

patches of prairie along the trail, none more than a few acres in extent, and several small swamps and marshes were seen. The vegetation proved the climate to be colder than south of Bear lake.

White-mud prairie.

The maps show the White-mud prairie to begin a little more than ten miles north of Bear lake, where we were camped, but in travelling about six miles further, to the crossing of the White-mud river, no true prairie was seen, except a few patches of from ten to twenty acres around the regular Indian camping places. There were, however, several stretches of open country which might be called meadow land. The only one of these of considerable extent was about one mile long and about one-fourth of a mile wide. The trail, running now a little west of north, followed these open patches until the White-mud river was reached. The country on both sides of the trail was covered for the most part with spruce swamps, spruce and aspen mixed where the ground was higher, and aspen alone on the highest ground. No characteristic prairie plants were noted on the open ground, and the vegetation everywhere denoted a cold unproductive soil. The ponds and marshes were bordered by alkali flats. There was no tract of open ground large enough and with sufficiently good soil for a single homestead, though much of the country would be suitable for cattle raising, as an abundance of good hay could be made, and, in addition to the marshes and open spaces, a considerable portion of this region is covered by willows, among which there is good feed. After crossing the White-mud river, it was followed for about two miles and a half, and then, turning north for about a mile, camp was made on a small creek which runs eastward towards the White-mud. From this point the country was examined to the east and north, and from a later camp, where the White-mud crosses the Dunvegan and Battle river trail, excursions were made to the north and west. It was found that except near the streams or trails there was no open country, and that good prairie land was confined to a few ridges where the drainage was good. The trail referred to above, which shows the route from Bear lake to the White-mud river is through an oversight not shown on the map which accompanies this report.

Character of soil.

The flats near the streams are covered with vegetation, the character of which shows the soil to be wet and cold, and this has as much, or perhaps more than the climate to do with the difference in the dates of the flowering of plants, which were at least two weeks later in coming into bloom than the same species near the Peace river. The flats referred to above were never more than a mile or so wide and the presence of alkali could generally be noticed on the borders of all depres-