

ment of the Western States of America is the pride of the American people, but the progress of the Canadian North-West during the last fifteen years is the marvel of the nineteenth century.

One of the chief arguments used by the fur traders of old against the suitability of the North-West for settlement, was the severity of its climate. The winters were represented to be long and intensely cold, the summers short and extremely hot; while the delightful spring and autumn seasons were passed over and conveniently forgotten. Now what is the truth? The winter commences in November and ends in March; the spring months are April and May; the summer June, July and August; and the autumn, September and October.

To better illustrate, however, the length of the seasons, the following table is given :—

Winter	4½ months.
Spring	2 „
Summer	3½ „
Autumn	2 „
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					12 „

The spring and autumn months are most enjoyable, the weather being in the former bright and cheerful, and in the latter balmy and pleasant. The summer is at times very hot and sultry, but the North-West possesses one peculiarity which does not belong to the country lying south of the American boundary line. No matter how hot the weather may be in the day-time, at sun-down there invariably springs up a cool breeze, invigorating and refreshing to wearied mankind, and at the same time beneficial to the growth of the plants of the earth. These cool nights are indeed a great blessing, and they make the summer-time not only endurable, but even pleasant. Now for that great bugbear, the winter. Travellers, authors, and artists have ever delighted to picture Canada in winter garb rather than depict the green fields, beautiful forests, and wild blossoms of our bright, fair-faced Dominion. Probably they thought their pen or brush pictures would be too tame or too much like home if they depicted a farm, garden, or forest scene. To suit their purpose--to stir the imagination of their patrons, they must adopt something more striking. Hence we find our ice carnivals, our sleighing parties, tobogganing, snowshoeing, skating,