

## The City of Winnipeg.

"I hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be;  
The first low wash of waves where soon  
Shall roll a human sea,  
The rudiments of empire here  
Are plastic yet and warm;  
The chaos of a mighty world  
Is rouding into form!"  
—Whittier.

Only forty-five years ago one might have looked in vain over the maps of the North-West for the name of Winnipeg. The now splendid city did not then exist. Some fur-trading posts were indicated here and there in the vast unknown region and among these was "Fort Garry," now Winnipeg, the half-way house between the two oceans.

There are said to be one hundred thousand words in the English language. In spite of this ample vocabulary it is difficult for a Westerner to find the necessary words to picture the vast resources of the region of which Winnipeg is the commercial centre, and its marvellous development during the last half century.

Speaking of Winnipeg itself—as late as 1875 it was a village of a thousand inhabitants; it is now a modern city of one hundred and sixty thousand souls. It is the capital city of the province of Manitoba and the gateway to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. These are enormous provinces with immense stretches of fertile fields capable of sustaining a vast population. Their exports must pass eastward through Winnipeg, their imports must of necessity pass westward through Winnipeg. The development of this city must then progress *pari passu* with that of the half-continent beyond.

Three railway systems will pass through the city. The pioneer line, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and two partially completed transcontinental roads—the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific. These three lines all maintain large shops, which give employment to no less than 3,600 men. The yards of the Canadian Pacific Railway form the largest individual railway yards that any city in the world can boast. The tracks extended would stretch out 110 miles.

The growth in all other lines is most marked; there are to be found streets of wholesale warehouses with fine transportation facilities; banks with the most modern and beautiful office buildings; churches and colleges; public schools which any city twice the age of Winnipeg and twice its size might be proud to possess; wide and splendidly paved thoroughfares; good car

service; and many other features which give it the true metropolitan appearance.

The city has a most energetic Park Commission, and as a result there are to be found miles of beautiful boulevards and several pretty parks in different parts of the city. The new Assiniboine Park to the west, facing the river of the same name will be, when the work of its development is completed, a most attractive spot alike for citizens and visitors.

Nor is Winnipeg neglectful of facilities for the education of the youths of the new nation. The following colleges prepare students for the University examinations; St. John's, Episcopal; Manitoba, Presbyterian; St. Boniface, Roman Catholic; Wesley, Methodist.

Of course in a centre of such agricultural activity there is demand for a high-class college of agriculture. This need has been met by the Government in its Agricultural College, which attracts a large attendance, and where all branches pertaining to the country, the farm and its advancement receive every attention. Winnipeg is also the home of the Manitoba Medical College.

Although such a new product, Winnipeg is a city of homes. In the residential districts and outlying suburbs there are large numbers of handsome residences, surrounded by well-appointed grounds and gardens.

Necessarily there are as yet few places of marked historic interest. Old Fort Garry would have constituted one of these, but in the early eighties when the "boom was on" and sentiment was at a low ebb, the fort was destroyed—an act which the citizens of to-day all deeply regret. Fortunately the gateway was preserved, and still stands a link between the days of fur trading and the buffalo hunt, and the present day of development. Some few years ago the Hudson's Bay Company decided this landmark with its adjoining area to the city, and it is now maintained as a recreation ground. However while we grieve over the demolition of the old fort it is a satisfaction that within easy access is Lower Fort Garry, preserved in its entirety and situated on the Red River some eighteen miles north of the city, and accessible by suburban car.

Situated as Winnipeg is, its citizens have to look elsewhere for their summer recreation grounds, and there are now three popular resorts within easy reach. Winnipeg Beach is perhaps the most popular, on account of its nearness. It is situated on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg, some forty-eight miles north. Then there is the Lake of the Woods district, east, on the