

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. Have you ever dissected a rabbit? A. Yes. In connection with that subject, the only curious point that I have noticed—and I have several specimens which I can produce—is the proneness of the common hare to extra uterine gestation. The ovum sometimes adheres to the outside of the intestines, and the fœtus of the rabbit will grow in almost any position, and has been known to cause the death of the mother.

Q. Have you ever observed that yourself in the rabbit? A. Yes, I have and I have half a dozen specimens both dried and preserved in alcohol. It is one of the most interesting things in the whole domain of natural history.

Q. Have you discovered in dissecting rabbits that they have two wombs? A. I have not examined into that point. If they have, I should think that gestation would go on in both at the same time.

Q. This extra uterine gestation, you say, is a common thing? A. Yes, a common thing in this hare, I have referred to it to show the prolific nature of the animal.

Q. No matter where the sperm strikes, the ovum becomes impregnated? A. No, no matter, if the ovum is there it becomes impregnated.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. The Committee understand that the rabbit you would advise for transplacating say to the country between the South Saskatchewan and the boundary line, would be the native rabbit of that district—the jack rabbit? A. Not the jack rabbit. The jack rabbit is a large rabbit and inhabits the Rocky Mountains. We have specimens in the Survey Museum brought from British Columbia.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. We have a rabbit in the country extending between the coast range of mountains and the Selkirks and which is to be found as far south as California which is a tremendously big fellow—four times the size of the ordinary rabbit which you have here: we call it the Jack rabbit? A. We may be talking about different animals. I have shot the prairie rabbit and I know that it is a large rabbit, and the Arctic hare is also much larger than the bush rabbit.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Which variety of rabbit would propagate most rapidly? A. It would depend upon the district; we should select the same species that is native there. We should protect the native prairie rabbit and if necessary the bush rabbit.

Q. The Committee received some interesting information with regard to rabbits from Senator Sutherland, who corroborated your own statement when before the Committee last, that after an interval of some years the rabbits are found in great numbers, and very soon afterwards they disappear and their carcasses are found in all directions? A. I know that to be a fact from my own travels. Some years they are so thick that you can easily snare them every night around your tent. They even come into your tent when you leave the door open. You can easily snare or shoot them. Other years you scarcely see any and the Indians complain of their scarcity.

Q. What is the cause of the scarcity? A. The rabbits die from a glandular disease—the glands suppurate, and it is accompanied by a constitutional disease as well—possibly a blood disease. As the disease spreads amongst them the rabbits are found dead in all directions. Then for one or two years afterwards you find very few rabbits, and only occasionally come across their tracks in the snow. Then they gradually increase until they become numerous again.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Do they burrow in the ground? A. No, the bush rabbit does not burrow.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. The prairie rabbit does not burrow either. A. No; our so-called rabbits are really hares.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. What shelter have they in the winter season? A. The bush rabbits find shelter amongst the thickets of coniferous trees.