

*By the Honorable Mr. Merner :*

Q Do they grow from seed every year? A. I fancy they grow from seed. I have no experience of them. I have just seen a few growing within the range of Winnipeg. They grow on very high land. You never find them in low ground.

*By the Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. Do the Indians ever eat grasshoppers as food? A. I do not know that they do.

*By the Honorable Mr. Leonard :*

Q. Do the rabbits carry with them the seed of their own destruction, or do those bugs emanate from the soil? A. They emanate from the soil, I think.

Q But you expressed the idea that it matured with the animal—rather that the seed was there, and seems to grow out and destroy the rabbit family in the course of a few years? A. I think it must come to life prior to its going on the rabbit.

Q. From the soil? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell :*

Q. After their death are the carcasses of the rabbits found in any considerable numbers? A. Yes, in large numbers. I have seen them every twenty yards lying dead on the ground.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Can you tell us something about the fishes of your Province? A. No, I can tell less about the fishes than of anything else in my country.

*By the Honorable Mr. Merner :*

Q. Are they as plentiful now as they have been in the past? A. I believe not. It is the general opinion along the Red River that they have diminished very materially. The Indians and half-breeds there believe that the cause is the running of steamboats on the river—that as soon as the steamboats began to run the fish decreased in numbers. It would not have the same effect on a lake or a large sheet of water as it has in a narrow river. I have not heard of any perceptible change in the lakes, as yet, though I fear from the large exportation that has taken place the last two or three years, that our white fish will disappear if it is not put a stop to.

*By the Honorable Mr. Leonard :*

Q. There are no laws there to regulate the seining or taking of fish? A. We have some laws, but I could not tell you to what extent they go.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. You have mentioned the prospective danger of the entire destruction of the white fish; what measures would you suggest to the Committee as a means of preserving them? A. I would suggest the exportation being prohibited—the export to foreign countries, whatever we may do with regard to our own Provinces; because it would appear that the bulk of those fish which I have just referred to have all gone to the United States.

*By the Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. By whom are they caught? By your own people or by people of the United States? A. I think parties from the United States are superintending some of those fishing establishments.

Hon. Mr. ALMON.—Apropos to the statement made by the hon. Mr. Allan at our last meeting, or the one before, respecting people coming from the United States to capture fish and game it is a fact that there is now an American company from Detroit with no less than seven miles of lake seine, and I agree with Mr. Sutherland that if they undertake to catch fish they will capture them at such a rate with those seines in Lake Winnipeg that they will speedily take every fish that is in it.

Q. What is the average depth of Lake Winnipeg?

The CHAIRMAN.—The deepest part is 10 fathoms, and of Lake Manitoba five fathoms. The upper end of Lake Winnipeg is much shallower; it would not average much more than four fathoms.

Hon. Mr. McINNES.—A close season was established on the Fraser River some six or seven years ago by the Dominion Government, and it is enforced very strictly.