

two thirds of the whole yearly amount of rain to the season of vegetable growth, and leaving but the small fraction to the remaining seven months in the year.

Judging from the climate of New England where the air is loaded with vapor from the ocean and the ground is for months covered with deep snow, judging from the more southern of the western states where rain and sleet are followed by severe cold, it has been concluded that winter in Minnesota is a season of terrible storm deep snow and severe cold. The average fall of snow is about six inches per month. The snow falls in small quantities at different times and is rarely blown into drifts so as to impede hunting. The first snow fall of December usually lays on the ground till March affording protection to the winter grain although there is frequently too little for such purpose as at midday a slight thaw occurs in places with a southern declivity. Two or three times in the course of eight winters the ground has been uncovered for a few days.

Long driving snow storms are almost unknown, and rain seldom falls during the winter months.

It is well known that it is the dampness in the element whence comes the greatest suffering whether of cold or warm weather. With an average temperature of  $16^{\circ}$  the dry atmosphere of winter in Minnesota is less cold to the sense than the warmer yet damper climates of states several degrees further south. With the new year commences the extreme cold of our Minnesota winter, when for a few days, the mercury surges from ten to thirty degrees below zero, falling sometimes even below that.

Yet the severity of these days is much softened by the brilliancy of the sun, and the stillness of the air. Thus while other states in lower latitudes are being drenched by the cold rain storms or buried beneath huge drifts of wintry snow, Minnesota enjoys a dry atmosphere, and with almost unbroken succession of bright cloudless days, and serene star lit nights; and when the moon turns her full orb'd face towards the earth the night scene of Minnesota is one of peerless grandeur.

The farmer improves the winter season by preparing fencing and fuel, and drawing to market the surplus products of his last years' toil. Lumbermen are busy in the forest getting ready logs to be borne on the swollen