

would be premature to pronounce a positive opinion upon its grain-growing capacities, although the uncertainty which has always been felt in this respect has been partially removed by the experience of last season.

Dr. G. M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, is of opinion that the ascertained facts leave no doubt on the subject of the sufficient length and warmth of the season to ripen wheat, oats and barley, with all ordinary root crops and vegetables. The only point which may admit of question is, to what extent the occurrence of late and early frosts may interfere with their growth. Last year summer frosts occurred at different times; they were severe in the latter part of August, and did considerable injury to the growing crops around some of the Hudson's Bay Company's Forts.

It is probable that the season of 1879 may have been exceptional, and that the average of other years may give more favorable deductions; but we cannot set aside data which have been obtained.

The evidence shows that throughout the whole country explored, summer frosts were experienced. The explorers spent the month of August in the Peace River district. The wheat patches around the Hudson's Bay Forts, at the bottom of the valley at Hudson's Hope and Dunvegan, were injured by frost. On the plateau there was frost on three occasions in August; on the 21st, at points a hundred miles apart, 12° and 14° of frost were recorded. No frost was experienced in August last year near Edmonton, a fact which suggests that the Peace River district cannot be considered equal to the Saskatchewan in point of climate. But it would be premature to assume that such is absolutely the case. As cultivation advances and drainage relieves the land from superabundant water, the climate may be modified.

It may be remembered that the meteorological phenomena of last year were at variance with experience in many parts of the world. In portions of the eastern hemisphere the humidity was excessive and unfavourable to agriculture. Influences, but little understood, may have intervened to give an impress less favorable to the character of the Peace River district than is warranted. The observations of a series of years may establish the perfect capability of this district for agricultural purposes; but we have not the facts from which we can generalize with confidence. While the fertility of the soil is a recognized fact, and it may hereafter be established