

The prevalence of ridges and rising ground of a non-arable character is by no means such a disadvantage as is generally supposed, having counterbalancing advantages which may ultimately be found to outweigh all supposed drawbacks. They afford a protection from the winds and storms to the valleys below, where cattle can be much more easily taken care of than in a level country. These rocky uplands are naturally covered with timber, although in some localities much of it has been burned away. If this growth, where it still exists, is carefully preserved, and the forest allowed gradually to reproduce itself in places which cannot be tilled to advantage, the waste land will furnish the settler with timber for building purposes and fuel for all time to come. The comparatively large proportion of the soil where trees are the only vegetation that will flourish to advantage, if kept in forest will moreover ensure the continuous fertility of the adjoining fields, and its presence will prevent that loss of productive power which is so frequent a characteristic of districts where the uniformly arable nature of the soil has resulted in extensive tracts being entirely stripped of timber.

Again the alternation of hills and valleys provides a natural drainage by which surface water speedily finds its way to some of the numerous lakes or water courses, the presence of which in every direction greatly tempers the climate and regulates the supply of moisture. In a country of lakes and hills the rain precipitation is much more frequent than in an unbroken plain. The constant evaporation from these large areas of water keeps the atmosphere moist, and the condensation of masses of vapor, over the forest-clad heights results in plentiful summer rains, rendering unknown these long continued droughts which at times cause such loss to farmers on the plains.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water in the lakes and rivers is pure in quality and usually soft, though sometimes of a dark tint, which, however, does not make the taste disagreeable or render it unhealthful. It has on the contrary a medicinal effect on those subject to rheumatism or diseases of the kidneys induced by using hard water. Many invalids can testify to its healing qualities. The country abounds in springs of cold, pure water which maintain an even temperature throughout the year, and this fact and the nutritious quality of the grasses, which are green as soon as the snow goes, remaining so the year round, render cattle disease unknown.