

MANITOBA

After Many a Rise and Fall, a New Sense of Calm

Manitoba is in the centre of the continent. Its people live midway between the Atlantic and the Pacific and as close to the bottom of the United States as to the top of Canada.

Someone once said that Canada suffers from too much geography, but Manitoba has suffered from an excess of history. It began with the Métis rebellion led by Louis Riel, and its first hundred years were its hardest.

Once Winnipeg, its sole metropolis, aspired to be the Chicago of the North, but now it is content to be a clean and pleasant middle-sized city, with a stable and industrious population, one of Canada's leading regional theatres, a world-renowned ballet company and the best curling team (called a rink) in Canada.

Once its farmers struggled to grow wheat where none had grown before. Now its research scientists develop new strains designed to grow abundantly wherever a reasonable farmer wishes to plant them.

Once its farmland and cities were ravaged by floods. Now, through elaborate systems of dikes, drainage channels and floodways, the waters have been brought under control.

It has learned how to make adjustments and solve problems.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/ D'AUJOURD'HUI we look at Manitoba, past and present.



The Province

Manitoba is twice as big as the British Isles.

Very little of it is prairie and less than 15 per cent of it is farmed. The farmland, level prairies and rolling pasture, makes a right triangle in the south, with the base on the United States border and the high side touching Saskatchewan. Almost all Manitoba's people live there. Above are

plateaus and thickly wooded river valleys, and above them coniferous forests and granite outcrops. At the top are muskeg, tundra and Hudson Bay. There is a lot of fresh water too: three huge lakes—Winnipeg (a tidal lake bigger than Lake Ontario), Manitoba and Winnipegosis—are splashed all over the map.

The City

Winnipeg is Manitoba's one big city. Some 585,000 people, 57 per cent of those in the province, live in it or its suburbs.

It is 112 years old this year. It began as a village at the edge of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Garry, at the junction of the Red and

Assiniboine Rivers.

It is now peaceful, prosperous, somewhat self-conscious. It is Canada's middle urban child, junior to the cities of the East, older than those of the West. In 1910 it was Canada's third most populous city—after Montreal and Toronto. Van-