

a very small proportion of the surface is unfavourable for cultivation. That it is not equally good will be seen from the description that follows, but if the climate proves satisfactory, there is practically none of the Grande prairie that is unsuited for agriculture.

Coming from the west, we entered upon the prairie about ten miles northwest of Bear lake, where a long arm of open country runs like a bay into the forest. On the evening of August 13, when we were camped a little west of the head of Fish creek, the thermometer registered 29° at 10 p. m. and there would have been a severe frost if at that time the sky had not become overcast. At eleven o'clock the temperature had risen to 32°. Three days before at Swan lake, there were two degrees of frost and at that place also a cloudy night prevented heavy frost.

Before reaching the Grande prairie, we travelled for several miles along a branch of Bear creek through an open valley from three to five miles wide. As shown by the saskatoon berries, the season here was about two weeks later than at Pouce Coupé prairie and about one week later than at Saskatoon lake. This valley would be too cold for general farming, but a good deal of hay could be cut and no better place for cattle was seen during the summer. The Indian trail we had been following joined one of those from Spirit river to Saskatoon lake near Bear creek and after leaving that creek the prairie became drier and more rolling and in every way better suited for agriculture than the country to the northwest.

The only cultivation that has been attempted on the Grande prairie is in the vicinity of Saskatoon lake. At this place Mr. Alex. Monkman has about three acres broken on the west side of the lake and Mr. Louis Callihow about the same quantity on the north side. Callihow's barley was very fine and was turning yellow. Though it was planted during the last week in May, before the frost was out of the ground, it would be fit to cut about August 23, if the weather continued warm. His oats were also fine and potatoes fit to eat. Mr. Callihow said that in 1902, the season was very backward and his grain was not planted until June 10, but both barley and oats ripened. Mr. Monkman's field was planted principally in wheat and oats. The oats would probably mature, but the wheat, on August 16, was only in blossom and could hardly ripen. His grain and vegetables were not planted until the first week in June, as he had waited until the frost was out of the ground.

Mr. Monkman informed me that the first severe frost in 1902 was on August 24th, when potato vines were nipped and oats slightly