

HEALTH RESORTS AND CLIMATES OF CANADA

CHAPTER I.

Topography and General Climatic Features of Canada.

It will be quite possible to give to the reader, who not only remembers the latitude and longitude of Canada as a whole, but will also study from our maps the deep indentation which the St. Lawrence and its chain of mighty lakes makes into the continent with a total length from the Gulf to Thunder Bay of 2,000 miles, and the juxtaposition of Lake Superior with the great inland salt sea of Hudson's Bay, who will observe the extent of prairie country beginning where the Laurentian rocks end near Rat Portage and extending directly westward over 1,000 miles, or who will notice the outlines of the Rocky Mountains and their western supporters, the Selkirks and Coast Range, extending as a sea of mountains for 500 miles to the Pacific Ocean, a fairly complete idea of the main distinctive features of the climate of each of these extensive regions, with illustrations of some of the individual localities which, through their natural attractions, their easiness of access or their proximity to some large centre of population, have become, at least locally noted health resorts. That many of them will become widely known as their health-giving qualities become manifest is as certain as that the exhilarating qualities of Davos Platz, unknown fifteen years ago to the world, had only to be appreciated and to be given to the scientific and professional world in order that thousands should yearly seek those Alpine heights for recuperation and recovery.

To comprehend some of the chief elements which give quality to our Canadian climate, we have to remember that, compared with Europe with its marvellously indented coast-line, North America has but two-thirds the amount of coast-line of that continent. This coast-line is, moreover, that of two oceans instead of one; while again Europe, though having many mountain ranges, has them running in various directions,

CHARACTER OF COAST-LINES COMPARED.

whereas North America has its one great backbone whose influence gives character to the whole interior of the continent. We thus have two distinctly marked climates, the continental and the marine. Of the latter

we have, moreover, two very well defined classes. The whole of western Europe feels that marvellous influence of the Gulf Stream, which extends even to the Orkneys, almost in 60° N. Lat. Canada, in like manner, has on its west coast the equally notable Kuro Sivo current from the Japanese seas. In both instances the current moves southward, moderating the climate of the neighboring coasts for many miles inland. The eastern coast of Canada, however, feels the influence of the Gulf Stream to a comparatively slight degree. Indeed, down from Davis Straits, past the

INFLUENCE OF OCEAN CURRENTS.

Labrador coast, moves a Polar current, which serves to throw the isotherm of the north-temperate zone notably southward, and, though it mingles its waters with those of the Gulf Stream, it nevertheless gives to the eastern coast of Canada a distinctly colder marine climate than that of England. But while the Maritime provinces have on the sea-board a