

rights have been mostly, and happily, established, to the benefit of the Provinces, it must be confessed.

Fifty years ago the two Canadas embraced the people scattered along the waterways between Quebec City and the town of Windsor. There was no railway to the Maritime Provinces and what we now call the West was almost *terra incognita*. But we have built, not only the Intercolonial Railway, which was a condition of Confederation, but as well three great transcontinental railways. We have spent millions of dollars on our waterways and our great ocean and inland ports. We have opened up for settlement the vast grain Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and by peaceful exploration and absorption we have added greatly to our already immense territory. We have quelled two rebellions in the West, and have policed those vast regions so that the settler has been able to till the soil in safety. We have given of our blood

and treasure in the defence of the Empire, first in South Africa, and now upon the sanguinary fields of Flanders.

Our difficulties, some might think, have only begun, but those of us who are optimistic see in the present situation the elements that weld, even more securely still, the bonds that have held together the conflicting portions of the Dominion.

The statements of the present nine Provincial Prime Ministers and of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, given in this number, show a record of great progress and expansion. There is in every instance a spirit of pride and optimism, and in no instance is there any evidence of dissatisfaction. Confederation, therefore, is avowedly a success.

We begin these statements, not with the most westerly Province nor with the most easterly, but with one in the middle, Manitoba, the first Prairie Province to join the Union.

## MANITOBA

BY THE HONOURABLE T. C. NORRIS  
PRIME MINISTER



MANITOBA did not enter Confederation until July 15th, 1870. Prior to that time it did not even bear the name of Manitoba, being part of what was then known as Assiniboia. In 1870 the total population was 12,000, of which 10,000 were Indians and métis and the remaining 2,000 were whites or the half-breed descendants of the original settlers of Lord Selkirk's Red River Colony. In 1870 the population of Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, was 215.

Fifty years ago the little farms of the settlers did not even produce the necessities of existence, and the community imported most of its food stuffs. The fur trade was the only commercial activity, and the traditional policy of the old fur traders has prevented us from knowing the value of the annual shipments of pelts. In 1870 the area of Manitoba was 13,500 square miles. To-day it is 351,000 square miles.

The population of Manitoba to-day is more than 550,000. Total production in 1915 amounted to \$300,000,000.