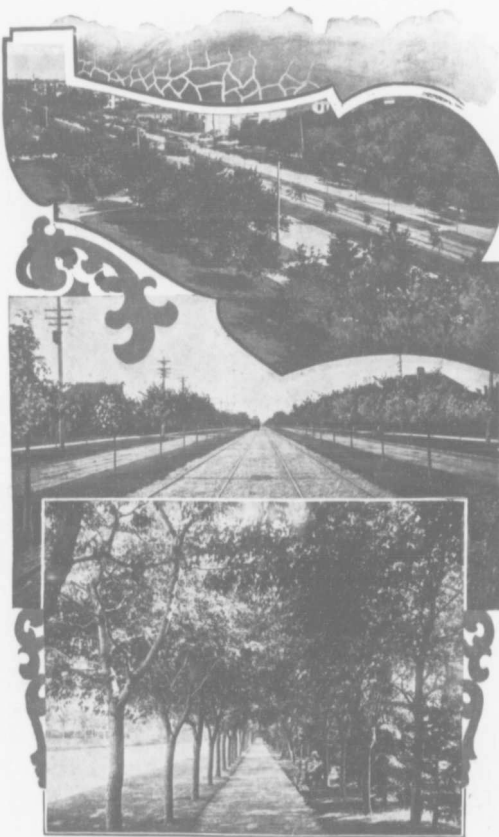


AN OPTIMISTIC FORECAST

Great as has been the progress made by the Canadian Northwest during the past twenty-five years, the progress of the future bids fair to be far greater, and not only will Winnipeg develop into a mighty city of the size and importance of Chicago and New York, but other cities must grow out of the trade and commerce which will follow the putting under cultivation of the almost illimitable stretches of prairie land that still lies untouched by the plow, untraversed by the reaper and binder.

In the three Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, there are 357,016,778 acres of land and of this land at least one-half, or 178,508,389 acres, is good for farming. Of all this vast quantity of productive soil the comparatively insignificant area of 8,327,970 acres, or less than one-twentieth, has been brought under cultivation; an amount so comparatively small beside that which remains for the work of the farmer to convert into broad fields of growing grain and pastures where herds of cattle and sheep shall outline and make rich the country in which they live, that a diagram showing the cultivated land of these three provinces of Western Canada, in comparison with that which is spread invitingly before the newly arrived settler, makes the area already under cultivation look absurdly small, and so will the Canada of to-day look absurdly small beside the vast empire of rich farms, thriving towns, big cities and the population of many millions that will live and prosper where but 1,150,000 are now kept busy in trying to meet the sharp and insistent demands made upon them for work, and more work, and yet more, as the people flock into the country, railroads spread their arms abroad in a thus far vain, though mighty effort, to keep up with the transportation needs of the country with agricultural, industrial and trade riches as yet but scratched upon the surface and the possibilities of which stretch into incredible figures.

Immigration into Western Canada has advanced by leaps and bounds. In 1902, 67,379 persons came into the Western Provinces from all sources. The next year 128,364 came, and in 1907, 252,038 immigrants betook themselves from other countries of the earth to the Canadian Northwest with the avowed intention of taking up their residence here. Taking the average of increase in the population of the three



Driveways and Boulevards of Winnipeg