

Agriculture has been followed in a small way for many years, and two small grist mills supplied meal and flour for local needs. Two years ago, however, the Hudson's Bay Company erected a fine roller mill, with the intention of grinding flour for the northern trade, and encouraged by the certainty of a good market for all the wheat they produced, the settlers more than doubled their wheat acreage last year. This mill can produce from 250 to 300 pounds of flour per hour, and being lighted by electricity can be run day and night when necessary. The erection of such a mill in that latitude, where the transport of heavy machinery is so difficult and expensive, is the best evidence that can be offered of the belief of the residents in the future of the Vermilion district. Grist mill.

Frosts are felt at Vermilion as elsewhere, but they are there much more local in their character than on the upper plateau above Peace River Landing. Sometimes they are felt on one side of the river, sometimes on the other, but some grain escapes nearly every year. Until the last few years the cultivation of grain was confined to a very small area, and the average number of years that it ripened was three out of five. Now that farms have been scattered over a larger area, some near the river, some on the prairie remote from it, some grain will always escape, except in the rare years when frosts are general. Frosts. In 1903, the month of June was very dry and there was not much growth, but rains toward the end of the month supplied all the moisture necessary, and since my return I have received a letter from Vermilion which tells me that the crop was a fair one. My correspondent says :

"As you will remember, we had a very dry and late spring and that crops looked very backward in June. About June 22nd and for the following three weeks we had heavy showers with hot weather and this pushed the grain along very rapidly until the 20th of July when a light frost touched some of the earliest of the wheat, causing it to fail of developing a kernel, and also to give the straw a bluish appearance. After this frost we were favoured until fairly late in August with hot moist weather without a sign of frost. Wheat cutting commenced on the 17th August, while barley and oats were ripe on the 10th. Had the weather remained hot and dry for a week longer there would have been some very heavy crops, but during the latter part of August cold windy weather set in with little sunshine, so that the grain though ripe did not harden. The first fall frost occurred on the 5th of September. Crops in 1903