

'From Fort Vermilion, a traverse of about forty miles was made inland to the Buffalo Head hills. For the first ten or twelve miles the trail led across a partially wooded and fertile prairie and then through marshes alternating with wooded ridges to Buffalo lake, a small sheet of water from two to three miles long and about a mile wide. Buffalo lake is bordered by extensive meadow lands, covered with luxuriant grass. After leaving it, we passed through an aspen wood, crossed two small streams flowing into Bear river and then for some miles travelled through a belt of partly wooded, partly open country which lies at the foot of the Buffalo Head hills. The greater part of the land just described is well fitted for settlement.'

Country east  
of Vermilion.

From such information as could be gathered from Indians and half-breeds who have hunted in the country between Peace River Landing and Vermilion and between the Buffalo Head hills and the Peace river, the greater part of it is covered with forest or brûlé with many marshes and muskegs.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

After a perusal of all published reports on the Peace river country, an examination of almost every acre of cultivated land in that region and a careful study of the natural vegetation, soil and climatic conditions, I have been forced to the conclusion that, notwithstanding the luxuriant growth that is to be seen almost everywhere, the upper Peace river country, to which so many eyes are now turned, will never be a country in which wheat can be grown successfully. That this grain will mature occasionally there is no doubt, but that it will ever become the staple product of any considerable area I do not believe. The fact must never be lost sight of that there have been very few attempts to grow grain except in the river valley, and that when these attempts have been made they have almost always failed. Without any exception, every report on the productiveness of the soil and the suitability of the climate for the growth of cereals refers to the river valley, not one of those who have stated that the whole Peace river region was suited to the growth of wheat having any other grounds for that belief than the evidence afforded by crops grown in the valley. The character of the soil in different parts of the country has already been described, and nothing further need be said under this head, but when it is remembered that the plateau from which so much has been expected is from 800 to 1,000 feet above the river and from 2,000 to 2,500 feet above the sea, it will be seen that as a general proposition it is a great deal to assume that at

Peace River  
district not  
suited for  
wheat grow-  
ing.