

WESTERN CANADA--THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

All experts in economics assert that agriculture is the basis of true wealth; that all other activities revert to the tilling of the soil for their base and source of life. Probably there has never been a more striking instance of the power of agriculture to create a nation that which is on view on the plains of Western Canada today. Here is a country where, no more than forty years ago, there were about 12,000 people, mostly half-breeds and Indians, but which has now a population of 1,281,118, and is adding to that rather considerable number at the rate of over a thousand a day. The soil of Western Canada is rich and fertile beyond the dreams of agricultural avarice, and produces crops year after year in unexcelled quality and higher average yield than any country in the world where farming is done on the same big scale. Wheat produces twenty to sixty bushels to the acre; oats from fifty to one hundred bushels and barley from thirty to sixty bushels.

The area of the three prairie provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—is 471,243,338 acres, including Manitoba's new area of 114,226,560 acres. Of this it is estimated that, exclusive of Manitoba's added territory, 200,000,000 acres are arable. In 1900 the acreage under crop—wheat, oats and barley only—was 3,491,413; in 1906 it had increased to 7,894,666, and last year, 1911, 14,626,234 acres were sown with these cereals. In addition to this 1,121,500 acres of flax were sown. The following table, giving the combined yield of wheat, oats, barley and flax, for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, during the past ten years forms splendid evidence of the productive power and general importance of the Western Canada:—

GRAIN YIELDS OF WESTERN CANADA

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax	Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax
1901	63,311,634	38,909,652	7,331,455	466,240	1907	70,944,582	72,513,561	19,187,279	1,734,065
1904	67,032,117	25,139,253	14,218,839	744,643	1908	96,863,609	108,987,835	42,050,625	3,165,349
1903	56,126,041	22,415,279	10,940,850	535,523	1909	118,109,000	163,998,754	30,524,000	2,833,162
1905	82,506,857	66,311,800	13,227,800	753,700	1910	101,336,213	108,301,090	16,993,120	2,038,950
1906	92,401,982	92,422,000	16,888,000	1,043,510	1911	192,083,000	414,819,000	42,023,000	14,782,000

The money value of last year's crop alone, taken from the Dominion Government census report, is \$211,929,000.

The railway mileage of the three prairie provinces is now 12,118 miles, having increased from a mileage of 3,680 in ten years. Immigration too shows a remarkable increase during that period. In the year 1901 49,149 new settlers entered the provinces; in 1906 this figure had increased to 189,064, and last year 228,164 individuals from all countries settled in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, bringing cash and effects to the value of \$326,080,220.

That these facts and figures are only records of the beginning of progress and development in Western Canada, and that the future holds tremendous possibilities for this Last Best West, may be judged by the fact that less than eight per cent. of the available land is under cultivation. Commerce is measured by the power of the land to maintain population, and cities can grow to the limit of the crop resources that directly or indirectly support them. So that the future of Winnipeg, the economic manufacturing and shipping centre of Western Canada, will be measured closely by the size of the crops of the three Prairie Provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Your Opportunity. Get close to this market.