

Winnipeg's Trade Growth.

Although the village of Fort Garry was the leading Hudson's Bay post in the Northwest away back in the beginning of the present century, the trade history of Winnipeg really commenced in 1870, after the collapse of the first Riel rebellion.

In the fall of 1870 Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, had a population of only 215 souls outside of the military then stationed there. About fifteen small mercantile institutions outside of the Hudson's Bay post were in existence, and but for the place being the seat of a newly formed Government it was no more nor less than a lively frontier village. But its growth from that year was exceptionally rapid, and in 1874 when the name of the place was changed to Winnipeg, and a city charter secured, the population had reached about three thousand, the number of buildings of every description over nine hundred, the mercantile houses to over one hundred, and the value of assessed property within the new corporation's limits \$2,076,018.

From this year dates the history of Winnipeg proper, and with the exception of the rush and inflation of the boom of 1881, that history has been one of steady commercial growth.

By the year 1875, the value of the city's imports had reached the sum of \$1,248,309, while its exports showed a value of \$588,958. The value of assessed property in the city was \$2,762,414, and by the close of the year the population was close upon 5,000 souls.

The year 1876 showed steady progress, and in 1877 the population had increased to about 6,500, and the value of assessed property to over \$3,000,000. The business institutions had increased to over 200, and included two chartered bank branches, one private bank, two flouring mills, one lumber mill and several other industrial concerns of less note. Up to that year the only means of communication with the east and south was by the Red River in summer, and by ordinary road vehicle in the winter. With the opening of 1878 however, the construction of the St. Vincent branch