

Mr. Stewart, replying to a question, said he thought it possible to use the poplar wood for commercial purposes. It is very good poplar. It will make pulp, and where it is large enough it can be sawed. It makes excellent flooring. The white poplar in the north is of a better quality than the poplar in the Ottawa district. In the Saskatchewan district and in the far west it is different. In a colder climate it grows more slowly.

As to the extent of the forests, Mr. Stewart remarked that wherever there was a stream there would be a belt of timber.

#### WATER-POWERS.

Along the Athabaska river there was a very big water-power. There are the Grand Rapids and various other points 80 miles north. On the Slave river there are about 16 miles of rapids which constitute the interruption he had spoken of, and it would make excellent water-power. There is no water-power on the Mackenzie after you get below Fort Smith on the main stream. It is an immense river two or three miles wide, and it has been contracted to a mile.

#### FISHERIES, GAME AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

The fish are the white fish, the pike, fresh herring, the Arctic trout, and in the Mackenzie there is another very large fish. Mackenzie, the explorer of the river, not knowing what this large fish was, called it *Inconnu*, and it is still termed the unknown fish. They have shortened the word to 'conny.' Witness thought that he had seen one of these fish four feet long, weighing forty or fifty pounds. He told Professor Prince that it resembled the maskinonge in appearance, and Professor Prince told him that he had contended it was not the maskinonge, but it somewhat resembles the maskinonge.

Asked if there are any salmon trout, Mr. Stewart replied that there is a fish there resembling it, but is not exactly like the trout. He passed over from Fort Macpherson and cut across the mountains, but before he crossed the mountains he heard of the fish, the moose and the cariboo. But after he crossed the mountain the first thing he heard was the salmon. The Indians were hurrying home to catch the salmon. They live on it. There is the King Salmon, the Blue Back, the Dog's Head, the Hump Back, and the witness did not know how many others. There seemed to be a large quantity of fish in Great Slave lake and Athabaska lake, white fish principally, as far as witness could learn, of excellent quality. Great Slake lake is a beautiful lake. There are no fisheries carried on there.

Witness explained that he did not care to go back by the steamboat because it would be slow travelling and he wanted to go over new ground. There he let the steamboat return, and went with some Indians, who had come from the Alaskan country, Rampart House, to meet the steamboat, and were returning. He got them to help carry his supplies over a portage  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. They had a bark canoe, and for about 400 miles he was kept sitting very still behind an Indian. Their canoes are different from those in this part of Canada. You are only two inches out of the water sometimes. The canoe was heavily laden and of course, he had to keep very still. The Indians paddled fourteen or fifteen hours a day as they were in a hurry to get home to the salmon. They would get the salmon in the Bear river, which is a tributary of the Porcupine going west. Of course those salmon would go to the salt waters.

The wild animals include the bear, wood buffalo, cariboo, otter, beaver (now getting scarce), marten, fox, mink, fisher, and many others. The cariboo and the reindeer are considered the same animal. As far as witness could see, there is no difference in species between the wood buffalo and the animal that was found on the prairie. He did not see any buffalo while there. There are a few of them. They are getting very scarce, and he thought measures should be taken to prevent their being exterminated altogether.