

tons annually. The development of a steam communication on Lake Winnipeg will transfer the whole transportation of the trade to Minnesota.

In 1862, the railway system of the United States terminated at La Crosse, in the State of Wisconsin. Thence steam navigation to St. Paul, land transportation for 250 miles to Georgetown, on the Red River, and steam navigation to Fort Garry, were the improved modes of transit. Beyond the Selkirk settlements the oared bateau and the wooden cart of the fur-trader are the rude resources of the inhabitants. But, with the gold discoveries at the sources of the Saskatchewan, a new state of things is at hand. Steamers once placed on Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan, an emigrant can make the journey from Toronto, in Canada, to the Cariboo Mines of British Columbia in thirty days, and at less expense than is now required for the journey on land from the mouth of the Frozen River to the Cariboo country.

Thus, in conclusion, quoting the words of an eminent writer from whose volume on Minnesota we have gathered much useful information: "Through Minnesota, the sole pathway of westward emigration, must flow the great exodus now dashing itself in vain against the shores of Europe through the passes of the Caucasus. Every advancing wave of population lifts higher and higher this gathering flood of American life, which, the moment that it begins to press upon the means of subsistence, must pour all its vast tide through this narrow channel into the inland basins of the north-west—till the Atlantic and Pacific are united in a living chain of populous States. Behold, then, the geographical circle of American development completed! Henceforth, the energies thinly dispersed in the vast movement of territorial expansion are concentrated in the upward career of civilization and social growth. This is but the outline, faintly limned upon the canvas, of the empire into which is to be wrought the glory and the grace of all historic civilizations. Progress is no longer a superficial diffusion, but an inward growth, of which not width but depth is the measure. The movement of life is turned from the circumference to the centre. The reciprocal dualism of the east and west, of the north and south—their action and re-action—becomes a continental economy. The social life of the new world ceases to be a fragment—a broken echo of old-world traditions—and becomes a complete and rounded continental organism, at once independent and supreme, of which Minnesota is the vital centre—the heart from which all its arteries pulsate to the majestic systole and diastole of the commerce of the world."