

the whole country is fit for settlement. Passing westward from Grattan Creek the country becomes much broken, but the soil was good and there were many ponds of fresh water. Later the hills became more elevated, with deep depressions, but before we camped the hills had flattened out, considerably, and we entered on a splendid farming country where settlement had only begun last spring.

Growing Vegetables.

Our camp was in township 47, range 12 and section 22, west of the Fourth Meridian, between Philips and Meighan on the Grand Trunk Pacific. In every direction from this camp we found first-class soil, plenty of ponds, and land all fit for the plough, with sufficient wood for fuel. We had now reached the outskirts of the settlements, and from this time forward we were never out of sight of houses except in Beaver Lake Hills. In a garden at Thomas Lake we found all kinds of vegetables growing in perfection: Indian corn, squash, pumpkins and cucumbers. The corn was almost fit for the table and the cucumbers were ripe on August 19. On this date we had a slight frost, but it did no harm, and hardly touched the potato tops.

From our camp to the west side of Beaver Hills Lake, a distance of about sixty miles as the crow flies, was more or less settled, and all the oats and wheat were ripe and some of them in stack on August 22. Almost all the land was fit for the plough, and in many places there were large settlements, where the land was fenced in and the roads graded.

The district around the south end of Beaver Hills Lake, which is fourteen miles long and eight broad and whose waters are quite fresh, is very rich and beautiful, and at no distant date will be one of the finest in Alberta. The lake has no banks and rich lands slope down to it on all sides.

A twenty mile drive through Beaver Lake Hills forest reservation brought us to Base Line road, and along this we travelled rapidly to Edmonton, where we arrived on August 24. Ottawa was reached on September 2.

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