

APPENDIX No. 1

Barley sown after the middle of May is usually ripe in the last week of July.

The continuous daylight with about 18 hours of sunlight account for the rapid growth of all vegetables in these parts.

SMALL FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he had not had any success with the raising of small fruits from seeds, for the simple reason that he had not given the proper care as labour is scarce. He had planted small fruit seeds, which had been sent to him from the experimental farm, and they had been largely left to take care of themselves.

Wild raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, currants and cranberries grow in abundance. The raspberries follow forest fires, and there are thousands of bushes of raspberries going to waste in that country fully as fine in quality and size as the witness had seen raised in the fruit gardens near Montreal. There is a wild strawberry that grows very well. A cultivated berry should do better. He had not cultivated strawberries yet for the simple reason that labour is so scarce. From within a few days of the time that the snow goes off the ground in the spring, until vegetation stops in the fall, there is a continual changing of colour and variety of wild flowers, both on the prairie and in the bush and woodlands. Every week you will see a change in colour from one end of the season to the other. There are a great many varieties and they grow in large numbers.

Two years ago Mr. Lawrence tried twenty-eight varieties of ordinary garden flowers, such as sweet peas, pansies, &c., from seed, and out of the lot there were only two that did not prove successful in the open garden.

With regard to cattle, they will do well in that country if there is food provided for them. You would have to feed them from six weeks to three months in the winter, depending on the season. In a winter like this year it would be necessary to feed them about four and a half months. There are two large dairies at Fort Vermilion. It is a good country for dairying. The water is good and plentiful.

The witness had never had any sheep there; there are too many dogs and coyotes. There are no sheep in the Peace river country. The timber wolves are very numerous and come into the yards often. If it were not for the dogs and timber wolves the sheep would do well.

The native horses winter out on the plains.

FORESTRY.

With regard to timber, the witness explained that in the valley of the Peace river, the bottoms of the river, the islands—and there are large islands in the river—and the points the witness mentioned before, are largely covered with a heavy growth of spruce, which grows to a large size. The largest he had ever measured was four feet four inches in diameter. A tree of that kind would carry its trunk well up, clean of branches 40 or 50 feet up. Of course that is an unusual size, but timber three feet in diameter is common on the hills and in the lower part of the bottoms. There is no oak, but there is spruce, birch and poplar. The poplars grow to a large size. The cotton wood often grows to four feet in diameter, and the poplar grows to a diameter of two feet.

GAME.

The buffalo, Mr. Lawrence stated, never come as far west as Vermilion. East of Vermilion, about 100 miles, buffalo may be found. His brother has been in that country, and he told witness that one buffalo could make a great many tracks. He saw the tracks of a herd, and he estimated that the entire number in the whole country