

## DECEMBER'S WEATHER THROUGHOUT CANADA

Interesting Report Furnished by  
Meteorological Office at  
Toronto.

The meteorological office at Toronto gives out the following report of weather conditions that prevailed throughout the various provinces of the Dominion in the month of December.

The mean temperature of the month was decidedly below average over British Columbia and the Western Provinces, below a somewhat lesser extent in Western and Southern Ontario and Western Nova Scotia, and above the average throughout Quebec and over the larger portion of the Maritime Provinces. The largest negative departures were as much as 8° and 10° between Regina, Sask., and Medicine Hat, Alta., and the largest positive departures were about 8° in Eastern Quebec, in Ontario near Lake Erie, the negative departure was as much as 4°, while in the Ottawa Valley there was a positive departure of from 1° to 2°.

The highest and lowest temperatures recorded were: Highest, Birnam, Ont., 52.5, and Sarnia, 52.2. Lowest, Dawson, 45° below.

**Precipitation.**—The precipitation of the month exceeded the average from Eastern Saskatchewan to Eastern Ontario, also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and eastern portions of the Maritime Provinces, while elsewhere in Canada, with local exceptions, the fall was deficient.

The snowfall in Southern Manitoba and Southern Saskatchewan was exceptionally heavy, in some localities more than five times the normal quantity; in Ontario also, and especially in counties contiguous to Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, the snowfall was heavy.

**Depth of Snow.**—At the close of the month, the ground was covered with snow from Saskatchewan to the Maritime Provinces. Saskatchewan was covered by from 2 to 16 inches, and in Manitoba the depth was generally more than 10 inches. Ontario had a mantle of snow varying from 1 to over 24 inches, and Quebec was snow-covered to a depth of from 7 to 19 inches.

In the Maritime Provinces the depth was generally about 10 inches, but in Prince Edward Island there was a depth of about 35 inches, while over the greater part of the mainland of Nova Scotia the covering was from 3 to 9 inches.

**Thickness of Ice.**—Western Provinces—Battleford, 24 inches; Medicine Hat, 14 inches; Swift Current, 22 inches; Qu'Appelle, 15 inches; Minnedosa, 16 inches. Ontario—Port Arthur, 2 inches; Clinton, 9 inches; Strathroy, 12 inches; London, 9 inches; Port Stanley, 6 inches; Port Burwell, 6 inches; Brantford, 10 inches; Georgetown, 9 inches; Reddick, 8 inches; Ottawa, 6 inches. Maritime Provinces—Chatham, 5 inches; Yarmouth, 3 inches; Sydney, 4 inches; Charlottetown, 2 inches.

**General Notes.**—British Columbia—A cold, blustery, windy month in all parts of the province.

Western Provinces—Very cold weather prevailed throughout the Western Provinces during December, and the mean temperature was from 3° to over 9° below the average. In Eastern Saskatchewan and throughout Manitoba, an exceptionally heavy snowfall occurred.

New Brunswick—Phenomenally mild weather in all localities prevailed till the 25th, when a change to decidedly colder conditions occurred. The St. John River closed on the 12th, a remarkably late date, and the Miramichi on the 26th, making one of the longest periods of navigation on record. Near the coast line the ground was practically bare of snow until the 26th, while on the north shore and in the interior, sleighing has been good since the middle of the month. Lumbering operations in Northern New Brunswick have been delayed by mild conditions and lack of snow.

Nova Scotia—Halifax: The first three weeks of December were moderately warm and cloudy, and the last week cold and stormy. The month closed with 9 inches of snow on the ground. Yarmouth—Cloudy weather with remarkably even temperature; with gentle breeze blowing from the south, with some flying southward on the 15th.

Prince Edward Island—Charlottetown: The weather of the first three weeks of December was unusually mild, moist and cloudy; since then it was cold and stormy, with heavy snowfall; 35 inches falling since 20th. Winter steamers replaced summer steamers on the 20th, but navigation was not completely closed and ferry steamer is still running in harbor.

Quebec—The mean temperature in this province was above the average, the amount of departure from normal increasing east from 1° at Montreal to 8° in Gaspe. Precipitation was deficient, even in Gaspe, where a larger amount than usual was recorded. Snow on the ground at the end of the month, 19 inches against 25 last year.

**Conditions in Ontario.**—Cold weather predominated in Ontario during December, and the mean temperature was below the normal in the Lake Superior district, over the peninsula and Lower Lake region, while in counties contiguous to the Georgian Bay and the Ottawa Valley the mean value was slightly exceeded. The normal amount of precipitation was not reached in the Lower Ottawa Valley, but elsewhere the fall was in excess of the average. Very heavy snowfalls occurred in counties adjacent to the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Owen Sound reports a total snowfall of 85 inches during the month.

Port Arthur—Sleighing bad; principally

lately wheeled vehicles; swamps not frozen. All rivers frozen over. Bay 3 inches of ice inside breakwater, light sheet near shore on bay, 1-2 to 1 inch. Woodford—27 days cloudy, 4 days sunshine; northern lights on the 1st of the month. Clinton—Month very cloudy; snow fell on 21 days; aurora on the 1st. Good sleighing from the 14th to the end of the month. The month has been very changeable, severe and wintry and colder than for some years past. Georgetown—Winter weather set in definitely about the middle of the month. First sleighing on the 16th.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Conditions in Cuba.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—In today's issue of your valuable paper I was sorry to see that Cuba seems to be the cause of almost breaking the hearts of some of our fine Canadians there, who expected to make a fortune rapidly, but instead spent all they had, and not able to earn anything, and found it difficult to get along without being able to talk the Spanish language. They have my sympathy, as I know of a few such cases, where people have been misled, and in the same predicament, but I have also met quite a number who have done well by investing there. I would not advise anyone to buy land without they were sure they were dealing with a sound, reliable company.

I was in Cuba last summer and visited quite a number of fruit-growing places, and saw that trees at four years were bearing two boxes each tree. Anyone having a grove in the vicinity of Bartle, where the soil is abnormally rich, and the conditions good, will find it a money well invested. No fear of having the trees blown away, as has been the case so often in Ocean Beach, lately. About two weeks ago I saw that the northern parts of California and Florida had quite a frost. I presume quite a lot of damage has been done, of which we have not heard anything. Sir William Van Home has 100 acres in oranges, grape-fruit and lemons at Tunis, which is only eleven miles from Bartle, and I am sure he will be able to give any information to anyone interested who may have doubts as to the security of an investment in a citrus fruit grove. I will be glad to give any further information by letter to anyone wishing it.

ARCHIE C. COWAN.

## STRATHROY COUNCIL GETTING TO WORK

Committee and Officials Chosen — A  
Number of Interesting Meetings  
Held.

Strathroy, Jan. 14. — At the inaugural meeting of the town council for 1910 on Monday last were present, except Councillor Leitch, Mayor Pope addressed the council on the work of 1910. Attention was called to the result of the vote on the two bylaws which were before the people. Mayor Pope said there were several things which needed consideration. The railway crossing problem, the roads, the street lighting system, the county hospital here, the feasibility of establishing a hospital here, for which the town has been bequeathed \$12,000.

The striking committee, composed of Messrs. Wright, Keyser and Bottery, reported as follows: The first named being chairman in each case.

Finance and Printing—Councillors Wright, Leitch and Hill.  
Roads—Deputy Reeve Atkinson, Councillor Hill and Reeve Bottery.  
Fire and Water—Councillors Seed, Wright and Keyser.

Cemetery—Councillors Leitch, Seed and Bowley.  
Court of Revision—Councillors Hill, Keyser, Seed, Bowley and Reeve Bottery.

Relief—Reeve Bottery, and Mayor Pope.  
Industrial—Councillor Bowley and the whole council.

The following town officers were appointed: Collegiate Institute board, three years, Dr. A. S. Thompson; one year, W. H. Stepler; assessor, M. C. McIntyre; member of board of health, for three years, R. F. Avery.  
The Strathroy union team went to Watford on Tuesday and suffered defeat. Score, 11 up for Watford.

The funeral took place here today of the late Mrs. Nettie Frank, wife of Mr. W. B. Lewis, whose death occurred in Raleigh, N. C., on Tuesday. Besides her husband Mrs. Davis is survived by two young children, her father and mother, and several sisters.

On Monday evening at the Epworth League meeting in the Methodist Church a very interesting address was given by Miss Clara German, of London, in connection with the missionary department. The Epworth League intends holding a national concert on Feb. 7.

The annual meeting of the Loyal Orange Lodge of the West Middlesex district was held here on Tuesday. There was a large attendance, and it was decided that the next annual meeting be held in Adelaide.

The annual meeting of the Strathroy Agricultural Society will be held here Jan. 21.

Mr. Neil Mitchell will leave soon on an extended business trip to Cuba. Many here regret to learn of the very serious illness of Mrs. James McKeen, of Northwood, who is in Victoria Hospital, London.

Ken Stewart, of the Bank of Commerce staff, has been transferred to the Stratford branch. He is succeeded by James Sherr.

Mr. W. J. Savage, of Maidstone, Sask., is visiting friends in town.

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Carter's  
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## PLAN OF INSURANCE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Scheme Outlined Which British  
Government Will Adopt If  
Liberals Win.

London, Jan. 13. — A big scheme of unemployment insurance will be the work of the new Liberal Government, if returned to power. Winston Churchill outlined the scheme in a speech at Glasgow last night when he addressed two huge meetings.

Mr. Churchill announced that the details of the scheme had already been worked out by the Board of Trade, and said that if the people returned the Government they would pass a compulsory and contributory unemployment insurance bill. It would deal with the affairs of 2,250,000 adult workers, skilled and unskilled alike. The shipbuilding and engineering trades would first come under consideration, while, side by side with the scheme, facilities would be extended for voluntary insurance aided by the state. The new plan would be carried on in conjunction with 150 labor exchanges, which were soon to be opened throughout the kingdom.

These exchanges, Mr. Churchill said, would give labor a scientific market, and the advantages which modern civilization had conferred on all classes. The insurance project would improve the standard of labor, and would equally benefit employer and laborer.

Chancellor Lloyd-George at Wolverhampton, evidently referring to the same scheme, said that he had put \$15,000,000 in the budget to deal with unemployment, whereas his opponents were trying to maintain a land system, which was more responsible for unemployment than any other single cause. He urged the necessity of taking wheat from wherever it could be obtained. "Don't let us," he said, "slam the door in the face of Providence and say we won't take it."

Hon. A. J. Balfour, the Opposition leader, who spoke at York, alluding to the fact that the Premier in his election address practically ignored the question of home rule, said it was a subject requiring the attention of all students of politics, one of the greatest problems ever put before the country. Yet it was brought forward by the Liberals as an unconsidered item, and as an unconsidered scheme of legislation.

Referring to tariff reform Mr. Balfour repeated that the Conservative party was pledged not to increase the cost of food to the poor. He thought a small duty on wheat with preference to the colonies would diminish the cost of bread.

The Prime Minister at Salisbury dealt with the humor of a situation in which Mr. Balfour criticised omissions in the election address. He said that whereas Mr. Balfour's own election manifesto gave only a brief paragraph to the subject of tariff reform, and he added, although the country was in two days of the election, it was left in darkness concerning Mr. Balfour's views on tariff reform.

## TOO MANY THEATRES AL HAYMAN'S WARNING

Veteran Theatrical Man Says the  
Managers Are Going Play-  
house Mad.

New York, Jan. 12. — That there are too many theatres in New York and that managers and capitalists are going theatre mad, was the assertion made by Al Hayman, veteran manager, and president of the theatrical syndicate, in a letter which was read at the sixth annual dinner of the Theatrical Managers' Association held Friday night in the Hotel Knickerbocker.

That was but one of the features of a successful dinner, for William Gillette appeared in the role of a humorist, Henry W. Savage in a letter declared that grand opera to be popular must be given in English, and Oscar Hammerstein and Andreas Dippel had a long and earnest conversation that attracted as much attention as any one address.

"I should have liked to have talked to you about the present theatrical situation," said Mr. Hayman in his letter. "The business has not been satisfactory. Too many theatres. New York City, with a population of 4,500,000, is asked to support more than 300 performances of grand opera in a season of twenty weeks, thirty-nine first-class theatres and forty-eight theatres devoted to vaudeville, burlesque and popular-priced attractions. In addition to these eighty-seven, there are more than 500 theatres and halls licensed for moving pictures."

**Are Going Theatre Mad.**  
"This is asking New York to support more theatres and places of amusement than London, Paris and

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We open the London branch of our world-wide business on Saturday. It will offer the citizens of this city a positively unique opportunity to purchase a stylish, up-to-date, made-to-order Suit or Overcoat at MILL PRICES. This is no experimental concern, for in Canada alone we have two branches, one in Toronto and the other in Hamilton. They have been with you for over two years and have been most surprisingly successful. Apart from these branches corraling nearly all the business in these centres, they have forced the regular and old established houses to reduce, somewhat, the price of their made-to-order clothing.

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Berlin combined. Managers and capitalists are going theatre mad. The halt should be called or a colossal amount of money will be lost. "The above condition exists in all large cities in the country. Chicago has thirty-five theatres, 367 moving pictures and vaudeville theatres licensed. Two many theatres. New York City, with a population of 4,500,000, is asked to support more than 300 performances of grand opera in a season of twenty weeks, thirty-nine first-class theatres and forty-eight theatres devoted to vaudeville, burlesque and popular-priced attractions. In addition to these eighty-seven, there are more than 500 theatres and halls licensed for moving pictures."

### Performers Do Not Attract.

"With the condition toward which the theatrical business is drifting, some of these theatres will be forced

into the market through foreclosure sale or otherwise. What will they bring and who will buy them? It is easy to get money to build a theatre, but it requires an attraction to keep a theatre open. I only know three actresses and one actor who can be relied upon as drawing cards in America today."

Sir Charles Wyndham was the first speaker, and in a graceful way spoke of the reception that had always been accorded him in his visits to this country. Charles Burnham, president of the association, read a letter from Henry W. Savage, in which he declared that grand opera to be successful and more than exotic, and a fad would have to be given in English.

Hammerstein is Nonplussed.

"I have listened to the thoughts of Mr. Savage," said Mr. Hammerstein,

"and some of them are savage, but operatic affairs at present are no worse than dramatic affairs. The fact is that business is bad, the worst for many years, and I have been looking for a reason for it and cannot find one."

**TILLSONBURG.**  
Tillsonburg, Jan. 13.—Miss Wall, of London, is spending a few days in town.

Mrs. R. H. Wilcox spent a few days with Norwich friends this week.

Mr. C. Cartwright received word yesterday of the sudden death of his brother, John, at Dickinson, N. D.

A large audience witnessed the production of "Slaves of the Orient" at the opera house last night. Pretty scenery and gaudy oriental costumes added to the interest of the play. The acting of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald was particularly good in this setting. Miss Margaret Thompson left yesterday for Kansas, where she will spend several months with her cousin, Miss Louise Fillmore.

Mr. G. Berriault was a Buffalo visitor this week.

Mrs. R. Baird left on Tuesday for a visit with friends in Pittsburg.

Miss Ollie Knowles, of St. Thomas, is the guest of Miss Flossie Malcolm.

Mr. C. J. Lough, of Detroit, is renewing old acquaintances here for a few days.

A number of young people drove to Norwich Tuesday evening to witness the hockey match between the Norwich team and the Pan Drieds, which resulted in the defeat of the latter.

Mrs. R. Calderwood is seriously ill in the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. A. Trestain, and is under the care of a nurse.

A spinster named Maria Kiss has died at Lubachau, in Prussian Poland, at the age of 114.

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