

day. During the months of May, June, and July, there is almost continuous daylight, and throughout the corresponding winter months, the sun is very little seen. During the intervening seasons, consequently, the length of the day varies rapidly. For four months of each year, warm, summer weather is generally experienced, and this season is particularly delightful owing to the extreme length of the days. The winters, however, as is to be expected, are rather severe.

The rivers and creeks in the different portions of this belt generally open between the 1st and 20th of May, but on some of the lakes, the ice remains until the first or second week in June. Slack water stretches freeze over any time after October 1, but occasionally the rivers remain open until the end of November.

Any description of the climate of this district, however, seems incomplete without some mention of the mosquitoes and black flies, although these insects are not properly a climatic condition, and should strictly speaking be discussed in the section dealing with "fauna." However, the average traveller to this district during the summer months invariably associates these insects with the climate, the two being seemingly so intimately related. The mosquitoes are the real summer pest of the region. For from two to three months they are exceedingly abundant, the air being seemingly dense with them, and throughout this time they are night and day most active and aggressive. During the latter part of the summer small black flies are often also very troublesome and their bite appears to be much more poisonous than that of the mosquitoes.

FLORA.

Proceeding northward from Yukon river, along the Alaska-Yukon Boundary, the forest growth becomes gradually more sparse, and by the time Porcupine river is reached, timber is much less plentiful, and the average individual forest members are noticeably smaller in size than corresponding specimens in the southern portion of the district. The valley bottoms are in most places fairly well timbered, but nowhere can the forest growth be considered dense in the sense in which it is in British