

1900 it was \$410,326,094 for steam and electric railways, and \$601,653,899 in 1906. Including bonds sold, government and municipal aid, and capital from other sources, the total investment for railways in the Dominion in 1900 was \$998,268,405 and \$1,396,356,675 in 1906.

Trade, transportation and banking have been the most active and potent of all agencies in the development of the country. Without international trade we should exist as a hermit nation ; without railways the opening up of the great interior between ocean and ocean could not be achieved ; and without banks there would be little business beyond a simple exchange between neighbour and neighbour. The figures given show how Canada is advancing on the highways of the nations.

Illustrations of another sort are found in the records of the census of the Northwest provinces, taken during the year.

The North-  
west provin-  
ces.

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were an unknown and untravelled region less than forty years ago. Manitoba was admitted to the status of a province of the Confederation in 1870, and Saskatchewan and Alberta attained to the same rank only in 1905. In 1881, when the first census of those three areas was taken, they had a population of 100,014 ; in 1891 they had 219,305 ; and in 1901 they had 419,512. In 1906, five years later, the population was 808,863. Manitoba's share in this growth was 110,477, Saskatchewan's was 166,484, and Alberta's was 112,390, and the rate of increase for the three provinces in the five years was 93 per cent. There were 2,370 townships with inhabitants in 1901 and 4,365 in 1906, and the cities, towns and incorporated villages grew in the same period from 85 to 185.

Farms.

The number of farms in the three provinces in 1906 was 122,398, being 67,773 more than in 1901. In Manitoba there were 36,141, an increase of 4,329 ; in Saskatchewan 55,971, an increase of 42,591 ; and in Alberta 30,286, an increase of 20,853.

Live stock.

The total number of horses in 1906 was 682,919, being an increase in five years of 342,590 ; of milch cows 384,006, an increase of 139,790 ; of other horned cattle 1,560,592, an increase of 862,183 ; of sheep and lambs 304,531, an increase of 121,915 ; and of swine 439,048, an increase of 238,673.

The area sown to wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, potatoes, other field roots, forage crops and cultivated hay in 1900 was 3,597,-