

Foreword

The Last Great West

The tendency of mankind in the development of civilization, starting from its origin in the plains of Asia, has been steadily westward. From century to century man has been occupied in finding out and developing natural resources, has been opening up virgin lands, has been founding and building up cities.

For hundreds of years the exploration and exploitation of the American Continent has been progressing. In the United States, favored by its soil, by its climate and by the vigor and tenacity of purpose of its people, the wave of immigration has spread, until today in that great country few districts remain undeveloped. The growth of its Pacific Coast States during the past ten years has been phenomenal; and now the population and capital of the United States having reached the barrier of the ocean, have been forced northward into the western provinces of Canada.

This movement has been coincident with a similar one from Great Britain, from the Continent (Russia, Germany, Austria, France, Holland and Belgium and the Scandinavian countries, including even Iceland) and from Eastern Canada. Every year many thousands of people from these overcrowded countries are pouring into the fertile plains of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Every year many millions of capital are being invested here. Throughout the civilized world mankind has awakened to the fact that there is here presented one of the last remaining opportunities for fortune by opening up the resources which nature has lavished upon this favored land; that this is the only section of the Continent that is relatively undeveloped.