

We must now, however, retrace our steps, and see what was taking place in the meantime in the North-West. The educational interests were receiving much attention, and with wonderful rapidity new school districts were being established throughout the country. In religious matters the different denominations were gaining ground. Municipal organisation was being widely discussed, and attention called to the drainage of the low-lying lands in the country. Each sitting of the Legislature left the laws more suited to the requirements of the people. The progress of the principal city, Winnipeg, was, indeed, astonishing; and yet, in comparison with the last two or three years, the country, as a whole, may be described as being at a standstill. And why? Because there was no railway development west of the Red River. The great wheatfields, to-day so eagerly sought after, were shut up from the outside world, almost unknown, or at least unappreciated. The old curse of isolation had not been done away with. Winnipeg, however, flourished, and the country in the immediate vicinity became thickly settled. The fur trade collapsed in the face of advancing civilisation, and the Indians and traders retired from their old camping-ground. Fine buildings were now to be found in the city, with handsome streets and broad sidewalks. The little Holy Trinity gave way to a handsome place of worship; other churches and public buildings were erected; theatricals, other than the pantomime, came into vogue. Daily and weekly newspapers were established; and the population, from 500 in 1871, jumped to 10,000 in 1880. But the real advancement of the country as a whole was yet to come, as we shall presently see.

An important event in the history of the Canadian North-West was the visit of Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General of Canada. He was undoubtedly a popular Governor, and the people of Manitoba, fully appreciating the importance of his visit, did their best to make his sojourn a pleasant one. He was *fêted* everywhere, and made some telling speeches on his experience in the country. The words of Lord Dufferin went far and wide, and did much to bring the country to the fore. In 1881 our late Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, also visited the North-West, and he, not content with visiting the threshold, penetrated as far as the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, and that, too, at a time when almost the entire distance had to be travelled by means of horses, the railway having then only reached a distance of about sixty miles beyond Winnipeg. While not wishing to detract from the importance of Lord Dufferin's visit to the country, the trip of the Marquis of Lorne through the entire land was, I believe, the turning-point in the history of the North-West. It was the glowing impressions he formed, and the faithful reproduction of them in the speeches he delivered on his return, that first awakened the interest of capitalists and settlers all over the world.

But to resume. The signing of the contract between the Dominion Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company