

that the land is one of perpetual winter and usually covered with snow. In reality the climate of Canada is dry, healthy and invigorating, and owing to the great area of the country, extending over 20 degrees of latitude, or from the latitude of Constantinople to the North Pole, has a wide range of temperature. The extreme dryness of the atmosphere, however, makes both cold and heat less acutely felt than the readings of the thermometer would lead people to expect. In the Maritime Provinces the climate somewhat resembles that of the British Isles; in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba the summers are warm and the winters cold, but the cold is pleasant and bracing, and the snow that generally covers the ground during the winter is of the greatest benefit alike to the farmer, the lumberman and the merchant. In the North-West Territories cattle graze at large all through the winter months; and on the Pacific slope, west of the Rocky Mountains, the climate is milder than in any other part of the Dominion, and is considered by the inhabitants as unsurpassed in the world.

Average
seasons.

16. Instead of the perpetual winter so much talked about, the facts are, that the average winter is about four and a-half months, and though the spring may begin two or three weeks later than in England, the conditions for rapid growth—warm sunshine and rain—are so favourable that the crops of the two countries are about equally advanced by the middle of July; and as during the last few years the country has become better known, it is beginning to be understood that, though the winters are at times severe, they are healthy and enjoyable, while the summer weather is not surpassed in the most favoured parts of Europe. That the climate is superior to that of England is admitted by all who have experienced both; and it is a well recognized fact that a sharp, cold winter, with plenty of snow, is by far the healthiest as well as the most advantageous to business of every kind, while a mild winter is equally unhealthy and detrimental. The marine currents are singularly favourable to Canada; along the Atlantic coast the Gulf stream exerts a beneficial influence to such an extent that, on Sable Island, there are troops of wild ponies, the progenitors of which, two centuries ago, were shipwrecked and cast upon the island, and there, successive generations, without shelter of any kind, have lived and multiplied. Along the Canadian shores of the Pacific Ocean, the Japanese current produces the same effect on the climate as the Gulf stream does in England. Vancouver Island is like the south of England, except that it has a greater summer heat with less humidity. In the vicinity of Victoria the highest temperature in the shade in July and August ranges from 80 to 90 Fahr., while in winter there are rarely more than 10 degrees of frost.

The following table, giving the dates of opening and closing of navigation at Montreal and Toronto during the last twenty-one years, will afford the best evidence of the actual length of the winter.