

height, come the warm Pacific winds which make the climate of Edmonton actually milder than that of Winnipeg.

"It is not meant by this mention of the Pacific winds to convey the idea that the region about Edmonton is subject to severe winds, for the absence of wind is one of the most remarkable features of this surprising climate. Only once in the year 1893 did the velocity of the wind at Edmonton exceed 12 miles per hour, and then it was only 21. . . . Yet it is this constant wind which makes this region possible for ranching, for it sweeps the ranges clear of snow so the herds can feed and fatten on the grass, self-cured upon the stalk.

"Another factor in the climate, and one which gives an explanation of the extraordinary rapid growth of vegetation in far northern lands, is the increased length of the summer days in high latitudes. In Central Ohio the longest day is 15 hours; but Edmonton has over two hours and Fort Simpson four hours more sunshine than this. Under the influence of this long-continued sunshine, vegetation is urged forward at a rate unknown in lower latitudes. Archbishop Clut states that the trees about Fort Simpson pass in a single week from bud to perfect leaf; and I have seen soft-maple trees at Moosejaw which have made a growth of more than five feet in a season.

"A word must be said about the winters, concerning which there is so much misapprehension. No true conception of the comfort or discomfort of any given climate can be obtained from a record of temperature alone. Humidity is of as much, if not more, importance; and the velocity of the wind must not be left out of the account. In the crisp, dry atmosphere of the North-West the writer has experienced temperatures of 40 degs. below zero without discomfort, and, while wearing exactly the same clothing as in the other case, has been chilled to the marrow in the moisture-laden air of the Atlantic coast when the thermometer registered 10 degs. above. The winters are no longer in the valley of the North Saskatchewan than in Iowa, and, if anything, are more enjoyable, because there is so much less wind. In that respect Manitoba is more like the Dakotas; but around Edmonton the blizzard is unknown.

"The question of a market is one of great importance. Edmonton is a thousand miles from Winnipeg by rail, and it is obvious that the farmer about Edmonton cannot raise wheat in competition with the Manitoba grain-grower who is so much nearer to Liverpool; but I firmly believe that this will ultimately prove to be an advantage rather than a drawback. If we take up our compasses again, we shall see that when Churchhill Harbour, on Hudson Bay, has been developed into a great seaport, with lines of railway radiating south and west, Edmonton will be more nearly on an equality with Winnipeg. This Hudson Bay outlet is the dream of the whole Canadian North-West, for Churchhill Harbour is nearer to Liverpool than New York is, and work is now in progress on a railroad from Winnipeg to this point. Edmonton will some day be a station on a line which will reach the Pacific through the lowest pass in all the Rocky range.

"But these things lie some distance in the future, and present developments must be made in accordance with present conditions. Present conditions compel the settler to turn his attention to mixed farming rather than to wheat-growing, and to ship finished products