

Roman Catholic Mission, there is also a fine farm and garden; an irrigation ditch, running through the latter being an evidence that the rainfall is not excessive. About seven miles up the river, the two sons and four sons-in-law of James Smith have farms adjoining one another, all fronting on the river. Among the six, they have about 200 acres broken and nearly all planted in wheat. Altogether there are thirty men who have land under cultivation. With the exception of those mentioned the acreage is small.

The erection of the large grist mill affords a certain market for all the wheat grown and the market being certain the settlers have felt warranted in increasing their acreage by breaking up new land. As these settlers are nearly all "old timers," ex-Hudson's Bay Co's employees and half-breeds, their confidence in expending labour on the breaking of new land is the best of evidence that in some years at least the crops are good. I was told that in 1902 no wheat was frozen. The price paid at the mill is \$1.50 per bushel for clean wheat, but as the prices of everything but meat and flour are very high, the purchasing value of a bushel of wheat is really not greater than in Manitoba. All kinds of vegetables, including squashes and pumpkins mature every year and tomatoes generally ripen. Barley ripens every year and oats almost always.

Wheat growing at Vermilion.

Brick for the mill chimneys, etc., was made from clay dug a few yards from the mill; lime is brought from "the chutes" further down stream. \$15.00 per thousand is charged for lumber at the mills and shingles, dimension timber, etc., can be procured at very reasonable rates.

At both the Anglican and Roman Catholic missions, there are schools at which both native and white children are educated.

Though too remote from large markets at present, there is no doubt that the country about Vermilion is much better suited for general agriculture than the plateau above Peace River. Though more than two degrees further north, the difference in latitude is more than compensated for by the lower altitude. Vermilion is but 950 feet above the sea and the surrounding country little more than 1,000 ft., while the plateau north and south of Dunvegan is between 2,000 and 2,500 feet above the sea. The days at Vermilion are somewhat longer too during the summer, but the difference of more than 1,000 feet in altitude is quite sufficient to explain any difference in temperature.

Lower down the river, at the mouth of Little Red river, where there is a Hudson's Bay post, a garden has been cultivated for many years.