish, the jack fish or pike, sturgeon, suckers, gold eye, trout and some others that I do not remember just now.

*By the Honorable Mr. Tuner :*

Q. Are there any eels in the North-West? A. I never heard of there being any. We have the whitefish in nearly all our important lakes, such as the Fishing Lakes, along the Qu'Appelle Valley and Lake la Biche. Of course I do not speak of Manitoba; my remarks are entirely confined to the North-West Territories—to Coal Lake, Turtle Lake and Long Lake, they all contain whitefish.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell :*

Q. In abundance? A. Yes, in sufficient quantities so far.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Is that true of the Qu'Appelle Lake? A. No, in the Qu'Appelle Lake they have decreased considerably.

Q. From what cause? A. I daresay it must be from over-fishing. The lakes are not very large, and there have been a great many fish caught in those waters.

Q. Has there been a diminution of those fish, or of any other kind, in any of the other lakes? A. No, pike or jack fish are very numerous in those lakes.

Q. Are they as numerous as ever in the Qu'Appelle Lake? A. I could not say. They are in Long Lake, I know; and Long Lake is one of the sources of the Qu'Appelle River.

Q. Are these lakes extensively fished by the Indians? A. Yes, they get their entire supply of fish from these lakes. Alongside the Qu'Appelle we have several reserves of Indians, and they are allowed every winter at a certain season to take whatever they require either for their own consumption or for sale. The whitefish have diminished considerably in Long Lake.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Are there extensive fishing lakes and streams in the Indian districts covered by Treaties Nos. 6 and 7? A. You mean the south-western part of the territory?

Q. Yes. A. I am not so well acquainted with that part of the country. I do not know of any lakes in that direction except the Kootenay Lakes and all the rivers flowing from the Rocky Mountains in that part of the country contain trout in abundance.

Q. It is the wish of the Committee to elicit from you, if possible, what natural products the Indian has to depend upon practically in the way of food since the disappearance of the buffalo. In the buffalo country I am aware that you are not likely to find a fishing country? A. I believe that if the Indians were left alone, without the aid the Government is extending to them every year, they could not support themselves at the present time. Of course they could resort to catching fish in our lakes and rivers, and shooting small game such as ducks, geese, swans, waxies, plover, &c., during the time that those birds can be killed and fish can be caught. They could also resort, perhaps to hunting bears, but they are getting scarce, too, in the country, and beaver also are getting scarce in our part of the North-West, so that I do not see how, in certain localities, they could live at all.

Q. Speaking of fish, can you suggest any means by which the fish existing there can be preserved or increased in any way? A. No; I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to suggest anything that would be of value.

Q. Are there any fishing lakes in the south-west portion—the buffalo country proper—where any fish are found at all? A. I do not know of any fishing lakes in that part of the country. There might be, but I do not know of them now. My impression is that there are none. We had in the vicinity of Wood Mountain a lake of some few miles in extent, in which fish have been found in large numbers lately. Some five or six years ago no one suspected that any fish existed there.