

Winnipeg with the harvest, and found the quality of grain he desired, but the yield astonished him. 'Look,' he said with a head of wheat in his hand, 'We have had an excellent harvest, in Minnesota, but I never saw more than two well-formed grains in each group or cluster, forming a row, but here the rule is three grains in each cluster. That's the difference between twenty and thirty bushels per acre.' More recently, Prof. Macoun, the botanist of the Canadian Pacific survey has shown me two heads of wheat, one from Prince Albert, a settlement near the forks of the Saskatchewan, latitude 53 degrees, longitude 106 degrees, and another from Fort Vermillion, on Peace river, latitude 59 degrees, longitude 116 degrees, and from each cluster of the two I separated five well formed grains, with a corresponding length of head. Here was the perfection of the wheat plant, attained according to the well known physical lay, near the most northern limit of its successful growth."

Mr. Taylor then goes on to quote from *Blodget's Treatise on the Climatology of North America*, as follows:—

"A line drawn from Thunder Bay, in Lake Superior, north-west to the Mackenzie River, at the 60th parallel, and from that point west to the Pacific coast, at the 55th, would include an immense district adapted to wheat, with only the local exceptions of mountains and worthless soils."

Referring to a speech delivered by him at a banquet given to the Imperial Commissioners, Messrs. Reade and Pell, in Winnipeg, he says:—

"I assigned Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and even southern Minnesota, to the zone specially adapted to corn, as the more southern States constitute a cotton zone; and observing the imperative natural restrictions in the Mississippi valley upon the successful production of wheat, I hazard the statement that three-fifths of the wheat producing belt of North America would be north of the international boundary."

And in support of this he continues:

"I will venture to illustrate the climatic influences which control the

problem under consideration by some citations from 'Minnesota: Its place among the States, by J. A. Wheelock, Commissioner of Statistics,' which, though published in 1860, is all the more an authority for the confirmation of twenty years. The general law of the limitation of wheat is thus luminously stated:

"The wheat producing district of the United States is confined to about ten degrees of latitude and six degrees of longitude, terminating on the west at the 98th parallel. But the zone of its profitable culture occupies a comparatively narrow belt along the cool borders of the district defined for inland positions by the mean temperature of fifty-five degrees on the north and seventy-one degrees on the south, for the two months of July and August. This definition excludes all the country lying south of latitude forty degrees, except western Virginia, and north of that it excludes the southern districts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, while it includes the northern parts of these States: Canada, New York, Western Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Red River and Saskatchewan valleys. In general terms, it may be stated that the belt of maximum wheat production lies immediately north of the districts where the maximum of Indian corn is attained."

"The argument for North-West British America, as well as for the State of Minnesota, cannot be more accurately epitomized than by the following summary of Commissioner Wheelock:

"1. That physical and economical causes restrict the limits of wheat culture to the seats of its maximum production, in less than one-third of the States of the Union, within a climatic belt having an estimated gross area of only 250,000 square miles, from which nine-tenths of the American supply of bread, and a large and constantly increasing amount of foreign food must be drawn.

"2. That, within this zone, the same climatic and other causes tend to concentrate the growth of wheat in the upper belt of the north-western States, always preferring the best wheat districts.