

s grain-growing capacity in this respect has been

that the ascertained warmth of the season

and vegetables. The

occurrence of late

summer frosts occurred

last, and did consider-

Bay Company's Forts

exceptional, and that the

s; but we cannot set

colored, summer frosts

at in the Peace River

at the bottom of the

On the plateau there

are a hundred miles

experienced in August last

district cannot be con-

would be premature

drainage and drainage

modified.

of last year were

In portions of the

able to agriculture.

impress less favorable

The observations of

district for agricultural

size with confidence.

after be established

that the Peace River region is well adapted for the growth of grain, its fitness for wheat culture is not yet fully confirmed; certainly not so fully as that of the Saskatchewan district to the south. There can, however, be no doubt of the fact that equally with the Saskatchewan it enjoys immunity from the devastating visits of grasshoppers.

Dr. Dawson has expressed the opinion that beds of coal of a workable character occur in different parts of the Peace River region. He describes the coal seams as occurring in two series of rocks. In the lower or Cretaceous zone, beds of good quality were observed at various points a little east of the mountains, the seams varying from a few inches to two feet in thickness.

Numerous instances of localities, showing coal or lignite in the upper series, are mentioned, the chief being in the valley of the Athabasca and its southern tributaries. A seam was observed at one place from nine to ten feet in thickness.

I submit the reports of the explorers with full detail in the Appendix; likewise notes of Dr. G. M. Dawson on the agricultural capability, the climate, the economic minerals of the district, together with a descriptive memorandum by the Rev. D. M. Gordon.

As everything relating to the character of the soil and climate of every portion of Canada on the Pacific Coast, and its possibilities as a field for settlement is of deep interest, I deem it proper to embrace in the Appendix notes on the agricultural capabilities of Queen Charlotte Islands, furnished by Dr. G. M. Dawson, and a report on the arable lands of Vancouver Island, by Mr. Joseph Hunter.

The location of the railway being now definitely fixed and contracts awarded on the line to Burrard Inlet, in the interest of the railway there is no longer any necessity for continuing examinations in the northern districts. Many years must elapse before the great areas of available lands between Manitoba and the mountains are fully occupied, and by this period the capability of the Peace River District will have been tested. Meanwhile, the character and extent of railway traffic and its requirements will be known. The question will then present itself, how this traffic can best be dealt with: Should it be desirable to construct a branch to Peace