

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Manitoba, the most easterly of the three Central Provinces, lies in the centre of the North American continent and midway between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, its southern boundary running down to the 49th parallel, which separates it from the United States. This year, by special act of the Dominion Legislature, the northern boundary has been extended to the 60th parallel of latitude, adding 114,226,560 acres to the province. Old Manitoba had 73,742 square miles, the new 252,211, the increase being 245 per cent. From being sixth in point of area among the provinces, Manitoba now moves up to fourth place. It will be exceeded in size by only three provinces—British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. New Manitoba will be a maritime province with a coast line and port for ocean going steamers on the Hudson's Bay, one of the largest inland seas in the world.

Within its borders is Lake Winnipeg, a fresh water sea 2,000 square miles larger than Lake Ontario. Lake Manitoba is another large body of water, and scattered throughout the province are many others. The Red River of the north makes its winding way through the province and is joined at the spot where Winnipeg has been built, by the Assiniboine. The Winnipeg River is a stream of much importance for its water power, its possibilities in that line (with 78,000 horse power developed and transmitted to Winnipeg) being greater than that of Niagara Falls. By means of its waterways, Manitoba will eventually have water transportation to the salt seas—north by the way of the Red River, Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson to Hudson's Bay, or east by the way of rivers, lakes and canals, to the Great Lakes, only five hundred miles away.

Little more than forty years ago Manitoba was pure frontier—the very outpost of civilization. Its people were nearly all halfbreeds and Indians. Herds of buffalo roamed the prairie and were hunted for hides and choice cuts of meat. The Government was so weak and unstable that when it was proposed to join the Confederation, Louis Riel and a handful of halfbreeds seized the stores and post of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Garry and captured the white inhabitants of the settlement which is now the splendid city of Winnipeg. The rebellion was crushed and Manitoba joined the Confederation, but Riel rebelled again in 1885, and it took hanging to remedy this chronic upheaval of things governmental. There were no cities, no towns of size, no railroads, no factories or any stores outside of the post stores of the fur traders.

Today Manitoba has a population of over 500,000. Five million acres of land planted to wheat, oats, barley, flax and general crops, produce excellent results and make the Manitoba farmer the richest agriculturist in the world. 61,058,786 bushels of wheat, 73,786,683 bushels of oats and 29,000,000 bushels of barley were raised in Manitoba in 1911, and the filling up of the country and the growth of the cities and towns have promoted mixed farming and dairying so that these branches of agriculture are of very great importance and are gaining ground every year.

Manitoba has awakened to the importance of a vigorous campaign for people. Geographically situated so as to offer the farmer the greatest of combined advantages, those seeking opportunity, especially in mixed farming, are sure to respond in the coming year to the invitations that will be sent out to every corner of the world by the progressive movement started this year. Without taking to account the hundred and fourteen million acres to be added to the province this year, Manitoba has already 36,754,000 acres capable of cultivation. This equals 229,712 quarter sections of 160 acres each, and taking an average of four people to the quarter section, it will give a rural population of nearly a million people exclusive of cities, towns and villages, or, in other words, room and opportunity for an additional three-quarters of a million farming population.