On what is usually termed the lower mainland of British Columbia the climate is everywhere equable and mild. The lower Fraser valley in its northward reach to its junction with the Thompson river traverses latitudes corresponding to those of the southern half of England. Spring opens early, the summers are warm, while the winters, which are mild and rainy near the coast, increase somewhat in severity with increasing distance from the sea.

The change in climate between the east and west sides of the Coast range is decidedly abrupt. The Pacific winds yield much of their moisture in ascending the western slopes of the mountains, while the air which flows on the eastern slopes or is drawn down to the lower levels is drier. Hence the interior plateaus between the Coast and Selkirk ranges possesses a relatively dry climate; the summers are warmer and the winters colder than on the lower mainland. The cold of winter, however, is seldom severe, while the hottest days of summer are rendered pleasant by the fact that the air is dry and the nights are cool.

In all the lower levels of British Columbia, March is distinctly a spring month. In the more southerly divisions the mean temperature of April corresponds very closely with the mean temperature of the same month in England, while the summer months may very well be compared with those of southern Ontario, except that the air is much drier and the rainfall scanty. This is a fine fruit-growing country, and orchards and vineyards, even in the higher reaches of the valleys, yield fine and large crops. In the more northerly districts of the province, the climate near the coast is distinctly wet but mild. Observations at Prince Rupert show an annual precipitation of 103 inches, an average January temperature of 32° Fahrenheit, and an average July temperature of 57°, which is not unlike the record of parts of Scotland. On the interior plateaus of the central and northern districts, very generally at an altitude exceeding 3,000 feet, the climate becomes more severe with increase of distance from the coast and with increase of latitude, but large areas are suitable for mixed farming and ranching.

Alberta.—It is doubtful whether any other territory on the surface of the globe has a climate as variable, in the winter, as that of this province. The normal winter is cold, and in some years extreme cold persists from November to March, but in other years the chinook wind dominates the winter, warm days with bright sunshine frequently occurring. As instances we may refer to November 1890, with a mean temperature at Calgary of 39°, November 1896, mean temperature 2°, and to January 1906, whose mean temperature was 6° below zero, while the mean of the January of the following year was 26° above zero.

An average daily maximum of 53° at Calgary, 53° at Edmonton, and 58° at Medicine Hat, indicates very clearly that April is truly a spring month, and confirms the statement that spring seeding is well under way, and in some years complete, in April. The upward trend of the temperature curve is rapid during the month and continues so during May and June. From the middle of May until the end of July occurs the heaviest rainfall of the year, a rainfall which is, on the average, nearly equal to that of Ontario or Quebec during the same period, but varies considerably from year to year.

Bright, hot days may be confidently expected during July and August, temperatures occasionally exceeding 90°, while in a few exceptional years 100° may be reached or exceeded in some southern districts. The average mean maxima, however, are 82° at Medicine Hat, 75° at Calgary, 74° at Edmonton, figures which indicate a not unpleasant warmth, while the corresponding minima show that the nights are pleasantly cool after the heat of the day. An important fact in connection