

WINNIPEG IN 1893.

THE past year has been one of substantial growth and improvement in Winnipeg. Indeed, it is doubtful if any city on the continent has made better comparative progress during 1893 than the metropolis of our prairie country. The general condition elsewhere has been one of depression, the most enterprising cities to the south and east of us having been about at a standstill during the year, while many cities retrograded. Winnipeg alone has forged ahead and added largely to her building improvements, while there has also been a substantial gain in population.

A report on building improvements, compiled toward the close of last year, shows that about 500 houses were erected in Winnipeg during 1893, which is about 100 more than were built in 1892, making a total expenditure of nearly one and three quarter million dollars. The following shows the amount expended in buildings and street improvements in Winnipeg for four years:—

1890	\$ 400,000
1891	600,000
1892	900,000
1893	1,884,450

The figures given above show that the rate of progress has been increasing each succeeding year, last year surpassing all records since our famous "boom" days. The buildings erected during 1893 were nearly all residences, and were of a superior class to the frail structures built during the early years of the city's rapid growth. All over the city residence buildings were going up, and during the summer season a person could stand in almost any residence section and count from ten up to twenty or thirty residences in course of erection within easy range of vision.

In business blocks there have been fewer buildings the past year than usual, though 1893 has added something to the business blocks of the city. The magnificent new wholesale warehouse erected by John W. Peck & Co., successors to Carscaden, Peck & Co., is alone a worthy addition for the year. There is also the handsome new building for the Bank of Ottawa, besides several other buildings of minor importance.

Outside of building improvements, we have the miles of electric street railway added during the year; also twelve miles of sidewalk and two or three miles of sewers. The first move to substitute stone pavement for the old board sidewalks has been made during the year, a considerable stretch of artificial stone pavement having been put down on Main street. If this is found to stand the winter well, this style of pavement will be more generally adopted in future.

While the city has made rapid progress during 1893, as is shown by the figures given, it is worthy of note that there has been no disposition to speculate in land. Sales of real estate have been limited largely to property actually required for building or other purposes, and generally speaking real estate business has been dull, while it is doubtful if there has been any material increase in the value of real estate. This indicates that the progress made by the city is of a solid nature and entirely free from any taint of speculation.

As for the prospect for the current year, we prefer to let the future speak for itself rather than attempt a forecast. While it is possible that the number of new residences which may be erected may not be as large as during 1893, there is no reason at the present moment to look for a quiet year. In fact it is quite possible that the year may surpass the one now gone in

the general growth of the city. Some important business blocks are already projected, and it seems probable that more business blocks will be built than were erected last year, while a fine college building will be added to the long list of educational institutions of the city. Several bridges to cross the two rivers are also projected, and it may be noted that among the improvements of last year is a fine new bridge over the Red river in the southern portion of the city.

CROPS OF 1893.

THE year 1893 will not be known as a heavy crop year in Manitoba, all crops being under the average, taking the country as a whole. The crop was not an even one. For some districts the average yield of wheat was good, in others fair, while in some districts it was very poor. The eastern district, commonly known as the Red river valley, gave the largest yield in all kinds of grain, the official report placing the yield of wheat in the Red river district at 21 bushels per acre. The central and northern districts were not so good, though the yield of wheat was fair, ranging from 17 to 20 bushels in different sections. The southwestern portion, where a considerable area of wheat is sown annually, suffered from drought during a portion of the season, which materially reduced the yield in that section, and further damage was done by a high wind, which came during harvest and threshed out a great deal of standing grain then ready for the binder. Owing to these conditions in the southwest, the average yield for the province was reduced to about 15½ bushels per acre, according to the official report.

Other crops suffered with wheat, so that all around the average yield of cereals was reduced somewhat from last year. The official bulletin places the average yield for the province of the principal crops, for 1893, as follows:—Wheat, 15.56 bushels per acre; oats, 25.28 bushels per acre; barley, 22.11 bushels per acre; flax, 11.96 bushels; rye, 13.2 bushels; potatoes, 133 bushels; roots, 186 bushels per acre.

The following figures, taken from the official reports, show the average yield of principal crops in Manitoba for the two years previous to 1893. In 1892 the returns were: Wheat, 16.50 bushels per acre; oats, 35; barley, 29; potatoes, 200; turnips, 400 bushels per acre. Rye and flax produced 20 bushels per acre, and peas 22.16 bushels per acre. Following are the figures of average yield of crops for the year 1891:—Wheat, 25.3; oats, 48.3; barley, 35.6; potatoes, 180.4; turnips, 355.9; rye, 27.0. This comparison for three years will show that crops in the last two years have been considerably behind 1891. Hay is not grown to any extent in Manitoba as a crop, as the farmers depend upon the native prairie grasses, which are cut and cured for winter fodder for stock. There is an increasing tendency, however, to cultivate fodder crops and depend less upon the wild native grasses of the prairie.

There was a large increase in the area under cultivation in 1893, as compared with the previous year, every crop showing an increased area, which is in keeping with the continuous and rapid development of agriculture in Manitoba. In 1884, the first year in which a record was made of agricultural statistics, the total crop area of the province was placed at 490,000 acres. In 1891 it had grown to approximately 1,350,000 acres, of which 916,664 acres were in wheat. In 1892 the total crop area was about the same as the previous year, the usual increase having been prevented by exceptionally unfavorable weather during the plowing