

tivation only comprises a few small riverside flats in many thousands of square miles. There has lately been a great "boom" about the Peace river. Mr. Pike has already done his best to prick the bubble, but I have heard so many ignorant people aver that this is a great farming country that I think the facts cannot be too often repeated. It is a dreadful thing to think of the wretched emigrants who toil to this promised land only to find a useless country, and who are often unable to return to civilization, but are enforced to endure all the severities of the winter in a latitude where the thermometer has often fallen to 60° below zero.'

I was told by those who had been longest in the country and knew it best that there was no month during the year when frosts might not be expected on the plateau and such frosts occurred in every year for which we have reports. Mr. Ogilvie's statement has been already quoted, Mr. Thompson says in regard to 1882.\*

'The spring and summer were cool and cloudy, with light showers of rain and occasional frosts (the latter, I was informed, were quite unusual).'

Of 1879, Mr. McConnell says in explanation of the leaves having turned yellow near the Battle river :†

'This appears to have been due to the cold of the night of the 20th August, when the thermometer registered 12° of frost. This frost, according to the experience of the Hudson's Bay Company's people, was quite exceptional in its severity at so early a season, but besides it, two other light frosts were experienced on the trip,' (between Dunvegan and Battle river).

A reference to the table of temperatures in another part of this report will show that in 1903 the thermometer fell below 32° on only two occasions in July, but the available information affords abundant warrant for Mr. Ogilvie's belief that the occurrence of severe frosts may be considered a certainty in most seasons.

#### COUNTRY SOUTH OF PEACE RIVER.

The Peace river was crossed at Dunvegan on the first of August and the whole of this month and the early days of September were spent on the south side of the stream. There is great need of a ferry at this point, as the only means of crossing the river is a skiff, the

\* Report of the Department of the Interior 1889-90, Pt. II p. 71.

† Report of Progress, Geol. Surv. Can., 1879 p. 61B.