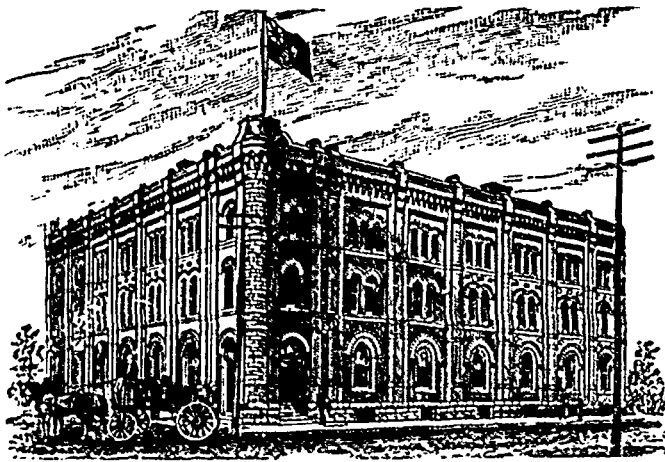


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C.P.R. Enterprise.

President Van Horne of the C. P. R. arrived in Winnipeg on Saturday the 18th accompanied by a number of gentlemen from Toronto, Montreal, Kingston and Hamilton. General Superintendent Whyte was also with the party. A *Free Press* reporter interviewed Mr. Van Horne and obtained some information from him in regard to the improvements contemplated by the company this year. In reply to a question as to the object of the present trip, Mr. Van Horne said: "It is the annual inspection of the line. One object is to decide upon the various works proposed for the improvement of the line during the coming season. A large amount of work is to be done between the Ottawa river and Winnipeg in the way of filling bridges with earth or replacing them with masonry and steel. By the end of the present year there will be very few timber structures left in the line between Winnipeg and Port Arthur, and by the end of next year probably not one will be left. By that time the entire line from Winnipeg to Port Arthur will have been re-laid with new steel rails, weighing 72 pounds to the yard. Three hundred and forty miles of the main line between Winnipeg and Montreal have been re-laid with new 72 pound rails and hundreds of bridges have been filled or made permanent within the past two years. Extensive improvements are also contemplated in the mountain

section during the present and coming year, and very large additions will be made this year to the rolling stock to provide for the rapidly increasing business of the company. Sixty locomotives and a great many freight and passenger cars are already under order."

In regard to the Souris branch he stated that "the Souris branch will undoubtedly be extended during the present season to the coal-fields." Some additions will also be made to the Glenboro branch. He was then asked if the company intended to build a bridge at Selkirk. To this he replied:

"There is no truth in the report about the Selkirk bridge. Nothing of the kind is contemplated at present. Our surveys from Selkirk had in view only the extension of the present Selkirk branch." In speaking of western enterprises he said: "The Calgary & Edmonton railway, which is to be worked by the Canadian Pacific when finished, will reach Edmonton this year and will probably be extended south from Calgary to McLeod, about 50 miles, next year." The question of the rumored purchase of the Northern Pacific's Manitoba branches by the C. P. R. was approached, but Mr. Van Horne declined to discuss it.

The party will go right through to the coast and on their way back will inspect the Prince Albert branch arriving in Winnipeg about May 1st.

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A New House.

Another is now added to the list of wholesale mercantile houses in Montreal, who will cater for the wants of people in the west and British Columbia, namely Matthews & Towers, wholesale dealer in gents' furnishings and such goods. The senior partner of the firm is no other than S. C. Matthews, one of the old time drummers of the Northwest, whose visits commenced away before the days of the great boom, when he visited the prairie land as representative of Messrs. Greene, & Sons Co., of Montreal, the leading fur and hat house. Mr. Matthews will still continue to visit the Northwest, and will be here again in his new line of business early in May. That his popularity will insure his success is beyond a doubt, and many old friends will welcome and encourage him. His partner Mr. Towers, has been long associated with him in business, and if not so familiar with people here, is not unknown to the trade in the west. The intention of the new firm is to handle all lines and varieties in gents' furnishings.

It is expected that during his northwest trip this year, Dr. Selwyn, director of the geological survey, will visit the Athabaska region for the purpose of inspecting the sites of the proposed borings for petroleum, said to exist there.

Winnipeg *Free Press*: "It is stated that the Great Northern railway company will apply to the supreme court for re-hearing on a certain suit to decide the title of Minnesota lands valued at \$3,000,000, which was decided in the United States supreme court in favor of the Northern Pacific a month ago. The Great Northern company claims that serious mistakes were made in regard to the facts that would materially alter the decision and limit the recovery to a much less amount."