



FIRST YEAR ON THE PRAIRIE.

INTRODUCTION.

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In presenting the Eighth Edition of my "ILLUSTRATED GUIDE, GAZETTEER AND PRACTICAL HANDBOOK" for Manitoba and the North-West, I beg to call the attention of the public to the many and important additions it contains.

In a country where progress is making such rapid strides, where in a few weeks enterprise rises a community from obscurity to importance, or peoples a wild tract as large as some European kingdom with a prosperous population; where such great changes and improvements are taking place it is no easy task to keep pace with the requirements of the newcomer. I have aimed to make the present volume as comprehensive as possible, and have elaborated the matter heretofore presented, introducing new features and illustrating subjects of special interest.

Since the last Edition was published, Dominion legislation has given to Manitoba an increased area, which at once places her politically on a footing with the older Provinces of the Confederation, and gives her a conspicuous place on the map of Canada and of the Continent of America.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to lay before the reader a concise sketch of the present state of the Province, her public institutions, commercial and manufacturing interests and her wonderful agricultural resources.

A special chapter is devoted to Winnipeg—the phenomenal city—the rapid growth of which is unparalleled in the history of civilization. Other trade centres which are attracting the attention of capitalists by their natural advantages and healthy development are also briefly described.

I have lifted the veil for a moment to give my readers a mere glance at the Great North-West, the illimitable area and resources of which it would be presumptuous to attempt to describe in the limited space at my disposal. However, I have collected sufficient information regarding that vast territory to enable the intending immigrant or newcomer to form an idea of its immensity and boundless resources.

With the construction of the great trans-continental railway—the Canadian Pacific—under the control of a responsible corporation, with large capital and the best available engineering and administrative talent at command, there can be no fears for the future of the great North-West, the greatness and importance of which is inconceivable in its possibilities. The building of this road may be likened to the sinking of a shaft in one of the great Bonanzas of the Sierra Nevada, where every foot of progress develops new riches. Every mile constructed will demonstrate to the world the wonderful wealth of our New Dominion and the necessity of utilizing it to the good of mankind.