

Up to the present date 227 miles of road, exclusive of the Pembina Branch are under contract and in process of construction, namely:

From Thunder Bay to English River	113 miles.
From Keewatin (Lake of the Woods) to Selkirk, Red River	114 miles.
Total under contract..	227 miles.

There will remain, therefore, only the line between English River and Keewatin to be put under construction, or a length of 177 miles—measures for the final location of which are now actively in progress—in order to secure the completion at no distant day of a railway uniting the navigation of Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence with that of Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan.

Population of the Earth.

The population of the earth from the estimate of Behm and Wagner, at the present year, is 1,423,917,000; and the area of land surface 51,840,800; giving an average density of 28 to the square mile, thus apportioned:—

	Square Miles.	Inhabitants.	Density per Sqr. Mile.
Europe...	3,776,403	309,178,300	82
Asia.....	17,079,833	824,548,500	48
Africa.....	11,417,891	199,921,600	17½
Australia and Poly-			
nesia.....	8,381,210	4,748,000	1½
America.....	15,687,840	85,519,800	5½

The following are the populations of the various States of Europe, according to latest estimates:—

Germany, 1875.....	42,723,242
Austro-Hungary, 1876	37,700,000
Switzerland, 1870	2,689,147
Netherlands, 1875	3,809,527
Belgium, 1874	5,386,634
Luxemburg, 1876	205,158
Russia, 1870	71,730,980
Sweden, 1875	4,883,291
Norway, 1875	1,902,882
Denmark, 1876	1,903,000
France, 1872	36,102,921
Great Britain, 1876	33,450,000
Spain, 1870	16,551,647
Andorra	12,600
Portugal, 1874	4,208,881
Italy, 1875	27,482,174
Monaco, 1874	5,741
San Marino, 1874	7,816
European Turkey	3,500,000
Roumania, 1873	5,073,000
Servia, 1875	1,377,068
Montenegro	100,000
Greece, 1870	1,457,804

The entire population of Asia is larger by about 25,000,000 than the estimate given in the last year's issues of Behm & Wagner's work. The increase mainly falls upon the East India Islands and Anam, the figures in the case of the latter being more than double those given in the tables of last year—viz. 21,000,000. The population of British India is rather less than last year, being 188,193,700, that of British Burmah being about 2,750,000, including tributary or protected States. The whole population of British India is close on 239,000,000. In a map of India the varying density of the population in India is shown—from 5 inhabitants to over 750 per square mile. The greatest density is found, of course, about Calcutta, as also in patches all along

the east coast and over all the north-west provinces.

The population of China is given at 405,000,000, with 28,500,000 of outlying people. Hong Kong seems to have decreased by upwards of 2,000 since last year, the number now given being 121,965. Japan is set down at 33,290,014.

According to the latest statistics the whole population of Australia amounts to 1,867,000, of New Zealand to 421,328. In the Fiji Islands the native population seems to be rapidly decreasing. It is calculated now not to exceed 70,000, while the whites, who in 1872 numbered 2,940, were last year only 1,650.

With regard to Africa, the population of Algeria was in 1875 estimated to be 2,448,961. The population of Egypt shows a slight increase over last year, being now 17,000,000. The inhabitants of Port Said now number 9,650, and of Ismailia 3,779.

Many details are given concerning the area and population of the Sudan and Central and West African States, the results of recent explorations. The British possessions in South Africa show an increase of territory and population, the latter numbering, according to the latest date, 1,338,702.

There is an increase over the whole of America of upwards of 1,200,000 over the number given last year.

The population of Newfoundland is that of 1874, and is 161,388, showing a large increase over that of 1869. Canada is given at 3,672,116, and the United States nearly 40,000,000. Mexico stands at 9,276,079, and this must be from quite recent date, as last year's number was that of 1874. The Central American States show a slight decrease, the number this year being 2,828,164, the West Indies 4,316,178, and all South America, 21,500,700, of which Brazil claims upward of 11,000,000.

A list of about 215 towns is given which contain 100,000 or more inhabitants. On the exact line are Abeokuta, Herat, Leon, (Mexico), and a considerable number of Chinese towns, the estimate of whose population must be founded mainly on conjecture. There are 29 towns whose population reaches or surpasses 500,000.

Those at or above a million are:—Berlin, 1,044,000; Canton, 1,000,000; London, (1876.) 3,489,478; New York, with Brooklyn, (1875,) 1,535,622; Paris, 1,851,792; Seangtan, Schan-chowlu, and Singanfu, (China,) each 1,000,000; and Vienna, 1,091,999.

The entire area of British possessions abroad is given at 7,964,753 square miles, with a population of 203,941,768—excluding of course, the protected Indian States.