

The Western Provinces of Canada

Foreword

"The nineteenth century belonged to the United States—the twentieth belongs to Canada." Thus spoke one of the clearest thinkers in America several years ago. Canada is a country of great distances and immense possibilities. Extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it is more than equal in size to the United States, and, in fact, covers over 3,745,000 square miles, one-twelfth of the land surface of the earth.

The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway from ocean to ocean, through Canadian territory, first disclosed the real capabilities of the Western plains, and the favorable nature of their climate. Time and the course of events have widened the scope of that disclosure, and opened a wheat field with a productive power equal to a world supply. This was a discovery of positive fact that compelled attention and dissipated doubt, and the stream of settlement immediately began to flow. Since then it has been demonstrated that Western Canada, with its tremendous dimensions and immense material wealth, presents to the homeseeker the greatest opportunity of the age.

The potential wealth in the rich soil of Western Canada has attracted from all quarters of the globe men and women tired of the impoverished surroundings which are the unfortunate complement of many of the populous centres of modern civilization, and anxious, while there is yet time, to secure to themselves and their families a share of the prosperity which the boundless West holds in store for those who seek it. And they have not come in vain, for to every willing worker Western Canada has given freely and abundantly. Notwithstanding, however, the rapidity of settlement, the West is but yet upon the fringe of greater things, and out of its 170,000,000 acres of wheat land, only about 10,000,000 were under cultivation to wheat in 1913.

Western Canada is now far beyond the experimental stage. It is a country that has been tried by the most exacting test to which a new country can be put, and has come triumphantly through the ordeal. There can be no doubt now that the settlers who are so rapidly peopling the great West of Canada, and making their homes there, are destined to be the wheat producers for the British Empire.