

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 September 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 is minus 33°, at Toronto and London minus 26°. Yet at the southern stations such extremes are of very rare occurrence, while at northern stations they are not infrequently recorded.

That portion of the province north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, sometimes called New Ontario, lies between lakes Superior and Huron and Hudson bay, and includes the major portion of the province. This region was long only sparsely settled, with but few meteorological observations. In recent years the great increase in mining activity in the north, and the extension of agriculture into the "clay belt", have largely multiplied the population of this region, with consequent opportunity for extending the climatic data. There are, however, immense areas which are still seldom traversed. This region has very cold winters, especially that northwestern portion called the district of Patricia. In the more southerly parts of New Ontario the spring is well in evidence in April, and by the first of June trees are in leaf. Northward towards James bay the opening of spring is later, with a probability of frosts in June; but the summer is fairly warm near