

cover passed it in the 1920s and now it ranks seventh, behind Ottawa-Hull, Edmonton and Calgary.

It has memories and distinctions, good and bad. The juncture of its two most important thoroughfares, Portage and Main, for example, is reputed to be the coldest, windiest corner in the country.

Andrew H. Malcolm, of *The New York Times*, took its temperature a few years back.

"To set the record straight once and for all, Winnipeg is not a very cold city. It is a very, very cold city. Indeed Winnipeg, which is 250 miles north of Fargo, N.D., may be the world's coldest provincial capital still inhabited by 581,000 humans. It gets so cold here that soft ice cream hardens outdoors. Tires on parked cars can freeze lopsided and auto exhausts hang in the air until whipped away by the wind. Many elderly people virtually hibernate until spring and drive-in waitresses wear parkas."

There is an old, self-deprecating Manitoba saying, that the province has ten months of winter and two months of bad ice. That may be true of Churchill up on Hudson Bay, but it is not true of Winnipeg. (Winnipeg is almost as close to Milwaukee as it is to Churchill). It has the regulation four seasons, a long winter, a short spring, a full-length summer with temperatures usually between 70 and 90, and an abbreviated fall.

Summer comes for three, sometimes four, ecstatic months. The days are warm and dry, the

## A Three-Star City

The first green Michelin guides for Canada, one in French and one in English, came out in June. Seven cities received triple stars. Winnipeg was one of them. Michelin ranked it specifically as among the world's best cities.

air is pure and the nights are cool. Everyone has a cottage at the lake or knows someone who has. Manitoba has 100,000 lakes. A family which wants to can find one to have all to itself.

## Observation from the Rev. George Young, Methodist Pastor, 1868

"What a sorry sight was presented by the long-thought-of town of Winnipeg on the day we entered it. What a mass of soft, black, slippery and sticky Red River mud . . . Streets with neither sidewalks nor crossings, . . . a few small stores with poor goods and high prices, one little tavern where 'Dutch George' was 'monarch of all his survey'—a few passable dwellings . . . neither church or school in sight or prospect; a population about one hundred instead of one thousand as we expected."



Winnipeg.