southern Alberta. The snow takes a long time to get off the ground. They occasionally commence seeding in the Peace river district during the first week in April, but the average time for seeding in that part of the country to commence is April 26. In the Upper Peace river the average time is about the middle of April. Their season is earlier, but in the Lower Peace river they have had more success than those in the upper district have had in the raising of wheat, although their season is earlier. Just why witness did not know. The settlement at Fort Vermilion is to-day raising wheat, which is ground into flour at the local mill and shipped into the Mackenzie river country.

<div align="center">SETTLEMENT.</div>

The settlement at Fort Vermilion consists of about 500 people, composed of white people and English-speaking half-breeds. The total production of wheat there last year would be 25,000 bushels, the average being about 21 bushels to the acre. Of oats and barley about 10,000 bushels, mostly barley, was raised. The wheat was ground and used to make bread for the people out there. The first market is at Fort Vermilion and the surrounding points, and whatever surplus there is is shipped down the Peace river into the Mackenzie river district.

<div align="center">MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.</div>

Vermilion, Mr. Lawrence pointed out, is a pretty good distributing centre for the lower part of the Peace river.

He did not know how far it is from Churchill, but would assume about 900 miles. From Vermilion to Edmonton by the road is 700 miles, and Vermillion to the coast would be about 900 or 1,000 miles. It would be about half way between Hudson bay and the coast, and the witness expressed the opinion that before many years there would be a railway from Hudson bay right through the main part of the Peace river to the coast, and whatever was shipped to the markets of Europe would undoubtedly go by Hudson bay. If there was a railway down to Lake Superior, the cost would be great. The people of the district are satisfied that the Hudson bay route is a feasible one.