

River country, on a conservative basis I estimate the agricultural lands as follows:—

	1st Class Agricultural and Stock-raising	2nd Class	Waste
Mile 0 to 80	50,000 acres	10,000	2,500,000 acres
" 80 to 180		50,000	3,000,000 "
" 180 to 230	403,000 acres	} 500,000	1,000,000 "
" 230 to 280	516,000 "		770,000 "
" 285 to 396	480,000 " } Land Closer to G. T. P. Not Included		860,000 "
Totals	1,449,000 acres	560,000	8,130,000 acres

In regard to this estimate it should be remarked that much of that placed as 2nd Class Land will probably eventually become 1st Class, and much of that placed as waste will eventually become grazing land, and contain small areas of 1st Class land, the purpose of the estimate being to include the areas likely to become revenue producing within the ten years of opening up of country by railway.

GRAIN FROM PEACE RIVER.

In three years time, at the rate at which settlement is now proceeding, there should be a large acreage under crop. This settlement will undoubtedly increase enormously on the opening up by railway, and will probably be as rapid as on C. P. Ry. branches built into parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan where there is a steady stream of settlers in advance of tracklaying.

It has been stated before a Special Committee of the Senate of Canada that the Peace River Country comprises 60,000,000 acres, of which 75 per cent. is suitable for wheat growing. If only five per cent. of this is under cultivation it would produce at 25 bushels per acre, 50,000,000 bushels, the bulk of which would go to Bella Coola for shipment through the Panama Canal, making 1,250 trains of 40 cars each per annum, and the annual increase would be very rapid. This grain traffic will, however, not be confined to the Peace River, as the P. & H. B. can compete on equal terms at Edmonton with other railways, the distance to seaboard being the same—that is it can secure a share of traffic already existing at Edmonton.

TIMBER.

There is approximately 50,000 acres of first class douglas fir and cedar timber in the tributaries of the Bella Coola Valley. This should produce one