

longest day is over 12½ hours and there are heavy dews, and the temperature ranges from 80° at noon to 45° at night. Many homesteads have been taken up, and farm houses dot the prairie in all directions. In the valley of Peace River, north of Peace River Crossing, the soil is well suited for raising grain, but crops are sometimes injured by summer frosts. Root crops grow profusely and small fruits thrive. Seeding begins about the 1st May, and in September the weather turns very cold, winter setting in early in October. The severe weather at Fort Vermilion does not set in, however, until January or February, and the snow, which is about 1½ ft. deep, disappears by the end of April. Sufficient wheat is grown in that vicinity to supply a flour mill, built here by the Hudson's Bay Company. Grouard has grown rapidly and has now 1,000 people. Sawridge, Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Dunvegan, Peace River Landing, Fort Vermilion, Fort St. John, B.C., are also places of growing importance. The Peace River cuts a trough-like valley through the country which, at Fort Vermilion, is from 500 to 1,000 feet deep and from 1 to 3 miles wide. Its principal tributaries are the Red, Loon, Smoky, and North and South Pine Rivers and, with the exception of three obstructions, it is navigable for steamboats for about 863 miles. At Vermilion Falls there is a water power estimated at from 150,000 to 200,000 horse-power, and at the Peace River Canyon there is a splendid water power, as yet unestimated. Vast areas of the country are known to be underlaid with coal, especially at the Peace River Canyon. Gypsum is found along the Lower Peace River. A valuable timber area of about 300 sq. miles in extent lies north of St. John in British Columbia, and another area of approximately 300 sq. miles in the divide between the Cutbank and South Pine River, south of the Peace. The district can be reached from Edmonton by the C.N.R. to Athabasca, and thence by a good road via Grouard and Peace River Crossing. During a wet season this road becomes very much cut up, and is almost impassable with a load. The month of March is the best time to enter this country, as the trails are good, and they follow the rivers and lakes, making travel easy. It may also be reached by a new road from Edson on the G.T.P. A new railway from Edmonton is being built by the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway Company. It is now constructed as far as the mouth of Lesser Slave River, on the Athabasca, and it is expected that it will be built