

wonderful progress of the States of Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas, it seems too much to claim that our western domain is their superior; but there is good reason for doing so. Consider the unprecedented growth of these States, and yet twenty years ago an American statesman on the floor of Congress questioned the ability of the whole State of Minnesota to produce enough in ten years to feed a grasshopper, and such was the prevalent ignorance regarding that State that his statement was not discredited by

space of time not beyond the memory of living men, there has grown up on this very spot the most wonderful city of any age, with a population of over a million and a half, and being the local point and centre of 90,000 miles of railway, and the greatest distributing point for food products in the world. It is no unwarranted statement, but one made after careful study and travel, that in the Canadian North-West there is a country capable of maintaining just as dense a population, producing just as many



THRESHING WHEAT IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA, 28 BUSHEL PER ACRE.

many. To-day, Minnesota boasts of a population of nearly one-and-a-half millions, and its average wheat yield is larger than that of any other country except Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Seventy years ago, an officer of the United States army reported to Washington that Fort Dearborn should be abandoned, for the reason that the surrounding country was of such a character that it would be impossible for it ever to support a population large enough to justify its maintenance, and yet in the short

bushels of grain, and as much live stock as were raised last year in the large area tributary to Chicago, and from which she drew the trade necessary to make her one of the richest and most progressive cities in the world. Let any one travel over the ground and view the expanse of prairie and plain in the Canadian North-West, compare its soil with that of the Western States, and the practical immunity from the droughts, insect pests, and cyclones, from which unfortunately our cousins across the line