

"As to botanical record of British Columbia, I may remark that the celebrated botanist, Mr. Douglas, who first brought to notice the now celebrated 'Douglas Pine' of the Pacific slope, travelled with my father in the Columbia Country, and my father, from such association, noted much as to the giant growth of the Columbia flora. In my father's journals I find frequent reference to his interesting and evidently most-loved friend and companion in travel and peril, for then they had at times to fight their way.

"I may also add that the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company, by its Directory in London, and also Sir James Douglas, the first Governor of British Columbia, and who thoroughly knows the land from his life of half a century in it, have expressed to me in warm terms their approval, and, in a way, endorsement, of my work 'Peace River.'

"CLIMATE.

"Assuming it to be unnecessary to make any specific statement as to the climate of the Hudson Bay Basin—no part of which, to any extent large enough for settlement, can be well considered as fit for agricultural purposes—I shall merely say that though severe it is not unhealthy, and is quite endurable by persons engaged in the Hudson Bay Company's service—no worse, in fact, than that of Canada, east of the meridian of Quebec.

"The Winnipeg Basin, even at Norway House, at its north end, and of life at which I have distinct recollection, is on the whole not more severe than that of Lower Canada between Montreal and Quebec.

"In the Saskatchewan Valley—say the North Saskatchewan—at Fort Carlton I know that my grandfather (maternal grandfather), Chief Factor Pruden, who built Fort Carlton, and for many years held charge of that district, raised easily all ordinary kinds of garden vegetables raised in old Canada, and all cereals, and, (with some difficulty, however, owing to occasional summer frost) even Indian corn.

"As to wheat, it has for many years past—about fifty, as I see by letters to my father from an uncle of mine (Chief Trader Harriot), who first took it there, and according to subsequent reports—been constantly raised, even at Lake Ann, beyond Edmonton, where there is a considerable settlement of old retired servants of the Company. On the Athabasca, further north, at Red Deer Lake, where there is an old and considerable settlement, it has never failed, and the climate and locality are most favorable for it.

"Still further north, on the Peace River, three hundred miles nearer the North Pole, it is raised, and Professor Macoun has just brought us a specimen of it, '68 lbs. to the bushel,' which is one pound and three-quarters more than the wheat (from our own County of Pontiac) which took the second prize for wheat at the World's Exhibition at Paris in 1867. The fact tells its own tale as to climate in those higher latitudes of ours.

"We have, moreover, an exact and reliable record, in careful thermometrical registry, at a central point, viz., Dunvegan, of the climate of the Peace River region—one kept by my old friend and client when I practised at the Bar in Montreal, David Thompson, astronomer of the old North-West Company, and to whom the mapping of those far northern lands from Hudson Bay to the Pacific is mainly due.

"THE THOMPSON REGISTER—DUNVEGAN, PEACE RIVER."

Latitude 56° 8' N. Longitude 117° 13' W.			
Month.	° '—Fahr.	Month.	° '—Fahr.
April.....	37·6	November.....	14·6
May.....	54	December.....	—4
June.....	64·5	January.....	+7
July.....	63	February.....	+2
August.....	60	March.....	22·5
September.....	55		
October.....	40	Mean of winter.....	8·42
		Mean of the year.....	35·51
Mean.....	54·87		
Mean of 3 summer months.	62·50		