

two years, that is, before the close of 1886. On the Western Division, the gap to be completed to make through connection to the Pacific Ocean is less than 300 miles, and the gap to be completed in the Lake Superior section is 480 miles. A line of steel steamers from Lake Huron to Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior, will complete the through connection between the western prairies and the old provinces during the present summer (1884). The Canadian Pacific Railway will constitute an independent Trunk line from ocean to ocean across the continent, of the greatest importance to the trade between the East and the West. The estimated time that will be taken by the express trains on this railway, from Montreal via Winnipeg to the Pacific Ocean is 90 hours. Millions of acres of fine land are already thrown open for settlement in close proximity to the Railway, which now brings the new settlers in communication with the Eastern grain markets.

Besides the Canadian Pacific Railway, many other lines are projected, and some others built. Among which may be mentioned the South-western, running from Winnipeg south-westerly, about 120 miles to Manitoba City, near the Pembina Mountains. Hudson's Bay is to be connected with Winnipeg by rail and water communication. Charters for no less than four great lines to tap the Peace River district have been already granted; and the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine Rivers are to have a numerous fleet of steamers navigating their waters.

It is quite evident, moreover, that the rapid completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway will induce the immediate construction of branch lines, tapping the fertile plains in every direction.

The climate of the fertile belt which we have described is in the highest degree healthy and suitable for the productions of the grasses, the cereals, and the stock raising of the Temperate Zones. It is, above all things, the wheat growing region of the Continent of America, having sufficient area to be the granary of the world. It is expected that it will become, during the next ten years, the great wheat exporting portion of the Continent of North America. The climate of this region, in summer, is warm, in winter, decidedly cold; but this cold is not felt to be more unpleasant than that of the older provinces of Canada, and parts of the Eastern United States. It is found, moreover, as the