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In 1879 Minnesota had a population of a little under 800,000 people (780,773). Ten years later it had a population of over 1300,000 (1,301,826). Ten years from the end of our period 1,751,394.

Wisconsin was farther advanced having in 1880 as large a population as Minnesota had in 1890. Its growth in the next 20 years was less rapid.

Hill already had his eye on Montana. Early in 1884 he was making one of his frequent exploring trips into new territory and camped at Great Falls on the Missouri. Three years from now the Manitoba, that was the popular name for his new road, would be in Montana. As a matter of fact in just three years, in 1887, the railroad was in Great Falls where the party was camping. His road and the application to the territory through which he had gone was one of the factors in almost quadrupling the population in Montana in 4 years.