

might number about 500. The wolves kill off the buffalo calves, and some of the year-olds. The local legislature give a small bounty, which is no inducement for the people to hunt the wolves. There is no protection for the buffalo other than that afforded by the game laws, and the wolves do not observe them very well.

MINERALS.

Mr. Lawrence remarked that he did not know much about the mineral resources, but he knew that at the Peace river crossing and below it there are small seams of coal jutting on the banks of the rivers. Twenty-five miles below the Peace river crossing there is a spring of mineral tar which witness had seen himself. Near that there is a spring or jet of gas, which the witness lighted last winter on an election trip and boiled his tea kettle over the flame. In the lower part of the Peace river, not very far from Fort Vermilion, some years ago the witness found a spring of petroleum in the high bank, and just above Fort Vermilion there was a smoke which resembled a large camp fire on the bank. Just what made the smoke Mr. Lawrence did not know, but the ground was burned red, like brick, and cracked, and so hot it could not be walked over with moccasins. They did not investigate. The smoke was coming out of the ground in several places, and he supposed it was a bed of coal that had been set on fire in some way. The fire was put out one season by high water. It had burned for three years. That was one of the occasions when several parts of these points were flooded by the river.

GYPSUM.

Below Fort Vermilion there is nothing that the witness knew of in the way of mineral or other deposits, excepting that in the Upper Peace river there are mica deposits. In the lower Peace river there are large cliffs of gypsum.

CLIMATE.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he found the climate to be much the same as in other parts of Alberta. In the Peace river there was probably more uniform cold through the winter and less storm. Owing to the country being covered by scrub bush, there is less liability to storm. The country is sheltered more or less and winds do not get such a sweep as they do in the plains. This winter (1907) when he left the Peace river country, in January, he found the snow to be one foot less than it was further south at Edmonton. The snow was about two feet deep throughout the Peace river valley, and after passing the height of land on his way to Lesser Slave lake, he found the snow to be very much deeper, and it kept getting deeper as he went towards Edmonton.

What is known as the Upper Peace river district is very much the same as at Edmonton. The snow does not get deep and goes away earlier. The Chinook winds have more effect there than in the eastern districts. The snow this year (1907) in the Peace river district will be about two and one-half feet in depth. Occasionally it is deeper, but the snowfall is very uniform one year with another, as well as the cold.

Winter sets in in the Lower Peace river district about the middle of November. The first snowfall may be expected about the middle of November, sometimes later, and occasionally earlier. Those who are interested in grain begin to look for the first frost about September 1. They sometimes get frost before they look for it, and it sometimes stays away a week or ten days after they look for it, but they generally get it about the first week in September.

Frosts are more common in spots surrounded by trees and brush, and in the opinion of the witness, when the country has become opened up more, and there is more clear land, there will be little danger to any cereals or to hardy vegetables.

The season is backward in some parts of the Peace river district as compared with