

Three days were spent in thoroughly examining the Pouce Coupé prairie which lies almost altogether west of the British Columbia boundary. It is irregular in shape, stretching about three miles north of the junction of Bear and Pouce Coupé creeks. Though in the immediate vicinity of the creek—north of the junction—the country is wooded, southward along Pouce Coupé creek it is open prairie. To the west, the prairie extends about six miles and about five miles to the south of the junction. The country slopes up gently from all directions to a central plateau which is perhaps 200 feet above the top of the river bank and about 2,400 feet above the sea. Sloping towards the south from the plateau towards a branch of the creek, the country is more than half-wooded, i. e. covered with poplar and willow coppice or with full-grown trees. On the southwest of the creek referred to above there is also considerable prairie which slopes towards the creek. Of open prairie ready for the plough there is an area of about 25,000 acres and about the same of bluff country. The most open part almost wholly prairie, is directly west of the junction of Bear and Pouce Coupé creeks. This is cut by a creek in which is the only water in this part of the prairie. Towards the south and west there are several small creeks running in deep valleys.

Hay.

The largest marshes around which hay could be cut are at the north-west corner of the prairie, but there are a few very small marshes on the plateau, each an acre or two in extent, and one small lake. Hay could have been cut in 1903 almost anywhere on the prairie. The quality and quantity vary in different seasons. In a very dry season but little hay could be cut on the uplands.

A fine view of the country which surrounds the Pouce Coupé prairie could be obtained in every direction from the plateau. Patches of prairie show everywhere and a few more fires would transform the whole country into prairie, but on the other hand, a few years without fires would change much of the prairie into coppice.

Climate.

Half-breeds and old settlers living in the Peace river valley believe that the climate of the Pouce Coupé prairie region is much warmer in both winter and summer than at either Spirit river or Grande prairie and so far as can be judged from one season, there seems to be foundation for this belief. The saskatoon berries which were only beginning to ripen at Spirit river and north of Dunvegan, August 1st, were at Pouce Coupé prairie, a week later, perfectly ripe and the half-breeds and Indians who were drying berries told us that they had begun gathering the fruit a week before, so that in 1903 the season was a week or ten days earlier there than at the places referred to. This