# The Canadian Engineer

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## THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

The predicted date of completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway has been changed more than once. Mr. Charles M. Hays, the president of the road, recently spent six weeks inspecting the greater part of the system now under construction. After this visit, he stated the road will be completed from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean in 1914-a forecast which has the benefit of twelve months' elasticity. From Winnipeg to Edmonton, ninetyfive per cent. of the territory on both sides of the new transcontinental is good wheat-growing land. The remaining five per cent. is suitable for grazing purposes. But Edmonton is not the end of the fertile belt in Alberta. For 150 miles west of the provincial capital, there is more excellent land. This fact will in due time help Edmonton considerably. It must naturally become the distributing point for the Peace River region as well as for other large stretches of country, the settlement of which is but a matter of a few years.

Good progress has been made with the section of the road running through the clay belt of Northern Ontario. This is completed a considerable distance both east and west of Cochrane, a divisional point of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the present terminus of the Temiskaming Railway. On both sides of the line again, there is good farming land.

By the time the main line is finished to the port of Prince Rupert, in British Columbia, the company's branch from the port of Montreal to the main line will have been built and ready for traffic. Three charters have been granted by parliament for connecting Montreal with the main line.

The Grand Trunk Pacific will be able to give considerable assistance in the movement of the Western crop this year. The company has elevator facilities at Fort William. Last season they brought over their road 6,000,000 bushels of wheat to Lake Superior. During the coming crop movement, they anticipate carrying 12,000,000 bushels to the head of the lakes. A branch line will tap the coal deposits west of Edmonton, where the mines will be operated by at least three eastern companies. The distance from the coal mines to the main line is about fifty miles, and this track is practically completed.

The road will be practically level from ocean to ocean, the average gradient being four-tenths of one percent. On completion, the company will take over the eastern section from the Dominion government and will operate it for the first seven years at cost, and after at a rental of 3 per cent. on the cost of construction. The completed Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will be made up as follows:—

| Section.  Monction to Winnipeg (National Transcontinenta | Miles. |
|--|--------|
| under construction)                                      | T 80=  |
| winnipeg to Edmonton (constructed)                       | 702    |
| Edmonton to Prince Rupert (part constructed)             | . 962  |

The Canadian Northern Railway will probably have a completed transcontinental by the time the Grand Trunk Pacific is running trains from the Atlantic to its sister ocean. Canada will then have three coast-to-coast railway systems.