



Town Detail Office, 9925-99th Avenue, 1955. Cst. Mains (R), other member unidentified.

the majestic and beautiful countryside affected them when they saw it for the first time. In 1909, Staff Sergeant Anderson was so impressed that he expressed his feelings in his official report. In fact, if we were to retrace his steps today to where he first saw *grande prairie*, one could see much of what he saw 80 years ago.

The impression of Grande Prairie on the mind of one when seeing it from Burned Mountain for the first time, is something grand, and the prairie is well named. On a clear day, as it was when I was there, the Rocky Mountains can be seen in the distance, blue with patches of white visible here and there where snow and ice still remained; in front, the prairie brownish green, with small patches of grain field visible; and a number of lakes here and there scattered about the blue in the distance below, with two rivers

winding their way along the prairie. The Bear River, the longest, running into the Smokey River, and the Beaverlodge River, which runs through the settlement of that name. The land is apparently rich, judging from the height of the grass. The water is good everywhere, but timber is scarce and has to be hauled long distances for building purposes. At Saskatoon Lake, 15 miles is the shortest way to timber of any size.

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Throughout the years, the Force's presence has brought law and order to one of Canada's last frontiers. Although homesteading is not what it used to be, the Grande Prairie area is still on the leading edge of gas and oil explorations