

The Bear Hills and the western slopes of the Eagle Hills, although rough, contain some excellent soil, good pasture and abundance of fresh water. Wood in plenty is to be found on the Eagle Hills.

Mr. Macoun traversed the great plain south-westerly from Battleford towards the Hand Hills, and found a fertile and almost level plain extending for 40 miles south-west of the Eagle Hills; the country here became rolling and hilly, but no bad soil was met with until about the 111th meridian.

There yet remains a large extent of the Great Plains unexplored, but as far as seen east of the 111th meridian they are described as consisting of a strong rich clay or clay loam, on almost every locality examined.

Fresh water in pools was found throughout in August and September, and from plants found in the ponds, Mr. Macoun feels assured that the supply of water is permanent.

Only one creek of running water was seen on this plain. Many salt lakes or ponds were also found among the hills in the central and south-western portion. No signs of aridity caused by climate were observed. On every part of the tract south of latitude  $52^{\circ}$  excellent arable or pasture land prevailed.

North of the Neutral Hills about lat.  $52^{\circ} 10'$  and longitude  $110^{\circ} 30'$  and extending westward to within 5 miles of Battle River is a tract of poor sandy land, changing to the northward to good sandy loam.

Light and heavy sandy loam is the prevailing character of the soil between the 52nd parallel and Battle River.

Near Battleford there are sand hills covering a limited area. With this and some other exceptions the whole district is described as suitable for agriculture.

Exceedingly rich soil is found in the vicinity of Manito Lake some sixty miles to the west of Battleford.

For some distance to the west of the 111th Meridian and to the north and east of Red Deer River the country is arid, the soil being generally gravelly or sun-baked clay.