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WINNIPEG, MAN.

Manitoba Climate.

Dr. Patterson presented the following paper on the climate of Manitoba at the recent immigration convention :

In carrying on your work of turning the stream of immigration to this country, a most important point will be to correct the erroneous impression which to a certain extent prevails abroad, that our climate is one of unusual and almost unbearable severity. Those who hold this impression are loth to part with it, because they have received it from friends, residents here, and the public press.

In the past when writing to friends we rather taken a pride in quoting extraordinary low readings of the thermometer, at the same time asserting that we did not feel the cold. We have been fond of sending home winter views of various kinds, with ourselves in the foreground wrapped to the eyes in fur. Again, correspondents often send to foreign newspapers statements not warranted by the facts, making their articles attractive by exaggeration, and as much sensationalism as can well be thrown into them. Is it to be wondered at, that, in warmer climates, people have the same ideas of our winter, and our modes of living, that we have about the Arctic region, obtained from pictures of ice dwellings, fur clothing, and reading of seal oil and blubber for food.

We must correct our own habits in these particulars. The information we give should be the truth, and nothing but the truth. Our climate is not an Arctic one; it is not a tropical one; our summers are warm, but not too hot; our spring and fall months can scarcely be equalled in any part of the world; and we have about two months, viz., from the 20th of December to the end of February of quite cold weather, during which the thermometer does occasionally drop into the forties. It should be clearly explained that when these low readings do occur, the atmosphere is calm, and what we call dry, and that this is the reason why to degrees below zero is not more unpleasant (if as much so) than fifteen degrees below, with the wind so common in the east. That at 40 below, with slight common sense precautions as to clothing, with the dry calm atmosphere, and the dry crisp snow, the ordinary occupations of every day rural life can be followed with as much comfort as in many sections of the east and south, enjoying much higher temperatures.

Another unjust effect our correspondence and sensational press items have had, is that every storm that passes over the eastern states and provinces, and they have quite a few of these, is there determined by the term. "A Northwest cyclone," or "A Manitoba blizzard." It is a well established fact that owing to our lower elevation above the sea level than the regions to the east, the west

and the south of us, we enjoy almost total immunity from blizzards and cyclones. We are very little more in the storm belt than we are in the orange belt.

Our climate is at all times a reasonable one. Our summers are warm enough and moist enough to secure most rapid and prolific vegetation. The days are long bright and warm, the nights cool and refreshing. In my statistics of temperature I do not take this season or last as especially favorable, but I quote the first my eye reached upon opening the record. In the year 1890, as recorded at St. John's College, Winnipeg, the mean temperature for the whole five months, May, June, July, August and September was 59.47.

Our spring months are delightful—the rays of the sun, from an unclouded sky, cause the snow to gradually melt and moisten the soil. Farming operations begin early in April. The mean temperature for two months of March and April 1880 was 19.77.

Our fall months are of a similar character, specially favorable for the agricultural occupations of harvesting, threshing and ploughing. The mean temperature for October and November, 1881, was 25.86.

Our winter months, though cold are not so severe as to materially interfere with outdoor rural occupations. The mean temperature for December, January and February, 1880, was 0.12. The mean temperature for the whole year 81-82, warmest day in the year, 90.3; coldest day, -41.4.

It may be asserted with every confidence that for ten months out of the year our climate is surpassed by few. It is also absolutely safe to say that there is less suffering with cold in Manitoba during an ordinary winter, than in any of the provinces and states nearer to the Atlantic coast. It is not simply cold weather that is unbearable, it is cold and damp weather that brings extreme suffering. Our dry, cold weather is tonic and bracing in its effects, not physically exhausting as the milder, damp and stormy winters of the east.

J. J. Hill, Esq., president of the Great Northern railway, says: "It is a well established fact that the further north either vegetable or animal life is developed, the better is that development—a better quality of grain is raised at the most northern limit at which it can be raised, than at any point farther south."

Archibald Ireland says: "A climate which is cold in winter is the kind in which animal and vegetable life is best developed. You cannot raise the best men or best wheat in a warm climate."

Visitors to Manitoba from the balmy south are at once struck by the ruddy complexions, the healthy appearance, the firm muscle, and the mental sturdiness and solidity of our people. Whilst we are equally struck by the

spare, swarthy, irritable, or sallow, languid lymphatic appearance of the inhabitants of warm climates.

What better proof of the salubrity of our climate can you find than the business ability, the fine physiques, and the excellent health enjoyed by those officials of the Hudson Bay company, who have spent the most of their lives in the Northwest, travelling constantly from post to post during the winter months without any shelter at night.

That the climate is a good one for the development of man is shown by the fact, that those who have come here during the last twenty years have not deteriorated, but stand to-day the equal of any other people in mental and physical vigor, independent thought and action.

That the climate is a good one for the propagation of our race is shown by our school population, which is larger in proportion to our whole population than most others.

That our climate is not the severe one that it is believed by many to be, is shown by the average attendance at school of all children of school age, being about equal in winter and summer except in sparsely settled rural districts. Yet our climate is not an Italian one, and we do not wish to so represent it, or have it.

What are the essentials of a good climate? 1st. Purity of air—No purer air circulates on God's earth than our prairie breezes. 2nd. Freedom from storms of wind, rain, and dust. As I said before we enjoy special immunity from cyclones and blizzards, and whoever saw a dust or sand storm in Manitoba. 3rd. Abundant sunshine. The number of absolutely clear, sunshiny days in this country is not exceeded in any other good agricultural country habitable by white men. We have an average of two hundred clear days, out of the three hundred and sixty-five. In Great Britain on an average 6-10 of the sky is obscured by clouds every day of the year. 4th. Proper elevation above sea level. Too low is apt to be too damp. Too high is apt to be dry with excessive rarity of atmosphere. Statistics show that from 700 to 2,000 feet above sea level is the most favorable—exactly what we have in Manitoba. 5th. Dryness as opposed to moisture. That is, better a little too dry than a little too wet; exactly what we have. 6th. Coolness or cold as against warmth or heat. Better a little too cold than a little too hot. We have this coolness, yet it is the strongest objection raised against our climate by those who are ignorant upon the subject. 7th. Variability of temperature as opposed to equibality. Variability, not only as to seasons, but also as to day and night. No matter how warm our day may be in summer, we can depend upon the night being cool. This is an important factor, as it ensures a sound night's sleep, which is essential

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