

Q. Will you please briefly define the extent to which Indian corn can be grown?
 A. When you get away from the immediate influence of Lake Superior it grows in the southern part of the country westward to Manitoba, or rather to the prairie country—because Manitoba extends into the wooded region—and as far north as Lonely Lake and Osnaburgh House as already mentioned.

By the Honorable Mr. Kaulbach :

Q. Is it grown there to any extent? A. No; not to any extent. The Indians cultivate what they call squaw corn—an early variety.

Q. But barley is the safer grain to grow? A. Yes, and wherever they grow corn they can grow pumpkins.

By the Honorable Mr. Allan :

Q. Would not pumpkins form an important article of food; they grow so rapidly and ripen so early before the frost comes? A. Yes, and they can be grown in the same district I have indicated for Indian corn.

Q. Would they not grow further north than that? A. I doubt it. They do grow cucumbers and melons as far north as Lac la Biche. I have seen them there myself, and I am not sure but they do grow pumpkins too. Where cucumbers and melons grow pumpkins will grow also. It is hard to induce the Indians to grow anything. Even potatoes which they all know to be a safe crop they will not grow unless encouraged by supplying them. If supplied with seed in the fall they will not preserve any over the winter. They would not take the trouble to dig a pit or build a cellar in which to preserve the seed; but in the spring when the time comes for planting, if anyone were to give them the seed they would plant it. I was going to suggest about roots and vegetables, that I think potatoes, turnips, artichokes and carrots are the most suitable. Artichokes would be very suitable to introduce amongst the Indians, because they are very hardy and productive; the seed remains in the ground and the Indians could not destroy it all.

By the Chairman :

Q. You have mentioned barley and early corn. Is it your opinion that these will produce the greatest amounts of food suitable for the Indians with the least effort in cultivation? A. As far as grain is concerned I think barley and Indian corn would—indeed there is no great choice, because the climate is too rigorous for the growth of all kinds of grain. Wheat would grow in the same southern districts as corn, but they would have to treat it the same way as they now treat barley—boil it whole—as they could not bring it to a mill. After it is made into flour it is not as wholesome for them as barley, because they mix the flour with water and eat it as a half-cooked paste, which is indigestible and does them more harm than good.

The Committee adjourned until Wednesday at ten o'clock.

LETTER FROM MR. ADRIEN NEISON TO HONORABLE MR. SCHULTZ
 BAD THROAT RIVER,

LAKE WINNIPEG, 18th March, 1887.

To the Hon. JOHN SCHULTZ, M.D.,
 Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 18th February, I would say that I can only give you information in regard to the wild rice fields in the neighborhood of Lake Winnipeg. I am well aware that wild rice is found in many places besides Lake Winnipeg, but as my actual experience in the handling of it is confined to that locality I only purpose to treat of it as I find it here. However, it may be of some interest to know, that all through the lake district lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Rat Portage as far east as Michipicoten on Lake Superior, wild rice is found in large fields; especially is this the case at Lac Seul and its vicinity, and between English River (the north branch of the Winnipeg River) and the lakes which are close to the Canadian Pacific Railway as far west as Whitemouth River.