

On the strength of this testimony, Mr. Paterson argued at great length that the Government was supplying the Indians with food which caused sickness and death.

It will be noticed that there is some disagreement between Mr. Paterson and Mr. Cameron. The latter says they could not get beef and were forced to eat pork. "The beef," says Mr. Paterson's witness, "is of first rate quality, but the flour is bad." "The flour," says Mr. Paterson, "spread disease and death among the Indians of the North-west territories."

Now there is no allegation that the bad flour was supplied on more than one reserve; and if the "disease and death" were common to the "Indians of the North-West territories," it is evident that the bad flour was not the cause. The effect could not be more extensive than the cause. Again, Dr. Girard, while certainly affirming that the flour was bad, does not say that the bad flour caused the disease and death. He says he found bronchitis; but it will hardly be affirmed that bad flour will cause bronchitis. He says he found erysipelas, a contagious disease; he found swelling of the glands of the neck, probably a scrofulous disease; and he found dyspepsia. The last might be caused by bad flour; but it is more probable that the fact of the Indians crowding themselves into close houses, immoderately warmed, refusing to take proper exercise, and leaving heaps of filth in and around their dwellings, caused all the disease reported by Dr. Girard.

Still it is the fact that some flour was supplied to these Indians which was below the standard required by the Department, and inferior to that which the contractors agreed to deliver.

It is also a fact that some flour was kept over from one year to another; that it became wet and unfit for food. This flour was not issued to the Indians as part of their rations at all. But, as there would be a little good flour in the center of a lump of bad flour, it was given to some non-