

that the Peace River region is well adapted for the growth of grain, its fitness for wheat culture is not yet fully confirmed; certainly not so fully as that of the Saskatchewan district to the south. There can, however, be no doubt of the fact that equally with the Saskatchewan it enjoys immunity from the devastating visits of grasshoppers.

Dr. Dawson has expressed the opinion that beds of coal of a workable character occur in different parts of the Peace River region. He describes the coal seams as occurring in two series of rocks. In the lower or Cretaceous zone, beds of good quality were observed at various points a little east of the mountains, the seams varying from a few inches to two feet in thickness.

Numerous instances of localities showing coal or lignite in the upper series are mentioned, the chief being in the valley of the Athabasca and its southern tributaries. A seam was observed at one place from nine to ten feet in thickness.

I submit the reports of the explorers with full detail in the Appendix; likewise notes of Dr. G. M. Dawson\* on the agricultural capability, the climate, and the economic minerals of the district, together with a descriptive memorandum by the Rev. D. M. Gordon.†

As everything relating to the character of the soil and climate of every portion of Canada on the Pacific Coast, and its possibilities as a field for settlement is of deep interest, I deem it proper to embrace in the Appendix notes on the agricultural capabilities of Queen Charlotte Islands, furnished by Dr. G. M. Dawson,‡ and a report on the arable lands of Vancouver Island, by Mr. Joseph Hunter.§

The location of the railway being now definitely fixed and contracts awarded on the line to Burrard Inlet, there is no longer any necessity, in the interest of the railway, for continuing examinations in the northern districts. Many years must elapse before the great areas of available lands between Manitoba and the mountains

\* *Vide* Appendix No. 7, page 107, Report on the climate, agricultural value, economic minerals, etc., by Dr. George M. Dawson.

† *Vide* Appendix No. 6, page 86, Memorandum respecting northern B.C. and Peace River, by Rev. D. M. Gordon.

‡ *Vide* Appendix No. 9, page 139, Memorandum on the Queen Charlotte Islands, by Dr. G. M. Dawson.

§ *Vide* Appendix No. 8, page 132, Report on the agricultural capabilities of Vancouver Island, by Mr. Joseph Hunter.