

It is impossible to over-estimate the comfort of living in a properly warmed house, no cold passages, or bedrooms—an equal temperature all through. Any room can be used as desired, without having to light a fire in it. A great saving too in the house work, where there are no grates to clean, fires to lay and coals to carry. But most people keep up an open fire in the drawing-room or library just for the cheerful look and associations, though it is needless for warming purposes.

The amount of fuel required to keep a house warm in the hardest winter weather, by means of the furnace, is no more than is wasted in open fires in an English house without really warming it.

The Canadian winter is essentially a brisk and active period of the year, whether in pursuit of business or amusement. The snow forms the best of highways, and from the moment that the roads are fit for sleighing, viz.,—as soon as fire or six inches of snow have fallen—they are actively traversed by all manner of sleighs from the light "cutter" with its fast trotting high-bred horse, to the farmer's heavy "bob-sleigh" and team. Horses can move a heavier load and go further with it on a sleigh than on wheels, and there is more road traffic in winter than in summer.

On every market day the country town is thronged with farmers who have driven in from long distances around to dispose of their loads of produce and to transact business. Up to a late hour of the evening the streets, brilliantly electric lighted, are rapidly trodden by an active and cheerful crowd; a striking contrast to the dull, half-lighted and muddy streets of any English town at the same season. This is essentially the time for all manner of social gatherings, dances, fancy dress "carnivals" in the skating rinks and so on.

The winter is the best time for railway travelling; wherever you go the carriages, hotels, &c., are of course properly warmed, and travelling is accomplished at this time in much greater comfort than amid the heat and dust of summer.

The dweller in the country will usually beguile the tedium of winter, by running up occasionally to Toronto to look in at his club and visit the theatres; or he may spend a few weeks there with his family at no great cost. Hotel charges are very moderate and there are no extras. The usual rate for really good board and accommodation is from one and a half to two dollars by the day, but for a stay of a week or more and for a family a very large reduction is made. Thus a family can calculate on spending a few weeks in Toronto at an all round rate of at most a dollar a head per day.

The theatres always present varied programmes through the winter—including a few notabilities from time to time.

Generally speaking it is a good plan to choose February for a visit to "town." By that time the winter is perhaps beginning to drag a little at home—Christmas and New Year festivities are past and a change comes in well at this period.

Then by the time you get home again the winter is nearing its end. The signs of spring are approaching and it is time to furbish up your canoes and fishing rods.