

frozen. The oats were not spoiled for planting and were the seed used by Mr. Monkman in 1903. No wheat had ever been planted before 1903, so that there is not sufficient data upon which to base any conclusions as to the future of this part of the Grande prairie for wheat growing. It may be said, however, that though the farms at Saskatoon lake are beautifully situated, the conditions there are not such as would make the results at Mr. Monkman's place a fair test of what can be done on other parts of the Grande prairie. The soil is a rich loam lying upon the impervious clay subsoil already spoken of and there is no underdrainage. Within a few feet of Mr. Monkman's breaking, the clay sub-soil shone with moisture when the soil was lifted off, though there had been no heavy rain for two weeks.\* In other parts of the Grande prairie, where there was better drainage, the condition of the natural vegetation proved that grain would ripen earlier than at Saskatoon lake.

Between Saskatoon lake and Beaver Lodge creek the trail skirts the western limit of the prairie and the country between the trail and the river is for the most part low prairie land or is swampy. There is very little dry prairie until within a mile of the Beaver Lodge where, on the north side, there is a fine open country sloping towards the river. In the valley, a few feet above the river, there was a small piece of ground under cultivation. The oats looked well, but the wheat was barely headed out, August 17th; the tips of the heads had been killed by frost and on nearly every head some of the grain envelopes were brown and dry. Potatoes were in flower and the ordinary garden vegetables looked well. This land had been broken and abandoned by a settler who went with several others to Grande prairie in the spring of 1903. I met him with his family near Spirit river two weeks later and asked him why he was leaving. His reply was "Can't you guess?" and nothing further could be got from him. He told me, however, that on June 25th, potatoes and beans had been frozen, though the young grain was not injured. Some twenty or twenty-five settlers went to Grande prairie during the winter and spring of 1903, but none of them remained. I met some half dozen or so of these during the summer and could get from none of them any satisfactory reason for not having remained. The country was not what they had thought it to be and they were going elsewhere.

Between Saskatoon lake and a small lake about ten miles to the southeast, there is a beautiful piece of rolling country with clay-loam

\* It was from this place that the soil and subsoil reported upon by Mr. Shutt were taken but the character of the subsoil varies little, being generally fine silt or clay. See App. III.