

miles from its escape from the mountains, away down its stream, before meeting a single obstruction to navigation, but also as it affords in its upper course the *loveliest and easiest pass across the main range of the Rocky Mountains*. In the C. P. R. report of 1874, Professor Macoun says: "As far as I could judge, the whole of the land from Little Slave Lake to Smoky River, and on up to the base of the mountain, is of the very best quality. As I did not travel over the whole tract, I cannot say from actual observation that this is so, but what I saw (at least 200 miles in length) of it was the *best land I had seen anywhere*. There was neither marsh nor swamp to any extent, but one rich extended expanse of rich soil altogether devoid of stones. My observation bears out all that has been said of the fertility of the land along the Peace River, although I am much disappointed to find scarcely any signs of farming at Dunvegan. Two small fields seem all that have been cultivated there, one for barley and the other for potatoes. This goes on from year to year. The same seed is probably used year after year, as it certainly is with the potatoes; game is still too plentiful for much attention to be given to agriculture. The stream is about 400 yards wide at this point. It will be seen that this region of country along the Peace has more of the prairie vegetation than the wooded country at Slave Lake. Its flora indicates both a drier and a warmer climate than they have at the latter place. The prairie vegetation is almost identical with that at Edmonton, except a few eastern species. That the Peace River country has an exceptional climate anyone seeing it must confess. While we were travelling through it the constant record was 'warm sunshine, west wind, balmy atmosphere and skies of the brightest blue.' Even as late as 15th of October, the thermometer was 48° at daylight and 61° in the shade at noon." The foregoing is enough to satisfy my readers of the great value of the Peace River Valley, but I cannot refrain from quoting in addition from the *Toronto Globe* of 27th Nov. last, which publishes an interview with the Rev. Mr. Brick, a missionary near Dunvegan. Mr. Brick said: "It would have to be a very good offer that would tempt me to live away from the Peace River, although my stipend is only \$750 a year, and if I buy flour I have to pay over \$16 a bag of 100 lbs. Peace River has been truly said by Ogilvie, the Dominion Land Surveyor, to be the only river, worth calling a river, west of the St. Lawrence. It is a grand river, and at Peace River crossing is nearly half a mile wide. Some sixty miles below Vermilion there is a fall in the river of about eight feet. But for this fall the river is navigable for a distance of a thousand miles from the Rockies, and the Dominion Surveyor told me that the matter of the fall could be got over without much difficulty. The banks of Peace River form a very gradual slope upward, some two and a-half miles wide, where they run into a table land about 800 feet above the level of the river. The southern bank of the Peace River is excellently timbered and on the northern shore is found a rich and splendid prairie country. The choicest prairie country in the district is a strip of about seventy-five miles long and from fifteen to twenty miles wide, but there is an unlimited amount of land back of that, more or less timbered, which the surveyors, who went through the country in 1883, tell me is as well adapted for farming purposes as the prairie itself, and is easily cleared. The soil is a rich black loam, of from twelve to sixteen inches in depth, having a blue clay sub-soil underneath, perhaps two feet deep. On the high ground there is generally seven or eight inches of sand between the two soils. The H. B. Co.'s officers for the last twenty years have been growing wheat on the banks - the low-lying land. But the supply of this land is limited, while that of the high land is practically unlimited. You could take one-half the population of the whole Dominion up there, and place them on good farms. I planted my seed on the highest ground I could find and the result was most satisfactory, as you can see by these specimens of barley and wheat." Mr. Brick has now shewn "fall wheat" of which he sowed one pound of grain in new meadow land, 800 feet above the river, and which returned 75 pounds.

The *Globe* says the "samples were well grown, large and *very hard*, and fit to compare with that grown anywhere, although several varieties were mixed together." Mr. Brick continued to say that the "climate is good, and is much milder than that of Manitoba and the low-lying portions of the North-West Provinces." He has ploughed as late as the 28th of October, and sown as early as the 12th of April. Continuing Mr. Brick said: "We do not need to feed our horses at all; they are out all winter, and paw through the 18 inches of snow (we rarely get it deeper) down to the rich prairie grass. The horned cattle we house during the period I named. In summer we suffer far less from the summer frosts than the people of Manitoba." The above is the opinion of a gentleman who has now been a resident of the Peace River country for some years, and has had a practical trial of its capabilities for farming, and comment is unnecessary. So, as the above quotations cover the general aspect of the whole Peace River country eastwards from the mountains and north