

Low.—The lowest temperatures recorded were: 42 degrees below zero, December, 1916; 55 degrees below zero, January 31st, 1917. Twenty-five below zero appears to be a fairly common low temperature during the months of December, January, or February.

Dry Seasons.—The last two seasons are reported as being exceptionally dry, and, judging from the above, this statement is no doubt true.

Frosts.—The question of summer frosts is a vital one throughout the whole of the Peace River District. During 1917 no damaging frost occurred until September 1st, when most of the wheat was out of danger. The season of 1916, however, was disastrous, the greater percentage of the crop being frozen. Varying success attended the efforts put forth in 1915, and good crops are claimed for 1914. After the summer frosts, ideal falls are usually experienced until December. To the south of the Block, Mr. E. P. Borden reports that last year (1916) was the only year during the six that he has been in the district that potatoes were frozen on his farm during the summer.

Seeding.—Seeding operations commence early in April.

TRANSPORTATION.

The question of transportation is one of the most vital problems of the whole British Columbia Peace River country. At the present time the farmer who is nearest to the railroad is sixty miles away from one.



Horses and barn, owned by J. Taylor, Rolla, Peace River Block, B.C.

Railroad.—The Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway is operating from Edmonton to Spirit River and Grande Prairie, both of which towns are in Alberta. The settlers of Pouce Coupe use Grande Prairie as their summer centre and Spirit River as the winter shipping-point. The respective distances are 100 miles and 165 miles from Pouce Coupe post-office, and the majority of the settlers are north or west from this point, some as far distant as twenty miles.

The Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway is graded from Spirit River for a distance of sixty miles to the British Columbia boundary, but the steel is not laid. The contract was let for the said steel twelve months ago, but later it was requisitioned by the Government, and it would appear that there is no possibility of the steel being laid until after the war.

Less Crop.—In the meantime the district will remain at a great disadvantage, and there is no doubt that less acreage will be seeded, rather than more, during the coming seasons, due to this lack of transportation facilities.