

Empire added. Hence it will be seen that under the title of the Canadian North-West we are dealing with an enormous tract of country, and a very important portion of the Dominion of Canada. Lord Dufferin, in speaking of this district, said: "From its geographical position, and its peculiar characteristics, Manitoba may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister Provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is here that Canada, emerging from her woods and forests, first gazed upon her rolling prairies, and unexplored North-West, and learnt that her historical territories of the Canadas, though themselves more extensive than half-a-dozen European kingdoms, were but the antechambers to that till then undreamt of Dominion, whose illimitable dimensions alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor, and the verification of the explorer. It was hence that, counting her past achievements as but the prelude to her future exertions and expanding destinies, she took a new departure, and felt herself no longer a mere settler along the banks of a single river, but the peer of any power on the earth." Four years then elapsed, and at the same point of the Canadian North-West, his successor in the office of Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, in an address which he delivered in Winnipeg, in 1881, most warmly supported these views. He said: "Unknown a few years ago, we now see Winnipeg rapidly lifting itself to the front rank amongst the commercial centres of the Continent. We may look in vain elsewhere for a situation so favourable and so commanding—many as are the fair regions of which we can boast. There may be some among you before whose eyes the whole wonderful panorama of our Provinces has passed—the ocean garden island of Prince Edward, the magnificent valleys of St. John and Sussex, the marvellous country, the home of 'Evangeline,' where Blomidon looks down on the tides of Fundy, and over tracts of red soil, richer than the wend of Kent. You may have seen the fortified Paradise of Quebec; and Montreal, whose prosperity and beauty are worthy of her great St. Lawrence, and you may have admired the well-wrought and splendid Province of Ontario, and rejoiced at the growth of her capital Toronto, and yet nowhere can you find a situation whose natural advantages promise so great a future as that which seems ensured to Manitoba, and to Winnipeg, the Heart City of our Dominion. The measureless meadows which commence here, stretch without interruption of their good soil westward to your boundary. The Province is a green sea over which the summer winds pass in waves of rich grasses and flowers, and on this vast extent it is only as yet here and there that a yellow patch shows some gigantic wheat field. There was not one person who had manfully faced the first difficulties—always far less than those to be encountered in the older provinces—but said that he was getting on well, and he was glad he had come, and he generally added that he believed his bit of the country must be the best, and that he only wished his friends could have the same good fortune, for his expectations were more than realized."

Another period of four years passes by, and in the interval we find the Canadian Pacific Railway completed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In October, 1885, the Governor-General of Canada (His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne), received a right loyal welcome in Winnipeg on his return from a tour extending through the Canadian North-West to British Columbia, and on that occasion he said:—"It is impossible to travel from this city to the Western Ocean without feelings of admiration for the courage, both of those who first conceived, and of those who have carried to a successful consummation, this great national work. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway stands alone in history of great achievements in railway building. The physical difficulties which had to be overcome, the shortness of the time in which the work was carried out, the small numerical strength of the nation for whom the work has been done, are without parallel in the history of similar undertakings. * * * There was another thought which forced itself upon my mind during my travels. All this country over which we have been passing, its natural resources, and physical beauties belongs to the Dominion of Canada. * * * It is impossible to look upon this Continent, now sparsely inhabited by a few millions of human beings, without reflecting how small are the interests of the present, compared with those of the future which lies before us. Let us keep our vision fixed upon that future, and let us remember how vast is the load of responsibility involved by the ownership of this great country. If I could venture to give you advice I should say, let the Dominion Government at Ottawa, the Provincial Government in each Province, the municipal authorities in your cities, let every citizen in his own place, let them bear in mind that they are trustees for those who will come after them, for the millions who will one day replace the thousands now