

# REPORT ON METHODS OF SOIL

## Cultivation Practised in the district of Grand Forks, B. C.

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### CLIMATE AND SOIL OF DRY DISTRICTS IDEAL IF PROPERLY HANDLED

Throughout the dry interior districts of British Columbia the soil is generally of a sandy-loam character, and farming, when properly conducted, is as certain of good results as in many other districts with heavier rainfall.

One great advantage of the sandy-loam soils is that when cultivated they separate into very minute particles, thereby forming into the condition to hold the greatest possible amount of water. The finer the ground can be made the greater amount of water it will hold; this anyone can verify for themselves by getting two cups and putting half a pound of clean coarse sand in one and half a pound of pebbles the size of the top of your finger in the other; then put three ounces of water into each cup which will cover both sand and pebbles, shake the cup until both the sand and the pebbles are wet then tip the cups up holding the sand and the pebbles back and allowing the water to drain off into two vessels, the sand retains over five times as much water as is retained by the pebbles, as each minute particle holds a film of water.

Another great advantage of sandy-loam soil is that it allows the rain to quickly percolate down through the soil and also gives the ideal conditions for moisture to work back to the roots of the plants by capillary attraction. Again, sandy-loam soil is the easiest with which to form a top mulch by cultivation to prevent evaporation. A great number of people think that a sandy-loam soil is a poor soil; chemical analysis has shown, however, that there is sufficient plant food in the sandy-loam soils to produce ninety crops of wheat of thirty-five bushels to the acre, if the farmer will so cultivate the land as to make that plant food available.

One of the numerous advantages of the semi-arid districts is that after the rain has percolated into the soil the warm dry climate is conducive to the working of capillary attraction, thereby bringing back not only the water but plant food as well to the roots of the plants; while in other countries with heavy rain fall the water with the plant food it has dissolved is carried off and lost to the farmer. A great difference in manuring fields exists be-