

pletion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885 settlers began to move into the region. From that time onward the population continued to increase, and in 1905 the province of Saskatchewan, formed from a part of the old territory of Assiniboia, was organized.

The Saskatchewan River

The province takes its name from the Saskatchewan River, and in the Cree language means "rapid river." With its tributaries the Saskatchewan drains an area of nearly 160,000 square miles. The river proper (about 240 miles), with the South Saskatchewan, has a length of about 1,100 miles; it flows east through the middle region of the province, and empties into Lake Winnipeg. With the Nelson River, which flows out of Lake Winnipeg, the Saskatchewan forms the most important river system emptying into Hudson Bay. Shallow-draft steamers can ascend from near its mouth to Edmonton, on the North Saskatchewan, a distance of 850 miles.

SATURN. This ancient Roman deity was formerly identified with the Greek god Kronos, who, it was said, after being cast out by Zeus, fled and established a reign which was known as the "Golden Age." (See Zeus.)

The name Saturn comes from a Latin word meaning "to sow," and Saturn was a god of agriculture, who taught his people to till the soil. He is represented with a sickle in his hand. His wife was Ops, the goddess of plenty.

In honour of Saturn a great yearly festival, called the "Saturnalia," was held in December after the sowing of the winter grain was finished. This was a time of games and feasting; presents were exchanged, including especially wax candles and dolls; distinctions of rank were laid aside, and liberties were allowed even to slaves.

In astronomy, the planet Saturn is the sixth major planet in distance from the sun, and is distinguished by its magnificent system of rings and satellites. (See Planets.)

SAVONAROLA, GIROLAMO (1452-98). "Oh, my Florence! I was in a safe harbour—the life of a friar; the Lord drove my bark into the open sea. Before me on the vast ocean I see terrible tempests brewing. The wind drives me forward and the Lord forbids my return. On my right the elect of God demand my help; on my left demons and wicked men lie in ambush. I communed last night with the Lord and said, 'Pity me, Lord; lead me back to my haven.' 'It is impossible; see you not that the wind is

contrary?' 'I will preach, if so I must; but why need I meddle with the government of Florence?' 'If thou would'st make Florence a holy city thou must give her a government which favours virtue.' Then I was convinced and cried, 'Lord, I will do Thy will; but tell me, what shall be my reward?' 'My son, the servant is not above his master. The Jews made Me die on the Cross; a like lot awaits thee.'"

In burning words such as these the Dominican friar, Savonarola, thrilled the pleasure-loving people of Renaissance Florence by the tempest of his eloquence. Appalled by the sin of the world, and disappointed in love, he had become a friar in Bologna at the age of 22.

His first attempts at preaching were failures, but his later sermons in the cathedral of Florence, in which he denounced the sins of the city and prophesied speedy punishment, soon gave him such a hold upon Florence as few preachers have ever had.

In imagination we can see the shrunken figure and the gaunt face of the little friar, his glowing black eyes flashing like lightning from beneath the shadow of his cowl. His prophetic words concerning the coming "scourge of God" seemed fulfilled when Charles VIII of France crossed the Alps in 1494 and invaded Italy. The emotional Florentines seized the opportunity to expel their despot—the feeble son of Lorenzo de' Medici—and restore their republic, and under the guidance of the prophetic preacher of San Marco they entered into alliance with the French.

Task of the Reformer

Savonarola became practically dictator of the city, and set about his task of giving Florence "a government that favours virtue." Day by day his impassioned words roused the people to greater and greater religious enthusiasm. Hymns echoed through the streets where lately had sounded riotous songs. In 1497 Savonarola sent the children from house to house to collect the "vanities" of the inhabitants. These were piled high in the public square—the fancy dresses and masks worn at the carnival, and the like—and burned at the close of a solemn procession through the city.

But powerful enemies were now arrayed against Savonarola. The friends of the Medici were plotting their return. Pope Alexander VI ordered the zealous monk to discontinue preaching because of the Florentine alliance

SAVONAROLA



The reformer of Florence, who was a monk of the Dominican order.