

tem of feeding the Indians to be demoralizing. It takes away their self-dependence, and educates them to be paupers on the hands of the Government. It is safe to say that if the North-West were to-day as it was a few years ago in the hands of the Hudson Bay Company the buffalo would be just as scarce as they are to-day; that the scarcity is more to be attributed to the people in the United States, who when the buffalo go down to the border, kill them off there, than to our own settlers. The argument used for feeding the Indians in the North-West is that our people have killed off their natural food, the buffalo. I do not believe for one moment that such is the fact. I hope that this Committee will be able to so advise the Government that the natural food supplies of the country, coupled with agriculture, can be so utilized as to make the Indians self-supporting instead of being as they are to-day entirely dependent upon the Government.

HON. MR. DICKEY—My hon. friend who made his interesting and elaborate statement was kind enough to refer to me in relation to some observations made by myself when, a year ago, I felt it necessary to make some remarks on the motion, as the mouthpiece, for the time being, for the Government; but I am happy to find that that duty no longer falls upon me, and I am sure I express the general sentiment of this House when I say that we all welcome the attendance of the hon. gentleman who will be able to answer for the Government on this occasion, and who, I hope, is to be for a long time the Leader of this House.

HON. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I rise principally for the purpose of saying, not wishing to repeat my remarks on a former occasion, that my hon. friend has mentioned me as one of the members of this Committee. I hope that he will consent to allow the Committee to be struck without my name in it for the very obvious reason that I am the chairman of one of the hardest worked committees in the House—a committee, unfortunately,

whose work has scarcely yet commenced. I am also a member of several other committees, and as he mentions the names of three gentlemen from Nova Scotia I hope he will be satisfied to take the names of two gentlemen, neither of whom, I believe, is burdened with the cares of a committee: I allude to Mr. Miller and Mr. Kaulbach. The hon. gentleman has referred to the previous committee. It is indeed a melancholy circumstance in referring to a committee who passed on a cognate question to this some seventeen years ago, that there are only five gentlemen now amongst us of the seventeen who formed that committee. One of those gentlemen has not been spoken of (Mr. McClelan) who is not now in his seat. I think the House will be gratified equally with myself at the consummation of the wish I expressed on a former occasion, that my hon. friend, who was not then at all in the condition in which we happily find him to-day, might be spared to submit his question to us on a future occasion, as he has done to-day, with renewed health and strength.

HON. MR. MILLER—I would like to know from the hon. gentleman from Winnipeg whether it is correctly stated by my hon. friend that it is not the intention of the Committee to send for witnesses outside the Capital? I fear if my hon. friend desires to obtain testimony from the North-West, that the time will be very short till the close of the Session to carry out his object. We are now pretty well advanced in the Session. It is generally understood that the House will not be in session after the middle of June. We are now about to adjourn for a week, and it will leave us a little over a fortnight after we meet again to complete the business of the Session, and if it is necessary to send to the North-West for witnesses, I fear the Committee will prove abortive, as there will not be time to summon persons from that distant portion of the country. I hope, however, it is not necessary to go further than the Capital itself for the evidence my hon. friend requires. If that be the case I cannot see any objection to the Committee; but if it be not the case, certainly my hon. friend will