

ON the youth of Canada  
rests the future of our  
country.—HON. DR. SHULTZ.

## Our Western Heritage

By Rev. J. H. Riddell, B.D.

CANADA has rare and ex-  
ceptional advantages.  
—SIR DANIEL WILSON.

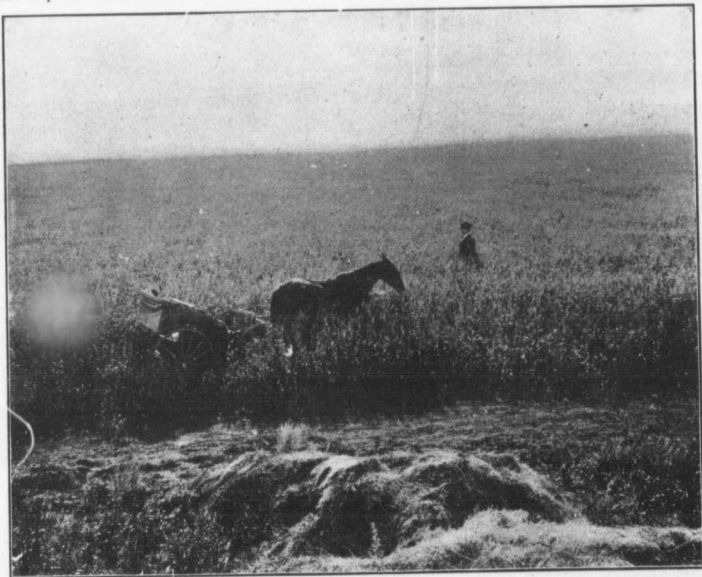
THE West! No one can adequately describe it. Its possibilities far surpass the wildest vision of the most optimistic dreamers. The stories told by the missionaries of twenty-five years ago were laughed at as idle tales, but the progress of events has vindicated the truthfulness of their vision, yea, has encircled a wider horizon than the keenest eye ever encompassed. Even to-day these dreamers themselves wonder at the development, and can scarcely believe their own senses. Frequently they may be seen rubbing their eyes and looking with keenest scrutiny on the cities, elevators, farms and railroads to assure themselves that they are living in a world of actual reality.

So the dreams of the men of to-day will be found to be far behind the energetic activity, the teeming, throbbing, pulsating life of the next quarter of a century. The future of our beloved Canada lies in this development of the country west of the Great Lakes. Soon there will be more people west of Lake Superior than there are east of it. J. J. Hill

divided up. Alberta and Saskatchewan have each an area of about 250,000 square miles, while Manitoba has only about 90,000.

Manitoba has a most interesting history. It was the scene of the struggles and triumphs of the Lord Selkirk settlers, of the rebellion under the misguided Riel, and of the fight for railway freedom and national schools. The Province is almost entirely devoted to agricultural pursuits, particularly to the growing of wheat. The Red River valley, which made Dakota and Northern Minnesota famous, has given an equal lustre to Manitoba. The nature of the soil and the character of the climate in this celebrated valley is well adapted to raising the finest quality of wheat. The golden kernels which rise as if by magic from its black soil have made the Province a richer gold mine than the benches of the Klondyke.

Winnipeg is the capital and the metropolis of the West. It is destined to become one of the foremost cities of Canada. It is only thirteen years since I first went to Winnipeg to live,



A WESTERN WHEAT FIELD

has said that fifty millions of people will yet find a home in the Canadian North-West. This is no idle prophecy. Just think of it! Nine times as many people on these great plains as there are now in all Canada. Then outside of this, to the north-west of the newly formed Provinces, is the New North-West, whose extent and resources no man has yet begun to measure. It behoves the churches, then, and all organizations whose end is the preservation of the best Canadian ideals, to keep their eyes on this young giant rising in the West, and see to it that the right thoughts are instilled into his soul and the best purposes infused in his heart.

The West, as now divided, is thought of as being made up of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Manitoba is by far the smallest of the three. In my thought it is most unfortunate that Manitoba was made so small at the time of its erection into a Province, or at least not enlarged when the territory included in the West was being

but in that short time the city has trebled its population and volume of business. The north-east of the Province is much broken, being occupied largely by lakes and morasses. It is a region, however, which has valuable resources in its timber, and especially in the whitefish of Lake Winnipeg. Reports have been circulated that there are valuable deposits of minerals around this lake.

Saskatchewan is much the same in natural resources and climate as Manitoba. Some of the best grain-growing areas in all the West are found in Saskatchewan. The northern part is undeveloped. Its resources are, therefore, largely unknown. The advent of the C.N.R. and the G.T.P.R. will change the whole complexion of the northern part of this magnificent Province. Already a very appreciable reduction in the freight rates has taken place at those points where there is competition between the C.P.R. and C.N.R. The southwestern portion of the Province, once looked upon as an

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