

that brings with it a milder climate to Britain, carries with it one very important element of discomfort—viz., moisture. The Manitoba winter is exceedingly dry, and, in consequence, there is no impression made on the body by low states of temperature, which in a moist climate would be unbearable. The absence of moisture also preserves a steady continuance of one kind of weather, very much for our comfort. It is well known that it is the rapid change—one day bright, the next wet, one day frosty, the next muggy—that is so trying to the body. . . .

The dryness of the climate and the clear air are taken advantage of frequently by consumptives, who come from other parts of America and are cured. I can name several persons of my acquaintance who, on coming to the country, were said to be far advanced in consumption, and who have now recovered. The dry, clear air gives an elasticity to the frame, noticed by all who visit the North-West. As to the sensation of cold, I have stood outside with hands and face uncovered, and throat bare, looking at the thermometer registering ten degrees below zero, and have had no feeling of discomfort whatever. It is in my recollection of having driven my sleigh to a country parish about fifteen miles from Winnipeg on a Christmas day, and of having been engaged in visiting from house to house all the day with the thermometer standing at 40 deg. below zero. The horse was left outside in most cases, simply having the buffalo robe thrown over him, and suffered nothing; while myself and driver, though going in and out from cold to hot and hot to cold, felt no inconvenience.

Herds of horses were formerly kept by the old settlers, which lived out the winter through. I have seen horses which had been born on the prairie, and had reached six or seven years of age without ever being under a roof. Cattle, so far as the cold is concerned, can live outside during the whole winter; but they must have the company of horses, which can break the snow-crust for them, to allow the dry grass beneath to be obtained. It is not, of course, to be inferred from this that farmers now allow their horses and cattle to go unhoused for the winter. What can be done, and what it is best to do, are different things. The winter sets in about the middle of November; until early in January the weather is often dark and stormy, and in December the coldest weather generally comes. In January, as the common expression goes, "the back of the winter is broken," and there is for two or three months after that a most brilliant unclouded sky almost continuously. So strong is the sun in its reflection from the snow, that farmers and those much out in the open air protect their eyes with green gauze, close spectacles, and the like. In March, or early in April, the snow passes away, and spring is at once present—if, indeed, there be a spring at all, so soon does summer follow in its wake. It has been my experience to see the country with the snow gone and most balmy weather on 31st March in several different years, and on two years of the last ten in the middle of March. The snowfall of the North-West is comparatively light. One and a half or two feet may be taken as the average depth over the ten years just past. Some persons met on this side of the Atlantic seem to regard four and a half or five months of winter as very long. The cessation of all work in the fields seems to make British agriculturists think with such a season farming can scarcely be carried on. On the other hand, the North-West winter is found quite short enough for all the work