

ON CLIMATES.

The true index to a climate is the flora in its Botanic gardens; faulty only from the fact that these gardens are usually situated under the sheltering influence of some large town, and therefore, not a true record of what might be grown in bleak exposures in the same latitude.

The same is true of the meteorological stations. They, too often, like our McGill College Observatory, record the temperature and winds of a sheltered city rather than that of the open country.

We frequently heard of very low temperatures in Russia, which do not seem verified by the Government records. Thermometers often differ at very low temperatures, especially when below-forty. Yet the statements I quote in my report were made by careful observers, usually men on the Forestry Staff, and I therefore, with this caution, state the temperatures as given to me.

In this part of Canada we suffer from drought but not from diminished rain-fall. I must explain this apparent contradiction. England is a land of verdure, the lawns are like velvet, the trees and thatched roofs covered with moss. What a contrast to our dry climate, and yet the annual rain-fall of London is nearly thirteen inches less than that of Montreal. It is from aridity of air, and consequent rapid evaporation that we suffer.

In Russia we find fruit cultivated largely in climates where the conditions of extreme cold, dryness of air, and scanty rain-fall are greatly intensified.

In the Government of Kasan, above latitude 55 where the winter temperature is five degrees lower than in the city of Quebec, the rain-fall a good deal less than one-half, the evaporation as great, we find apple growing a great commercial industry, the industry, in fact, in twelve peasant villages. This is the coldest