

The average depth of snow is about eighteen inches, and from the general absence of high winds it seldom accumulates in drifts, so that capital roads are the common condition of winter traveling. The farmer then drives his grain or hay to market, lays in his stock of fuel, and does all the heavy drawing for the year.

The cattle graze on the prairie all winter, and except during the "cold spells" require no shelter.

There is one characteristic of the climate which is phenomenal to the country; we have said that the dryness of the atmosphere mitigates, in fact almost neutralizes the severity of the extreme cold, so that in Summer the *high temperature is rendered quite bearable by frequent and heavy showers*. These also keep the soil always moist and fertile, in fact throughout the whole extent of the North-West we meet with none of those arid, desert wastes which lie in immense blocks in the same meridians South of the parallel of 49°. In consequence of these conditions the climate of Manitoba is one of the healthiest in the world. Fevers, consumption and epidemics generally are abnormal to the country, and prevail only in consequence of accident, carelessness and reckless exposure in the subjects themselves.

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SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

The soil of Manitoba, as far as is known is the richest in the world. It is a rich, black loam, varying in depth from one to three feet. The sub-soil is in some places clay, and in others sand, and in general is largely impregnated with the warm lime element. So rich and enduring is its nature that manuring is altogether unnecessary. Heavy crops of wheat have been taken for fifty years in succession off the virgin soil. The productions of such a soil will at once be recognized by any practical agriculturist. Wheat, the great staff of the world's food, is essentially its prime and most prolific product. The average yield of wheat to the acre is unknown and unprecedented in any other part of the cultivated world. *Thirty bushels to the acre* is computed to be the average, but it must be borne in mind, that as yet, agriculture is only in its infancy in this country, so that even this enormously large yield, may reasonably be expected to be increased by the advance of scientific culture. And the quality of the grain is unsurpassed by any that has ever been raised; owing to the nature of the soil it is of a firm, nutritious, gritty nature; it rubs clear, hard and plump in the hand. But every kind of cereal can be grown to great advantage. Oats, barley, rye, give large returns. And barley is said to be an excellent alternative with wheat, and yields a weight per bushel of 50 to 55 pounds. The average yield and prices of grain are as follows:—

Wheat,	about	30	bushels	per	acre,	price	\$1.00.
Oats,	"	40	"	"	"	30c.	to 40c.
Barley,	"	45	"	"	"	60c.	to 70c.
Peas,	"	50	"	"	"	60c.	to 70c.

Vegetables, potatoes, roots of all kinds grow in great abundance, of the largest size, and most excellent quality. The exhibit of these at the Dominion and Provincial Exhibitions, in Toronto, Montreal and St. Johns, elicited general and unbounded admiration.

Berries also of all kinds grow wild in great abundance and no doubt if cultivated, would rival in flavour those of the far-famed Niagara district. It has not yet been demonstrated how fruit will succeed—no doubt the long winter and severe frost may operate against it, but it is unquestionable that the hardier kind of apples will thrive and yield largely. The cultivation of bees will in time become a large factor of income. The rich flora of the prairie, with its boundless variety of petaline food, yields the strongest and most delicious honey, and the bees stand the dry bracing winter very well, and require less honey for their sustenance than in more humid and warmer climates. The beet-root, flax and hemp grow luxuriantly, but as yet there has been no market to encourage their cultivation.

Owing to the extent and richness of the native grasses, and the dryness and healthiness of the winter climate, cattle of every stock can be largely and profitably raised. Those epidemic diseases common in the older Provinces and the United States are unknown among them. Ewes produce fleeces from 2 to 3½ pounds, and wethers from 6 to 8 pounds, the wool though of a coarse texture, is of most excellent quality.

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POPULATION AND RAILWAY CONNECTION.

The population has enormously increased in the last year or two. And yet we don't think that it is of the mushroom kind, so commonly quoted of American advancement in the Western direction. Eleven years ago the population numbered only a few hundred, to-day, according to the best information we can obtain, it must be in the neighbourhood of 100,000, of which the city of Winnipeg counts about 15,000. Of course in the present transition state of things it is impossible, even with the most accurate official enquiry, to obtain exact