

sions where water accumulated. The forest in every direction was composed principally of small spruce mixed with tamarack, indicating the wet character of the soil. If the climate were suitable, a few thousand acres might be cultivated in this region, but it is very doubtful whether grain would ripen except in extremely dry seasons. West of the 6th principal meridian, the country is somewhat more rolling and consequently drier, so that aspen poplar replaces the spruce to some extent.

Turning south on the trail to Dunvegan, the country passed through for the first five miles is very similar to that described above, the only open patches being along the trail. Further on, the trail climbs a long ridge 200 or 300 feet above the valley, and this ridge is followed for several miles. A good deal of small birch and a few balsams are mixed with the other trees on this ridge and on the summit there are a few Jack pines. The undergrowth on this "portage" is principally high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum*) and alder, showing that there is much moisture. About a mile north of the 22nd base line, where the trail crosses a large bend of MacAllister creek, there is a large hay meadow, the only large one seen north of Island lake. It contains about 1,000 acres of fine hay and pasture land. The soil on the high ground around it is very sandy and it is doubtful whether either grain or vegetables would do well there. From this place to Island lake there are patches of prairie along the trail but these aggregate only a few hundred acres. As far as the eye could reach in every direction the country is covered by forest.

Country south  
of the White-  
mud.

Island lake is shallow and surrounded by forest and marsh. A great quantity of hay can always be made here and it is an ideal place for wintering cattle. Between Island lake and Hay lake the trail passes through woods and across swamps and marsh for about three miles, when it emerges on a beautiful piece of country, much the finest seen on the north side of the Peace river and unexcelled anywhere in the region examined in 1903. The soil is a rich black loam, deeper than that further east and not nearly so heavy; the country is slightly rolling and the drainage good. This area may be roughly delimited as being bounded on the west by the meridian 118° 30, on the east by Burnt river, on the north by the forest and on the south by Peace river,

The area of prairie or "bluffy" country between Peace River Landing and Dunvegan may be roughly estimated at 400,000 acres. The soil varies somewhat in character, but it is everywhere fertile and well suited to the growth of cereals, the only drawback being the scarcity