

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the winter in the western provinces is the variability of corresponding seasons in different years, and this is peculiarly the case in Alberta where, as shown by meteorological records, the mean temperature in, say January, may be 15° below zero, or it may be about 25° above. Fortunately, however, such extremes do not occur in the summer months, which do not appear to vary from year to year more than in Ontario.

Temperatures of 80° and upwards are recorded occasionally in the month of May in all portions of the Canadian western and northern territory, except near the Arctic sea, and as the summer advances these high temperatures become of more frequent occurrence, and there are few localities where 90° is not occasionally recorded even as far north as the Arctic circle.

The summer mean temperature of Manitoba and southern and eastern Alberta and the greater part of Saskatchewan approximates very closely to that of the south of England, Belgium and the north of France, while in the territory lying to the northward between the isotherms of 55° and 60° the summer temperature may well be compared with that of the south of Scotland and southern Scandinavia.

Taking the month of July alone in this latter region, which includes the district between Lake Manitoba and Hudson bay, the mean temperature is very fairly comparable with that of the south of England.

From the meagre and somewhat unsatisfactory observations of rainfall and snowfall over the extreme northern portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in the valley of the Mackenzie, it would appear that the total annual precipitation is very generally between 12 and 14 inches including the moisture from between 40 and 60 inches of snow. This amount may be ample for successful agriculture, as fully 50 per cent or more falls as rain between the beginning of May and the end of August.

Near Hudson bay the rainfall is somewhat greater.

Respectfully submitted.

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