

we worked north and west to Qn'Appelle and examined the lands on both sides of the track. The deep dark soil of this region is similar to the land near Wolseley. The whole of this tract of land is A 1, with but few marshes, and is magnificent soil for general farming purposes, particularly for grain growing. Near the track there are many sections partly covered with timber. There are a number of settlers all around this district. From this place we proceeded west to Regina and examined all the Syndicate lands for 24 miles south. Twenty miles south of Regina we found a beautiful lake, 300 acres in extent, with numerous flocks of wild ducks and geese upon it. Returning to Regina, we examined lands directly west as far as Moose Jaw."

MOOSE JAW AND REGINA.

"How does the land at Moose Jaw compare with that at Regina?"

"The soil at Moose Jaw, having a percentage of sand, is more easily worked than at Regina. In some localities the land west of the Moose Jaw River is more sandy than at others. The land at Moose Jaw is very similar to that in a due line south from Regina. North of Moose Jaw the land is A 1 and easily worked. Southwest there is a ridge of sand hills, which is not suitable for cultivation. We examined up to the end of November, when snow put an end to the season's work."

"Was it not pretty cold then?"

"It was quite cold. A severe blizzard swept over the country a fortnight ago. We were in the valley of the Moose Jaw at that time. It lasted 24 hours. There was one cold day at the beginning of November. About the middle of the month we had several days of warm westerly winds, which I was told were Chinook winds."

THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-CLASS SOIL.

"Of the 100,000 acres you personally examined what proportion was A 1 soil?"

"Three-fourths at least. Out of these 75,000 acres of A 1 soil, fully 60,000 acres were suitable for grain growing."

"Are the remaining 40,000 acres worthless?"

"No. Very little of it is worthless. But there is so much good land that this will not be cultivated until after all the first-class land is occupied."

"Each of the other members of the party examined an area of land equal to your own?"

"Yes."

"Did they meet with the same proportion of A 1 land that you did?"

"Of course I did not personally examine their lands, but from what I know and saw of their field-notes, I should say that they met with the same proportion of A 1 land as I did, as we examined alternate sections."

"Have you taken up any land?"

"No."

"Do you intend to?"

"Certainly. In the spring I shall take up land west of Regina. The land is all so good out there that it makes very little difference where one settles as long as he gets near the railway."

DELIGHTED WITH THE COUNTRY.

"What are your impressions of the country as a whole?"

"Taking it as a whole, it is all and more than all that I expected it to be. I have not been disappointed in it in the least."

"How does it compare with the mid-land counties of England as an agricultural country?"

"For raising grain this country is away ahead of England. Here you raise a much better quality of grain at a much less cost per bushel, and the land is cultivated at a much less expense of labour."

SIX MONTHS' EXPERIENCE ON THE PRAIRIE.

"What is your personal experience from six months on the prairie of the disadvantages of this country?"

"There are many inconveniences, of course, but I have found no disadvantages that cannot be remedied. Of course this is a pioneer land, and people must not expect to find ready-built houses and ready-made farms. These things are only obtained by labour and time. A home and farm costs money here just the same as it does in England. You must either buy it or make it. But there are so few ready-made farms for sale, that the large majority of new-comers must make their own homesteads. People who have made homesteads here don't care about selling unless at a handsome profit. Another thing is that those who have made homesteads think that their own particular farms are the very best in the North-west, are perfectly satisfied, and have no desire to part with them."