

EN. 2609

T58

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, DOMINION OF CANADA.

Monthly Weather Review.

DECEMBER, 1897.

INTRODUCTION.

In compiling the present Review the principal data made use of are the telegraph reports of observations received at this office for the purpose of weather forecasts, and reports by mail from voluntary observers and storm signal agents. For the material used in tracing the paths of areas of high and low pressure in the United States, we are indebted to the Chief of the Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C.

REMARKS ON THE WEATHER.

In the greater part of British Columbia the weather was very boisterous and there were some heavy gales along the coast; otherwise it was about normal in most districts the temperature being only slightly below in some places and the precipitation varying from the mean but little. There was plenty of snow early in the month upon high lands between Nanaimo and Alberni but little or none on the low lands of Vancouver Island. On the Lower Mainland there were only some light falls of snow which soon melted and on the Upper Mainland there was only enough for sleighing for a short time. In the eastern part of the latter district the temperature fell well below zero upon several occasions and -32° was recorded at Donald on the 15th. Chinook winds occurred several times during the month and the snow on the ground was quickly melted.

During the first few days of the month the weather in the North-west Territories was decidedly cold the temperature falling to -30° in Western Assiniboia and -37° in Alberta, whilst in other districts it was also very low. Another cold period occurred about the 14th, when equally low temperatures were recorded, and it was not until the 20th that this severe weather moderated. The Chinook effect was very marked on the 3rd when the temperature rose very rapidly and from this onward to about the 14th it remained comparatively high and there were also some high winds. The precipitation which was generally above the average was mostly in the form of snow and the amount of cloud was also above the average in most districts.

The cold periods in the Territories were only slightly extended in Manitoba, the first continuing to the 3rd day and the second from the 15th to and including the 23rd, -31° being recorded at Russell and -28° at Winnipeg on the 18th. Altogether the weather was unusually fine and enjoyable, there being plenty of bright sunshine and few high winds. Sleighing was poor in most districts but in the vicinity of Brandon it was fair.

In the greater portion of the Province of Ontario the weather though comparatively mild was unpleasantly dull and gloomy the amount of cloud being considerably above the average and the precipitation also somewhat in excess. These conditions were, however, in part reversed in the country lying to the north of Lake Superior where the precipitation was very light and the temperature about 2° below average mean. On or about the 15th the weather took a decided wintry appearance and the precipitation after that date was generally in the form of snow. The storms of the month were of comparatively little importance and very little damage to property was caused thereby.

Up to the 8th the weather in Quebec was comparatively cold the temperature falling to as low as 6° in some districts. At about this date, however, it became milder, the temperature rising above 32° each day up to the 18th excepting on one day, namely, the 13th. On the 18th the weather turned much colder and temperatures below zero were recorded upon several occasions up to the 31st. Throughout the month the sky was frequently clouded and the precipitation, though above average in eastern districts was below elsewhere. Light falls of snow were frequent during the first and last two weeks of the month and heavy rain was fairly general between the 14th and 16th.

1897