

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

The greater part of the present population of the province is concentrated in this valley. Throughout the St. Lawrence valley apples, pears, plums and cherries are grown, while grapes are produced in the open air as far west as L'Islet on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, seventy miles northeast of Quebec city. Large quantities of strawberries, currants, gooseberries and other small fruits are produced. It was once a great wheat region, but comparatively little wheat is grown now. Great quantities of oats, hay, clover and potatoes are produced, and a considerable acreage is devoted to barley, buckwheat, rye, Indian corn, peas and beans. A small quantity of flax is grown. Nearly every farmer in Quebec province grows a little tobacco, and there are a few large plantations. Large quantities of tobacco are grown annually in this province. Very small quantities of hops are grown. A large proportion of the farms have groves of sugar-maple trees, and considerable quantities of maple sugar are produced, the sap flowing freely in the early spring when there is frost at night and bright sunshine during the day.

The province of Quebec has achieved marked success in dairying, and there is room for great expansion of this industry. Good grazing land, watered by springs, streams and lakes, abounds almost everywhere from lake St. Francis to the extremity of Gaspé. It is not and never can be a ranch country—the snow lies too deep in winter; but nearness to the markets of Europe, as well as to those of industrial Canada, largely offsets the cost of winter feeding and housing. Dairy farming is now attracting special attention, and in the district between the St. Lawrence river and the United States boundary, commonly known as the Eastern Townships, there are already many fine herds of cattle with some of the best blood in America. Quebec ranks second among the provinces of the Dominion in the production of butter, cheese and condensed milk.

The climate of Ontario varies considerably, according to latitude, elevation and the character of the surrounding waters. That part of the province which is almost surrounded by lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and Georgian bay, has a more moderate climate than the part of the United States immediately to the south. In Hamilton, at the head of lake Ontario, the average of all temperatures in the coldest winter months is about the same as in Halifax, but the summers are longer and much warmer. At Owen Sound, on Georgian bay, the winter temperatures are between three and four degrees lower than at Hamilton, and at Port Arthur, on lake Superior, over eighteen degrees lower. At Moose Factory, on James bay, the temperatures during the coldest winter months average a little less than three degrees lower than those of Port Arthur. The summer temperatures at Moose Factory from the beginning of May until the end of September correspond very closely with those of Edinburgh, Scotland, as shown by the record of fifteen years. Because Hudson strait is blocked with ice in summer it is commonly supposed that any district bordering on Hudson bay must be practically without summers, but when it is remembered that Hudson bay, including James bay, is about 800 miles long, while Hudson strait is about 500 miles long, it can be imagined