

## VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS.

Meteorological returns from voluntary observers for 1898, even from the most remote stations in Canada, now nearly all being in, the time seems opportune for a few remarks upon the work performed.

It would be hard to find a body of citizens who show more public spirit than the voluntary meteorological observer; in many cases, at the greatest inconvenience to himself, he will take at a regular set time, winter and summer, his series of observations, often foregoing other pleasures and calls upon his time in order to read his instruments at the appointed hour. In some instances these observations are taken twice or three times each day and in all weathers, after which they have to be checked and entered in their proper forms for mailing to the Central Office at Toronto. Without the aid of the voluntary observer it would be impossible to form a fair estimate of the climatic conditions of the country; and in a colony such as Canada where vast tracts are continually being opened up, a knowledge of these conditions is much sought after and is of much value to the incoming settler. The voluntary observers in Canada now number several hundred, the network of stations extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and as far north as the Yukon District. There are many stations from which only rainfall observations are required, and although these are probably less interesting to the observer, they are extremely valuable, and the number of volunteers is continually increasing. The returns received for 1898 show undiminished interest in the work of observing and the efforts of the observers are much appreciated by the Meteorological Service.

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