

REPORT

ON

THE PEACE RIVER REGION

Practically all the glowing reports on the Peace river region have been based on crops grown in the Peace river valley between Peace River Landing and a point about fifteen miles up stream on the north side of the river. "The Settlement," as it is called, has grown up around the Church of England and Roman Catholic missions and very little unoccupied land remains. The valley of the Peace river, though from two to three miles wide, from the level country above the river on one side to the edge of the plateau on the other, contains very little land suitable for agriculture, none at all worth discussing in this report, except in the part under consideration. Between the water and the upper "bench," the mile or so of country is steep and broken by ravines and coulées and except for grazing purposes is of little value. Opposite the mouth of Smoky river, however, there is a fertile flat of several thousand acres and here agriculture has been carried on successfully for many years. Wheat and other cereals ripen every year and vegetables of all kinds attain perfection. There are occasionally light summer frosts, but these do little damage and, except for a rare season when drought prevents growth, magnificent crops are harvested. The grain is usually all cut before the end of August and early autumn frosts do no damage except to such plants as Indian corn, tomatoes and beans. At Dunvegan, further up the river, there is a much smaller flat where the conditions are about the same. In the valley proper very little land remains that has not been settled upon by either white men or half-breeds.

The Peace
River valley.

As will be explained in detail in another part of the present report this is the only part of the upper Peace River country in which any continued systematic attempts at agriculture have been made and nearly all the reports on the climate of the Peace river country and the fertility of the soil have been based on observations made in the