

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

CLIMATE AND FARM PRODUCTS.

There is great diversity in the farm products of the different parts of Canada owing to variations in climatic conditions. There are districts of Ontario and British Columbia where delicate fruits such as peaches of the highest quality and the finer varieties of grapes grow to perfection, while there are extensive areas of fertile land in the Western Plain which, although producing the highest grades of hard wheat, will not grow even hardy apples. The wheat grown in the eastern provinces is of quite different character from that grown on the western prairies. Thus, while the hard wheat flour of the West makes bread of superior quality, it cannot be used for making biscuits, shredded wheat and some other breakfast foods. The biscuit manufacturers of Winnipeg have to send to Ontario or Quebec for flour made from soft wheat. The conditions affecting the production of food products can best be understood by describing the climate and farm productions of each of the great divisions of Canada separately.

The Maritime Provinces of Canada come under the influence of both the Gulf Stream and the Arctic current. Their latitude being about the same as the countries of southern Europe the climate is temperate, although somewhat colder in the winter and spring than the corresponding latitudes of Europe. A branch of the Arctic current comes through Belle Isle strait between Labrador and Newfoundland, lowering the temperature of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the spring icebergs come through Belle Isle strait and delay the summer. Eminent engineers have said that it would not be a difficult undertaking to close up Belle Isle strait at its narrowest point, completely shutting out the Arctic current from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and that the work could be accomplished at less cost than the Panama canal. They argued that the climate of the western coast of Newfoundland, the Maritime Provinces, and the lower part of Quebec province would be transformed, that the St. Lawrence would be navigable throughout the year as far up as Quebec city, and that the tunnel between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, so long advocated by the islanders, would be unnecessary, as there would be no winter ice in Northumberland strait.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island all have hills and valleys. In Prince Edward Island the highest elevation is 311 feet. The highest elevations in Nova Scotia are in the highlands of Cape Breton island. At one point in the North Cape district of Cape Breton a height of 1,500 feet is reached, but the hills are not usually high. In New Brunswick there are eighteen hills reaching elevations of 2,000 feet and upwards; Mount Carleton in Northumberland county is 2,630 feet high. But these hills are not representative of the general elevation.

Owing to its almost insular position and perhaps to the influence of the Gulf Stream, which flows not far from its southern extremity, the climate of Nova Scotia is more moderate than that of the neighbouring state of Maine. In Halifax, according to records of the Dominion Meteorological Service for a period of seven years, the average of all temperatures in January and February, the coldest winter months, was twenty-two degrees (F.) above zero. Extreme cold is seldom ex-