

No doubt this advantage would be more readily availed of were it not that a very exaggerated idea seems to have grown up regarding the supposed severity of the Canadian climate. It must be admitted that Canadians themselves are largely responsible for this by their practice of giving undue prominence to the winter sports and amusements of the country, while the splendors of the summer and the autumn are left in the background. For instance, when the ladies of Canada recently made a present to the Princess May, a sleigh was selected as appropriate, though many voices were raised in protest against this choice, as tending to encourage exaggerated arctic notions of the climate. Strangers may be excused for supposing that one's time must be largely spent on snowshoes, and that skating and tobogganing are the chief recreations. The best short comment that can be made on this subject is, that very few people who live in Canada even so much as possess a pair of snowshoes, or a toboggan, while everyone down to the humblest artisan, possesses a tent and a canoe. The truth is that—summers scenes are more prominent than wintry ones—the canoe, the tent, the gun and the rod are far more typical of Canada than are the sleigh and the snowshoe.

Let us now run briefly over the "round of the seasons" as we find them in Ontario.

It must be premised that Ontario is recommended to intending settlers, in preference to any other Province of the "Great Dominion," for sundry good and sufficient reasons. If you go further west you get into the newer provinces, where things are rather rough at present, and moreover you increase your distance from England and add a tedious railway journey to the voyage. On the other hand, the Eastern, or Maritime Provinces have a comparatively bleak and damp climate owing to their proximity to the Atlantic fogs and they present no countervailing attractions.

Ontario stands far enough inland and high enough above the sea to possess a fine dry atmosphere while its southerly position and the tempering effect of the great Lakes give it a milder and shorter winter than is found either at Montreal or at Winnipeg. Good authorities place the climate of Ontario as being perhaps the finest on the American continent; an opinion which was largely supported by the extraordinary success of the exhibits from this Province at the Chicago World's Fair in all kinds of produce. Ontario is an old and well settled province possessing many fine cities and towns, excellent communications in all directions by rail and steamers, and is inhabited by an exceedingly respectable, sound and well ordered population, chiefly English and Scotch.

In reviewing the climate let us begin with that bug-bear, the winter. It is neither so long nor so severe as is generally supposed.

The winter begins late being kept back by the protracted and beautiful Canadian Autumn. It is not until December that one finally takes up winter quarters, and not until the Christmas holidays are over that one feels regularly settled down. One will be abroad again with canoe and rod by about the 1st of April, so that the winter, as such, practically comes down to some three months, which are not difficult to get through.

Regular winter weather in Ontario is bright and still. Most enjoyable weath-

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