

thickly-wooded district and cross the Red River at Winnipeg by one of four handsome iron bridges, two of which span the Red River and two the Assiniboine River. In strange contrast was my first journey to Fort Garry, when we crossed the same rivers by small rope ferries opposite the fort.

The province of Manitoba, which up to 1881 comprised only about 9,000,000 acres, has since had its boundaries extended, and is now estimated to contain an acreage of 70,000,000. It is the only province as yet formed in the North-West, but five judicial districts have been mapped out, viz., Keewatin, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Athabasca, all of which will in time become provinces enjoying representative institutions, as provided for by the articles of the Confederation of the Dominion. The province of Manitoba, like the other provinces of Canada, has a legislature of its own, consisting, at present, of thirty-two members, elected every four years by the people. The deliberations of this assembly are presided over by a Speaker, and are governed by strict parliamentary rules. There is a Lieutenant-Governor appointed every four or five years by the Governor-General of the Dominion in Council. The Cabinet consists of the Provincial Treasurer, Attorney-General, Minister of Public Works, Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, and President of the Council. These Ministers, as in all other constitutional governments, hold office so long as they enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly representing the people. The legislation enacted so far has been of a thoroughly practical character, to meet the growing wants of the country. The province is divided into municipalities, each having a local government of its own, with the right of electing annually a reeve and councillors for the administration of its affairs. There are also school districts, receiving aid in the shape of an annual grant from the Provincial Government. The school system of Manitoba is modelled after that of Ontario to a great extent, but it is widely different in some respects. There are no separate schools, as in the east, but the Catholic and Protestant schools are two distinct and independent branches of the one general system, and no Catholic can be taxed for the support of a Protestant school, nor any Protestant for the support of a Catholic school. The school rate is always levied on this principle, and the Provincial Government gives a grant of 100 dollars a year to each school of both divisions. The great increase in the number of the schools established in all parts of the country is remarkable. In 1871 there were only sixteen schools and 816 pupils in Manitoba all told; but in 1881 the number had grown to 128 schools and 4,919 pupils, and this year to over 250 schools and 10,000 pupils, as shown by the returns. The standard of qualification is very high, but not quite so technical as in some of the eastern provinces. The settlers of Manitoba have this advantage over those of Dakota, where the teachers in most of the rural districts are of the poorest grade, and generally girls, whose education is very superficial indeed. Nearly all the religious denominations