

To the north-west of Hudson's Bay about an equal area may be similarly described. Its surface is varied, and its vegetation affords sustenance for the great herds of reindeer and musk ox which find a home in this otherwise inhospitable section. It presents no prospect for the agriculturist; the only hope is in the fisheries along the coast, in the fur trade, and possibly in minerals which lie hidden under the surface.

These are the worst sections of the country; as we advance southward its character gradually changes and improves. True there is a broad band, the agricultural resources of which are not promising; but the forests which cover the surface will every year become more and more valuable, and its geological structure affords indications of mineral wealth. The investigations of the Geological Survey here point to the existence of rich deposits extending over wide areas. The more important minerals are gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, phosphates, and plumbago. Crossing the metalliferous band, we reach considerable tracts of land which by cultivation will produce all the ordinary crops; and continuing south we finally reach Ontario, one of the finest wheat-producing provinces in the world.

I must say a word about the climate. It should be borne in mind that Canada, like Europe, extends over so many degrees of latitude that it must have many gradations of climate. In some parts of Canada fruit ripen in the open air that cannot successfully be grown in England in any quantity except under glass. In one locality every farmer enjoys the luxury of a large peach orchard, while far to the north the flora and fauna are those of Lapland, and still farther north icebergs are the perennial crop. The alpine region bordering the Pacific, as in Southern Europe, presents lofty peaks reaching the permanent snow-line, while at lower levels in the vicinity of the ocean a climate soft and mild as Ireland prevails.

In the greater part of Canada, however, the thermometer has a wide range. In summer the temperature runs high; in winter it occasionally goes very low. It is difficult for a resident of this country to understand how one can live and enjoy life in a temperature sometimes many degrees below zero; but owing to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere the cold is not really felt so much as might be imagined. Ordinary work is carried on in the open air without inconvenience in what would seem to a resident in England very great degrees of cold. Ploughing, as a rule, is never done; the land lies completely dormant during the winter months; but various other kinds of work are performed. The construction of the public works, such as canals and railways, goes on,