



FARM AT MT. NERO ON THE GREEN LAKE TRAIL, 65 MILES FROM PRINCE ALBERT.

No attempt was made to accurately survey our route. Sketches were made of all topographical features of interest and a fairly accurate map has been compiled. In this I have used all data obtainable from the Dominion Lands Survey of the old canoe route and from the Geological Survey maps and other sources. Photographs were taken of anything which appeared to me to be useful or interesting and all possible information was collected from the residents in the country. Owing to the lateness of the season when the expedition set out the exploration was necessarily hurried; still, though the area covered was large, the report will be found to be accurate and because of the peculiar flatness of the country, fairly minute. The soil was investigated wherever it was thought necessary by digging a hole to a sufficient depth to ascertain the formation. To report on the whole area at once would be impossible, but in general it may be said that the whole tract, though not exactly fitted for agricultural settlement throughout in its present state, is still capable of producing large quantities of cereals and farm produce and supporting a large population. The over abundance of water and lack of natural drainage, causing large swamps and muskegs, might in my opinion be easily remedied by clearing out some of the rapids on the Churchill River and providing outlets for the surplus water where natural outlets are lacking. Very little work would be necessary to open fine waterways navigable for small craft throughout this country. To build roads passable in summer would be difficult but by no means impossible. Winter roads could easily be located and would not require much expense to build.

The climate seems well adapted for raising any cereal. In fact, wherever wheat has been tried it has grown successfully. At Portage la Loche, which is considerably north (Lat. 56 degrees, 35', 11"), oats and barley have been grown. Wheat was not tried, but I feel sure it would grow successfully, notwithstanding the relatively high altitude. Portage la Loche has an altitude of about 1,677 ft. as compared with 1,398 ft. at Prince Albert. It is very much above the general level of the country to the south and east.

Professor John Macoun, the well known naturalist of the Geological Survey, points out that in considering the possibilities of agricultural development of this northern country, one fact to be kept steadily in mind is the advantage of the low altitude and the long day, which are fixed conditions and will always remain the same. In altitude, Prince Albert is nearly 500 feet lower than Regina, and