

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :*

Q. Do you not think that wild turnips which are found in the ground in the spring are the product of the former year? A. They must be the product of the year previous.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. You mentioned the fact that towards the fall of the year they become hard? A. Yes.

Q. Does not that condition exist in the spring of the year? A. I never took particular notice how they grow, but I should say the turnip in the spring time grows hard, and in the course of time is the seed of another one for the following year. I do not believe it is the same one which the following year becomes good again. Of course I could give you no information on the subject. I have not followed its growth.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Is there any practical means that you would suggest to the Committee of preventing the entire destruction of these roots and of increasing their growth? A. No.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. You have been living for sometime in the North-West Territories, have you not? A. I have been living there eleven years, since 1876.

Q. Can you safely rely on the natural products of the North-West country to maintain its population? A. Yes, I believe so. I believe as far as the growth of vegetables is concerned we can always depend upon a sure return every year. Even last year, which was exceptionally bad—the very worst I have seen since I have been living in that country—there were splendid vegetables exhibited at all our exhibitions throughout the country. The return was not as good or as much as the returns of previous years, but still there was sufficient for the home consumption. Our potato-crop failed to some extent because there was a second growth in some cases. The drought was so intense at one time that the tubers formed at one part of the season ripened in that state, and then commenced to grow again as if they had been planted for seed. The result was that when the potatoes were dug up in the fall we discovered this peculiarity, that some of the first crop remained which were very small and very dry; the others were numerous, but small too, and had not attained maturity. It was only in some cases—it was not general.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell :*

Q. The yield of all vegetables is very large in the North-West as compared with the east? A. Yes; our potatoes grow very large. Last year was the only one in the eleven years that I have spent in that country in which our potatoes have not proved a perfect success.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. What different places have you visited during the time you have been living there? A. During the rebellion of 1885, being one of the Commissioners on the Half-breed Commission, our duty called us all around the country, so that we have seen every place and eaten vegetables at every settlement, and my remembrance is, as far as the potatoes were concerned, they were as good in one place as another.

Q. During the eleven years you have been there you have not witnessed the complete failure of the crops? A. No; not in the line of vegetables.

Q. Do the Indians try to make use of those natural products? A. They do. On a number of reserves they have been very successful too. On the South Saskatchewan River there is a reserve near Prince Albert where they are good farmers, and they are endeavoring to cultivate the land. They certainly have been as successful as their white neighbors.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Is it possible that they can ever become self-supporting? A. If care is taken of them I believe they will—not the majority of them, and a good portion of the Indians are certainly inclined to work.

Q. They can grow potatoes, and I suppose there is plenty of fish and game in the country? A. They can grow anything that the white man can grow.