

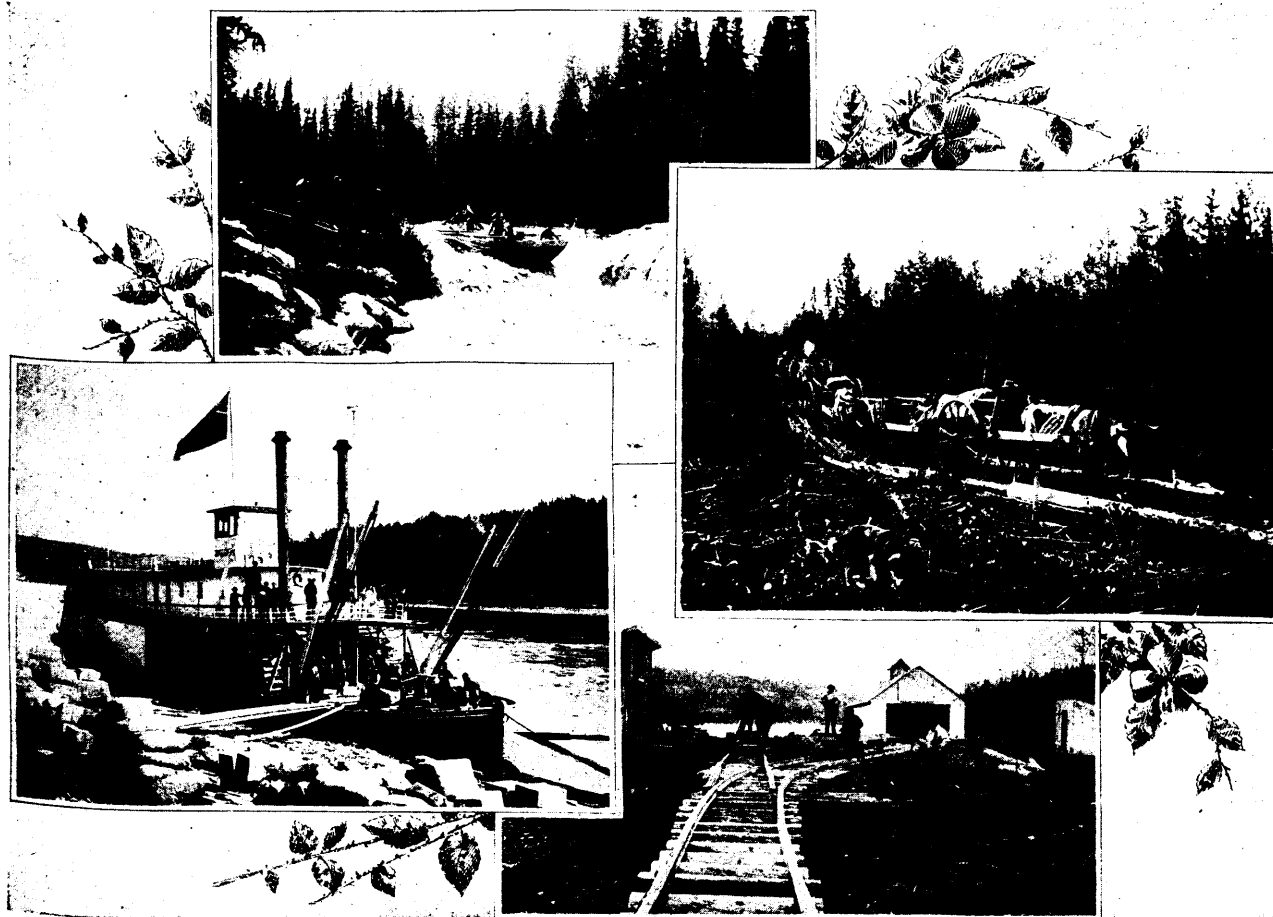
THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

The story of the Hudson's Bay Co. since Henry Hudson set sail from London in 1607 for the north coast of Greenland to discover the Northwest passage contains much that is highly romantic and exceedingly fascinating; indeed, it reads like a story from the Arabian Nights. The Company was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1670. It is the oldest corporation in the world, and when posterity shall demand the roll-call of the famous corporations which have done so much for this Dominion in its remote and almost inaccessible regions, the name of the Hudson's Bay Co. will stand out in letters of gold. Through this Company great advances were made in the civilization of Western Canada when the

and gave the Company the sole right of trading in Rupert's Land—which embraced all lands drained by Hudson's Bay and its tributaries. Here the Company carried on fur trading for two centuries. With the advance of civilization and the development of the Dominion, competition and strife came, which wrought many changes, to chronicle which would require several volumes. The history of the Hudson's Bay Co. since the amalgamation of the western territories with the Dominion is no longer that of a powerful trading corporation holding sovereign power over a vast region, but its history is inseparable from the history of the Dominion, and remains a proud record of progress, prosperity, and perseverance.

The Company still, however, continues to

and it has extensive branches at Battleford, Biscotasing, Calgary, Deloraine, Edmonton, Fort Frances, Fort William, Glenora, Kamloops, Lethbridge, Lower Fort Garry, Macleod, Mattawa, Missanabie, Nelson, Nipissing, Pincher Creek, Portage la Prairie, Port Simpson, Prince Albert, Qu'Appelle, Quessel, Rat Portage, Shoal Lake, Vancouver, Vernon, Victoria, Whitewood, Yorkton, and last and not least, Winnipeg. In addition to the above formidable array of business houses the Company owns a fleet of steamboats which ply upon the Athabaska, Slave, Mackenzie, Skeena, and Stikine rivers. It has steamers also plying between London, Eng., and York Factory, on Hudson's Bay; in fact, so widespread are the operations of the Company that the out-of-the-way traveller



THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S NORTHERN TRANSPORT SERVICE.

- (1) Scow running the rapids at Smith portage. (2) Carts on portage at Slave river. (3) Steamer Grahame, Athabasca river. (4) Tramway at the Grand Rapids of the Athabasca river

rest of the world considered it merely "a few acres of ice and snow."

We would be glad to give the whole romantic story which preceded and followed the granting of the charter by that most bountiful of lavish donors—King Charles II., but time and space will only permit a few hard facts dealing with the present-day operations of this great Company. By his "especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion" Charles gave "to his beloved cousin, Prince Rupert," the Duke of Albemarle, the Earl of Craven, Lord Arlington, Lord Ashby, several baronets, knights and citizens—less than twenty in all—the territory which was henceforward to be the property of the Hudson's Bay Co. Worthy of notice is the high rank of the nobles and gentlemen associated with a prince of the Royal blood in this mercantile company. The charter was broad and liberal,

be the largest fur-trading corporation in the world, and its annual sales in London, Eng., attract buyers from all parts of the world. The Company has made giant strides in the mercantile world, and it is not too much to say that there is no concern of the kind in the old or new world that can be compared with it. Its business ramifications are so extensive and varied that they stretch from the Labrador coast to the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia, and from the 49th parallel to the Arctic seas. It has trading posts, as one may say, in the uttermost parts of the earth, and has developed a mercantile trade which reigns supreme.

It carries on a large milling business, and maintains flour mills at Winnipeg, at Prince Albert, Sask., and at Vermillion, in the Peace River Valley. The headquarters of its mercantile business in Canada is at Winnipeg,

who fancies himself "forty miles from soap, civilization, and whiskey" may suddenly be agreeably surprised to find that an agent of the H.B. Co., with all the conveniences of life, is within reach.

The names given to some of the most distant and dreary of the northern posts of the Company on Mackenzie river and the Great Slave lake seem to have been designed to keep up the spirits of their isolated occupants. Thus we have "Providence," "Reliance," "Resolution," "Enterprise," "Good Hope," and "Confidence."

Every Sunday the Company's flag floats from the office of the factor at each post, thus serving as a kind of calendar for the natives to mark the passing of another week of time. It is a plain white pennant, bearing upon its surface the crest of the Company, its motto, "Pro Pelle Cutem," and the initials