

would be cut the first week in August. His potatoes were large, and enough for fourteen men were dug on August 2.

"The wild pea or vetch grows all through Peace River valley, but was particularly noticed on the plateau above Fort St. John (in British Columbia), in latitude 56 deg. Here it was actually measured by myself and was found to attain a height of eight feet, while the weeds, such as the purple fire weed of the east (*Epilobium angustifolium*) attained a height of seven feet. These are given in illustration of the wonderful luxuriance of the commoner plants on that high plateau. The vegetation throughout the whole Peace River valley is of the most luxuriant character, and it seems

More Like that of the Tropics than a country drawing near the Arctic Circle."

Professor Macoun explained that in Peace River country, the snow passes off so easily that as soon as it is off the ground and a few inches of the soil thawed, the ground is ready for seeding, because the soil is friable and the snow of little depth. The character of the month of September is almost identical with that of the very best Septembers in Ottawa—a smoky atmosphere with occasional white frosts in the mornings, but generally a calm atmosphere. In October the frosts get more severe towards the last of the month.

William Ogilvie, D.L.S., writes:

"It appears, therefore, that from Dunvegan, on the north side of Peace River, down the river to Peace point, and thence to Salt River on the Slave there is a tract of country about six hundred miles in length and forty miles wide, of which a large percentage is fit for immediate settlement, and a great deal more could be very easily cleared.

"At Dunvegan, notwithstanding the severity of the frosts, the crops were very good, both in quality and quantity. When I was there, the Roman Catholic missionaries

Had Threshed Their Grain, samples of which I brought back. The yield was as follows:—Fifty pounds of wheat were sown on April 16 and reaped on August 20, and twenty-seven bushels threshed of good, clean grain; fifteen pounds of Egyptian barley sown on April 18 and reaped August 20, and fifteen bushels threshed, weighing fully sixty pounds to the bushel. The Hudson's Bay Company and the Church of England mission had not threshed, and could not give their returns, but they were well satisfied with their crops of all

kinds. The Reverend Mr. Brick, of the Church of England mission, was already using bread, River Landing the farms which



General View of Peace River Landing, the Peace River in the background

when I was there, made from are already in occupation demonstrate beyond any doubt that the land is highly suitable for the growth."



THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY

production of all classes of cereal and root crops; many farmers in the vicinity of the "Waterhole," about thirty miles from Peace River Landing, have from five hundred to eight hundred acres under cultivation and the land is very highly spoken of. The production of wheat ranges from forty to fifty-five bushels to the acre; oats fifty-five to sixty-five and barley seventy to eighty; corn, tomatoes, squash and citron ripen in the open air very satisfactorily; truck garden produce is very successfully grown in and around Peace River Landing. A large extent of undulating country lying north and west of Peace River Landing is suitable for ranching or stock-raising purposes; there is in all probability five thousand square miles of this class of country. South of the Buffalo Head hills the land is not of such a good quality, being broken up by swamp and sandy ridges, but in the proximity of Carcajou Point, the land is again very fertile and should attract many settlers. Probably the best proof of the fertility of the soil and the ease with which the land can be brought into a productive state is visible at the Fort Vermilion settlement, which is nearly three hundred miles from Peace River Landing; the farms exhibit results of a character which is a striking demonstration of the fertility of the soil in conjunction with careful methods of husbandry. The government experimental farm at this point is a sight that would astonish many of the farmers of the east; wheat of the Red Fife variety was sown here on April 15, 1915, and harvested August 17, having been absolutely untouched by frost; the production per acre amounted to forty-two bushels, height of straw three feet ten inches and length of head four inches. Exceedingly satisfactory results were obtained with the garden and root crops and with the cultivation of alfalfa. There is a large area of land of this description, extending for over eight hundred square miles, in the same locality and still awaiting settlement.

A great expanse of excellent farm land is located between the Birch and Mikkwa Rivers. This land is primarily best suited for stock raising purposes. Large tracts of natural hay meadows, interspersed with rolling bush country, make this section an ideal one for the stock breeder; ample supplies of water exist everywhere and a luxuriant growth of natural grasses, including blue joint, fescue, and meadow grass, together with the wild-pea vine, furnish cattle feed in great abundance.