

along the lower reaches of the Peace river. Eastward the general elevation of 2,000 feet extends to eastern Saskatchewan, while in eastern Manitoba altitudes are generally less than 1,000 feet. Farther eastward the general slope is to sea-level, along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence river to the Atlantic ocean; while northward the land slopes slowly in the far West along the Mackenzie river to the Arctic ocean, and in the East much more quickly to the level of Hudson bay.

Between Hudson bay and the St. Lawrence the watersheds are divided by the Laurentian hills, whose general elevation is about 1,000 feet, although the highest elevations near the sea in the northeast reach 6,000 feet. On the Pacific side of the Dominion, the Andean chain with peaks ranging from 10,000 to 13,000 feet cuts off the British Columbian coast and the interior valleys from the great plains of the West already mentioned. These western prairie lands are far removed from the tempering influence of the ocean, while the great mountains of the west and the great inland lakes of the east play important roles in modifying climatic conditions.

**British Columbia.**—This province, spreading over eleven degrees of latitude, with an average width of 700 miles and some districts of great elevation, has, within its own limits, climates which differ greatly from one another. The littoral region is mild and humid, while the interior valleys and plateaus, on account of the distance from the coast and the higher altitude, have colder and drier winters.

Vancouver island occupies in the Pacific ocean somewhat the same position in regard to the American continent that Great Britain occupies in the Atlantic towards Europe, besides lying between nearly the same parallels of latitude. The climate, as in all other parts of British Columbia, varies much with the orographical features. The annual rainfall along the western coast of the island is very great, generally exceeding 100 inches, while on the southeastern tip it is scarcely more than a third of that. A comparatively dry period extends from May to September, while copious rains fall between September and March. The mean monthly and mean annual temperatures correspond very closely with those of England; the summers are quite as long and severe frosts scarcely ever occur.

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 possess 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