

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE CLIMATE OF CANADA.

The summers, while warm, are not oppressively so, the mean temperature of July, at the more southern stations, being but a shade above 70 degrees, and a few degrees lower in June and August. Wholly overcast and rainy days are of rare occurrence, the rain falling in showers and thunderstorms of short duration; indeed, from the middle of June until the end of August we may expect no day without a few sunny hours. The autumn sets in very gradually, and while frost 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 on 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 others by lying to the eastward of and in close proximity to the Great Lakes. September, however, shows a more rapid downward trend of the temperature curve. Killing frosts occur at an earlier date, and the whole northern country is usually snow covered before the close of November, while in all southern counties it is still bare. The snow covering is a most important factor in the industrial life of the more sparsely settled portions of the country where lumbering is carried on, since without snow the work is at a standstill during the cold weather, and the water courses are not sufficiently in flood during the spring months to float logs to the large water courses.

The mean temperature of the three winter months is fully ten degrees lower than in the south, but during March and April the temperature curves rapidly converge. The lowest temperature of which there is record at Ottawa is -33° , and at Toronto the lowest was -26° , and at London -25° ; yet at the southern stations such extremes are very rare, while at northern stations they are of not infrequent occurrence.

Quebec.—The province of Quebec, like Ontario, covers an immense area, being included between 22 degrees of longitude and extending from latitude 45° to the barren lands on the shores of Hudson strait. The southwestern districts of the province, which are the warmest, are not, as in the Ontario peninsula, protected by the Great Lakes, and hence the winters are considerably colder, and the autumnal frosts occur a little earlier. The Montreal summary shows very well the general characteristics of this warmest part of the province, and the Quebec and Father Point summaries show the chief features of the middle and lower portions of the St. Lawrence valley.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Montreal climate is the rapidity of the advance of spring. March is essentially a winter month, but April and May are as warm as Toronto, and the mid-summer is slightly warmer than in Toronto. The September and October normals are both quite similar to the corresponding figures for southwestern Ontario, but in November the thermometer shows a more rapid downward trend, and then follows a winter with a normal temperature 10