

EXPORTED.

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MILLION
1901

This wheat-growing area comprises the Province of Manitoba and the four Districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Athabaska. These territories contain 385,000,000 acres of land, of which upwards of 100,000,000 are estimated to be fit for cultivation.

Province or District	Population 1901	No. of farmers 1901	Total land area acres	Percentage of improved land under crop, 1900	Average size of farm acres
Manitoba	255,211	32,495	41,169,098	69%	278
Assiniboia	67,385		56,498,546		
Saskatchewan	25,679	23,098	66,400,850	53%	288
Alberta	65,876		64,973,212		
Athabaska	6,615		155,622,904		

Potatoes
bushels

12,942,250
3,459,325
1,277,793
4,156,638
4,294,413
956,129
4,986,633
17,135,739
49,308,917

39,000,000
947,012
7,593,177
1,144,754
31,943
470,419
70,328
314,349
5,450
144,836
351,641
10,175
229,100,000
137,954,552
34,128,944
1,000,528
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595,921
1,655,681

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One of Winnipeg's Parks.

THE PRAIRIES
OF WESTERN CANADA.

On most of the prairies there are no trees to be cleared away; thus the area under cultivation increases very rapidly. The settler with a gang plough and two yoke of oxen can break up a quarter section (160 acres) during five spring and summer months. He does this simply by turning a very thin sod with the plough, then backsetting and harrowing. This operation costs between \$3.50 and \$4.00 per acre, but sometimes a rougher and quicker system of breaking land is followed. The soil is an exceedingly rich, black mould, of varying depth, with clay beneath, which holds the moisture.

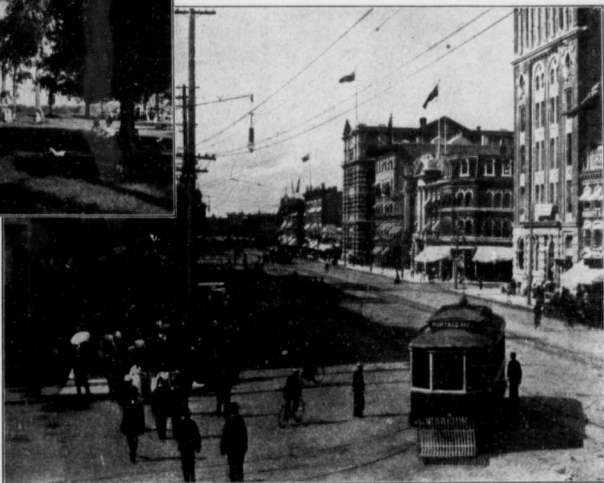
Most of this western country, especially the southern portion, is rolling, treeless prairie. These prairies are covered with coarse, rich grass growing in tufts, with shrubs and small trees scattered grove-like here and there over their surface, thus giving many portions a park-like appearance. In the northern sections and in the river valleys there are vast regions that are heavily wooded. Along the slope of the Rocky Mountains also this wooded condition exists. The land in the southwestern portion is now most suitable for grazing, but under irrigation, now being introduced on a large scale, develops wonderful fertility.

FARMS A MILE SQUARE.

The whole country is divided into blocks, each containing one square mile (640 acres). A block is called a section and is divided into four quarter sections. This quarter section is the unit for a single farm. In the West they do not speak of a farm as such, but of a quarter section, or half section, or a section.

Some farmers urge that a half section (320 acres) is a better size than a quarter section, in that it allows enough land for a man and his family to work, leaving a considerable portion to be summer fallowed. Many work their land year after year without summer fallowing, and find the crops satisfactory. The theory is that the frost of winter helps to preserve the soil by preventing the nitrates from being leached away.

The moment the crop is harvested the plough is turned on, so that with the earliest April warmth seeding may begin. No where else does the first fortnight of spring count for so much. Farmers sow when barely an inch or two of ground is sufficiently thawed to allow the seed to be covered, and the hot sun forces on the grain with great rapidity.



Street Scene in Winnipeg.

THRESHING IN WESTERN CANADA.

In the West great threshing gangs, with their huge threshing machines, traverse the country from farm to farm. Many of the farmers find it necessary, owing to the size of the crops, to own their own machines. The men sleep in a large conveyance somewhat like a car, which is drawn by the traction engine that moves the threshing machine and supplies the motive power. As the hum of the threshing machine begins the scene is a lively one. Every man has his appointed place, and the stacks grow rapidly smaller as the pile of straw heaps up and the bags are filled with bright, clean grain. As soon as threshing is over, the farmer hauls his grain to the nearest railway station, where it is graded and stored in the elevators.