

**Saskatchewan.**—The southern half of this province is almost wholly prairie land, and it is only to the northward of the Saskatchewan river that any extensive forest areas are to be found. The climate is similar to that of Manitoba. It is like that of Alberta, however, in respect to the rather earlier commencement of spring in the southwestern portion as compared with a generally later opening in the north and east, while in midwinter the chinook extends sometimes into this province, occasionally as far east as Regina. Up to the end of April the temperature of southern Saskatchewan is somewhat higher than that of southern Manitoba, but from May onward through the summer it is a little lower and remains so until December. The mean daily range of temperature during the summer months is here, as in other prairie provinces, very large, amounting to 25° or even 30°. Occasionally during both early June and late August the temperature goes dangerously near the freezing point, and there are several instances on record where considerable damage was done to unripened crops by frost. The mean total annual precipitation is from 15 to 18 inches, of which nearly 60 p.c. falls during the growing season, from May to the end of August. Snowfall is from 30 to 35 inches (that is, from 3 to 3½ inches of water) in the western and southern districts, and from 40 to 50 inches in some of the northern and eastern districts.

**Manitoba.**—This province is almost in the centre of the continent about midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and also midway between the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic ocean. As it is many hundreds of miles distant from any high mountains, the topographical features are not pronounced. About two-thirds of the total area, including lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis, are at a level of less than 1,000 feet, while to the westward the levels increase gradually to about 1,600 feet, with a few districts a little higher. In view of its geographical situation and these topographical features, it is not surprising that the climate is typically continental in character, and that such differences as exist between districts are due chiefly to latitude and elevation. The very pronounced contrast between the continental and littoral type of climate is well illustrated by some comparisons between Manitoba and British Columbia. The mean range between the warmest and coldest months of the year is 70° at Winnipeg, while at Victoria, on the Pacific Coast, it is but 21°. The absolute recorded range of temperature at Winnipeg is 153°, and at Victoria 97°. A change of temperature of 40° in 24 hours is not exceptional in winter in Manitoba, while a change of 49° has occurred. The average daily change is from 20° to 25° in Winnipeg, while in Victoria it is from 5° to 8°. These instances of the continental type of climate are, of course, just as typical of Saskatchewan as of Manitoba.

Great variations in the character of a winter are possible in Manitoba as in the other prairie provinces. There is a January on record with a mean temperature 10° above normal, a February 25° above normal, and a February 13° below normal. Variations in the temperature of the summer months are much less pronounced; the mean temperature of the warmest July at Winnipeg was 70°, the coolest 61°.

The change from winter to spring is much more rapid than in Great Britain or western Europe; frequently April, wintry at the beginning, ends with conditions approaching those of midsummer. The average April is, however, not so warm in Manitoba as in England. The nights are cold, but on the other hand the day temperature rises quite high. The frost leaves the ground early and the farmer may commence sowing at a date very much earlier than the mean temperature would lead one to consider possible.