

the Saskatchewan from the north. Its presence indicates sandy soil unfit for cultivation.

White birch is not abundant along the Peace River, but is common on the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers. The Northern Indians make large quantities of syrup from its sap in spring.

These are the most important trees. There are no beech, maple, ash, oak, elm, white or red pine in the country.

Q. What fruits grow spontaneously in the Peace River country and Athabasca regions?

A. The berry of the *Amelanchier Canadensis* (Service Berry of Canadians, Poires of the French Half-breeds and Sas-ka-tum berries of the Indians) is collected in immense quantities on the upper Peace River, and forms quite an article of food and trade. When I was at Dunvegan last summer the Indians and Half-breeds were camped out collecting the berries which were then in their prime (August 6th.) Bears are very fond of them, and resort to the sunny slopes of the Peace River at this time in great numbers to feed upon the berries. The Indian women press them into square cakes while fresh, and then dry them for future use, but those intended for the Hudson Bay Company's post are dried in the sun and mixed with dry meat and grease to form pemmican, or are fried in grease for a dessert.

Strawberries and raspberries are very abundant in most districts on Peace River, especially at Vermillion.

Another raspberry (*Rubus Arcticus*), of an amber color, is very abundant at Lake Athabasca and up around Portage La Loche and the Valley of the English River. Its fruit is converted into jellies and jams, and gives a relish to many a poor meal.

High bush cranberries (*Viburnum pauciflorum* and *Opulus*) are very abundant in the wooded districts on both sides of the Athabasca and Clear-water rivers and around Lake Athabasca.

Gooseberries and currants of many species are found, but are not much sought after. Blueberries, low bush cranberries, and the cowberry (*Vaccinium Vitis Idæea*), are abundant in particular localities in the above district. Two species of cherries—the bird cherry and the choke cherry—complete the list.