



## X.

### RETROGRADE MOVEMENTS.

THE RETURN JOURNEY TO WINNEPEG — A STARTLING AND DEADLY STORM — HEARSAY EVIDENCE AS TO PARTS OF THE PRAIRIE EMPIRE NOT PERSONALLY VISITED — THE FUTURE CATTLE RANCHES OF CANADA AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT — BRANCH LINES TO BE SURVEYED BY THE SYNDICATE, OPENING THE SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY AND THE SOURIS COAL FIELDS — PROMISE OF THE LATTER.

A route traversed twice in opposite directions presents a curiously different appearance to the traveler upon the return trip, though the objects seen are the same; but a second description of it is a twice told tale. It is enough to say of our return trip from Qu'Appelle to Winnipeg that it was made with the utmost speed that could be pounded out of our tired steeds and with no noteworthy incident until we reached Brandon. This magic city of eight weeks ago had apparently almost doubled in size during the three weeks of our absence, and buildings were madly rushing up with more haste than ever. We crossed the River from Grand Valley and spent the night there in a canvas boarding tent. Here we experienced one of the few sensations of a generally tame trip, in the shape of an electric hail and wind storm, which came whooping down the valley, tinging the sky with a livid green, lashing the river into breakers and threatening everything above ground with destruction. The finest store in Grand Valley was blown in a shapeless heap of ruins, and the whole population of the canvas boarding tent spent an hour bracing against its flimsy frame to prevent its destruction. The storm was circular, shift-