

Cattle raising. While many think of the Peace river region as a wheat-growing country, others look at it only from the point of view of the stock-raiser, and it is very generally believed to be well-suited for ranching. It is true that for summer grazing, it would be hard to find better conditions. The vegetation is everywhere luxuriant and in addition to a great variety of nutritive grasses there are several species of leguminous plants which are unexcelled for fodder. These have been already mentioned, wild vetch and pea, with some nearly related species, being the most abundant.

Though running water is not always to be had, lakes and small marshes supply the necessary water for the summer and even in dry seasons cattle can always reach water. The problem of water supply for the winter will be a more difficult one to solve, but there is no reason to suppose that all the water needed cannot be procured from wells. Up to the present, there has been no attempt to dig wells, except in low spots where only surface water was sought.

Hay.

The question of hay for the winter is, however, the one that will determine the suitability of the Peace river country for cattle-raising and the length and severity of the winter are such that an abundant and unfailing supply of hay is a necessity. As has been already stated, there will be an ample supply of hay for the comparatively small number of cattle that settlers will require for their own use, but, in the opinion of the writer, any attempt to transform the whole region, or even a considerable part of it into a ranching country would meet with failure. Cattle must be fed at least four months, generally for a longer period, and to make hay for a large herd in such season as 1903 would be an absolute impossibility.

Horses.

Horses will doubtless do better than cattle, as they can procure food when cattle would starve. The snow-fall is not heavy in the Peace river region and the native horses run out all winter. Many of them die, however, and were it not that fresh horses are every year being brought in from the outside, the natural increase would not be sufficient for the needs of the country. Indeed as it is, it is almost impossible to buy horses anywhere. But while the Indian ponies manage to subsist during the winter without being fed, horses brought from the south must be fed for nearly as long as cattle and even then many of them die. When considerable numbers of horses and cattle have been acclimatized and their young have grown up under the conditions which prevail there, the period of winter feeding may doubtless be somewhat shortened.