

On the whole, the climate of this vast region is extremely healthy and well adapted to the growth of food. In the maritime provinces the fall of snow is very heavy at times, especially in the interior, but as a rule the cold of winter and the heat of summer are considerably modified by the influences of the ocean. The seasons resemble in some respects those of Scotland, the advantage being in summer on the side of the maritime provinces. In Quebec the winters are long and the cold and the heat intense at times in their respective seasons, but the climate after all is about the same as that of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, the home of the bone and sinew of New England. Ontario possesses the mildest winters of the older section of the Dominion, and the hottest summers, which enable the peach and grape to ripen as in the most favoured localities of the Northern States. The North West has a climate more rigorous than that of the eastern provinces, but all those who have lived any time in the country concur in saying that the air is more bracing and invigorating than in any other part of Canada. In British Columbia there are none of the extremes of heat and cold, peculiar to the country east of the Rocky Mountains, but the climate is as balmy and equable for the greater part of the year as in that much favoured state of the American Union, golden California. In short all the climatic conditions of the Dominion are calculated to develop the energy and endeavour of men.

At present the population of Canada may be estimated at five million souls. The history of the French Canadian province is contemporaneous with that of the New England States. The colonies of Plymouth and of Massachusetts Bay were established during the first years of the seventeenth century when Champlain and his compatriots were laying the foundations of a New France on the banks of the St. Lawrence. For a century and a half French Canada struggled under an illiberal system of government which centralized all authority in the King and his representatives, and never permitted the establishment of local self government as it existed in New England. The energies of the people were wasted in the wars between England and France for the supremacy on the continent of America, and by the time the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763 there were not more than sixty or seventy thousand people in all French Canada. Some forty thousand intelligent, industrious people, known as United Empire Loyalists came into the country rather than remain in the United States when they became independent of Great Britain, and first settled the provinces of New