

## The Policy of the McBride Administration

The McBride railway policy means for British Columbia the beginning of an era of railway construction, such as has been witnessed in the prairie provinces since 1892.

One through line of railway then traversed the 800 miles between Winnipeg and the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Now there are four completed and in operation, and two more are half completed. There has been an equally remarkable expansion in the building of branch lines. In all, more than 6,000 miles of new railway are now in operation, and another 2,000 are under contract. (See Annual Reports Department of Railways, Ottawa).

All along this 6,000 miles of new railway population has flowed in and nearly one thousand new towns have sprung into existence. It is estimated that one million people have been added to the population of prairie Canada.

Two new provinces have been created out of the old North-West Territories. In 1901 the total population of those Territories was less than 170,000. (See Census of Canada, 1901).

To build the 6,000 miles of new railway at least \$20,000.00 per mile has been expended, a total of \$120,000,000; and it is estimated that new settlers have brought \$200,000,000 into the country at an average of only about \$200 per head. The annual production of wealth has more than kept pace.

In 1905, just four years ago, when the Province of Saskatchewan was created, her small population did well to produce for export \$10,000,000 worth of grain. This year she has produced for export \$150,000,000 worth of grain. (Saskatchewan Government Official Crop Report.)