

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, when the 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 with the climatology of Alberta is that the isotherms in the summer months run nearly north and south, so that the mean summer temperature is almost as high in the more northerly regions as in the southern districts.

Thus Dunvegan in the Peace River country and Chipewyan on lake Athabasca have nearly the same summer temperature as Calgary and Edmonton; while it is said that with the longer period of sunlight, plant life in the north makes more rapid growth than in the south. The effect of latitude, however, begins to be evident towards the end of August in the more rapidly diminishing temperature at the northern stations. On the average the winter, December to March, has mean temperatures distributed from south to north as shown by these figures:—Calgary 18°, Edmonton 14°, Dunvegan 6°, Chipewyan 3° below zero.

The chinook wind, one of the characteristic features of the climate of Alberta, usually blows strongly from a southwest or west direction. Although of more frequent occurrence in the southern districts, it is by no means uncommon even in the Peace river country. Sometimes a change of wind from the northeast and north to the southwest will, in Alberta, cause a rise of temperature from perhaps 20° below zero to 40° above zero in a few hours. Largely to the effect of this wind is due the fact that the ground is usually bare of snow over large areas of the prairies of southern Alberta during the winter.