

than in any subsequent corresponding period, while the Alberta records show a remarkable period of about six wet summers from 1899 to 1904 and again from 1911 to 1915.

While 1878 was the year of greatest precipitation in Ontario, and also the summer of greatest rainfall, the seventies as a whole had dry summers. In the eighties the summers of '80 and '83 and '85 were wet and others about normal, excepting '87 which was very dry. In the nineties the summers of '95, '96, '98 and '99 were particularly dry, while the other years had an ample but not excessive rainfall. Since 1900 the summers of 1907, 1911 and 1913 were exceptionally dry, while others were nearly normal. At Montreal the year immediately succeeding Confederation and 1915 were the years of least precipitation, and 1869, 1885 and 1900 were the years of greatest precipitation. The decade commencing 1870 was that of least precipitation and that commencing 1900 of greatest. Here again we have no indication of progressive change.

The records of precipitation made at Halifax since 1868 show no evidence of progressive change during the fifty-four years which have elapsed. During the first decade the average annual precipitation was 54 inches, during the second 58 inches, the third 57, the fourth 58, the fifth 54 inches. The wettest years were 1884, 1888, 1896, 1907, 1908, 1910, with total precipitation respectively as follows: 64, 67, 70, 64, 65, 68 inches. The driest years were 1868, 1879, 1889, 1894, 1905, 1914, 1916, the respective totals being 50, 48, 47, 45, 48, 48, 46 inches. In the first decade the greatest annual snowfall was 125 inches and the least 29 inches. In the second decade these figures became respectively 134 inches and 32 inches; in the third 108 and 50½ inches, in the fourth 108 and 55, and in the fifth 101 and 38. In January, 1894, 56 inches of snow fell and in October, 1896, 15 inches of rain were recorded on a total of 20 days.

In the seventies and early eighties there were many more years with heavy snowfalls in March in Ontario and Quebec than have occurred in any period of equal length since then. The result was to make the annual average snowfall for that period considerably higher than the normal, although the annual total precipitation in years with a snowy March was frequently below normal. Lack of observations for this period in the western provinces, except at Winnipeg, leaves us restricted to a consideration of the years since 1883. The most remarkable feature of the western snowfalls was the change from light to heavy snowfalls which occurred in the nineties. If we consider the decades 1885-1894, 1895-1904, 1905-1914, and form the average annual totals of snowfall for these, we find at Medicine Hat, 29 inches in the first decade, 45 inches in the second, 24 inches in the third. At Edmonton the figures are respectively, 36, 52, 39 inches; at Calgary 37, 51 and 42; at Qu'Appelle, 45, 70 and 51. At Winnipeg, however, the sequence is different, the respective decadal averages running 52, 43½, 50½. At Prince Albert the first of these decades is missing, but the second two have averages of 58½ and 48½ which sufficiently resemble the other records, as do also the figures for these two decades at Battleford, viz. 35 and 24.