

## APPENDIX No. 1

that country. There is an Indian reservation at that end of the lake, some 9,000 acres, and a little river called Sucker creek runs through it. On the banks of that they can grow anything. The witness saw the finest potatoes and vegetables there that he had seen in his life.

A little further south and west lies the Prairie river country, and that is the finest piece of the Northwest Territories Mr. Conroy had seen. It is partly open, most of it open for quite a few miles, and nice bluffs of timber, mixed, some spruce among it, and some poplar. But the most of it is level and open. No bunch grass grows in it. It is the blue grass of the country, and the drift pile runs right up. Witness was never far up on that, only just a few miles, but the information he got from some of the Indians and the pioneers there, was that it runs to some considerable distance south of where he had not been.

There are two Indian agencies right on Lesser Slave lake. They raise potatoes, vegetables, barley and oats, and they grow wheat. That district would be about the 56th parallel of latitude.

At Sturgeon lake there is an Indian reservation, although it is not surveyed yet. The Indians refused to have it surveyed two or three years ago, but they are very anxious to have it surveyed now. There will be about sixteen thousand acres due the Indians around this lake. It is very fair agricultural country, good ranching country, lots of good water and lots of good hay.

From the Sturgeon lake and Prairie river, towards the Little Smoky river, after getting out of the Prairie river valley, there is a ridge of timber which is not much good for anything. It is small brush, and witness would suppose that the ground is cold. It looks to be a kind of white clay. If it is moistened it is a kind of gummy. The timber on that ridge runs through from the Prairie river valley south. After you cross that again you come into a section of low country, some of it open, with a small river called many names running northeast to west. It is only a beaver country. That is a great hay country. The witness saw a beautiful blue joint grass growing there.

## THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY.

Between the Little Smoky river and the Lesser Slave lake the country is open. Along the banks of the Little Smoky the spruce grows very large, the largest of any until you come to the Peace river.

The timber on the banks of the Smoky river is tall. The banks of the river are seven or eight hundred feet above the bed of the river. The banks of the Peace are a thousand feet high, and this part of the smoky is not very far from the Peace river. The banks of the Smoky river go in benches. You go a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet on the level, and then down a bank and strike another bench. So you go down from one bench to another until you get to the river bed. It is a nice easy country to make roads in. The soil is good. There is no rock in that country. The highest bench would be probably a mile and a half, maybe more, from the river.

When the Peace river district is reached, via the route taken by Mr. Conroy, the altitude is very high, probably higher than it is at Edmonton. It is certainly over 1,000 feet from the top of the bank down to the bottom of the river—tremendous banks. The country, as witness understood it, is very fine. Bunch grass grows all along the north side clean through to the Hayes river. He had information as to this country from Indians and half breeds, and they say bunch grass grows all along the way. Shortly after striking the Peace, Dunvegan is reached. On the south side of that is the Spirit river country that witness had already described.

This country north of Dunvegan, all along the river, is in the opinion of Mr. Conroy, fit for agriculture on both sides and for any distance back. Of course, you have to go up to the top of the banks to get the land. Fine buffalo grass grows in the district north of Dunvegan up to the Peace river crossing.