

Investment in industrial pursuits. Under the benefits thus showered upon him, the farmer of the West has waxed fat and flourishing. Easy money has made him prosperous. There are, without doubt, more retired farmers in Western Canada than in any other country of like population in the world. But while the farmer has been growing rich there has grown up another element of the West that has not been nearly so much noticed as the farmer. This is the industrial element of the population, an element already large and growing rapidly. I think I am safe in saying that when the next industrial census of Canada is made public we shall find that the capital invested in industrial enterprises will greatly exceed one billion dollars and that this capital is furnishing employment to as many as half a million employees, who receive at least two hundred and fifty million dollars in wages yearly.

Industry Provides the Farmers' Market

The interest of the industrial classes is great, and interlocks closely with that of the farmer. A half million hardy factory employees and families of Canada consume as much as sixty million dollars' worth of the products of the farm annually. This shows the interest of city and urban population in each other. There is no more mistaken idea than that which regards the interests of the city and country population as being opposed. Nothing could be clearer than that the farmer and his city cousin are inter-dependent; the thing which is good for one is good for the other, and that which is bad for the one is hurtful to the other. Why should the agriculturist oppose the industrial development of our country? To take the instance of this inter-dependence that is closest to hand, the growth and progress of Winnipeg means as much to the farmers who are within trading distance of the city as the increase of the rural population within trading distance means to the merchants and tradesmen of Winnipeg—and this is very much indeed. The 150,000 people of Winnipeg must be fed, and a considerable part of the task of feeding them devolves upon the farmers who live near enough to send their products to the Winnipeg market, a market admitted to be one of the best for all sorts of farm products. There is, in fact, an almost constant shortage of such farm products as milk, butter, eggs, poultry and fresh vegetables in the Winnipeg market. Milk is easy to produce in the country about Winnipeg, and yet seven thousand pounds of milk are brought in each day for the use of Winnipeg people from Minneapolis.

Eastern Canada is, of course, stronger industrially than the West, but the West is taking on importance in an industrial way and will not any longer be content to hide its industrial light under a bushel. Out of the wonderful growth and prosperity of the West, there has sprung a great home market for the factory products of the country to which are added millions of dollars' worth of imported goods each year. Fostered by this market and its great growth from year to year, the industrial development of Canada has been almost as remarkable as the building up of the West. Not altogether because the case of Winnipeg is the most outstanding on the list, but because I am most familiar with it? I will take Winnipeg as my case in point to show how great industrial growth has been.