

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

MANITOBA, lying between the parallels of 49° and $50\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of north latitude, and 96° and 99° of west longitude occupies nearly the actual centre of the North American continent. Manitoba also lies midway between the Arctic and Tropic circles, and midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The present area of the Province by system of survey, and exclusive of road allowances, is 9,008,640 acres, deducting for Half-breed grant 1,400,000, Hudson's Bay Company's twentieth and school section reserves 707,680, leaving available area of 6,900,960 acres within the present boundary. Each township consists of thirty-six sections of one square mile each and road allowances in all cases will be one and a half chains in width.

Manitoba (then the Colony of Assiniboia), having after the troubles of 1869-70 accepted terms from the Dominion Government for its entering the Confederation, was created a Province in July, 1870, the population at the first census taken in December, 1870, was 11,965 divided as follows:

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|-------------------------|-------|
| French Half-breeds..... | 5,694 |
| English do | 4,076 |
| Whites..... | 1,614 |
| Indians..... | 581 |

At the present time the total population is roughly estimated at twenty-five thousand. As yet no agricultural statistics have been obtained.

The form of Government is similar to that of the other provinces of the Dominion, but the Legislative Council being abolished by act of the Legislature in February of the present year, the Legislature consists only of a Legislative assembly of twenty-four members representing twenty-four constituencies.

The executive consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, a Provincial Secretary, Provincial Treasurer, Minister of Public works, and Minister of Agriculture, who is also President of the Council.

A liberal homestead law is in force in Manitoba, which exempts from seizure the debtor's ordinary furniture, tools and farm implements in use, also "one cow, two oxen, one horse, four sheep, two pigs and the food for the same for thirty days," and "the land cultivated by the debtor, provided the extent of the same be not more than *one hundred and sixty acres*, in which case the surplus may be sold with privileges to first mortgagees. The house, stables,