

population of two millions, and affording abundant room for many millions more. This large territory embraces an immense extent of fertile land on which are cultivated all the grains of the temperate zone and several products of the tropics. It is a land of fruit, and produces abundant crops of grapes, peaches, apples, tomatoes, melons, and dozens of other fruits. The more northern districts abound in valuable pine forests, and deposits of gold, silver, iron, copper and other valuable minerals which contribute largely to the wealth of the country. The climate varies according to latitude, elevation or position with reference to the great lakes, but is everywhere adapted in a very high degree to grain and fruit growing and to the development of physical well-being. In the extreme north-western part—between the Lake of the Woods and Lake Superior—the warmth of summer and the bright and bracing but intense cold of winter approximate the climate of the Province of Manitoba adjoining to the west. Along Lake Superior, however, the open waters of that vast reservoir, greatly temper the frost of winter and reduce the summer heat almost to English coolness. In the extreme east, between the rivers Ottawa and St. Lawrence, the lake influence is not greatly felt and the winters are cold, steady, bright and pleasant, while the summers are decidedly hot. In climate, this section resembles Montreal and the northern part of the neighboring state of New York. The large lake district enjoys milder winters and summers varying from those of Southern France and Northern Italy to those of Paris. This district, with Eastern Ontario, includes almost the whole population of the Province, and besides a large number of "free grant" townships, several thousand square miles awaiting survey. To the north and west, however, settlers are pushing, and several thousands have already found homes in the Province beyond the great triangle formed by the Ottawa River and the Lakes.

BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE OF THE GREAT LAKES.

The lake influence is very marked at all seasons. The winter isothermal of twenty-five degrees, curves northward from the Highlands of Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario and crossing the Province to Lake Huron north of the forty-third parallel, bends gradually to the south as it leaves the lake region, till in Missouri it reaches the parallel of forty degrees. The winter isothermal of the north shore of Lake Huron is found three hundred miles further south in the Mississippi Valley on the west and two hundred and fifty miles further south in the New England States on the east. Bruce Mines, on the north shore is as mild in winter as Omaha; Niagara as New York City. The contrast with Eastern Ontario is equally well marked. The county of Essex on Lake Erie is as much warmer in winter than Ottawa, as Memphis, Tennessee, is warmer than Essex, yet, the difference in latitude between the two Ontario places is only three degrees or a little over 200 miles, while between Essex and Memphis it is seven degrees or nearly 500 miles. In spring, the winds from the lakes, which heat more slowly than the land, delay the full opening of the season, but not injuriously, because the check given to vegetation till warm weather sets in to the northward as well as to the south, often prevents damage from untimely frosts experienced elsewhere, when plants have advanced to a critical stage. In summer the lake influence is as noticeable as in winter, the lake region being protected from the continental influence which raises the temperature of the Mississippi Valley on the same parallel several degrees higher than in semi-insular Ontario. If spring is delayed by the cold lake winds, ample compensation is afforded in autumn, the lakes, slow to cool after the summer heats, continuing the mellow Fall