

them. Saskatchewan, with its capital at Regina, stretches eastwards to Manitoba; Alberta, having Edmonton for its capital, extends westwards to British Columbia. Each of these Provinces has an area of about a quarter of a million square miles.

Conclusion.—We have now traced briefly the history of our country from its discovery by Europeans to the present time. Since the Union in 1867 Canada has made rapid progress. In place of four disconnected Provinces there are now nine, bound together by lines of railway crossing the continent from ocean to ocean. The Intercolonial Railway gave the midland Provinces a highway to the Atlantic Ocean, and to the Provinces by the sea it opened easy access to the interior. The Canadian Pacific Railway continued the road across the continent. This highway, still further extended by the great ocean steamers that traverse the Pacific Ocean from the shores of British Columbia to China and Australia, seems like the fulfilment of the dream of the early explorers who sought so eagerly for a westerly route to the far East.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was a gigantic undertaking for a country with but few people and scanty means, and the prospect for its traffic seemed scarcely to justify the vast outlay required for the work. It was completed in about half the time fixed by the contract; and its value both to the Dominion and to the British Empire shows the wonderful foresight and enterprise of the statesmen who urged its construction. And now, so vast are the resources of the Dominion and so fully are they developed, that travel and trade call for a second and a third great railway across the continent.

The Dominion of Canada has an area of about 3,600,000 square miles. The richness of its vast and varied resources is yet but imperfectly known. Its boundless forests, wide areas of agricultural and pasture lands; its fields of coal, iron, gold, silver, and other minerals; its fisheries in the Atlantic and Pacific coast waters, in the lakes and the rivers, all form a great treasury of wealth that few countries in the world can equal—none surpass.