

districts, such as the North Saskatchewan country then was, and the movement of new settlers to the western portion of the province, soon changed the conditions which ruled earlier. The centre of rural population was moved westward from the Red river valley. Winnipeg continued to grow rapidly, in population and commercial importance, but the country immediately surrounding the city, did not keep pace in this development. While Winnipeg fully maintained, and has even increased her supremacy as the metropolis of the West, the settlement and development of the rural district surrounding the city, has been comparatively slow.

Quite a number of new settlers have come in, and replaced the original inhabitants who moved away northwest, but there is still a vast area of vacant land surrounding Winnipeg, and in other districts of eastern Manitoba, which is well adapted to settlement. The speculators, it may be said, have not realized upon their holdings as they expected. While there were large quantities of free lands in the west, new settlers would not purchase from speculators who held the lands of the east. Many of these speculators have now become tired of holding at high price, and they are willing to sell at very reasonable prices. New settlers have now to go much farther away to obtain free lands, than they were obliged to go a few years ago, and some prefer to buy lands in the east, rather than go far north and west. Thus the last year or two, there have been more new settlers locating around Winnipeg and in other eastern districts, than there were a few years ago. There is still room for many more, and where a good farm can be had in the east at a reasonable price, there are some advantages in buying it, in preference to moving to very remote districts, even when the land, of excellent quality at that, can be had for nothing.

The soil of the Winnipeg district is a deep, black mould, varying from one to four feet in thickness, with a stiff clay subsoil. This is characteristic of the Red River valley. The land is heavier as a rule than that further west, and is harder to work than in some districts. The eastern portion of the province is also more in need of drainage than the west. The need of drainage is in fact the principal drawback. In the lighter soil and more rolling country of the west, drainage is not required to any extent in many districts. This question of drainage, however, is only a matter of time, and in a few years it is likely this drawback will be remedied.

The advantages of the east are, rich, strong soil, nearness to market, abundance of hay, and supplies of wood and water. The low districts afford abundance of hay in dry seasons, when the crop is light on the highlands, thus making the east a favorite district for stock farming. This is shown by the fact that notwithstanding the limited settlement, most of the cheese factories and creameries of Manitoba are in the Red River valley country.

The most important advantage for the Winnipeg district, however, is that of nearness to market. Winnipeg is the only important consuming market in Manitoba for farmers' produce. All the other towns of the province are small yet, and the quantity of produce required for local consumption is as a rule much less than that produced by the farmers of the imme-

diate vicinity. In the case of Winnipeg it is different. It takes a large quantity of produce to supply the city, and in many articles, such as butter, eggs, etc., the farmers are not able to meet the local demand. Thus, Winnipeg not only consumes the bulk of the produce from the country immediately surrounding, but the city is compelled to draw from outside points in Manitoba, to make up the balance of her requirements. Prices for farmers' produce, such as butter, eggs, cheese, grains, etc., are, therefore, generally higher than at other points. This is a decided advantage for the farmers of the district. The soil of the Winnipeg district is admirably adapted to market gardening, as well as to growing grain. For garden truck, the Winnipeg district probably excels, and there are a number of truck farmers in the vicinity of the city who are doing well. All roots and vegetables which can be grown in a temperate climate, do well. Celery and cauliflower attain a wonderful state of perfection in the district, and are largely grown.

Another point which should be borne in mind is the future value of land. It can scarcely be doubted but that Winnipeg will continue to grow and keep pace with the general development of the country. This means that the population of the city will be numbered by hundreds of thousands in the not very distant future. On account of the quantity of vacant land, farms can now be purchased at from \$2 to \$20 per acre, according to the distance from the city and the quality of the land. Surrounding no other city on the continent of the same size, can good farming and gardening lands be bought so cheaply as around Winnipeg. When these lands are taken up more closely, and as the population of the city grows, the value of farms will increase, and a few years hence, the owner of a good farm near Winnipeg will, undoubtedly, be the possessor of a property of great value.

## Winnipeg—Where is it and What is it.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PROSPEROUS METROPOLIS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES.

Take a modern map of the continent of North America, and after sizing it up with the eye, place a pointer upon the spot you consider about the centre of the map. Then examine, and you will find that your pointer is upon or not very far from the word "Winnipeg." If this is not the case, you may consider the fact due to the inaccuracy of your sight. Mark that we have said a modern map must be used in this experiment. Winnipeg is a new place. The geography in use in Canadian schools a few years ago, did not show nor tell of the existence of such a place. Unless, therefore, you take a late map, you would search in vain for the word Winnipeg, for it would not be there.

But though the maps and geographies of a few years ago said nothing about Winnipeg, there are not many cities on the continent today that are more widely known than this same city of Winnipeg. Certainly none more widely known when age is considered.

Winnipeg is in fact the central city of the continent of North America, as the map will readily show. It is, moreover, the central city of

the Province of Manitoba, said Province being the central or keystone of the Canadian Confederation. It is also the commercial metropolis of central Canada, a vast region extending from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains. The trade of the city extends even beyond these limits, for the representatives of Winnipeg houses may frequently be met with pushing business as far west as the Pacific coast, while the exporting houses of the city, in grain, flour, etc., have their connections in the seaports of the Atlantic coast, and across the Atlantic in Europe. Thus, commercially, Winnipeg has a vast field to work in, even when the limits are contracted to the territory which is directly tributary to her, and within this territory she is without a rival.

We have remarked that the geographies of a few years ago did not mention such a place as Winnipeg. Geographies in use in Canadian schools, when men who are yet young enough to be only entering business life, were school boys, would, however, show a little colored spot in the heart of the continent, which was termed the "Red River settlement," and about the centre of this settlement, a little hamlet called Fort Garry was located. The geography afforded very little information about the "settlement" or the surrounding country. We were informed that the Red River settlement was an isolated colony, established by Lord Selkirk, in the lower valleys of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. Fort Garry was the headquarters of the settlement. The great territory north and west of this settlement was said to be of "vast extent." The inhabitants included a "few white traders and half-breeds and Indian tribes." The exports were "chiefly furs." A few notes were added about the physical features of the country. This was about all the information which could be gleaned from the geographies in use in Canadian schools in the seventies. The Red River settlement spoken of has become the nucleus of the great Province of Manitoba, and Fort Garry is now Winnipeg.

Winnipeg is built on the banks of the Red river, at a point where the Assiniboine river unites with the former. Forty miles down, the Red empties into Lake Winnipeg, a large body of water 6,550 square miles in size. A vast system of inland navigation is tributary to the city, which to be utilized to the best advantage requires some improvements, all of which could be carried out at a comparatively trifling cost. These navigable waters were the highways of trade and travel in the old days of the fur traders, and they will no doubt play an important part as channels of commerce in the future. Since the advent of railways, the waterways have been neglected to some extent, but their great value to the city and the country at large has not been lost sight of, and there is now a popular demand for the improvements necessary to the utilizing of these navigable waters to the best advantage. While Winnipeg is generally spoken of as an inland city, it nevertheless has hundreds of miles of navigable waters tributary to it. Some authorities claim, that with certain improvements, thousands of miles of navigable water could be made tributary to the city. The city is built upon a rather flat locality, but the two rivers named afford good drainage.