

Saskatoon as a Commercial and Distributing Centre

**Serving a Vast Area of the Most Famous Wheat Growing Territory in the
World.**

The primary importance of Saskatoon from a commercial standpoint is its significance as a wholesale distributing centre. Its central position, so far from other competing centres, gives it a unique position as the hub of a large district well served in all directions by railways.

Saskatoon is the most central city of the three Prairie Provinces, being 466 miles from Winnipeg and 326 miles from Edmonton by the shortest railway mileage. It is a few miles north and west of the bisection of the 52nd parallel of latitude with the 106th parallel of longitude, which lines divide into four quarters the arable and settled portions of the Province. Situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, the city came into being by the uniting of three villages, which, naturally, located at the gateway to the great west country which now forms Saskatoon's principal distributing territory. Later, the city became the base for the settlement of this large area and is now the logical marketing centre of a magnificent agricultural country. Consequently, it is the site of the huge Dominion Government Interior Storage Elevator, of which a description appears later; and of two of the largest flour milling concerns in the West. Its central location, as well as the advantage of the river and the natural beauty of the site, also insured its choice as the seat of the University of Saskatchewan.

Any urban community which was in its babyhood as recently as eighteen years ago and yet today is the second largest city in a Province containing over 800,000 people, naturally commands popular attention, and the reasons for its phenomenal growth and present status are of economic interest and importance.

THE CENTRE OF A WONDERFUL DISTRICT

Saskatoon is really the youngest of the important cities of Western Canada and has seen the most remarkable development. Twenty years ago when cities like Winnipeg and Vancouver had attained greatness Saskatoon was not even incorporated as a village. Today it is the commercial centre of the most famous wheat-growing territory in the world, a bald and unconvincing enough statement in itself, the truth of which only begins to be realized when it is known that Saskatchewan produces more and better wheat every year than both Alberta and Manitoba combined. Saskatchewan, in point of fact, has during the last few years actually produced 55 per cent. of all Canada's wheat. It is within about 40 miles of Saskatoon that the wheat was grown which won the world's championship prize for years in succession, and much nearer than that to Saskatoon the world's best oats have been grown. One cannot realize the importance of the city as a wholesale distribution centre without a comprehension of the agricultural potentialities of the district, and so in dealing with the commercial phase of the subject it is necessary to draw attention to agricultural values, referring the reader to another section of this publication for amplification and details.