

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, LAKE MISTASSINI, 1885.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.
Mean temperature	-18.5	-40.1	01.9	25.3	42.3	53.1	59.0	56.7
Highest temperature	19	39	35	54	85	79	76	81
Lowest temperature	-54	-46	-47	-10	08	30	39	51
Monthly range	72	85	82	73	77	49	37	50
Mean maximum temperature ..	-05.1	11.1	16.6	30.6	53.6	64.7	67.0	68.1
Mean minimum temperature ..	-31.6	-46.2	-18.0	16.0	29.3	39.4	49.8	45.7
Mean daily range	26.5	20.3	34.6	14.6	24.3	25.3	17.2	22.4
Number of days' rain	13	10	13	8	12	12	9	9
Number of days' snow	12	16	19	16	2	2	2	2
Resultant direction of wind...	N. 45° E.	N. 56° E.	N. 74° E.	N. 20° E.	N. 48° W.	S. 80° W.	S. 40° W.	S. 67° W.

Snow covers the ground about the middle of October, and remains until late in May, all the smaller lakes being frozen over during that time.

The main body of Lake Mistassini is an exception, as owing to its depth and consequent slow change of temperature, it does not generally freeze over before December 20th, and opens a couple of weeks later than the other lakes in spring.

During the summer months the sky is clouded a greater part of the time, accompanied by drizzling rains and heavy thunder storms. The soil of the country overlying the limestone basin, on and about Lake Mistassini, is a sandy loam with clay subsoil, and would yield good crops in a more favorable climate.

Short summer. On the main body of the lake, and to the northward, the summer season is shorter and colder than in the vicinity of the post. During the month of July, the low lands bordering the lake were frozen solid within one foot of the surface, in all places where the trees were at all dense. This marked difference is undoubtedly due to the proximity to such a large body of cold water, which lowers the general temperature of the air during the warmer portions of the year. The soil overlying the Laurentian gneisses and schists is light and sandy, only a thin layer generally resting on these rocks.

Agriculture. At the Hudson Bay post, the most favorable point on the lake for agriculture, a poor crop of potatoes is raised yearly. They are small, as the tops are always frozen before reaching maturity. In the spring, as soon as the frost was out of the ground, I sowed garden peas, beans, corn, and turnips. On August 20th the peas were beginning to fill the pods, the beans were in flower, and the corn only eighteen inches above the ground; the turnips alone were growing nicely. I believe that barley has been sown here, but would not ripen. A full list of trees and plants, with their distribution, is given in Appendix (I) by Mr. Macoun, and I will only add that no timber of commercial value was seen near the lake.