

Brifing Manitoba 2001
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Government of Manitoba says in its last annual report:—"On account of the bracing, dry atmosphere, the fluctuations of temperature are not inconveniently felt, as is the case where the atmosphere is more humid. The warm days in summer are generally followed by cool evenings, and such a thing as very sultry and oppressive heat is scarcely known. The warm days, followed by cool nights and copious dews, facilitate the growth of cereals in a wonderful degree. The winters here are also very bracing, proceeding from the same cause, namely, the dryness of our atmosphere. Instead of a Manitoba winter being the dismal hibernating period that its enemies would have it believed, it is a period of rest for nature and of jollity for the people—it is intensely enjoyable rather than tiresome and dreary. In no less favoured clime can be seen such winter skies, such brilliant moonlight. Nowhere else can the same bracing, invigorating atmosphere be breathed. Instead of winter causing a suspension of work here, as is popularly supposed in the east, building operations are carried on all the winter; pile-driving is kept up without intermission. South of the 49th parallel, in the United States, blizzards and other winter storms are more frequent and severe, snow-blockades are more common, and stock perish in large numbers, while here they thrive through the winter." The spring commences early in April, and ploughing is then begun. Winter sets in about the middle of November, so that the farmer has about seven months and a half for farming operations. This time is divided as follows: April and May are devoted to ploughing and seeding; hay time is in June and July, while the crops are ripening; and harvesting takes place in August and September, while in October the pulling of the root crops is proceeded with. Thus the time of the farmer during the warmer months of the year is fully occupied. In winter he takes care of his stock and does other work preparatory for the spring, and hauls his produce to the markets, the roads over the snow being excellent for drawing large loads. Speaking on this much-vexed question reminds me of recent meteorological observations in Manitoba, which furnish some interesting facts regarding the sunshine of the province and its influence upon the climate both in winter and summer. These observations show that in Winnipeg and other places of Manitoba, there are in the year comparatively few days that are completely clouded, and that the proportion of sunshine registered at Winnipeg in 1883 was largely in excess of that registered in most of the other towns in the Dominion. While the number of cloudy days in Winnipeg is 53, in Toronto it is 70, in Montreal 72, and in other towns in Eastern Canada even still more. This fact will account to a great extent for the rapid growth of plants in Manitoba during the long days of sunshine which are experienced there at certain periods of the year.

Elevators and storehouses for the reception of grain are being rapidly erected along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, so that the farmer may have a ready and near market for his produce.