

INDUSTRIAL PROSPECT.

The best index to prosperity in the future is to be drawn from what has taken place in the past, and if we reason thus regarding the city of Emerson her prospects are certainly bright. In the year 1880 the value of her assessed property was \$476,938, while her population did not exceed 800. In 1881 the value had increased to \$748,260, and by the close of the year her population was nearly treble what it was at the close of 1880. When we come to the year 1882 we are entering upon the prospective, although we have a number of exact figures to guide us. With the amount of building done during the past year, and the steady advance in the price of all property in the city, the value of assessed property within the old city limits will not be less than \$1,500,000, and if we take into consideration the twelve river lots of the parish of St. Agathe, which will almost certainly be added to the corporation during the present session of the provincial parliament, the figures will be considerably over \$2,000,000. At present the population of the city is about 3,000, and before the close of the year this will be raised to 5,000, while the volume of business will, in all probability, reach pretty near to \$5,000,000.

There are many influences besides the enterprise of her business men, helping to accomplish these great results for Emerson. First among these is the construction of the Pembina branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway into the city which will make all Southern Manitoba tributary to her commercially, and make her one of the finest points in the whole North West for the location of wholesale mercantile concerns; and secondly, the Northern Pacific and other American railways now being constructed into the North West are all making for Emerson, as the point at which they must eventually cross the international boundary line. Her position in the near future as the key to the North on one hand and the South on the other is a matter of certainty, and she is destined to become the greatest railroad centre in Manitoba. All these advantages have evidently been recognized by the Dominion Government, and with the opening of the spring of 1882 Emerson has been raised to a customs port of entry for the Province of Manitoba.