

INTRODUCTION.

While it is comparatively easy to give in detail the special climatic peculiarities attaching to any localized area of a country where a population has dwelt for years and the meteorological conditions have been the subject of scientific enquiry, yet it is manifestly quite different when an attempt is made to condense within the limits of a small pamphlet the qualities of the climates of an area some 4,000 miles in breadth, bordered by two oceans of markedly different characters and extending almost half the distance from the Equator to the Pole. But it is still more difficult to assign their proper value to the various elements entering into the climate of such a region, when the surface has a great waterway of fresh water lakes and rivers extending into the interior for 2,000 miles, and another region broken from north to south by a lofty mountain range, flanked on the one hand by extensive foothills and plains, and on the other by a series of minor ranges of mountains. It has therefore been thought better to attempt to divide the climate of Canada in such a manner as would illustrate rather the peculiarities of such regions as have topographical and meteorological conditions more or less common to them, than to utilize any such artificial classification as political sub-divisions. To this end, the following classification of the climates of Canada has been adopted as being that most likely to give the reader a correct idea of the chief features marking the climate of Canada as a whole :—

- (1) **The Maritime and Lower St. Lawrence Climate.**
- (2) **The Upper St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Climate.**
- (3) **The Inland Forest Areas of Old Canada Climate.**
- (4) **The Prairie Climate of the North-West.**
- (5) **The Mountain or British Columbia Inland Climate.**
- (6) **The Pacific Coast Climate.**
- (7) **The Yukon and Sub-Arctic Climate.**