



First Passenger Special on Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

They write the first chapter of the wheat-story as they turn the prairie flowers under and sow grain in virgin furrows. The Grand Trunk Pacific tells the second chapter as it carries the rich harvest to the ocean-edge. The loaf of bread in the lap of the hungry kiddie in Old World slumdom completes the story. It is the Trilogy of the Wheat. As we watch the drama enacting we stop to note the insistent part played by the women.

Lonely is the life on the homestead in the early days when babies are small and distances between homesteads are great. When Canada takes time to recognize the nation-building work of her prairie pioneers, equal meed of praise must be given to the strong-armed man and the faith-possessed woman. Altruism is at the bottom of both their endeavors, they are treading hard paths that the way of their children may be easy. Is there not in this all the divine tragedy of life?

There is something very inspiring in looking upon this unfolding page of Anglo-Saxon history being writ far up near the top of the map. It is the story of pluck and determination, whether we view it through the small end of the field-glass looking at the individual farmer,

or, reversing the lens, take in the splendid sweep of the Grand Trunk Pacific that brings a market to his door.

In quick imagination we jump the intervening year or two and see this splendid highway a consummated fact. Surely Prince Rupert, the Pacific terminus and entrepot, bids fair to be unique among the great railroad terminals. It is farther north than most of them and yet its climate is moderate and salubrious, on its streets will blend human strands of Occident and Orient, people as diverse as the lands they come from and the freights they interest themselves in.

Prince Rupert is a baby city yet, but the infant is a lusty one; and as Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Vancouver have grown to greatness on this shoreline so their Northern sister too will grow, her swaddling-bands are burst and already she is stepping into short frocks. When Prince Rupert is connected by fast steamship with Sydney in Australasia, two of the grandest harbors in the British Empire will be joined. This Grand Trunk Pacific route cuts off between Yokohama and New York 1,500 miles of the present distance if we traverse our earth's orange at the San Francisco parallel, and 500 miles if we count