

During May, June and July rain, generally in the form of thunder-showers, is of almost daily occurrence; so that there is no lack of moisture for the sustenance of the growing crops, just when they need it most. This diminishes toward the west, however, and when the plateau beyond the *Coteau de Missouri*, with an elevation of 3,000, is reached, summer showers are less frequent and certain. Even here, however, it is quite sufficient, as experience shows, until the very foot-hills of the Rockies are approached, when irrigation becomes necessary to success in farming. Over the great mass of the tillable prairies, however, drought causes no apprehension; and there is a belief abroad that as wire fences, railway lines, buildings and other lightning conductors spread over the plains, a greater electric equilibrium will be maintained, and rain will tend to fall more frequently and equably than heretofore.

After the middle of July rains are few, and during harvest cease altogether. This is another marked advantage over our eastern provinces, where farmers have to contend with wet harvest-weather nearly every year.

Harvest begins by the first of August, and is uninterrupted. Hay has been stacked in the open air quite unprotected, for the farmer is sure that no deluging rains will fall upon, nor melting snows sink into it, to wash out its juices or mildew it underneath. The grain is stacked uncovered in the fields and threshed in the open air without fear of harm through dampness. You will see everywhere small stables for stock, some small granaries, and cellars for keeping vegetables; but hardly ever a barn for storing hay, straw or grain. The climate renders it unnecessary.

Over the whole of Canada's great west the climate is equally favorable for live-stock. As is usual in northerly regions, the grasses are of the best, and by reason of the absence of fall rains and wet winter snows, they dry up on the stalk—are cured into real hay as they stand, instead of rotting; and their nutritious juices are never washed out of them. Horses, cattle and sheep fatten on this prairie grass as well as upon the richest meadows of Ontario, and cows