

Our Canadian Winter

BY THE EDITOR

CANADA has the advantage of enjoying the variety of four decided seasons, each with its own charm. Those who live in this country would find it difficult to decide just which season is their favorite, but the majority of the people would not care to part with any one of them. Our winter has been much maligned by those who know little about us, but it has its pleasures which few would like to relinquish altogether. In California some ex-Canadians were asked how they liked that country. They replied, "O, very well, but we sometimes just long for an old-fashioned Canadian snow storm." If the votes of the young people could be polled on the subject, winter would probably take first place in their affections. The sports of this season of the year are exceedingly dear to the heart of youth. Sleight riding, tobogganing, skating, etc., are such delightful and healthful pastimes that we cannot help feeling sorry for those who know nothing of them. The cold, of

"Yes," said he, "I see you have learned to lie like the rest of the people here."

It is, however, a simple fact that twenty or thirty degrees below zero is not felt to anything like the same extent as zero weather in a damper climate. Upon the coldest days in the west the sun shines brightly, and the people go about their work with a zest that is simply unknown in southern countries.

We are glad to note that the Canadian winter is now better understood in the Old Land than it used to be.

Cassell's Magazine, an English publication, says: "We, who live on this side of the Atlantic and only meet with casual frost and snow, which is apt to be accompanied by disagreeable results, are hardly in a position to judge of the effect of these agents in a Canadian winter. The dry, clear atmosphere removes that sense of discomfort which is apt to be felt in more humid climates. Snow, which is here thought



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course, sometimes becomes intense, but it does not often continue for any length of time, and our houses are so thoroughly warmed that a greater amount of comfort is obtained than in England, where heating arrangements are so much less efficient.

The thermometer in Manitoba and the North-West often goes much lower than in Ontario, but the atmosphere there is so dry and stimulating that the cold is not noticed to the same extent. It is a common remark by the westerners, when they come east: "O yes, it is cold, but you don't feel it."

During my residence in Winnipeg I was met one day on Main Street by a gentleman who asked the stereotyped question:

"How do you like Winnipeg?"

"Very well, indeed," was the reply.

"What about the cold?" was the second query.

"O I do not mind that."

a nuisance, is in Canada hailed with the greatest delight. It means all sorts of pleasures of which we here know but little, such as sleighing, tobogganing, and snow-shoeing. It protects from frost the wheat sown in autumn and as for commerce, though the river is closed for five months at a time, traffic is in other respects facilitated, the river and lakes being bridged over and roads made in all directions without the assistance of human labor; so that it has been said, and said with truth, that an insufficient supply of snow and ice would be nothing less than a national calamity.

"Of course, everyone who lives in Canada and who goes there nowadays is prepared for the cold. It was a very different matter for poor Jacques Cartier, the French navigator, when, without the slightest idea of what was in store for him, he sailed gaily up the St. Lawrence under the blazing heat of a summer sun in the year 1535. For all he knew he had arrived at a land of perpetual summer. Imagine his horror when he found himself frozen up and his crew dying