

*By the Honorable Dr. Schultz :*

Q. You have mentioned, in your answer to this question, the domestication of the buffalo. Have you noticed any instance but the one referred to by the Hon. Mr. Allan and other gentlemen, at Stony Mountain, where it has been tried and proved successful? A. I have no personal knowledge of any other instance. I understand that a herd is in the Yellowstone Park in the United States, and I have also heard of other experiments made further east, but I have no personal knowledge of them. I visited the herd formerly belonging to the late Hon. James McKay at Deer Lodge, and now in the hands of Mr. Bedson, and they seemed to be in a thriving condition. The buffalo still exists in the wooded regions of the Athabasca district and they are likely to remain there, because they are scattered among the woods and cannot be killed by hunters on horseback, as they can on the prairies. A few are killed every year by the Indians.

Q. These are known as the wood buffalo? A. Yes, it is a variety of the bison, but it frequents the wooded regions only, and is not migratory as the prairie buffalo is.

Q. Can you suggest to the Committee any means of retaining that species of animal—any measures that could be adopted to prevent them from being exterminated? A. The Indians have not been treated with as yet in that country, and probably we have no means of coercing them into obeying any laws that might be enacted by Parliament to protect the buffalo there. It might be a valuable resource if the buffalo should be exterminated everywhere else to be able to get a stock from this wooded country in the future.

Q. Have you any idea of the numbers of those animals which still exist? A. In the aggregate they must be very numerous, since they roam over a very large tract of country. One or two hundred are perhaps killed every year by the Indians, and the skins are brought to Fort Chipewyan for sale.

Q. You also mentioned in your answer to that question that a means of preserving fish would be to protect them from being caught? As you are aware, the Indian when catching those fish, catches all kinds alike, and in those northern waters are found valuable fish, such as whitefish, which feed upon vegetable matter, and the pike or jack fish that lives on other fish, and on his own species I suppose when they are small enough to swallow? Would it not be well to try and preserve the one and allow the other to be taken as freely as possible? A. Yes, I am of that opinion. I think pike and pickerel—pike especially—have a relation to the other fish something like hawks, eagles and owls to defenceless birds. They are merely creatures of prey, and destroy large numbers of fish more valuable than themselves.

Q. Is it true that they feed on the ova of other fish as well? I fancy they do. I have no direct personal proof of it, but they are exceedingly voracious. They eat everything that comes in their way in the shape of animal food. Besides the pike, I think if any encouragement were given for the extermination of animals destructive of fish it ought to be extended to some birds which prey upon fish and fish spawn, such as the merganser or saw-bill, or any other birds that prey upon the young fish and fish spawn. Pelicans are practically of no use, but they destroy a great number of fish. They are never themselves used as food. Some of these birds destroy a great many more fish than they can digest. They gorge themselves with a large number of young fish and then go upon a sand or gravel bar and disgorge them, after which they proceed to catch another lot. They are extremely destructive of useful fishes.

Q. That applies to those varieties you have mentioned? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any other matter relating to the fourth question upon the subject? A. If the law is in force I think the weak point is in not having a paid officer to see it executed. No one likes to inform against his neighbors or against Indians who may be starving, more particularly as they have special exemptions, but no one finds fault with an officer who it is known makes his living by informing, and the first step to secure efficiency in this matter is to appoint a paid officer to travel about and see that the game laws are enforced and, perhaps, make the Indian con-