

heat is intense, but the nights are always cool and fresh. The cold is excessively sharp during the winter, but not to that degree as to be unbearable. The dryness of the atmosphere exerts such an effect on the temperature that the cold is not felt when it is 30 or 40 degrees below zero, any more than we do in Ontario or Quebec when it is only 15 or 20 degrees below. The reports of the severity of the climate sometimes frightens those at a distance who are strangers to the country, but there are in reality no grounds for any serious fears. People after several years' experience of the climate have not found their health to be impaired, but rather to have improved, especially as no epidemic diseases prevail there. It is true that the small pox at one time spread itself in a settlement of the Icelanders, but the disease had been introduced there by some emigrants; and at that time, the ravages of this terrible malady were confined to that portion of the population.

The transition from the season of winter into spring, which begins in April, and from summer into the cold season, which takes place in the month of November, usually is very rapid. The rain is sufficiently frequent; it has been more than usually abundant during the last three or four years, but not to an extent to injury the harvest, which has always been good; owing to the penetrable character of the soil, the water is quickly absorbed.

SNOW AND HAIL

The quantity of snow which falls in Manitoba is not so great as in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario; it usually does not exceed a foot and a half or two feet. The roads are generally very fine in the winter season. During one of the last winters, it is a strange fact that not sufficient snow fell for sleighing, and that the breaking up of the ice in the Red River took place about the 15th March.

There has been much said about early frosts in Manitoba, but reports in this respect have been greatly exaggerated. During a sojourn of five years in that province, we can truly assert that never, to our knowledge, did the harvest seriously suffer from this cause.

FERTILITY OF THE SOIL

The soil of the valley of the Red River is a black alluvion, having a vegetable stratum of two feet in depth and deeper than that in certain places. Its fertility is extraordinary. Mr. Matthieu de Dombasle, one of the most scientific agriculturists of his day,