

The snowfall of Manitoba ranges from 50 to 55 inches in the eastern and southwestern districts, and from 40 to 45 inches in the central and northwestern districts. The ground is usually covered with snow from December to March, but it is seldom that the depth is very great. In most winters there are several northwest gales succeeding the passage of low pressure areas, and in these storms, accompanied by a blinding drift of dry snow whirled up off the ground, we have the well known "blizzard" of the prairies.

Ontario.—The province of Ontario is a vast territory, extending over 15 degrees of latitude, from a point as far south as Rome, Italy, to a point as far north as northern Denmark. Its breadth includes 20° of longitude, from near the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers westward to the boundary of Manitoba, but a narrow portion forming a sort of peninsula surrounded by lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, and Huron, is the most southerly region, the oldest in point of settlement, and the most populous. The north and east shores of all the Great Lakes except Michigan belong to Ontario, while to the north about half the west shore line of Hudson bay lies in this province. The climate of a great part of Ontario is tempered either by the Great Lakes or by the great inland sea. In the northwestern portions, however, the cold waves of winter, moving east from the prairies, suffer little moderation in intensity. Altitude also plays some part in climatic variations, the country rising away from the lake levels to heights which reach 1,800 feet just south of the Georgian bay, and to over 1,500 feet near the Ottawa river.

The climate of the peninsula of Ontario is much warmer than that of the northern districts. The first part of March is cold as a rule, but towards the end bright sunshiny days, the rapid disappearance of snow which now lies only in sheltered places, and the swelling buds, give omen of spring, which soon comes on apace. April is truly spring, for although light snowfalls occasionally occur, the mean temperature ranges from 40° to 45°, rainfall is generally 2 to 3 inches, and sunshine reaches a total of nearly 200 hours, with wild flowers in bloom, and trees leafing, before the close of the month. During May the high percentage of bright sunshine, with ample rain, stimulates growth to rapid progress. Frosts are quite infrequent, and by May 24 most of the trees are in whole leaf.

The summers, while warm, are not oppressively hot, the mean temperature of July at the more southern points not much exceeding 70°, while in June and August it is a little lower. Wholly overcast and rainy days are of rare occurrence, the rain generally falling in showers and thunderstorms of short duration; indeed, from the middle of June to the end of August we may expect no day without a few sunny hours.

The autumn sets in gradually, and while frosts may sometimes occur as early as Sept. 20, it is usually well on in October before there is anything severe, and towards the end of November before the mean daily temperature falls to the freezing point.

Northward and eastward from lake Ontario to the Ottawa valley the spring opens somewhat later than in the south, but from mid-April until the end of August the temperature and rainfall are much the same as in the southern parts of the Province, modified in certain districts by the effect of higher altitude, and in other districts by the effect of close proximity to the Great Lakes. In September, however, there is a more rapid downward trend of temperature in the north. Killing frosts occur at an earlier date, and the whole north country is usually covered with snow before the close of November, while all the southern counties are bare. In the North the mean temperature of the three winter months is fully 10 degrees lower than in the south, but during March and April the temperature curves of the two districts converge. The lowest temperature of which there is record at Ottawa