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and Fort à la Corne, there is a large area of fine rich country, comparatively well wooded, and interspersed with ponds of fresh water.

At the Elbow of the South Saskatchewan, the sandy, arid tract referred to, may be said to extend westward about eight miles beyond the river and proceeding northward, it increases in width along the western side of the river till it gains the vicinity of the Elbow of the North Saskatchewan.

North of latitude  $52^{\circ} 20'$ , between the two Saskatchewan, the country improves. It is described to be, for the most part, of light sandy loam, having frequently on its surface numerous boulders. Duck Lake settlement is situated in this tract, about midway between the rivers.

North-eastward the peninsula between the two Saskatchewan, becomes more rolling. It continues of a sandy loam for 18 miles from Duck Lake, when it merges into a ridge four miles wide, of almost pure sand. It is in this locality that the Prince Albert settlement commences, whence it extends for 22 miles. The country is of rich, dark sandy loam, interspersed with ridges, groves of timber, ponds and marshes.

Professor Macoun examined the great plains lying between the 51st parallel and Battle River, which extend from the 107th meridian to the 111th meridian.

These plains were at one time considered as of no value. They have been referred to frequently and described as little better than an arid desert. Recent explorations do not confirm these views.

The explorer traversed the southern part of this extensive district keeping about twenty miles to the north of the 51st parallel. He found the country without wood and comparatively level, until towards the west, when it became a series of rolling hills.

The soil is generally a strong friable clay, producing luxuriant grasses. Abundance of fresh water was generally found in July and August in ponds, but no running streams were observed. The eastern portion, to the north-west of Red Deer Lake, to the Bear Hills, about latitude  $52^{\circ}$ , is described as a country well suited for agriculture.