

Pioneers of Progress

CAPTAIN JOHN PALLISER—Prairie Surveyor

... the man who conducted the first technical survey of the West, travelling from the American border to the North Saskatchewan River, and from the Red River to the Rockies between 1857 and 1859. This was the land of the Cree and Blackfeet "where none go hunting for fear of meeting enemies"—of grasshoppers and drought. And it would appear to have been a period of grasshoppers and drought when Palliser surveyed the prairies. Who can blame him under such conditions for calling the southern and western parts of Saskatchewan "an extension of the Great American Desert." Although errors appeared in his analysis of what is now known as the Palliser Triangle, he was a Pioneer of Progress in his agricultural evaluation of the west.



Drawing by Ted Godwin
a Saskatchewan Artist
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In the Palliser Triangle a new crop has been developed by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation—Natural Gas. There are over 1,400 miles of transmission line serving 71,000 customers in 93 communities, offering new opportunities to industry in the centre of the prairie market. Each year the provincial natural gas transmission grid is being extended. In addition, SPC is playing a part in bringing a new lake into "the extension of the Great American Desert." At the dam forming the lake on the South Saskatchewan River, south of Saskatoon, will be a generating station capable of producing 500,000,000 kwh of electricity to still better serve Saskatchewan, her people and her industries. Again the Saskatchewan Power Corporation demonstrates that it is a Pioneer of Progress.

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