

His Lordship immediately on obtaining this concession began to prepare for settling the land. He sent agents into the Highlands of Scotland and others to Ireland to gather settlers together and in the same year a batch of these arrived at York Factory. In the following year we find them at Point Douglas, where Winnipeg now stands after suffering many hardships during the previous winter. They attempted to make homes for themselves on the adjacent land, but were handicapped by the want of agricultural implements, and in fact of everything that was necessary to enable them to begin life. They were sometimes compelled to turn hunters, and even at that they could barely get a living. They were joined after some time by another lot from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and these fared very badly too, for a while. The lawless state in which the country remained, and the reckless manner in which human life was very often taken was a serious check to the peaceful designs of the settlers, and made it impossible for them to enjoy any measure of security. The Northwest Company bitterly opposed the scheme from the very first and used every means in their power to defeat it, as they were not anxious to see the country peopled with any but Indians and those engaged in the fur business. The Selkirk settlers seemed to be only desirous of being left in peace, but the trading elements of both companies were ever ready for an expedition to plunder and destroy the property of their rivals and the settlers suffered in consequence. Memorable events in the history of this period were the battle of Seven Oaks, in which Governor Semple was killed, and his force almost annihilated and the taking of Fort William by Lord Selkirk with his De Meuron soldiers. Peace was restored in 1818 by an Imperial Commission followed in 1821 by the amalgamation of the two companies which put a definite end to all strife.

It is curious to note that as far back as the beginning of the present century such men as Lord Selkirk saw the agricultural possibilities of this country. The valley of the Red River attracted particular attention by the richness of its soil and in spite of the dangerous lack of law and order men were found not only willing but eager to settle in it and link their fortunes with those of such a land.

The period which has been reviewed ends with the year 1821 and might be considered the first stage in the country's history. After that civilizing influences began to make their appearance and leave their mark on the life of the settlers.

Throughout the whole of the period before 1821 there had been separate from the two great companies engaged in the business, a number of individual traders scattered over the entire country. These were not molested to any great extent by either of the companies, and in consequence were able to do a lucrative trade. But after the amalgamation the new concern looked with displeasure on their growing interests, and decided to stamp out if possible every appearance of trading not directly controlled by them. The methods taken although exceedingly heartless and tyrannical were unsuccessful to a great extent, and the individual traders were a feature of the coun-

try's life right up to the last days of the fur trade.

The passing years saw the white men grow more and more numerous with a consequent diversity of employments necessitating better government and better protection from the lawless elements. The Indians occasionally caused trouble but rarely indulged in any extensive outbreaks or demonstrations. In 1835 the right of the young Earl of Selkirk to the grant made by the Hudson's Bay Company to the previous earl, was purchased by the Company for the sum of \$84,000, thus returning the sole right to, and control of, the whole country to the Company who were not backward in asserting their authority. During the next ten years very little real progress was made towards developing its latent resources, the Company being satisfied to see the fur trade prosper and discouraging any effort to open it for settlement. Some half-breed and Indian uprisings, were the only notable events until 1849 when the company had trouble with three French traders, whom they arrested for trading with the Indians. In this year also a census was taken which showed that the Red river colony contained 5,391 inhabitants of all ages and nationalities. Of live stock there was 2,085 horses and mares, 6,014 cattle, 1,565 pigs and 3,096 sheep. There was also 6,329 acres of land under cultivation. In 1859 the first newspapers was started under the name *The Nor' Wester*. Nine years later Bishop Tache published a sketch of the Northwest, in which he pronounced the country as scarcely suited for civilized man, in direct contradiction to Lord Selkirk's estimation fifty-five years previous, that the country was capable of supporting 30,000,000 people.

Contemporary with these events was the agitation in eastern Canada for confederation, the union being intended to include the western as well as the eastern provinces. The Hudson's Bay Company seeing that this would break their power and take the country out of their hands, commenced to systematical circulate stories which tended to blacken the country in the eyes of the people of the east by which means they hoped to keep it out of the confederation. Fortunately their efforts were ineffectual, as the people refused to be blinded, and they were eventually compelled to surrender their charter to the Imperial Government for £300,000 sterling. A month after the whole country was handed over to the Canadian Government. Preparations were at once begun by them to have it surveyed and its resources made known, with a view of opening it for settlement. The arrival of the first expedition sent out for the purpose of performing this work was a signal for that general uprising of Metis and Indians which we now call "the rebellion of '69." It ended only when troops from the east arrived on the scene under General Wolseley.

Peace being again restored, order began to grow out of the chaos, and with the large influx of settlers which marked the latter part of the '70's the country began to assume that place of importance which it now occupies in the Dominion. What the next century will bring forth for her can only be surmised, but it is quite probable that it will prove the truth of Lord Selkirk's statement that 30,000,000

people can easily be supported on the products of her fields.

The Towns.

THE new town of Edmonton has been established by the Calgary & Edmonton Railway company at its terminus on the south side of the Saskatchewan, opposite the fort. Some interest in this will no doubt be felt by many of those who recollect what an important figure Edmonton was in the spring of 1882. The Edmonton of that date in which so many Winnipeg people invested, was on the north side of the river. The banks of the Saskatchewan at that point are about two hundred and fifty feet high, and the river is about twice the width of the Red so that it has been found necessary to locate the new town permanently on the south side. The present location, however, gives the old settlement easy access to the terminus, and as soon as a traffic bridge, which is to be built, is ready, the new place will, it is anticipated, make rapid progress and absorb the business of the district. Great confidence in the new city's future is felt at Edmonton and vicinity, and at the opening sale of business lots in Edmonton and Calgary recently a large number of lots were sold, nearly all of them on building conditions and for fair prices. An improved flour and oatmeal mill is to be built and a number of hotels and business buildings and residences are already in course of erection. The largest of the hotels is being built by the railroad company and will contain thirty bedrooms. It is regarded as quite certain that an important town will spring up on the North Saskatchewan and everything points to Edmonton as the place. The Northwest is large enough for a dozen large cities and with all the growth of Winnipeg one cannot be blind to the possibilities elsewhere. Railway development will cause the Red Deer and Edmonton districts to progress so fast that in a few years, it is only reasonable to expect, the same things will be occurring then that has happened in Manitoba, the change of almost the entire area to a wheat growing district having its large export of cereals and fostering all other industries necessary to build up an agricultural country.

THE village of Russell is situated on a branch of the Manitoba & Northwestern railway, about twelve miles from Bismarck Junction, and is surrounded by one of the finest wheat growing districts in the province. The village has a population of about two hundred and fifty, and has been making steady progress for the last few years, but the strides made this season have eclipsed anything of former years, and will at the present rate of going soon place her in the front rank of provincial towns.

A good deal of building has been done, all of it of a substantial character. The town is well provided with stores and has a 75 barrel flour mill. It also boasts of two churches, Presbyterian and Episcopalian, with resident pastors.

An object of interest and one that every stranger visiting in the northwestern part of the province should make a point of seeing is the Barnado farm, distant about three miles from the village of Russell. The farm includes about 5,000 acres of land, and is well stocked