

PRINCE ALBERT

And the Prince Albert District.

"The Fertile Belt of the Saskatchewan," which may be described as the prairie region, watered by the lower portion of the south and all the north branch of that great river, is an expression which has long been applied to this country by geographers to distinguish it from the plain country of the south-west. The latter region has doubtless been destitute of timber from the first; whilst the true prairie country, or Fertile Belt, was probably at one time a dense forest. It naturally inclines to produce timber; and where a prairie escapes the yearly fires for any length of time it speedily becomes overgrown with vigorous young aspens and willows. In such regions the process of alternate prairie and forest making may be constantly observed, fire being the great factor on one hand, and natural tendency on the other. The prairie soils, it may hence be inferred, are peculiarly rich in nitrates and phosphates, those great nourishers of plant life, and it is from these virgin regions that America must ultimately draw its supply of wheat