

valley. Good crops have been raised in other places and it may be said here that the soil is good almost everywhere throughout the Peace river region, but to attribute to the whole country the climate of the valley creates a false impression and one which has already brought not a little hardship and suffering upon those who have settled in less favoured localities. The prairie country north of the Peace river, and the Grande and Spirit river prairies to the south are between 700 and 1,000 feet higher than the valley bottom and in these latitudes 700 feet of altitude effects a considerable change in climatic conditions.

At "The Settlement" above Peace River Landing there are two small grist-mills at which most of the flour used in the vicinity is ground, and two saw-mills cut all the shingles and lumber required for building purposes.

Crops grown
in valley.

So much has been written about the "wonderful" crops grown in the Peace River valley that they require no description here. The grain grown is certainly of excellent quality; it cannot be excelled, but the yield even in the best seasons is in no respect extraordinary. Potatoes, and indeed all the hardier vegetables, do exceedingly well, while tomatoes ripen and Indian corn matures sufficiently to be eaten in most years. The report that melons ripen is not without foundation, but not more than a dozen vines are ever cultivated and a single melon in rare years is considered worthy of note. In 1903 a light frost on June 30th touched beans and potatoes so that even this favoured locality does not entirely escape frost. The fact that "The Settlement" is in the bottom of a narrow valley should never be lost sight of, and there is no warrant for applying the results of agriculture in the valley to any part of the plateau country. When frosts are general throughout the country, the farms in the valley often escape, protecting fogs rising from the river as the temperature falls.

COUNTRY NORTH OF PEACE RIVER.

Character of
soil.

After leaving "The Settlement" the trail to Dunvegan was followed for about 15 miles to Old Wives lake. On the higher slopes of the valley the soil is somewhat better than nearer the bottom, and though light it is not gravelly. After reaching the plateau the soil changes to a heavy, black clay-loam, and it is of this character until Old Wives lake is reached, a little lighter in some places than others, but everywhere rich and productive. Where this soil was heaviest it was so hard that tent pins and tether pickets could be driven into it only with the greatest difficulty. The vegetation was everywhere luxuri-