

1812 RED RIVER 1912

ON July 6th, 1812, the first pioneer settlers, bound for what is now Western Canada, left York Factory on the shores of Hudson Bay. On August 30th of that year these pioneers, few in number but strong in spirit and great in the significance of the birth of a nation, disembarked at Fort Douglas on the Red River and entered on their tasks of building their homes in the new land.

To one man alone stands the credit of this enterprise and it is with justice that the name of Thomas Douglas, Lord Daer and Earl of Selkirk, has in Western Canada always occupied a place of honor. Gifted with a vision that was far in advance of his time, imbued with an enthusiasm that has, we may say, stamped all of those who have followed his pioneer footsteps in Western Canada, Lord Selkirk overcame great difficulties in the accomplishment of his plan to establish an agricultural colony in the interior of Rupert's Land. One hundred years ago he sent out the first band of settlers to the Red River colony. It is the landing of these people that has been portrayed on the frontispiece of this booklet and the memory of that landing which is to be fittingly commemorated in the Canadian Industrial Exhibition of 1912.

In virtue, the founder not only of Winnipeg, this great city, but of the whole West, the memory of Selkirk is one to mention with fervent thankfulness to every dweller of these parts of the world.