



C. P. R. GRAIN ELEVATORS, FORT WILLIAM.

people were pouring into the West. Its timber, its coal-beds, its mineral deposits, but above all, its millions of acres of rich agricultural land, were becoming known. The demands of the growing commerce of the West made a railway imperative. In the year 1881 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was formed. Armies of men were soon working from Winnipeg westward, and from the point where the Government had suspended its labors, from the Pacific Coast, eastward.

One misty morning early in November of 1885, the two parties of workmen met in Eagle Pass. The last rails of the C.P.R. were linked together, the last spike driven. The longest continuous line of railway in the world was complete. But even before this the completed sections of the road had proved its necessity by carrying a large and profitable traffic.

There was something like the touch of a magician in the march of these two steel rails, sometimes at the rate of five or even six miles a day. Right on the heels of the line-builders, vil-

lages, towns, and even cities, were springing up in the night, as it were. till to-day one finds at Winnipeg fifty miles or more of railway tracks all crowded with cars—a picture surely suggestive of the greatness of the West. Long trains are pouring in, laden with grain and flour, cattle, and other freight. The great West is the future larder and granary of the world.

At Fort William one finds looming up the great grain elevators, four monster ones, holding twelve to fifteen hundred thousand bushels each. Trading-posts have been transformed into cities. The railway has tapped, in the East Kootenay region, the largest undeveloped coal areas in the world.

Moreover, the Company has extended its lines so as to afford direct communication between Halifax and Vancouver. It has made connection with all parts of Ontario, the Western States, and the great Mississippi Valley. To-day the Company's lines embrace over 10,000 miles of railway.

Not content with carrying the trade