

Like most of the choice land of the Qu'Appelle district the soil of this reserve is nearly all first-class. There are groves of small poplar and clumps of willow, and in the gullies leading into the Qu'Appelle Valley there is a considerable supply of good poplar for building and fencing purposes, and a few small maples. The bottoms along the river are valuable for the immense quantity of hay which can be cut on the less elevated parts of them. The best bottom is at the north-west corner of the reserve at the mouth of Prairie Creek and nearly opposite Long Valley Creek.

When this survey was completed I received further instructions from you at Qu'Appelle, and in accordance therewith I proceeded to Treaty No. 7.

On the 9th June, I left Qu'Appelle for Fort Calgary *via* the Forks of Red Deer River and the Blackfoot Crossing.

From Qu'Appelle to the Point of Woods, thirty-eight miles, the old half-breed trail, which I followed, passes over a tract of rich sandy loam, with clumps of small poplar and willow. The best timber is north of the road at the Point of Woods. Surface water was plentiful; it is scarce in the fall during dry seasons.

At the Point of Woods, we emerge from the bush and descend gradually into the immense valley lying between the height of land already mentioned and the Missouri Coteau. This valley is partly drained by the Moose Mountain Creek, the Boggy Creek and the Pile of Bones or Wascana River. The head waters of these streams are not far apart, and it might be found practicable to divert the waters of the big lake, in the Indian Head Reserve, at the head of Moose Mountain Creek, into the channel of the Wascana.

The soil in this wide valley is generally a clay loam of the best quality. The land on the east side is a stronger clay, especially the tract along the Wascana and Boggy Creek, right up to the valley of the Qu'Appelle and west towards the Moose-jaw Creek.

Large tracts of this land are cut up with *tetes des vieille femmes*, or old wives heads, the name given by the French half-breeds to the lumpy prairie, over which travelling is necessarily unpleasantly slow.

From the Moose Jaw-bone Creek, the soil becomes sandy and light as we follow up Thunder Creek. After crossing the sand hills we enter on a stiff alkaline clay plain with a scarcity of water, which continues till we ascend the Coteau. Then for eight miles, the surface of the Coteau is very rough. The soil is of a variable character, like that of many other rough rolling plains in the Territories. The hill or ridge tops, as a rule, are composed of hard arid clay and gravel with boulders.

The soil on the northern slopes of the ridges, and in the flats between them, is generally of a rich black loam. The pasturage in the Coteau is very good. Water is plentiful in grassy ponds, and a few small springs were seen. Ducks were numerous in the alkaline lakes.

From the Coteau to Reed Lake, the plains are generally composed of alkaline clay with sand and gravel. There are several prominent ridges and shallow alkaline lakes; the largest sheet of water being Old Wives Lakes, which extend far away to the south-east.

As Reed Lake is approached the general character of the country improves. The soil is of warm clay loam and the presence of an extensive lake, as well as numerous small ponds of good water, gives this part of the country greater advantages for farming purposes than any other tract we saw since leaving Thunder Creek, sixty miles back.

From my camp at Reed Lake to Strong Current Creek, seventeen miles, the soil is a warm sandy loam with rich herbage. The undulations of the prairie surface are of immense size with gradual slopes for miles.

From Strong Current Creek westward, for thirty-seven miles along the trail to River Butte, we cross several well-defined ridges running north-east. There are wide level stretches of prairie of good sandy loam, and water is plentiful in lakes in the hollows. The position of this country is well adapted for stock-raising, and the climate is milder and the spring earlier than in Manitoba.