

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

been extended northward. Mr. Ogilvie also stated that when he was at Wrigley, latitude 63° N., on August 15, the people were gathering blueberries, then fully ripe and as large and well flavoured as they are in Old Ontario. Ripe strawberries were found on August 9, ninety miles below this, and raspberries soon afterward. Above Fort Wrigley wild gooseberries and both red and black currants were found in abundance, some of the small islands being literally covered with the bushes. The gooseberries were large and well flavoured and the currants compared favourably with the same fruit as cultivated in the vicinity of Ottawa, the black currants being especially large and mellow. He thought this district would compare favourably with Finland, having a population of 2,000,000, or the Russian province of Vologda, having a population of 1,600,000, both in about the same latitude and with similar climatic conditions.

In the region known as the "Barren Lands," lying between the Mackenzie river basin and Hudson bay, which is exposed to the cold winds blowing off the ice-fields of Davis strait and Hudson strait, the season of vegetation is much shorter than in the same latitude of the Mackenzie river basin. In the short summers these lands are clothed with a wealth of flowers of many hues. At all seasons of the year they furnish sustenance for countless millions of caribou or reindeer, which never have any difficulty in getting at the rich mosses, as the snowfall is light in winter. In his book, "Sport and Travel in the Northland of Canada," Mr. David Hanbury says: "No land can be called barren which bears wild flowers in profusion, numerous heaths, luxuriant grass in places up to the knee, and a variety of mosses and lichens. It is barren only in the sense that it is destitute of trees, hence the name 'Dechin-u-le' (no trees), which is the Indian name for it." Yet it seems to be generally agreed that the greater part of this region is unsuitable for agriculture, because the summer season without frost is too short to mature crops. As regards the winter climate, Mr. J. B. Tyrrell has made a comparison of the winter temperatures of the "Barren Lands" with those of northern Siberia, and has arrived at the conclusion that no section of these lands has winters as cold as some sections of Siberia that are now inhabited. While unsuitable for agriculture it will be shown in the sections of this article devoted to Wild Animals, Minerals and Fisheries that there are natural resources that might furnish a livelihood to a considerable population.

The climate of all the British Columbia islands and the coast lands is greatly affected by the warm water of the Japan current and the winds that blow off it; so that the winters are very mild and moist. Snow seldom falls, and when it does come never stays long. Soft, warm, moisture-laden winds also blow up the long inlets of the sea, which extend many miles inland and along the river valleys, losing their moisture as they go inland, but retaining sufficient heat to moderate greatly the climate of the central and northern plateaus. The most northern islands and the mainland coast opposite them have a milder climate than Scotland, while the climate of the southern mainland coast and Vancouver island resembles that of the southwestern counties of England. The rainfall is heavy all along the coast. The plateau