

*M. Mackenzie*

Draft of radio message by the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, March 27, 1939.

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Winnipeg was little more than a village when the Board of Trade was founded sixty years ago. Although a remote outpost of settlement at that time, Winnipeg had nevertheless a long tradition as a centre of trade. For nearly a century it had been a great fur-trading market.

The establishment of a Board of Trade in so small a place was therefore a natural development. The founding of the Board coincided, however, with the beginning of a great transformation in the character of the trade of the great Canadian West. At first, the trading interests regarded the influx of settlers as a threat to their commerce, and settlement, ~~it is true, drove the profitable fur trade into the hinterland.~~ Only a few visionaries foresaw the development, as a result of agricultural settlement, of the trade in wheat before which the fur trade would pale into insignificance.

The agricultural pioneers provided Winnipeg with a new trade based on a stable and civilized community. Furs were replaced by wheat; for wheat, as for furs, Winnipeg was the great central market. As the settlement