

leaf on the 1st of June, even before that date in some localities, where the climate is milder. In the Southern and South-Western region of James Bay the first snow generally falls at the end of October or beginning of November; the greatest quantity comes with December which is also the coldest month, as a rule. During January and February the weather is healthy, clear and fine.

Generally speaking, the climate of James Bay is at least as warm, and it is less damp, and less foggy than that of the district of Quebec, a fact which has been established by the meteorological observations so far made.

The proof that the climate of this vast territory is well adapted to farming operations is to be found in the cultivation, which has been carried on for over a century in many places. With the exception of wheat, cereals are grown everywhere, as well as the common vegetables, with the greatest ease. The farms of the Hudson's Bay Company on Rupert River, at Moose Factory, Brunswick House, at Osanaburg, the farming done by private individuals at Oxford, Norway House, in the valley of the Beaver River, on the shores of Lake Ile à la Crosse, afford abundant evidence of the fact. Upon several of these farms, even on that of Rupert River, the Hudson's Bay Company keeps constantly herds containing as many as eighty head of cattle, to say nothing of sheep, swine and even horses in one or two localities. Unless they are made differently from ours, these animals must be fed with hay and grain, and as none is imported, we must conclude that this hay and grain is harvested on the spot, and this establishes beyond a doubt that cereals can be successfully grown everywhere, and that the climate offers no obstacle to their cultivation.

At Moose Factory they even grow the tomato, a very sensitive plant, without bestowing upon it any more care than in any part of Canada. But little attention has been hitherto paid to the cultivation of wheat, which is not of much use owing to the smallness of the population, and also chiefly because there are no mills to grind it properly; but the experiment made in cultivating it in the region of the Moose and Albany Rivers, about fifty miles from the sea, proves that it succeeds perfectly. Even at Moose Factory the fall wheat stood the winter frosts and ripened well in the month of August following, although this place in spring is surrounded by a damp, cold soil, is exposed to the cold sea winds and is subject to certain unfavorable climatic influences, which are not felt at a slight distance further inland. The successful cultivation of wheat in the Western Region, that is in the valley of the Beaver River and upon the shores of Lake Ile à la Crosse, is attested by Bishop Taché and Professor Macoun, who saw with their own eyes what they relate.

Finally it is established that the climate of this vast territory with the exception of a few local and accidental variations is as fine, as warm, as favorable for agriculture as the climate of the greater portion of the province of Quebec, and as that of the Muskoka district and the Northern part of the province of Ontario.

8. The finest part of the country is the Southern or James Bay Region which contains at least 108,800,000 acres of very good arable land, forests more extensive and almost as rich as those of the province of Quebec, valuable mines of lignite, gypsum and iron which can maintain and support with ease a population of at least ten millions of inhabitants, when it is placed in communication with the large commercial centres, by means of a railway.

The Eastern section is valuable chiefly as a mining region. It is there that we find the mines of spathic iron and galena of which we have spoken.

The Eastern section, especially the upper valley of the Nelson River contains about forty million acres of good land and forests of timber suitable for domestic use and for exportation. This region occupies an excellent commercial position.

It is there that all the produce of the Western prairies will be brought, if the Nelson River railway is built and regular ocean navigation established between York Factory and Liverpool, shortening by several hundred miles the distance between the fertile plains of the North-West and the ports of Great Britain.

Therefore in that great country which we designate under the name of the *Southern Water Shed of Hudson's Bay* there is sufficient land fit for cultivation, both as to mildness of climate and good quality of the soil, to support a population of thirty millions of inhabi-