

385,257 skins, and it seems evident that some such course as that suggested by the committee of the Senate is, if feasible, highly desirable, if the principal fur-bearing animals are to be saved from gradual extinction.

14. The Province of British Columbia occupies the mountainous or hilly region that extends to the Pacific Ocean from the western edge of the great plain or prairie country lying east of the Rocky Mountains. The general surface of the country is mountainous and broken, consisting of short ranges, detached groups of mountains, elevated plateaux and many valleys of various extent. An apparently inexhaustible supply of fish, timber and minerals of unknown value are the principal natural sources of its wealth, but the climate is delightful and extremely favourable for rapid growth, and agriculture is making rapid strides.

Physical
features,
British Co-
lumbia.

15. There is probably more misconception about the climate of Canada generally than about that of any other known country, the idea still prevailing among large numbers in Europe and elsewhere, that the land is one of perpetual winter and usually covered with snow. In reality the climate of Canada is dry, healthy and invigorating, and owing to the great area of the country, extending over 20 degrees of latitude, or from the latitude of Constantinople to the North Pole, has a wide range of temperature. The extreme dryness of the atmosphere, however, makes both cold and heat less acutely felt than the readings of the thermometer would lead people to expect. In the Maritime Provinces the climate somewhat resembles that of the British Isles; in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba the summers are warm and the winters cold, but the cold is pleasant and bracing, and the snow that generally covers the ground during the winter is of the greatest benefit alike to the farmer, the lumberman and the merchant. In the North-West Territories cattle graze at large all through the winter months; and on the Pacific slope, west of the Rocky Mountains, the climate

Climate.