

62. There is probably more misconception about the climate of Canada than about that of any other known country, the idea entertained by many persons in Europe and elsewhere being that perpetual winter reigns. 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 is of the greatest benefit alike to the farmer, the lumberman and the merchant. In the North-west Territories, cattle graze at large through the winter months; and on the Pacific slope, west of the Rocky Mountains, the climate is milder than in any other part of the Dominion.

63. Instead of "six months' winter and six months' cold weather" being the normal condition, the fact is that the average winter is about four and a-half months, and though the spring may begin two or three weeks later than in England, the conditions for rapid growth—warm sunshine and rain—are so favourable that the crops of the two countries are about equally advanced by the middle of July. As the country has become better known, it is beginning to be understood that the winters, though at times severe, are healthy and enjoyable, while the summer weather is not surpassed in the most favoured parts of Europe. That the climate is superior to that of England is admitted by all who have had experience of both; and it is a well recognized fact that a sharp cold winter, with plenty of snow, is by far the healthiest, as well as the most advantageous to business of every kind, while a mild winter is detrimental alike to health and business. The marine currents are singularly favourable to Canada; along the Atlantic coast the Gulf stream exerts an influence so beneficial that on Sable Island ^{are} troops of wild ponies, whose progenitors, two centuries ago, [^]were shipwrecked and cast upon the island, and there successive generations, without shelter of any kind, have lived and multiplied. Along the Canadian shores of the Pacific Ocean the Japanese current produces the same effect on the climate as the Gulf stream does in England. Vancouver Island is like the south of England,