

WINNIPEG EXHIBITION.

This Year's Display Marks End of Shaggannappi Period.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Winnipeg, July 23, 1906.

The opening of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition to-day bills many things of Western Canadian progress. Representative and typical as the Exhibition is, in no department does it exemplify the improving methods of the West more than in the fact that it has learned to put its own house in order.

A few years ago an inspecting director of one of the great loan and mortgage companies of the Dominion, an ex-member of the Ontario Government, upon his return from an official tour of inspection of the growing crops of Western Canada, said he believed that in no other country on earth could such seemingly careless and slovenly methods of farming be successful. From indifference to sanitary rules and means of comfort to improvidence as regards the rich prairie land, the garnering of its products and the instruments wherewith they were garnered he preached indirectly, if not by official report, a strong sermon on the recklessness of the Canadian West.

The stream does not rise higher than its fountain and the Winnipeg Exhibition of the past probably showed something of the spirit of the times in its lack of system, its free and easy, happy-go-lucky methods.

There is an Indian word which became incorporated in the vernacular of the frontier in other days—Shaggannappi—undressed buffalo or deer skin. It filled an important place in the tireless, boltless and nutless days of the ironless Red River cart. Its strong shreds of strings were utilized in a hundred ways in the days that ante-dated the hardware shop.

In the meeting of the old and new orders of Western Canadian life on the frontier and in the mixture of languages, English, French, Cree and many words were adopted in common and "Shaggannappi" became descriptive of make-shift. In the increasing dominance of the newcomers it acquired a more sinister meaning. The store-keeper who kept his butter and tobacco side by side on the same shelf, and his accounts on the blank leaves of an almanac; the lawyer or doctor who drank whiskey half the day and played poker half the night was called "Shaggannappi." It may easily be understood how the "Shaggannappi" disposition could affect the farmers of a new and rich soil, and it can be as easily understood how it could be that rainy weather, unpaved, undrained grounds, and a lack of systematic arrangements would affect the success of an exhibition in Western Canada in the past.

Beginning of New Era.

The splendid arrangements, the repairing of buildings, the drainage system, the block-paving and road-building on the grounds of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition this year, the lawns and well-trimmed trees denotes as much as do the facts that there are 110 more entries in the horse classes and almost correspondingly increases in all other classes over those of any previous exhibitions, the progress that Western Canada is making. The Winnipeg Exhibition this week typified the beginning of the new era for Western Canada and the final passing of "Shaggannappi" from the Western Canadian vocabulary.

Winnipeg has become a big place, a place if not quite as big as the booming owner of a suburban sub-division located on the level prairie somewhere near the horizon of Portage Avenue and Main Street would like you to believe, still much bigger in commercial importance than the actually built-up portion would lead the casual visitor to think.

The problem that is exciting much interest among the serious-minded of Winnipeg and who in the language of the West "have-banked their all" on its future is the question of manufacture.

Electrical power from the falls of the Winnipeg River at half the distance that Toronto is from Niagara Falls will soon be available by the Mackenzie & Mann interests, and the citizens have voted for a municipal system to be derived from the same river. The Canadian Northern Railway is tapping at the present time, and will soon traverse the great forest lands of the North Saskatchewan with their resources of spruce, poplar, etc., which will afford opportunities for the furniture, pulp, and other manufacturers. A manufactory for milling machinery is announced to be in working order by the beginning of next year, and the number of small manufactories that have sprung up in the last year in Winnipeg is one of the things that pass unnoticed in the overshadowing dominance of the wheat and real estate markets, building enterprise and railway construction.

The serious-minded realize the importance of manufacture in everything that will sustain Winnipeg's present prosperity, and are indefatigable in their efforts to enlist sympathy and capital and the indications are that the next great district movement in the Western metropolis will be in manufacture.

WAITING FOR HARVEST.

Western Business World Proceeding on Hypothesis of Great Crops.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Winnipeg, July 17th, 1906.

Telegraphic reports from all parts of the cultivated parts of the North-Western Provinces contain little but the news that Western Canada may reasonably expect, as far as expectations supported by facts three weeks prior to harvest may be considered reasonable, the greatest harvest in their history not only in gross amount, but in the average per acre.

Weather conditions have been exceptionally favorable, and western grain will be gathered generally two weeks earlier than was done last year. The crop last year was a good one, but merely an average yield was harvested. This season throughout the whole of Western Canada the conditions have been much better, and the crop several weeks more advanced than at a corresponding date last year. We are in the sanguine West, always looking for a bumper crop, but at the present time there are many good reasons for believing that the yield and quality of the wheat of the year 1906, will be the best ever.

The business world of Manitoba is proceeding on that hypothesis which is the outcome of a serious study of crop conditions for years. Times are good, and better evidence than the expectation of a great harvest is provided. The wholesale merchants of Winnipeg, who are more than a mere local factor now-a-days in the business of Canada announce that customers' payments have been particularly well met, and a considerable improvement over last year. The clearing-houses and the customs returns tell the same story of a stable financial situation.

The real estate market is a little quieter, as is the invariable custom in July. But inside property is still changing hands for building purposes, for business concerns. The building energy continues unabated, and the applications for building permits are more numerous than last year.

Apartment Houses Become Numerous.

A feature of the building situation which will be far-reaching in its effect on the future life of Winnipeg is the number of apartment houses already erected and in course of erection. It is said that no city admitting of comparison with Winnipeg, has such a large number of commodious, up-to-date apartment houses.

There are several reasons for a social and economical condition, which will undoubtedly have its effect in time on the life of the people. On account of the high rentals asked for residential property of all kinds, people desirous of reasonable modern accommodation are compelled to seek the seclusion that an apartment house grants.

It is more expensive to live comfortably in Winnipeg than in an eastern city. The difference largely consists in house rent and fuel, and the little extravagances that Western people have become accustomed to. A fairly commodious flat costs \$40 a month. But it is heated, and a servant is not indispensable. Heating despite our supposed indifference to the thermometer is a dear problem in Western Canada for many men with incomes not much larger than they could obtain in Toronto or Montreal.

Many men in Winnipeg are practically beginning life with the usual limited capital. They naturally wish to marry, and the apartment house particularly appeals to them. Matrimony otherwise would be impossible for them if they wished to live in that state of life in Winnipeg, in which it pleased heaven, in their opinion, to place them. The servant problem is acute, and drives many to the friendly cover of a flat.

There are more hotels in Winnipeg than in any other city of its size and commercial consequence on the continent. It is, in a sense, a land of strangers and sojourners, and accordingly a lucrative situation for the well-ordered hotel.

The Alexandria Hotel, the magnificent new C.P.R. hotel, which practically forms part of the depot, has opened. It compares in dignified appearance, number of rooms and appointments with any of the great Eastern Canadian hotels.

A noticeable change that the Winnipeg of to-day is undergoing is the gradual losing of the desire in its prosperous people to wander far afield in their summer outings or holidays.

The islands and shores of the Lake of the Woods, Winnipeg Beach, and the banks of the Red and Assiniboia Rivers are now dotted with pretentious summer cottages, where the pleasure-loving Winnipegger and his family sojourn during the hot weather instead of doing as he did in other days, seek the ocean breezes or the Muskoka Lakes. In a phrase, the "home" feeling has come upon Winnipeg, and the West is becoming all-sufficient for the Western Canadian.

The stories of the development of the towns and villages, and the settlement of the prairies of the new provinces are becoming old, but the industrial enterprise displayed is one of the features of many of their growth. The small grist-mill is beginning to play an important part in Western Canadian industrial life.