

It seems, therefore, that the choice of land for agricultural settlement must be very carefully made to avoid disaster. In the section of the Laurentian Plateau Region which lies in the Province of Quebec, similar very large variations are found in the frost-free period according to locality. An eighteen year record at Doucet, along the Canadian National Railway, 356 miles northwest of Quebec city, showed an average of 28 frost-free days from July 3 to July 31. On the other hand, near large lake-surfaces or close to swiftly running streams there have been points of observation where the frost-free period has averaged 75 to 125 days.

In the central and western districts of this Climatic Region, January averages 5 to 10°F. below zero, while the warmest month of the year averages 57 to 65°F. Occasionally, really warm days may be expected in any year in June, July, and August when the temperature may exceed 85°F.: there have, moreover, been rare occasions during the period of record when a few points have recorded temperatures between 100 and 110°F.

**Precipitation.**—There is sufficient precipitation over the Laurentian Plateau; this averages 30 to 40 inches annually over the greater portion of the Quebec sections and 22 to 30 inches in the districts which lie in the Province of Ontario. Coincident with the boundary on the north of this Climatic Region, that is, the annual isotherm of 23°F., there is a sharp fall in the quantity of the annual precipitation. At or near this line, the annual amount falls below 16 inches. The peak of annual precipitation occurs in July, generally exceeding three inches but in some localities five inches. The increase in the rate of precipitation is noticeable in most years early in May, while the diminishing rate at the close of summer becomes quite noticeable in October. The exception is found along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence where there is another maximum of precipitation in the winter. This arises from the drift of saturated or near-saturated air across the Gulf of the St. Lawrence against the steep slopes of the north shore. A somewhat similar peculiarity is limited to the steep slopes leading down to Lake Superior north of Sault Ste. Marie. Here there is heavy snowfall in the winter months. This is indicated by an annual total snowfall at Steep Hill Falls of 174 inches. In general, over the whole Region the annual snowfall contributes 5 to 10 inches of water towards the total annual precipitation.

While this Climatic Region is not eminently suitable for agriculture, it is valuable because of mineral and forest wealth and its potential and developed water power. The resulting industries have created populous towns and villages and the climate is not regarded as unduly severe by the inhabitants.

The following statement gives typical temperatures and precipitation of this Region:—

Station	TEMPERATURES (Fahrenheit)				TOTAL PRECIPITATION				
	Mean		Highest	Lowest	Average in Inches			Average Number Days	
	Jan.	July	on Record		Jan.	July	Annual	Rain	Snow
Mistassini Post, Que. ....	−3.2	62.2	95	−56	2.01	4.05	33.22	92	57
Haileybury, Ont. ....	6.6	66.3	102	−48	2.01	3.79	31.58	102	78
Kapuskasing, Ont. ....	−1.7	62.4	101	−53	2.00	3.43	27.59	95	93