

was taken. The conclusion arrived at was that 300,000 square miles of this district were suitable for the cultivation of wheat, 400,000 square miles for the cultivation of barley, 650,000 square miles for the cultivation of potatoes, and that the pastoral area would cover 860,000 square miles. Outside of this region drained by the great river of the North, and to the south of it, are the territories of Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, Alberta, and the province of Manitoba, with a total area of 370,000 square miles. The area of the maritime provinces—Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia—is 700,000 square miles.

The total arable area of the Dominion is probably 1,475,000 square miles, less mountains and water. The actual arable area fit for cultivation and capable of producing crops of wheat and other cereals is in excess of 1,000,000 square miles; and the country is capable of sustaining, from the productions of its own soil, a population of from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000. The climatic conditions are not governed by lines of latitude. The Japan current, on the Pacific coast, and the Chinook winds, sweeping down the great continental incline from the highlands of New Mexico and the region east of the Rocky Mountains toward the Arctic Ocean, unimpeded by mountain ranges, have a remarkable influence upon the climate of the Canadian Northwest. The isothermal line, marking the mean temperature of St. Paul and Winnipeg, extends in a northwesterly direction from St. Paul to the northern margin of Peace River Valley and the south shore of the Great Slave Lake, in latitude 60°. Embraced within this immense region, of which this line is the easterly and the Rocky Mountains the westerly boundary, is one of the most extensive and fertile wheat-growing regions in the world, mostly in a state of nature at the present time.

The Dominion possesses great mineral wealth. An auriferous region extends from the American boundary line west of the Rocky Mountains northerly for 1,400 miles, with an average width of nearly 300 miles, having the rich mining region of the Klondike within its northern limits. Forests of great commercial value cover a large portion of the territory of the Dominion; and its fisheries, both sea and inland, are of enormous value. Hudson's Bay, 1,000 miles in length, 600 miles wide, and covering 500,000 square miles, is a *mare clausum* within Canadian boundaries. This great expanse of water is three times the size of the North Sea. It has cod banks; salmon rivers, as yet untouched, enter from the Labrador side; and there are valu-