

In summer, as a man says who does not care much for appearances, "Any old thing will do to wear." I may also add that new-comers to Canada often make the mistake of wearing too much.

They have heard such tales about Canada being a cold country that they overload themselves with clothing. I remember an Englishman who went out hay-making one summer day soon after his arrival and was suddenly overcome by the heat. He was found to be wearing the heaviest woollen underclothing that any Canadian would wear in the depth of winter.

"But it must be hard to get warm enough clothes for the winter," I can imagine someone saying.

It is not really so. I have spent about a dozen winters in Canada, and I wear exactly the same clothes there as I do in England, under ordinary circumstances. I have even gone through a Manitoba blizzard without making any change in my costume. To be sure, you want to keep moving when the temperature falls very low; a man cannot loaf about street corners then without suffering for it. And when you are out driving on a cold winter day, of course, you want the warmest overcoat you can get. Even in England no prudent man used to country life goes driving without extra protection of this sort. For such a purpose in Canada, a fur coat is a great comfort; and fashionable fur is costly. But a wombat-skin coat can be got for \$40 or \$50 (£8 or £10) and lasts for a lifetime; and the same purpose is served by a jacket of duck with a sheep-skin lining which only costs \$6 (25s.). A woollen cap coming down over the ears, a pair of thick mitts for the hands, and overshoes with felt tops and rubber soles,—these complete the additional outfit required for the hardest winter.

One of the most amusing questions I have ever been asked, and it has been put to me many times, is this,—“With all the thousands of people flocking into Canada, is not the country getting over-crowded?”

That sensible people should be able to say such a thing with a sober face only show how little they know of Canada, after all the lecturing and writing about the country that has been done for their enlightenment. Just take one look at a map of the world, and another look at any work of reference giving the population of the different continents, and the question answers itself. Canada is as large as Europe, but Europe has 400,000,000 people in it and Canada has scarcely 8,000,000. After reckoning liberally for what seems the enormous immigration of recent years, there is only about an average of two human beings to the square mile. In England and Wales there are 344 persons to the square mile; in France, 191; in Germany, 270; in Holland, 416; and in Belgium, 606.

Let us make all possible allowance, even an absurdly large allowance, for any northern region that we at present consider almost uninhabitable, and the average of under two per square mile is microscopically and ridiculously small. Even in Russia, where the same sort of allowance has to be made, there are 100,000,000 people on an area not much more than half that of Canada,—or 51 per square mile. When Canada has a population of a hundred millions she will still have room for more, though the new-comers then will not have the same magnificent opportunities that lie open to new-comers now.