

CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY.

one degree to seven degrees below. Positive departures of three degrees to four degrees were recorded in southern Alberta, and of two degrees to five degrees from Lake Superior eastward.

Precipitation.—The precipitation was below the normal over the larger portion of the Dominion. On the coast of British Columbia, however, the total fall ranged from 4.5 inches at Victoria to nearly 12 inches at Prince Rupert, and over the greater part of Nova Scotia it was also quite heavy, amounting to 6.6 inches at Halifax, and 8.4 inches at Sydney, which is considerably more than the normal for that district. In the Prairie provinces the comparatively light fall was mostly in the form of snow, but from the Great Lakes eastward, while rain constituted the greater portion of the precipitation, snow in varying quantities was recorded in nearly all sections. In southern British Columbia and along the coast there was little or no snow on the ground at the close of the month, but in some interior districts in the northern portion of the province there was a depth of 10 inches. In southern Alberta the ground was bare, while over Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the depth varied between one and eight inches. In the northern districts of Ontario and Quebec there was a depth of one to six inches, and in the counties contiguous to lake Huron there was also a thin covering. Over the greater portion of southern and eastern Ontario, and southern Quebec, however, the ground was bare. In New Brunswick the snow that had fallen had disappeared before the 30th, while in Nova Scotia little or none fell during the month.

DECEMBER.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of December was above average in all parts of the Dominion, excepting southwestern Ontario, and the larger part of British Columbia. The widest positive departures occurred in Quebec and New Brunswick, in many parts of which provinces the excess was between six degrees and nine degrees, while in Alberta and western Saskatchewan the excess was from four degrees to six degrees. The negative departures ranged between one and three degrees in the peninsula of Ontario, and were about the same in northern British Columbia.

Precipitation.—At the close of the month the ground was covered with snow in nearly all parts of the Dominion. In British Columbia, on the mainland, the depth ranged from one inch in the vicinity of Vancouver to two feet in the northern interior districts. There was little or no snow in some southern sections of Alberta, and throughout that province the covering was quite light, but farther eastward the depth increased to 10 or 14 inches in southeastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Ontario there was a depth of nearly two feet in some districts in the northern part of the province, but farther southward this gradually diminished to a few inches near Lakes Erie and Ontario. The province of Quebec had a covering of from seven to twenty inches, while in the Maritime provinces there was a depth of only one to five inches. There were no pronounced differences from the normal precipitation in any of the provinces.

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION.

TEMPERATURE.—At the Stations of the Dominion Meteorological Service the highest and lowest temperature in each 24 hours, termed respectively the maximum and the minimum, are recorded by self-registering thermometers. For any month the sum of the daily maxima, divided by the number of days of the month, is the mean maximum temperature of that month. The mean minimum temperature is obtained in a similar manner. The half-sum of the mean maximum and the mean minimum is called the mean temperature. The averages of these results for any particular month over a period of years are the average means for that period and are used as normal means or temperatures of reference. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded during the whole period of years are termed the extreme maximum and extreme minimum respectively. These latter figures are of course to be regarded as extraordinary, the more unlikely to recur the longer the period from which they have been derived. Temperatures below zero have the minus sign (—) prefixed.

PRECIPITATION.—Under the collective term "precipitation" is included all moisture which has been precipitated from the atmosphere upon the earth: rain,