

seldom colder than 5 degrees below zero. The snow varies here from 2 to 3 feet deep and lies on the ground from November till April. Though there are frequent heavy falls of rain and snow the weather on the whole is agreeable and includes many long spells of exceptionally cheerful days.

The interior belt has an average elevation of over 2,000 feet which gives it a lighter barometric pressure than prevails in the coast district. The precipitation is small, in parts of the Chilcotin country and south of Soda creek in the Fraser valley being insufficient for the requirements of ordinary agriculture. At Chilcotin meteorological station the total fall for the year of 1918 was only about 8 inches.

In the great Nechako and Fraser plateaus the average annual precipitation is about 15 inches or a little more. This is about the same amount that prevails in the great grain-growing sections of the prairie provinces and has been found to be sufficient when careful methods of farming are followed. Though irrigation may be resorted to with advantage in certain localities, on the whole the moisture of the great district is sufficient for the production of all ordinary fruits, vegetables, grains and grasses common to districts of corresponding latitude throughout the west.

In this central belt there is a wider range of variation in both daily and yearly temperatures. The days are remarkably warm and bright and the nights are cool. Summer temperatures sometimes reach as high as 95 or 100, while short cold spells during the winter may fall to about 50 degrees below zero. For the year 1918 Hazelton experienced temperatures varying from 93 above to 21 below, Vanderhoof from 91 to 50 below, Prince George from 88 to 54 below, Fort St. James from 92 to 21 below, Quesnel from 100 to 21 below, and Chilcotin from 91 to 30 below. Spells of either hot or cold weather are usually of short duration only.

In the records just quoted the coldest was that of 54 degrees below zero at Prince George. This reading appears in the January report, but the average for that month at this station was 18 degrees—a very moderate winter month on the whole. The highest figure, 100, was recorded at Quesnel in July, but the average for the month was 64. This is also a very moderate average for a summer month. Both temperatures and precipitation vary throughout the central interior according to altitude and latitude. The agriculture and grazing areas have, taken the year round, a climate very agreeable and favourable for the successful prosecution of mining, farming and ranching.

In the more mountainous parts, such as the Cariboo mining fields, the weather is colder and there are much heavier falls of both rain and snow. Barkerville has an average of 19 inches of rain and 156 inches of snow. Its elevation, however, is over 4,000 feet and the district is not within the limits of the agricultural areas.

The winters, like those of the prairies, are cold and dry. The air is clear and crisp. The amount of sunshine prevailing is exceptionally great and there are few winds, thus giving a most pleasant season. The snowfall is medium, and in an absence of winds the snow does not drift to any extent. Excellent sleighing is thus enjoyed in these parts. From time to time the warm Pacific wind sweeps through the passes of the Coast range to the interior plateaus giving days of balmy weather to interrupt the more severe periods of winter.

Summer frosts prevail in many localities throughout the central interior plateau. They are not severe enough to interfere with the growing of fodder but do injure sometimes the grains and fruits. It is believed, however, that they will disappear a