

Newfoundland coasts and offshore waters are foggy although no more so than the southern coast of Nova Scotia. These fogs result from the flow of warm, humid air over the cold waters of the Labrador Current and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Unfortunately fogs are at their worst early in the navigation seasons when icebergs are most plentiful off the eastern coast. There is a marked decrease in the number of foggy days in the late summer. The frequency of strong winds and gales increases as autumn progresses. The Strait of Belle Isle has a reputation for cloudiness, and gales are not uncommon in this area even in mid-summer.

Winter temperatures in Newfoundland are noteworthy for the coldness of the interior, the mildness of the coasts, and the variability of the day-to-day temperatures. January mean temperatures vary between 15° and 20°F. in the interior and increase to 25°F. on the southeastern coasts. Following a late spring, summer is usually brief but pleasant. July mean temperatures are above 60°F. in the interior but the cool Labrador Current holds the mean temperature to slightly in excess of 55°F. along the southern and eastern coasts. Hot spells occur occasionally during the summer and maxima of 85°F. are not unusual along the railway belt across the interior. Temperatures decline rapidly in autumn, falling more quickly in the north than the south, thus ending the anomalous flat distribution of temperature across the Island typical of summer. The Long Peninsula presents a remarkable gradation in climate. At the southern end temperatures are representative of the central interior but at Belle Isle the mean July temperature is only 49°F. as a result of the cold Labrador Current which is often ice-laden even in mid-summer.

As elsewhere in Canada the mean duration of the frost-free period varies widely in Newfoundland. Along the south coast the frost-free season ranges from 140 to 150 days, with the Burin Peninsula the most favoured area. On the Avalon Peninsula the frost-free interval ranges from 110 to 140 days. In the interior of the Island the growing season averages 100 days or less, being shorter in areas where topography favours local drainage of cold air.

The whole Island has abundant precipitation and although well distributed throughout the year, autumn is a season of relatively heavy precipitation with November the wettest month in most localities. This is followed by a decline which reaches a relative minimum in April to rise again during the summer toward the autumn maximum. The south coast and southwestern sections of the Island have the greatest annual precipitation amounting to 50 to 60 inches. The northeastern section is drier, receiving 35 to 45 inches and scanty data indicate 30 to 35 inches at the northern end of the Long Peninsula.

Winter snowfall is heavy in most districts with more than 100 inches indicated everywhere except along the southern coastal area. Increasing distance from the coast and higher elevations combine to give the heaviest snowfall in the interior and western part of the Island. At Corner Brook winter snowfall averages 164 inches. Fragmentary data indicate that the normal depth of snow on the ground in the Avalon Peninsula does not exceed one foot but increases to two and one-half or three feet in the northwestern section of the Island.

Although glaze or ice storms are not uncommon in other parts of Canada, such storms reach their maximum intensity in Newfoundland where they are referred to locally as "silver thaw". These storms usually occur with a south wind when the ground and air near it are still below freezing, so that the rain resulting from the warm moist air over-riding the surface layer freezes as soon as it comes in contact with the ground or objects below freezing. If these storms continue for any length of time the ice accumulation builds up to a thickness sufficient to break down transmission wires, trees, and other objects. Such a devastating glaze storm struck the St. John's area over the first of March 1958 causing widespread damage.

Labrador.—Labrador extends over 9° of latitude, a distance of 600 miles. Physically it is the Atlantic slope of the Labrador-Ungava peninsula and the landform is a rough tilted plateau, highest in the north where the Torngat Mountains have peaks rising to over