

found in other than the scantiest quantities. Careful inquiry among those who know the country between Dunvegan and St. John and between Grande prairie and the Pine and Peace passes confirmed the reports that practically the whole of the forest has been destroyed by fire. East of the mountains there is no white pine, though it is frequently stated that there is. What is in ignorance taken for it is jack pine, but even of this there is very little.

While the country that has been described should, in the opinion of the writer, not be settled by either the raucher or the grower of wheat until there is more satisfactory evidence that it is suited for either of these pursuits, it may be safely prophesied that after railways have been built there will be only a very small part of it that will not afford homes for hardy northern people, who never having had much will be satisfied with little. It is emphatically a poor man's country, a country where any hard-working man may, in a few years, gather around him a few head of stock—horses, cattle and hogs—where he will be able to grow vegetables and in most years barley and oats and sometimes even wheat. But it will be many years before anything can be grown for export, even with good transport facilities. The building of the railway will lead to the development of the mines in northern British Columbia, and these mines will afford a market for beef and pork at least; but until there is some such market, cash will be very scarce. During the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, there will of course, be a ready market for any produce grown near the route it will follow, but such a market cannot last more than a year or two and the demand for food products will cease when the road is completed.

ROUTES TO THE PEACE RIVER.

Routes.

The route usually travelled in going to the Peace river either in winter or summer is from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing, thence up the Athabasca and Little Slave rivers to Lesser Slave lake and from that place by wagon or sleigh to Peace River Landing. If pack-horses are used, the upper Peace River district may be reached by more direct routes, but on account of the difficulties to be met with in the form of rivers to cross, fallen timber to be cut through and almost impassible muskegs, the traveller who desires to reach the Peace river with the least trouble and expense is advised to follow the route outlined above and under no circumstances to attempt to use one of the cross-country trails unless accompanied by some one who is thoroughly familiar with the route chosen.