

Professor Macoun describes the soil as a rich black loam, about 15 inches in depth, containing small grains of quartz and limestone and other pebbles. Approaching the File and Touchwood Hills its character imperceptibly changes into lighter colored sandy loam. The subsoil, into which pits were dug at various points, is generally a light colored marly clay; in the ridges it passes into gravel, coated with carbonate of lime. Boulders are numerous in some localities, but at no points are they so crowded as to prevent successful cultivation.

West of these hills the rich soil does not terminate until it reaches the salt depression which extends from the head of Long Lake to the Quill Lakes. This salt plain is still undefined; but Mr. Macoun states that it is only a few hundred yards wide directly north of Long Lake, and about 12 miles in width where it is crossed by the trail from Carlton to Touchwood Hills.

It is probable that the creek which enters Long Lake at its north-eastern extremity may be the outlet of Quill Lakes, or was so originally.

Although in early summer the water on the Touchwood Hills is nearly all good, many of the pools in the isolated depressions, later in the season, are partially evaporated, and the residue in September and October becomes unfit for use.

The water in the salt depression, west and north of the Touchwood Hills, is generally, bad. Many fine streams of pure water enter the Quill Lakes from the north but the water of the lakes is always brackish and unfit for culinary purposes.

Firewood in sufficient quantities for the use of Settlers is found in the northern and eastern portions of the district, but in the south to the east of Pheasant and File Hills, it is scarce. The area to the west, with the exception of the hills, on which good timber for building purposes may be found, is altogether without wood.

The country north of the Qu'Appelle, as the South Saskatchewan is approached, appears to be characterized by extensive sandy tracts. This locality is comparatively arid. It extends northward along the South Saskatchewan for some distance, and about latitude $51^{\circ} 30'$ becomes hilly and broken.

The land is described as of little value as far north as the 52nd parallel. Further to the north the soil becomes of fair quality. Between latitude $52^{\circ} 30'$, or thereabouts,