

ripe, with fine heads, grown by the Cree Indians at Sturgeon Lake, on the plateau, and at Fort St. John, further up the Peace River and considerably nearer the mountains. Barley and oats are known to have been ripe on August 12th in 1875, though at the same place in 1879 wheat was a failure. Fort St. John is near the western edge of the country I consider of agricultural value. Of course, it is very desirable to have further experiments in a few chosen localities—chosen as being the most unfavourable—to show the best and worst that can be said of the country."

The very great importance of the facts stated by Dr. Dawson can scarcely be over-estimated in relation to the trade and settlement both of British Columbia and those of the Dominion at large.

The evidence of Prof. Macoun, the botanist of the Pacific Railway survey, is precisely to the same effect as that of Dr. Dawson with regard to the agricultural capabilities of British Columbia, if his testimony be not, in fact, even warmer in its estimation. He says, "I consider nearly all the Peace River section (including the portion in British Columbia) to be well suited for raising cereals of all kinds, and two-thirds of it fit for wheat. The soil is as good as in any part of Manitoba, and the climate if anything milder." "All my observations tended to show that the whole Peace River country was just as capable of successful settlement as Manitoba. The soil seemed to be richer—the country contains more wood—there are no saline marshes or lakes—the water is all good—there are no summer frosts—the spring is just as early and the winter sets in no sooner." "British Columbia is the garden of the Dominion." "The soil in the valleys (of British Columbia) is *always* good."

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Crown lands in British Columbia are classified as either surveyed or unsurveyed lands, and may be acquired either by record and pre-emption, or by purchase.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

The following persons may record or pre-empt Crown lands, viz.: Any person being the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over 18 years of age, being a British subject, may record surveyed or unsurveyed Crown lands which are unoccupied, or unreserved, and unrecorded.

Aliens may also record such surveyed or unsurveyed lands, on making a declaration of intention to become a British subject.

The quantity of land which may be recorded or pre-empted is not to exceed 320 acres northward and eastward of the Cascade or Coast Mountains, or 160 acres in the rest of the province.

No person can hold more than one pre-emption claim at a time. Prior record or pre-emption of one claim, and all rights under it, are forfeited by subsequent record or pre-emption of another claim.

Land recorded or pre-empted cannot be transferred or conveyed till after a Crown grant has been issued.

Such land, until the Crown grant is issued, is held by occupation. Such occupation must be a bona fide personal residence of the settler or homestead settler, or his family or agent. Indians or Chinese cannot be agents.

The settler must enter into occupation of the land within thirty days after recording, and must continue to occupy it.

Continuous absence for a longer period than two months consecutively, of the settler or homestead settler, and his agent or family, is deemed cessation of occupation; but leave of absence may be granted not exceeding four months in any one year, inclusive of the two months' absence.

Land is considered abandoned if unoccupied for more than four months in the aggregate in one year, or for more than two months consecutively.

If so abandoned, the land becomes waste land of the Crown, without any cancellation of the record.

The fee on recording is two dollars.

The settler may either have the land surveyed at his own instance, (subject to rectification of boundaries), or wait till the Chief Commissioner causes it to be surveyed.

After survey has been made, upon proof, by declaration in writing of himself and