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The Transportation Situation at the Head of the Great Lakes.

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The twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William occupy a unique position in the transportation of this country, being the focal point for all traffic both east and west, whether by rail or water. This might be qualified by the statement that the

position. On the one side is the vast manufacturing east; on the other the vast grain producing west, each producing that which the other lacks. Added to that is the fact that the middle west is devoid of coal, and requires to bring in its supplies from the

257,676 bushels. This shows the amount of elevator space required to accommodate even a portion of this vast production. Elevator accommodation seems to be the vital problem with which the twin cities have at present to contend.

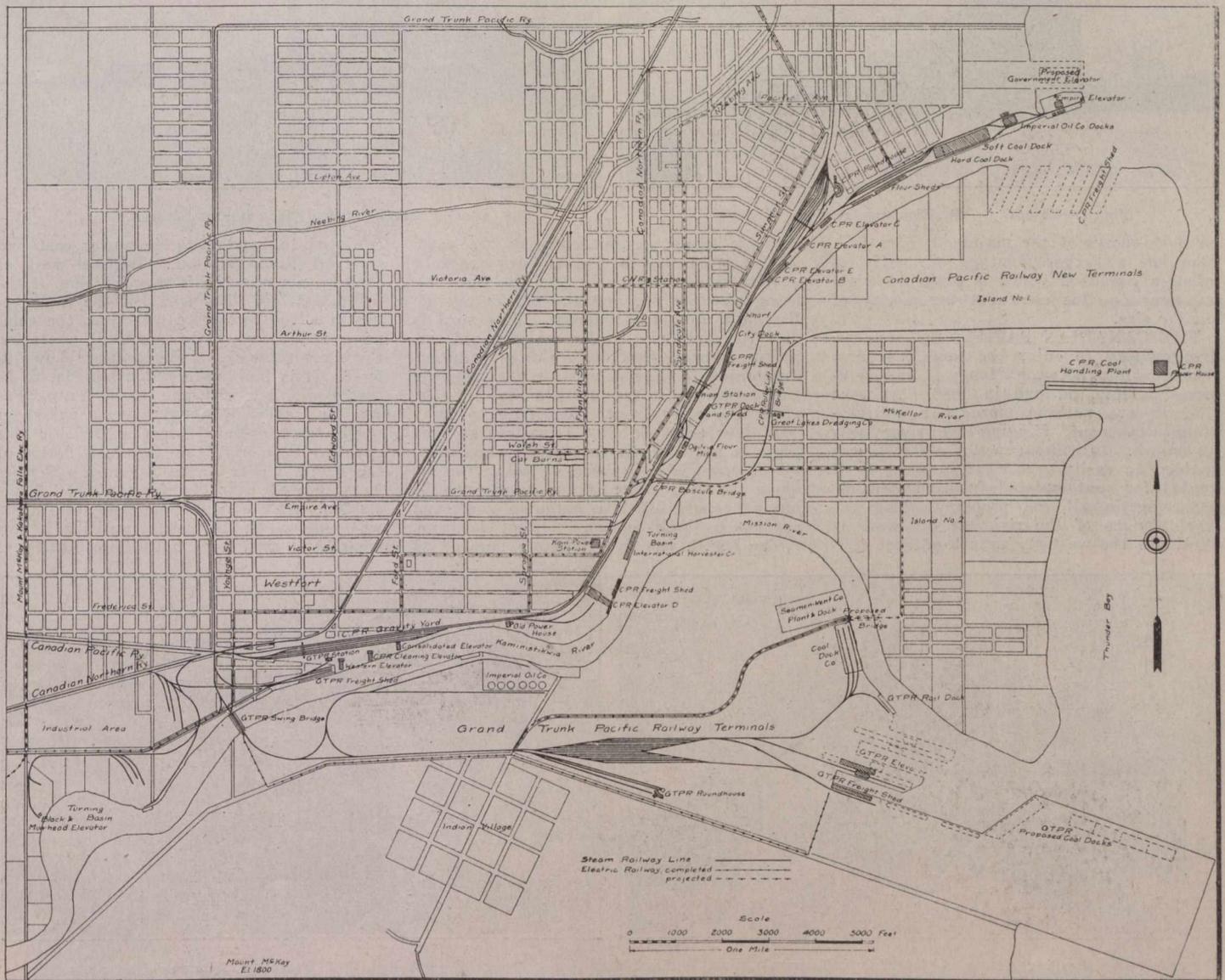


Fig. 1.—Plan Showing Railway Connections Around Fort William.

opening of the new National Transcontinental Ry. across the open country to the north of these two cities will, in a degree, deprive them of the unique position of requiring all traffic to pass through them. That is not to say the volume of traffic handled at these ports will in any degree diminish, as such will not be the case, as the grain crop is growing by such leaps and bounds, that several other outlets to that vast field are required, and would be unfelt at the head of lake navigation.

These twin cities occupy a decidedly novel

coal fields of the eastern United States. The greater part of this bulk freight, such as coal and grain, is transhipped at the head of the lakes, using water transportation on the eastern part of the journey, and rail, westerly. As an idea of the volume of traffic that passes through these two towns, the grain returns during the navigation season of 1912 are striking. Grain of all kinds, but principally wheat, was shipped out of the twin ports in Canadian and United States vessels to Canadian and United States ports, to the extent of 113,-

Fort William.

Fort William is most admirably situated with one of the finest natural harbors in the world. Originally founded as a fur trading post of the old Northwest Co., it clustered about the mouth of the Kaministiquia River, which at this point empties into Thunder Bay. The settlement grew up around the original fort, gradually forming the present city. The selection of this point for the original fort was ideal, as the Kaministiquia River with its tributaries opened up an extensive territory to the fur trader,