

railway is well located and well built ; its transcontinental main line grades over practically its entire route are the most favorable in existence ; and under a normally developed traffic density the railway should operate at a ratio previously unknown, and at enormous profit.

About 5,911 miles of prairie lines are already so far developed as to warrant the prediction that they will carry the whole system in the comparatively near future.

The Pacific, Northern Ontario, and Eastern lines may develop more slowly, but can be made self-sustaining and profitable under a proper program.

The Canadian Northern Railway System may be said to occupy at this time a position somewhat analogous to that of the Canadian Pacific, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, shortly after each one of those lines was completed to the Pacific coast ; but Canadian Northern possesses great advantages due to the fact that the other lines were built first. Trade routes have been established ; Pacific ports have been opened and developed ; large cities now flourish where but a few years ago no settlements existed ; enormous land areas formerly regarded as worthless have been found to be productive ; all these, and many other improved conditions, being due to the pioneering of the older lines. And in so far as Canadian Northern operates along these trade routes, or serves either directly or indirectly these Pacific ports or cities, or improved lands, or the population induced thereby, in so far will its period of upbuilding be shortened, in so far will its task of colonization be lightened, and in so far will its revenues be increased.

While, generally speaking, the Canadian Northern lies in a more northerly latitude than the other lines, its tributary territory west of Winnipeg is quite as susceptible of agricultural development, and offers equal inducement to settlers ; and upon the continued upbuilding of this territory contiguous to its lines, the future of the Canadian Northern in large measure depends.

That Western Canada and the northwestern part of the United States have grown rapidly in population and in commercial importance during the last two decades may be readily shewn :