

CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY.

degrees lower than in Toronto, while for four months the ground is usually covered with a depth of between one and three feet of snow. Eastward in the St. Lawrence valley the summers are cooler and the winters decidedly colder, and with the retardation of the opening of spring consequent upon a higher latitude and the more gradual melting of a snow covering, it is not until May that the leafing of the trees is at all rapid. Mid-September, too, usually sees the brilliant coloration of the autumnal tints.

Northwestern Quebec, or that part of the province which lies between the 47th and 51st parallels and west of Lake St. John, is a territory almost wholly lacking meteorological stations, but the summaries for Haileybury, Abitibi and Moose Factory without doubt indicate very closely the climatic conditions from south to north over this large district. The winters setting in towards the end of November are decidedly cold with a heavy snowfall. The summers are distinctly warm, and few seasons pass without some heat spells, when 90° and over are recorded.

The Maritime Provinces.—These have a climate which is in many respects comparable with that of southern Ontario, but there are important differences. The spring opens somewhat later near the sea, and in a latitude somewhat higher, and then again the summers, while a little warmer than in the south of England, are rather cooler than in the peninsula of Ontario. Temperatures exceeding 85° and at times 95° are by no means infrequent during the summer months. After September the temperature declines quite rapidly, and while October is a month of much fine weather, night frosts are likely to be severe, and towards the close of November the normal daily temperature falls below the freezing point.

The winters in Nova Scotia are not quite as cold as in southern Ontario, but over the greater part of New Brunswick they are colder, and taking Fredericton as a good example of prevailing winter conditions, we find them closely comparable with those of western Quebec, where zero temperatures occur quite frequently between mid-December and the first of March. The precipitation, which is ample throughout the provinces, is heaviest along the south shore of Nova Scotia, where it exceeds 50 inches, while between 40 and 45 is more general. The snowfall is very heavy in northern New Brunswick, where it exceeds 100 inches, and diminishes southward towards Nova Scotia, where the precipitation accompanying winter storms is usually partly in the form of rain.