

of a very different character. There is very little real prairie north of the White-mud. It may be added that the forest is encroaching upon the open areas and much of what Mr. McConnell reported to be poplar coppice is now forest.

Mr. W. T. Thompson, D. T. S., who surveyed the 6th initial meridian and the 22nd base line in 1882 says :\*

'The country in the vicinity of the trail from Peace River Landing to Dunvegan, a distance of 65 miles, is mostly prairie, dotted with bluffs of poplar and willow ; the soil is very fertile and appears to be well adapted for agricultural purposes. Between Little Burnt river and Dunvegan, a distance of about 20 miles, the country is very fine ; extensive prairie openings are separated by bluffs of large sized poplar, the approximate area of prairie and bluff being 300,000 acres.'

The only places at which any attempt at agriculture has been made on the plateau are Old Wives lake, the east end of Bear lake and at "the waterhole" about 9 miles from Dunvegan. At Bear lake a small patch of potatoes had been planted in 1903. When I arrived there, July 9th, the field was examined and it was found that the vines had been frozen twice within the previous week or ten days. They were again frozen during the night of July 9-10 when there was five degrees of frost. Between 1882 and 1887, farming on a small scale was attempted at "the waterhole," at first by settlers, afterwards by the Hudson's Bay Co. I was told at Dunvegan that a crop was harvested only once, but no one who was there in 1903 could tell me of what it consisted. No attempt at farming has been made there since 1887. Attempts at agriculture.

The Rev. J. G. Brick, for many years an Anglican missionary at Dunvegan and the Smoky River Mission, cultivated several acres at Old Wives lake between 1884 and 1889. His son Mr. A. Brick who has now the largest farm at "The Settlement" told me that in the six years he had harvested but three crops. One of these amounted to very little, the other two were good. Mr. Brick did not remember what kinds of grain were grown.

Mr. Wm. Ogilvie spent several seasons surveying in the vicinity of the Peace river and in 1891 prepared a special report on the resources of that region. Of the part under discussion he says :† Mr. Ogilvie's report.

'In the summer of 1883, while I was engaged surveying on the plateau in the vicinity of Dunvegan, we had frost three or four times in August severe enough to destroy any grain at the stage of develop-

\*Report of the Department of the Interior 1889, p. 68.

†Report of the Department of the Interior 1892, Pt. VII.