The mean temperature of May is as high as in the south of England, with the afternoon temperatures considerably higher; and while frosts occasionally occur they are seldom severe. Light snowfalls may in some years occur in this month, sometimes accompanied by high winds, but these storms are seldom injurious to agriculture. During June the temperature continues to increase with daily maxima on the average ranging between 70° and 75°, according to district. In July the daily maximum averages 75° to 80° in the southern districts. Mean temperatures are 65° and higher. Few summers go by without several spells of heat; during these, the temperature exceeds 90°. In August, 1886, 103° was recorded in Winnipeg, and 104° further west. In July, 1914 the high record from the south central district was 107°, and in August of the same year, 105°.

After the middle of August, the mean temperature exhibits a rather rapid fall on the average; and the last fortnight is a period of uneasiness to farmers, particularly in those years when seeding was later than usual in the spring, since it is known that light frosts occur in some years, with consequent damage to wheat not fully matured. Even if frosts do occur, summer is not yet over, for periods of exceptionally warm weather are not infrequent even in September. October is the true autumn month, when the normal temperature curve exhibits its most rapid decline, and before its close nightly frosts occur, while on some days the temperature may not rise above the freezing point.

The winter may be regarded as lasting for five months, from November to the end of March. It is not usually, however, until the last week in November that the temperature falls to zero for a few days. It is seldom that a temperature so low as zero is registered after March 25.

At Winnipeg the greatest annual precipitation on record was that of 29·24 inches in 1878, and the least, 14·38 inches in 1886. In this latter year only 4·23 inches fell during the period from May to August. Most of the summer rainfall occurs in thunderstorms, which at times are quite heavy, accompanied by violent squalls. Less frequently hail accompanies these storms. Very rarely do these storms attain something like the energy of the tornado, which is not uncommon on the great plains to the south. In general the precipitation of Manitoba is not subject to as much fluctuation from year to year as that of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and is besides, on the average, a little greater in amount.

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