

Prof. Hind, in his report, remarks :—

"It cannot fail to be noticed that the general absence of late spring and early autumn frosts, with an abundant fall of rain, during the agricultural months, are its distinguishing features in relation to husbandry. The melon growing in open air, and arriving at perfect maturity in August and September; Indian corn succeeding admirably, when due precaution is used to ensure ripening before the middle of September, are strong proofs of the almost uniform absence of summer frosts."

It may not be out of place here to refer to the amount of sunlight received during our growing seasons, viz :—Whilst at New Orleans, in July, they have fourteen hours sunlight; we, in Manitoba, have sixteen hours, with much longer twilight than they, consequently our vegetation grows more rapidly than theirs, and matures much sooner. This is a beautiful law of compensation—as what we lack in heat is made up in sunlight during our summers. Some persons in their zeal for our climate have contended that sudden changes are rare, and of no great violence. This is a mistake. Changes are sudden, violent and not very rare. We are about half way between the equator and the north pole, and subject to either extremes. This instead of being a disadvantage, is rather in our favour—it gives variety, a thing desirable at times; then again, these changes are, for the reasons already given, seldom pernicious. Plants and animals are armed with the proper implements for resistance. I would not infer that we are subject to hurricanes, or other violent commotions of the atmosphere, any more, or as much as other places. But we have a touch at times of both extremes, a vibratory movement of the climates of the torrid and the frigid zones alternately. Rains, hail and snow, alternating with the soft and sometimes sultry breezes of the south. There is a great variety of climates in Manitoba. Yet there is no place south of us where crops are surer (excepting the dreaded scourge of the grasshopper), or where the quality of vegetables is better. With the progress of the year, the supply of heat and moisture slowly declines, until the autumn harvest is closed. The autumnal equinox being passed, and the season of vegetable growth ended, suddenly the fall of rain is arrested. "Indian summer" is ushered in, and then follows the loveliest month of all the year; the weather warm, the atmosphere hazy and calm, and every object appearing to wear a tranquil and drowsy aspect. A few days more, and the sleeping earth lies quiet and serene. From the house-tops, the white smoke ascends in airy, inverted cones, whose bases dissolve away in the steel blue sky, and the sun rises bright and glorious, suffusing the wide landscape with an ephemeral but ineffable beauty. Many of the prevailing impressions concerning the winter of Manitoba, among those who have never experienced them, are founded in gross error. Notwithstanding the marvellous accounts of intense cold and biting winds, and snows of untold depth, which have been disseminated in years gone by, and have gained a great degree of credence, the winter of Manitoba is the most healthful and invigorating of the seasons, and is to many the charm of the year.