

Valley I was much surprised to note the difference in vegetation. It was at least two or three weeks ahead of that about Lesser Slave Lake, and this is said to be always the case. The poplars and tamaracks were all in leaf and mosquitoes plentiful.

It is of interest to us who have so long known the North West Territories, and I think have observed how frost does damage in valleys whilst high ground escapes, that in the Upper Peace River Valley the contrary is the case; frost blights vegetation on high ground but not in the valley. This is probably due in part to the great height of the table lands and in part to the enormous body of water contained in the river.

On May 20th, south of Clear Hills on the road to Fort St. John, I noticed strawberries, raspberries, saskatoon, wild cherries, and snap-dragon in flower, anemones and wild flax in seed. At Peace River they informed me that the season was always a couple of weeks ahead of Lesser Slave Lake. The depth of Pine Valley I made out from the aneroid to be 725 feet. On the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of May we found the grass very much more in advance of what it had been elsewhere, and it appears that, as the mountains are neared in going up the Peace River, the vegetation becomes more rapid and the season earlier.

At Vermillion on the night of June 23rd at its darkest I was able to read print outside of my tent, and night was only twilight on Slave River on July 14th. Strawberries, gooseberries, and saskatoon berries were ripe.

The pelicans, which gather in great numbers at Pelican Rapids on Slave River, had gone north ten or twelve days before July 18th.

At Fort Chipewyan, Fort Smith, and Fort Resolution I made close inquiries into the number of Wood Buffalo remaining, having an opportunity to do this owing to meeting so many Indians fresh from their grounds—such as, I think, no one else has enjoyed. Some of the Indians who came in to meet me at each place had lately been near the buffalo, and had counted the different herds, which are, generally speaking, three in number; one ranging from Salt River to Peace Point on Peace River, one from Salt River north to Great Slave Lake, and one from Salt River east and west. They number I conclude from 500 to 575 head. You