

from their "nearest neighbour" have soon found themselves in the centre of prosperous farming communities. **Rapid growth of new settlements.**

Villages and towns, with their churches, their schools, their mills, stores and hotels, have sprung into existence with a rapidity almost unprecedented and many places at which but a short time since there was nothing but the desolate prairie are now centres at which a large business is transacted and in which the value of property has risen to a height which it would be difficult to exaggerate. **Sudden rise of villages and towns.**

I cannot better illustrate this than by the following statistics, with which the Postmasters of the several places mentioned have furnished me, the figures in which, though they may not be in every case critically correct, are perhaps as nearly so as it is possible for a rough estimate to make them. **Statistics showing their rapid growth.**

Name of Place.	Situation.	Date of Establishment of Post Office.	Population.	Churches.	Schools.	Flour Mills.	Saw Mills.	Factories.	Stores.	Hotels.	Value of Assessable Property.
Brandon .....	On C. P. Ry., main line .....	Aug. 1, 1881	3,200	6	2	1	1	2	79	16	\$ 3,690,940
Birtle .....	64 miles N.W. from Rapid City	Sept. 1, 1879	600	1	1	2	1	1	12	3	250,000
Emerson .....	On St. Vincent Branch of C. P. Ry .....	Jan. 1, 1879	3,000	6	6	1	3	6	65	10	1,600,000
Gladstone ..	On W. & N. W. Ry. ....	April 1, 1872	500	3	1	1	2	...	9	4	697,000
Minnedosa ..	18 miles N. from Rapid City.....	Aug. 1, 1876	600	2	1	1	2	...	12	5	173,157
Morris .....	On C. P. Ry., on West side Red River .....	Jan. 1, 1874	400	4	1	1	1	1	14	4	Not stated.
Portage la Prairie .....	On C. P. Ry., main line .....	July 1, 1871	3,000	7	5	1	2	12	71	18	6,500,000
Regina .....	do .....	Aug. 3, 1882	900	2	...	...	...	...	30	10	Not stated.
Rapid City...	20 miles N. from Brandon .....	Sept. 1, 1879	750	4	3	2	1	2	10	5	Not stated.
Selkirk .....	On C. P. Ry., Selkirk Branch.	Jan. 1, 1876	700	4	2	1	...	1	8	2	879,519
Stonewall ...	On C. P. Ry., Stonewall Br'ch	July 1, 1878	500	4	1	1	...	...	7	2	Not stated.
West Lynne.	Opposite Emerson .....	July 1, 1871	400	2	1	1	...	2	9	8	738,235
Prince Albert .....	Saskatchewan River .....	Dec. 1, 1878	1,500	4	3	2	2	2	23	6	2,500,000

The rapidity of railway construction during the present year has perhaps never been equalled. Notwithstanding the difficulties which the contractors, Messrs. Langdon & Sheppard experienced in the spring from the floods as well as from the scarcity of labour, they have during the present year built the 345 miles between Flat Creek (Oak Lake Station, 165 miles West of Winnipeg) and Swift Current, 510 miles west of Winnipeg, on which daily passenger and freight trains are now running. **Rapidity of extension of railways.**

Before the 31st instant they expect to have the track (a portion of which is already laid) completed 91 miles further west to Maple Creek, which will probably be the base of operations for next

**Enormous work done in 1882.**