

Much fine spruce with occasional birch of large size is found in the valleys of the Athabasca and its tributaries. The soil is chiefly sandy loam, but gravel ridges and sand hills intervene at various points.

The district extending west of Lesser Slave Lake is alluded to in the account of the explorations in Northern British Columbia and the Peace River region.

The section south of the Saskatchewan, east of Fort à la Corne, west of Lake Winnipegosis and north of the 52nd parallel, is described by Dr. John Smith.

The interior of this district remains still unexplored, but the Porcupine and Basquia Hills are known to occupy an extensive area, and are said to be covered with heavy forests of fine poplar, spruce and tamarac. To the east of these hills, and bordering on the Saskatchewan and Lake Winnipegosis there is almost a continuous marsh, but to the south-east of Porcupine Hills, on the Swan River, there is a large extent of fine fertile land. West of the Porcupine Hills, as far as the 103° meridian, the country, so far as examined, is flat, with extensive swamps and muskegs. Much of the soil is rich, and, where drainage is possible, will no doubt become of value.

Westward of the 103° meridian the country, although not free from swamps, becomes much drier. The soil is good and fertile, of a dark colored loam of great depth. In the valley of the Carrot River the land is exceedingly rich.

The district is generally covered with timber, except the south-west portion, which is prairie.

The district north of the Qu'Appelle and west of the Assiniboine is described as variable. Near the Assiniboine and Fort Ellice there is a poor and sandy tract. Further west the soil, although light, proves to be fair in quality.

To the east of Pheasant, File and Touchwood Hills there is a fine tract of land, principally prairie on the south and east, but gradually passing into a more thickly wooded and more elevated country to the north. The northern part of this tract is well watered with running streams, but towards the south, late in the season, water is obtained with difficulty.