

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-seven 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, 1921, the respective totals being 50, 48, 47, 45, 48, 48, 46, 44 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.

### 3.—The Meteorological Service of Canada.

Under the above heading Sir Frederick Stupart contributed a short article descriptive of the growth and present activities of the Meteorological Service, which for reasons of space is not reprinted here, to the 1922-23 edition of the Year Book (pp. 43-47); to it the interested reader is referred.

### 4.—Meteorological Tables.

Tables 6 and 7 which follow, have been prepared by the Meteorological Service of Canada for insertion in the Year Book. For the interpretation of Table 6 a note on the method used in measuring temperature and precipitation is appended.

#### TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION.

**TEMPERATURE.**—At the stations of the Dominion Meteorological Service the highest and lowest temperature in each 24 hours, termed respectively the maximum and the minimum, are recorded by self-registering thermometers. For any month the sum of the daily maxima, divided by the number of days of the month, is the mean maximum temperature of that month. The mean minimum temperature is obtained in a similar manner. The half sum of the mean maximum and the mean minimum is called the mean temperature.