

Canadian Pacific Railway's Locomotive and Car Shops, "Ogden," at Calgary. Open March, 1913. Employees Now Number 1,200; to be Increased to 5,000.

## Western Canada Market

*Largest and Most Prosperous Territory in the World Now Under Development---Home Consumption Heavy, With Increasing Demand for All Classes of Manufactured Goods*

By CHAS. F. ROLAND

Commissioner, Winnipeg Industrial Bureau

THE Western Canadian Provinces beyond the Great Lakes, which are now attracting hundreds of thousands of settlers annually, offer, perhaps, the greatest market in the world for manufactured goods of nearly every description.

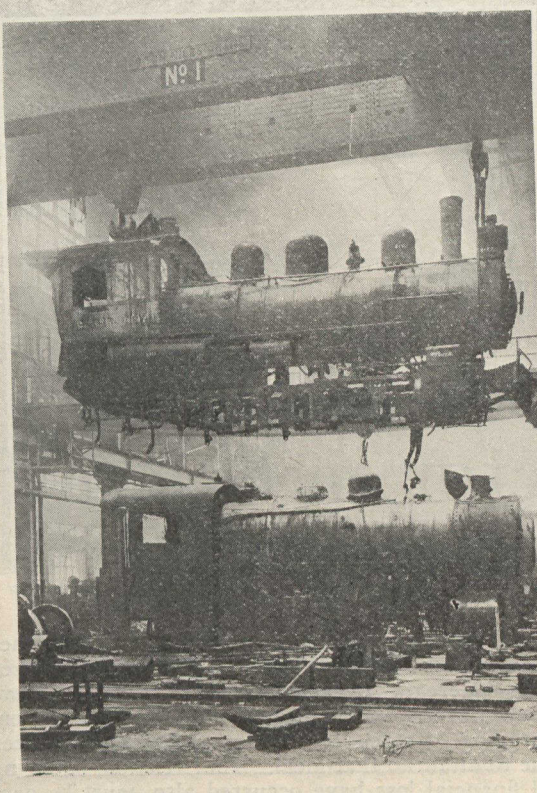
During the customs fiscal year ended March 31st, 1913, Canada imported from the United States goods valued at \$441,155,855. During the same period the value of imports received from Great Britain was \$138,659,429.

Unfortunately absolutely accurate provincial figures of the imports from different countries are not readily obtainable, but it may be taken as correct that the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are receiving annually over 75% of manufactured goods which are made elsewhere.

### Agricultural Wealth.

THE greatest source of wealth in Western Canada is agriculture, and the greatest single contributing factor is wheat. Probably there has never been a more striking instance of the power of agriculture to create a great and prosperous community than that which is on view on the plains of Western Canada to-day. Here is a country, where no more than forty years ago there were about 12,000 people, mostly half-breeds and Indians, but which has now a population of 1,500,000 and is adding to that rather considerable number in the spring and summer months each year at the rate of over 1,000 a day. The soil of Western Canada is rich beyond the dreams of agricultural avarice, and produces crops year after year in unexcelled quality and higher average yield than any other country in the world where farming is done on the same big scale. Wheat produces twenty to sixty bushels to the acre; oats from fifty to one hundred bushels, and barley from thirty to sixty bushels.

The area of the three provinces is 479,162,438 acres. Of this it is estimated that exclusive of the territory recently added to Manitoba, some 200,000,000 acres are arable. In 1900 the acreage under crop—wheat, oats and barley—was 3,491,413; in 1906 it had increased to 7,894,666; in 1911, 14,626,234, and in 1912, 17,329,000. In addition to this 1,110,000 acres of flax were sown in 1912. The



Interior View Ogden Car Shops, Calgary.

money value of last year's grain crop alone is conservatively estimated at \$250,000,000.

That these facts and figures are only records of the beginning of progress and development in the prairie provinces and that the future holds tremendous possibilities for this wonderfully productive country, may be judged by the fact that only eight per cent. of the available land is under cultivation. Commerce is measured by the power of the land to maintain population, and cities and towns can grow to the limit of the crop resources which directly or indirectly support them. The future of the cities and towns of Western Canada will be measured by the size of the crops of the three prairie provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The greater part of the immense annual crop is handled at Winnipeg. Indeed, as a handler of grain, Winnipeg has surpassed the famous markets of Chicago and Minneapolis. In 1911, 101,326,250 bushels of wheat were handled at Winnipeg, as against 96,647,850 bushels at Minneapolis, and 42,629,751 bushels at Chicago. Last year 143,682,750 bushels of grain were handled at Winnipeg, which is now the largest primary grain market in the world.

On the basis of local trade figures it is conservatively estimated that the city of Winnipeg alone is annually at the present time selling throughout the extensive area for which that city is the economic distributing centre, manufactured goods to the value of \$175,000,000. The purchasing power of the Western Canada market, probably the greatest growing market in the world to-day, based on

actual value of last year's crops—about \$250,000,000—and the other developed resources of forests, fisheries and mines, is calculated to be in the neighbourhood of \$300,000,000.

### Western Canada's Water Power.

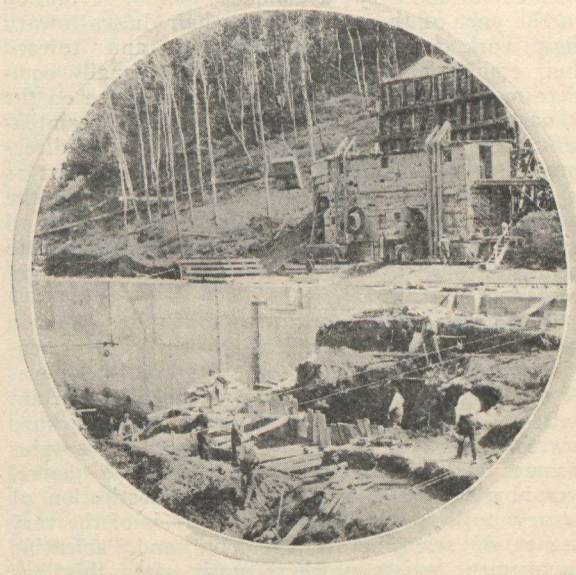
IN these days, when hydro-electric power is becoming so important a factor in industry, it is of interest to note that in the Western Provinces there are vast possibilities in this regard. In Manitoba there is water power which would produce 7,000,000 horse-power, and only 78,000 horse-power is being used. This is at Winnipeg, which has a municipally owned hydro-electric plant, supplying light and power to consumers at cost.

### A Forecast of Development.

THE wealth of Western Canada's partially developed resources is yet untold. With only a small fractional part of the arable land under cultivation, with the resources of mines and forests and mines practically untouched, with immigration increasing yearly, both in quantity and quality, and money pouring in year after year in ever increasing amounts, who can foretell what the future may hold for the prairie provinces. In the early sixties people scoffed at the idea that Chicago would ever be more than a frontier town, but the agricultural and commercial conditions demanded a great city on the spot where Chicago now stands, and that hitherto undreamed-of development should follow the settlement of the Western States. And so it is with Winnipeg and Western Canada to-day, with this difference. Never before has pioneering been done under such favorable conditions as exist in the prairies of the Canadian West to-day. Railway building in Western Canada is one of the wonders of the age, over seven miles of new track being laid down for every day in the year. Each year the railway map of Western Canada shows hundreds of miles of extensions laid in all directions. The railway mileage of the Western Provinces in 1900 was 3,680, and is now 13,560 miles, and before long, instead of one, three transcontinental railroads will belt the prairies, with branches and feeders extending in every direction, opening up



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Power Development at La Colle Falls, Prince Albert. The City is Spending a Million Dollars to Generate 15,000 h.p.