

fined, pending the settlement of a difference between Ontario and the Dominion Government, but they will probably extend to Lake Superior, at longitude 90, and thus embrace a block of territory nearly as large as the whole of Europe. In the western and northern portions, the climate is colder than in the same latitudes of Europe, probably because the territories are unaffected by sea breezes; but in the western parts which are favored by the breezes from the Pacific after crossing the Rocky Mountains, the freezing in winter is less intense, although winter rains are much more prevalent in the valleys of the Bow, Belly, Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers, extending a distance of about 300 miles easterly, the snows and frosts are so light that cattle live out the whole season, and after becoming acclimatized, appear healthy and fat in the spring. In the east the frosts of winter are more intense, but snow is never to a depth to impede travel, and rarely falls to more than eighteen inches on a level, while the past winter the average depth was much below that. Although in the eastern and northern portions of the country, the frosts of winter are more severe on the whole, but because of the continued uniform dryness of the winters, they are felt no more keenly than in the more favored portions of the eastern Provinces. Very often there is scarcely a break in the clear, frosty weather of the winter months, except in an occasional day for a snowstorm. As the people expect this steady, freezing weather they dress for it, and as a result, with loss of life and accidents through frost are of more rare occurrence than in the other Provinces of the Dominion. There are occasional storms, known as blizzards, which are nothing more than the drifting of the fine snow in the frosty weather before the wind on the open prairies, just such storms as would be in Ontario, if the country was level and clear of brush, and no winter thaws to occasion subsequent crusts on the snow. As, however, a resident of the country can invariably from the feeling of the atmosphere

tell the near approach of these storms, very rarely little damage to life or property ever happens through their agency. As a matter of course, in the clear invigorating air of the country contagious diseases and epidemics are unknown, and rheumatism and lung diseases, except when brought to the country in an advanced stage, are rarely heard of.

The winter may be said to set in about the 15th of November, as a rule, though often the rigors of the season do not commence until a month later, and the season usually lasts until the middle of March when sleighing, which is steady up to that time, affords every opportunity to market, get up firewood and make every preparation for a busy season which breaks up a few weeks later. Those unfriendly to the country and their agencies have done much to misrepresent the winters of this country. They have painted them as being so severe that cattle cannot be cared for properly, and travel is at a standstill. But this is all the result of jealousy, if not something worse. There were not more than six days the past winter in which man and beast could not be out half a day at a time without any danger to life or liberty; and the writer has seen beef killed in the month of April that was fed on prairie grass alone the whole winter, excellent an article as if fed on grain in the other provinces.

The spring commences about the middle of March, when the fields begin to lose their winter garb and don they grey—soon to be green—appearance, and very often seeding begins the latter days of the month. This season, for instance, grain has been sown on the 20th of the month, in many parts of the country, and the entire crop was in by the 20th of May, ten days earlier than in the Province of Ontario. As machinery is used extensively the business of the season is attended to with despatch.

Summer speedily follows, the warm suns being experienced about the 1st of June, and lasting till out in September. As a result vegetation is very rapid, and it is not an