

migrants. Our old fellow-traveller, the much-lamented Rev. George McDougal, writing in October, 1875, describes in simple, glowing language the fertility of the prairie, from the lower Saskatchewan south-westerly to within sight of the Rocky Mountains, over which he himself had just travelled as a messenger of peace from the Government to the Indians. Writing from near the confluence of the Red Deer and Bow Rivers, he says: "A great change, has come over the scene in the last fifteen months; men of business had found it to their interest to establish themselves on the banks of our beautiful river. A stock raiser from across the mountains had arrived with several hundred head of cattle. And now on the very hills where two years ago I saw herds of buffalo, the domestic cattle gently graze, *requiring neither shelter nor fodder from their master all the year round.*" Concerning the country that extends from the lower Saskatchewan north-westerly to Peace River, Prof. Macoun is even more emphatic. In his Report (1873) he asserts that "the prairie country extends all the way from the lower Saskatchewan by Lac La Biche across the Arthabaska to Slave Lake, and thence to the mountains. Here then is a strip of country over 600 miles in length, and at least 100 in breadth, containing an area of 60,000 square miles, which has a climate in no way inferior to that of Edmonton. . . . Regarding the quality of the soil throughout the entire region, my note-book is unvarying in its testimony. I took every opportunity to examine the soil, and always found it deep and fertile."

But it was only after Mr. Macoun visited Peace River in 1875, when he had time to explore the country fully, that his evidence regarding that far North-land becomes positively wonderful. The entire district along Peace River for a distance of 760 miles, in a belt of 150 miles wide on each side, or an area of 252,000,000 acres, is as suitable for the cultivation of grain as Ontario. Besides the peculiar excellence of the country for

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