

ONCE started on its way, Winnipeg made rapid progress.

When Winnipeg was incorporated as a city, in 1874, there were 1,869 inhabitants, and the place had taken on the status of a large and thriving village. The

News Begins to Spread

story of fertile wheat lands and splendid summer weather began to spread

abroad. Commerce cast appreciative eyes toward the town at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, and railroad men in Canada and the United States scented trade possibilities that would make freight and passenger service profitable.

In 1878 the first steam railway pushed up from the States and made a point just across the river from Winnipeg. Better things were on the way, however, and in 1882 the Canadian Pacific Railway, overcoming strong opposition and the discouragements of building through a thousand miles of rock and stunted forest growth, made Winnipeg on its way to the Pacific Coast. The railroads brought new people into the West, and these people told others what they found there. A stream of travel and trade was started that has swept a million and a half people into Canada, west of the Great Lakes, and built up trade that taxes the capacity of five great railways, has caused hundreds of millions of money to be invested and has poured forth profits in crops and trade that seem fabulous but are real and actual.

It is usually a long road from the tiny trading post, or straggling village, to the point of being a city of size, importance and weight in the world, but Winnipeg has made the pace and held it in the most astonishing way. Standing in the very path of travel to and from the West, Winnipeg has, from the first, taken heavy toll of that which passed through its gates. Its population has been added to in chunks instead of the slow process of accretion that goes on in less favored places. Twenty years from the date when there were only 215 souls in Winnipeg, the city had over 40,000 people. In 1902, there were 48,411, and the following five years more than doubled this number, the 1906 census giving Winnipeg 101,057 inhabitants. Last year's directory census—a method of counting that has proved fairly accurate — shows that