

lead furnaces, blacksmiths' and wagon makers' shops; tobacco furnaces and iron works; and the exports are more the natural productions of the country than manufactured goods. They consist principally of minerals, flour, cotton, tobacco, corned beef, meat, maize, wheat, rye, cattle, hogs, wool, cheese, fruits, &c.

**AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES, COST OF LIVING, &c.**—In the Western States, particularly in California and Colorado, the rate of wages paid is high. Farm hands receive from £5 to £6 per month by the year, with board and lodgings. Women as "hired girls" receive about the same. Skilled workmen, from 8s. to 15s. per day; miners, about 12s., without board. The cost of living is rather high, and board and lodgings cost from 20s. to 30s. per week.

## THE NORTH-WESTERN STATES.

**DESCRIPTION.**—The North-Western States comprise that part of the country lying between the Mississippi and the great lakes in the east and the Pacific Ocean, whose northern extremity adjoins the Dominion of Canada. Until recently some of these States were, to a considerable extent, disturbed by Indian warfare, and the massacre of General Custer and his comrades by the Indian chief, "Sitting Bull," will still be fresh in the memory of many. Affairs have now, however, assumed a more tranquil aspect, and the Northern Pacific Railway, with its branches, is fast carrying settlement and civilisation into that part of the country which not long ago was in undisputed possession of the red man and the buffalo, both of whom are rapidly becoming extinct.

The principal cities in the north-west are St. Paul, Milwaukee, Omaha, Salt Lake City, and Portland, Oregon.

**LAND.**—Government lands, open for settlement, are granted to actual settlers free, under conditions they reside upon and cultivate them. Applicants must be citizens, or persons of foreign birth who have declared their intention to become such, and over the age of 21, if single or the head of a family. To such persons 160 acres is granted.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway, the Northern Pacific Railway, and other companies owning lands throughout the country, have large tracts for sale at prices varying from 10s. per acre upwards, according to quality and location. These lands may be purchased on credit on the following terms:—One-sixth of the purchase money to be paid down; the balance in five equal annual payments, with interest at 7 per cent.

**CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.**—The average summer temperature of Minnesota and Dakota is similar to that of the Atlantic States, though it is somewhat colder in winter. The air is dry, pure, and very healthy. Malarial diseases, that are common to the more southerly states, are almost unknown here. In the States of Oregon and Washington, on the Pacific coast, the climate is not so dry, and resembles more that of Great Britain than any other part of the American Continent. Over a large portion of the country the soil is good, but in some parts it is more diversified, and in sections rocky and barren. It produces large crops of wheat and other cereals, as well as root crops of various kinds, apples and other fruits. Much of the country is covered with bunch grass, upon which cattle fatten, and keep in good condition. There is a large area of this kind of land, particularly in Montana, which is considered one of the best grazing countries in the world.