

"In its physical features the Côteau resembles Turtle Mountain, and like that place would no doubt be thickly wooded but for prairie fires. The want of wood is one of the most serious drawbacks. Animals fed on these hills during summer would require to be wintered in some of the river valleys to the north, or in wooded ravines of Tertiary plateau to the south."

Mr. Dawson, in referring to the alkaline lakes of the Côteau, gives an analysis of their water, and states that "a small quantity of this saline matter or alkali, is not found to be injurious to crops in Western States, where sufficient moisture exists; nor does it appear to be detrimental to the growth of grass."

*Bell, Geo. Rep., 1873 and 1874, pp. 80, 76 and 79.*

From Dirt Hills towards the Qu'Appelle.—The first 40 miles was over a swelling, clayey prairie with rough fissured, hummocky surface, and only one strip of wood along a creek.

THE DIRT HILLS are a conspicuous north-eastern projection of a range of hills extending from Old Wife's Lakes to Long River (branch of the Souris), and forming a sudden rise from the prairie lying towards the Assiniboine River.

"This rise or Côteau consists, in reality, of the ruins of an escarpment. To the south the country is extremely hilly, interspersed with ponds and small lakes of fresh and bitter water, and destitute of wood. The hills appear to be composed of gravelly earth, with boulders resting upon clays, similar to those last described. The grass is short and sparse, and occasionally, for miles, the surface consists of almost bare gravel and boulders."

The highest point of Dirt Hill is 600 feet above plain immediately to north. Four seams of lignite crop out in lower half of the "middle bluff, of six, four, three and five feet respectively." "Nodules of sandstone and clay ironstone are found at base of hill."

From the Dirt Hill, toward Wood Mountain, <sup>49</sup>/<sub>106</sub>—"the whole country is extremely rough, and the hills for the first eight or nine miles are particularly steep, with numerous ponds of fresh water;" thence general descent to a strip of country in a somewhat lower level, but also very hilly, having a chain of dry salt lakes.

*Col. MacLeod*

Travelled along the boundary trail, and describes it through this section as prairie, with poor soil and pasturage.

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105 *Dawson G. and R. of 49th parallel, 1875, p. 293.*

The great Plateau of the Lignite Tertiary occupies a large portion of the southern half of this section, and is described by him as being south and west of the Côteau, beginning at 350 mile point or near 105th longitude and extending as a well-defined table-land as far as White Mud River, a distance of 115 miles in vicinity of the line. "Its form is very irregular, but its area may be about 12,000 square miles. The soil of this plateau appears, as a rule, to be of a fertile character, but the indications are that, except in a few favoured spots, the rain fall is too small for growth of ordinary crops. Its elevation also, no doubt, renders it more subject to early and late frosts than prairie to the east, though the winter is probably not so severe as Red River Valley."

"The plateau of the tertiary is for the most part only adapted for pastoral occupation; but being covered with a good growth of grass is well suited for this use."