

"It is a land of rivers flowing free,  
Lake mirrored mountains rising proud and stern,  
A land of spreading prairies ocean-wide."

—J. H. BOWES

## Western Canada



TEN years ago, in a paper read before the Canadian Club of New York, the statement was made that "the people of the United States had been so long accustomed to see Canada figure on our maps as a narrow strip, with scattered villages and towns along the St. Lawrence and the great lakes, with innumerable smaller lakes and rivers, that it is difficult for us to realize that a rival nation, with a territory vastly larger than the whole American Union, has risen upon our borders, and, like a young giant, set about making a glorious future for itself; building up great manufactories, levelling the mountains, filling up the valleys, bridging the rivers of the continent, dig-

ging canals, constructing thousands of miles of railroad, whereby to consolidate its empire, and make accessible its boundless national resources of timber, mines and agricultural lands." Ten years have passed since then; the development which is spoken of as being surprising had then but begun, and it has since made most rapid progress, especially in Western Canada. The Territories of that day have been changed into Provinces and Districts, with Parliamentary and Municipal organization, placing the thousands who have decided to make their homes in the vast domain lying to the west of Lake Superior in possession of all the advantages of the older sections of the Dominion. To-day those great plains are being settled with a thrifty, prosperous and satisfied class of people. It is true that in the past there has been more or less ignorance on the part of a great many respecting Western Canada, but this is rapidly diminishing, as reports are sent back to their friends by those who have ventured to make their homes there, and who have almost invariably met with success.

Before speaking of the conditions which favor this, and, in fact, are promoters of it, it will be interesting to refer to the extent of this vast territory, which still holds out inducements to the man who is dissatisfied with his present lot, who has but little prospects of relief from burdensome taxes, from unproductive farms and excessive rents, and with no hope of ever owning a home that he may call his own; or the man who lives in a congested district, whose family is growing up, his sons and daughters approaching manhood and womanhood, and he with but little in the way of temporal acquisitions.