

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.

142. The Dominion is so vast that one part may be charged with perpetual snow while another is bathed in almost perennial heat and sunshine. One part receives the cold atmosphere of the "Frozen Sea" ; another the humid air of the Atlantic ; another the mild, genial breezes of the Pacific, and still a fourth has the surface of its soil baked by the heat of tropical waters. In the extreme northern parts vegetation is so stunted that the highest tree is not as tall as a two year old child ; in the southern parts vegetation is so luxuriant that fruits and flowers grow with as much vigour as in Italy or the south of France.

143. 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 their 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, except that it has a greater summer heat with less humidity. In the vicinity of Victoria the highest temperature in the shade in July and August ranges from 80° to 90° Fahr., while in winter there are rarely more than 10 degrees of frost.