

respectively, requesting him to plant them at Fort Simpson and report upon the result. The grain sent, with some Saskatchewan barley, was planted and gathered in 1889, and this spring I received a small bag of the different grains reaped, a portion of which being sent by me to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa for examination and test of vitality, I have recently received the letter, of which the following is a copy :—

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OTTAWA, 7th November, 1890.

Lieutenant Governor SCHULTZ, Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCHULTZ,—The tests of the germinating power of the samples of grain received from Bishop Bompas, of Fort Simpson, on the Mackenzie River, have been completed and the results are as follows :—Wheat, Ladoga and Onega mixed, germinated in the proportion of 85 per cent., 75 per cent. of the plants making strong growth and 10 per cent. weaker growth. The Polar barley 92 per cent., 80 per cent. making strong growth and 12 per cent. weak growth. The common country barley 54 per cent., 41 per cent. strong growth and 13 per cent. weak. The Onega oats 93 per cent., 90 per cent. strong and 3 per cent. weak. You will see from this that these newer introductions promise to be of more value to them than the grain they have in cultivation, if we can judge from the samples of barley they have sent, as it only has 54 per cent. of germinating power. I am sorry that the result of this test could not have been sent you earlier. It is very interesting, and shows that the grain of that district ripens well and makes very good seed ; it also shows the importance of introducing new varieties there for test. I shall take the opportunity of sending to Bishop Bompas several varieties more for test very shortly. Thanking you for the kind interest you have taken in this matter,

I remain, yours very truly,
WILLIAM SAUNDERS,
Director.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN SCHULTZ.

The Honourable the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.

ANSWER FROM WILLIAM CARPENTER BOMPAS, D.D. BISHOP OF MACKENZIE RIVER, NORTH-WEST, CANADA.

1. Except where otherwise stated the following answers are intended to refer especially to the course of the Mackenzie river from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Sea, a distance of nearly 1,200 miles. The information is gained from superficial observation during 23 years residence.

2. The whole of the above course of the Mackenzie is navigable for the months of June, July and August, for river steamers of light draught, say not over 6 feet, but in September, in some seasons, the navigation may be obstructed by low water. The current is mostly from 3 to 4 miles an hour, but in places 6, 7 or 8 miles an hour. The depth of the main stream where there is no obstruction may be from 5 to 10 fathoms. The lake might be navigable for a swift steam launch in spring only, but there is a difficult rapid near its mouth.

3. The navigation of the Mackenzie river from the sea is for 1,400 miles continuing to Fort Smith portage, (Lat. 60), which it is very desirable to bridge by a tramway, length 15 miles. Thence the southerly navigation is good for about 400 miles to the falls of the Peace river. These would be bridged over again by a tramway, length 3 miles. This would throw open another stretch of navigable water on the Peace river to Rocky Mountain House, about 600 miles further, depth 6 feet in summer to 3 feet in all over obstructions. The 2,400 miles of navigation would be open, with breaks of only 18