

It is as a matter of great surprise to find that, except at Vermilion, Hog raising, there was no attempt anywhere to cure pork. There is a large and increasing demand for bacon and pork and it certainly speaks poorly for the enterprise of the 'old timers' that they are content to pay high prices for Chicago or Edmonton pork when the conditions for raising hogs seem almost perfect. Several of the old settlers have a few pigs around them, but no bacon is made. At Vermilion hogs are allowed to run in the woods during the summer and are fed for a few weeks in the autumn on barley and shorts from the mill before they are killed. In a country where there will always be a certain amount of frozen grain, there will be an abundance of feed for hogs. Peas have seldom been grown except as garden vegetables, but field peas will generally ripen. The whole north has to be supplied with bacon and this demand with an evergrowing local market will ensure large returns for the capital invested when any one has enterprise enough to go into pork-curing as a business.

In regard to Vermilion as a region for settlement, it may be said that the lack of transport facilities confines the market for flour and pork to the north and there are already enough settlers there to raise all the wheat that can be ground in the local mills, if larger areas are tilled. The methods of some of these farmers are however, very slipshod and antiquated and experienced careful farmers from the south would soon force many of them to return to trapping and hunting, while others would have to go elsewhere. Over-production would be an almost immediate result of increased settlement, however, and there would of course be a fall in the price paid for wheat.

Very little has been said about the forests of the Peace river country Timber and from this fact it may be gathered that timber to be used for any other purposes than for house-logs and fence-rails is very scarce. There is quite enough spruce in the country to furnish lumber for housebuilding purposes, but it is scattered about among the poplar, often far from any stream that would float it to a mill and it will either have to be hauled to saw-mills or small portable mills must be moved about the country. To say that in the upper Peace River there is not more than 1,000,000 acres of prairie land is only another way of saying that what remains of that great area is covered with forest or has been so clothed within comparatively recent years. Unfortunately the country has been again and again swept by fire, until east of the mountains, there is now no considerable area of green timber left and what remains is chiefly poplar. Reference has been made in a few places to green spruce having been seen and these are the only places where it is to be