

ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON—CAIRNES

able with those from the "outside," are also grown if care is taken in selecting the seed and if they are planted in suitable ground. At many points along Yukon and Lewes rivers, farther south, gardening is quite as successful as at Dawson, but has not been so extensively practised. Various grasses and hays have also been very successfully grown at a number of points.

During the summer of 1902 Professor John Macoun of the Geological Survey, visited Southern Yukon, and his report contains a great amount of valuable information on the climate and flora of this district.¹ He states, "There is no reason why all the oats, barley and fodder of all kinds with every vegetable required in the home should not be grown around Dawson."² He also adds, speaking of Southern Yukon in general: "With the facts learned last season (1902) and my former knowledge of the Peace River country, the Mackenzie River valley, and northern British Columbia, I am quite within the mark when I say that all the land having a suitable soil within this immense area will in the future produce enormous crops of all the cereals, wheat included. It is well within the memory of us all that growing wheat was for many years considered a doubtful matter at Edmonton and Little Slave Lake. These points have passed the experimental stage and now good crops of wheat are secured every year. Two factors combine to make this success. The wheat itself is gradually conforming to its environment and ripening earlier, and local frosts are becoming rarer as the land comes more under the plough. The same changes will take place farther to the north, and when wheat is grown as winter wheat and can start at once after the snow is off, it is hard to state how far this may be, at any rate as far as Dawson in latitude 64°19' where we know there are three months without frost."³

The United States Department of Agriculture, also, has established experimental stations at Fairbanks and Rampart in Central Alaska where the general climatic conditions are very similar to those in portions of Southern Yukon, and at these stations it has been demonstrated beyond a doubt that farming

¹ Macoun, John, "The climate and flora of the Yukon district": Geol. Surv., Can., Ann. Rep., Vol. XV, 1902-3, pp. 38A-54A.

² Idem. pp. 48A, 49A.

³ Idem, p. 53A.