

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 178

Frost struck us upon the 4th of September, 1905, and affected everything growing in the garden. The potato vines were frozen to the ground. It struck us again on the 15th inst., so severely that the growing vegetables were all frozen deep in the ground, the turnips apparently being frozen 2 inches in depth, the carrots, parsnips and beets being likewise similarly frozen, also the onions and cabbage; the beans and corn being thoroughly matured were not affected. We had taken up the principal quantity of potatoes and had them secured in the cellar; about one hundred bushels which we had not removed were so thoroughly frozen in the ground that we found it impossible to remove them, so they were abandoned in place.

HAY.

About the last week of July, 1905, proceeded with the cutting and stacking of hay. This occupied us July and August, and a small portion of the month of September, during which period we put up by admeasurement about sixty tons, estimating that this would be an ample supply to feed our horses through the winter.

We fed about eighteen horses, averaging about three tons per horse for the winter's feed.

We had about four hundred pounds of hay left unfed when we went for the horses during the last week of April, 1906. The grass was well developed on the hillside. At this time the horses were feeding on the hillside of the North Pine river, where we had wintered them.

About the 2nd of September we returned to St. John, completed our building, and got everything in shape for the winter.

While the ice was making upon the river, we were busily engaged laying up firewood.

ANIMAL LIFE.

Animal life is represented principally in the country by moose, black bear and cinnamon bear, the wild cat or lynx, the coyote or ordinary prairie wolf, the black or timber wolf, the common rabbit, fox, and skunk. The moose, bear, wild cat and common rabbit are used by the Indians for food. Among the smaller animals are to be found the beaver, the mink, the marten, the common Canadian red squirrel, the chipmunk, a species of rat called the wood or bush tailed rat, and mice of a different species from the mouse found in Manitoba and the larger portion of the Northwest. The moose is becoming scarce, and has almost disappeared from the immediate vicinity of the Peace river. Indians have now to penetrate back from the river about thirty miles in order to secure food. The bear is disappearing from the immediate vicinity of the Peace river. The beaver is also becoming a very rare animal.

FISH.

In the Peace river proper, fish are somewhat scarce, an occasional trout only is caught in the river. The most common fish is called the squaw fish. It is about the size of an Ontario chub, and much like it in general appearance. It is insipid to the taste, and very bony. It is eaten by the Indians, but white men when they catch it usually throw it away.

The next most common fish is the sucker which is a soft fish and not much relished either by the white men. The next fish, which is but seldom caught, is the ling or maria, as it is most commonly called. This fish is sometimes eaten by both Indians and white men.

Upon reaching the upper tributaries of the Peace river, the water is always clear and there are abundant trout in the various streams. We caught trout from two to five pounds in weight.