

also an open air saw mill. The Rev. Mr. Brown is in charge of the Mission and is endeavouring to establish a farm in order to teach the natives to work. He has some cattle, pigs, and poultry. Rev. Mr. Brown has a good garden, nothing in it suffering from frost. At Little Hills, just at the mouth of Montreal River, wheat has been grown successfully and Mr. Brown intends putting in a crop this year. I might here be permitted to say that the Rev. Mr. Brown, who is materially assisted by his wife in his Mission work, is deserving of the most unstinted praise for his zeal and his industry in the building up of the Mission. Under somewhat disadvantageous circumstances he fills the several positions of Minister of the Gospel, farm instructor and mechanic to his flock, cheerfully and with good effect.

The Hudson's Bay Company had a good garden last year, but most of the ground here is stony. Revillon Frères have a post here and they, too, raise all the vegetables they require. All the residents of this section expect that it will develop into a great mineral country. I heard that coal has been found close to here but I could not find where. This rumour of coal is persistent and may be true. At Stanley I was struck by the freshness of the paint on the church and was surprised to hear that it has only been painted once, sometime about 1861. This paint is in two colours, red and yellow, and is made from some pigment found here mixed with fish oil. I had not time to search for the pigment as no one seemed to know whereabouts it was, but I was certainly astonished at its weather resisting properties.

Fur at Stanley was perhaps a little more plentiful than elsewhere, but fur appears scarce everywhere just now. Quite a few beaver were killed here as in other places. Moose are plentiful around Stanley, but not so at the south end of Lac la Rouge. White fish in Lac la Rouge are not good but very large trout are to be found. They are caught up to thirty-four lbs., twenty lbs. is a common size.

MONTREAL LAKE SECTION.

Attached hereunder is a plan marked "G" showing the approximate boundaries of what I term the "Montreal Lake Section."

As we enter this section we approach a better known, although sparsely settled section. The road from Montreal Lake to Prince Albert is travelled considerably and is, I understand, fairly good in winter though almost impassable in summer. There is a considerable body of timber at the south end of Montreal Lake, but it is on the Indian Reserve. The land on the east and west shores is swampy. To the north there is considerable good land, but no farming has been done there so far. On Deer Lake just east of the narrows a white man lives and he has a first class garden. Around Deer Lake the land is good and I see no difficulty in its development. Fish in this locality are not generally good, but some lakes yield fine fish. Considerable fishing is carried on by Prince Albert firms. Both the Hudson's Bay and Revillon Bros. have posts at the south end of Montreal Lake and some fur, notably rat, is obtained. Fine furs are scarce. I did not travel to the east of Montreal Lake, but from information obtained there is not any great difference in the country or soil from the west side.

The soil at Deer Lake is a good light loam, inclined to be sandy with a blue clay sub-soil. Muskegs occur, but they are generally small. There is no game anywhere. I fancy this country might profitably be surveyed and developed for settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK J. P. CREAN, C.E.