

4. Professor Macoun was appointed to explore the country lying north of the 51st parallel of latitude, and south of the telegraph line from Livingstone to Edmonton.

The instructions to these gentlemen were to direct their attention more particularly to the districts on the map which had not previously been traversed and described, to make full and complete examinations, so that a knowledge of the physical character of the country should be obtained. The information was to embrace the nature of the soil, the subsoil, the extent of prairie and timber land, the character of the *flora*, the flow of rivers and creeks, and all points bearing on the water supply, the presence of economic minerals, and all features of importance.

Instructions were also given that a daily record should be kept showing the rainfall, the dew, the temperature and general condition of the atmosphere, and that all facts bearing upon the climatic conditions of each locality, and its fitness for agricultural purposes should be carefully noted.

These reports are too lengthy to be inserted in full, but synopses, amply explanatory, are given in the appendix. The general results may be thus stated.

The country examined by Mr. O'Koeffé, north of the Saskatchewan, west of Cumberland House to longitude  $107^{\circ}30'$ , is described as containing tracts of fertile soil, up to the 54th parallel; near the 106th meridian they extend half a degree further north.

The country within these limits generally produces in abundance all the various forest plants, and gives evidence of a prolific soil. A certain breadth is, however, diversified by sand ridges, lakes, marshy meadows, and muskegs. A stretch of sand hills and ridges, variable in width, commences about five miles north of the Saskatchewan, at Prince Albert, and extends eastward to within seven miles of Fort à la Corne. It is interspersed with belts of good rich land. East of Fort à la Corne the land immediately adjoining the river is for the most part sandy to the 103rd meridian.

Much fine timber was observed. In the south-western part, poplar copse prevails, gradually merging into continuous poplar forest, which attains its greatest