highway, over which a great part of that world of wealth will pass from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and the completion of this Railway will have achieved a success that will result in greater benefits to mankind, and lend more honor to British fame than all the blood-stained victories of war. Such is the sublime destiny which developes itself for the future of this new North-West of the Dominion of Canada.

THE SOIL AND ITS AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY.

Several authorities flatteringly speak of Red River and the Winnipeg Basin as "among one of the finest wheat countries in the world." The soil is an alluvial black argillaceous mould, rich in organic deposit, and resting for a *copth* of from two to four feet on a tenacious clay. The measures of heat are ample for the development of Indian corn, considerably improving westward; some varieties thrive well in Manitoba, but it is not claimed as a profitable staple.

Those requiring a growing period of not more than seventy days would, however, form a sure crop in Manitoba. According to Blodgett, Indian corn is restricted, as a profitable staple, to the middle regions of the West, between parallels 42° and 43°. Wheat is the leading staple of the upper belt of the Blodgett (an American authority) states, "that the temperate zone. basin of the Winnipeg is the seat of the greatest average wheat product on this continent, and probably in the world." The limestone sub-strata of this region, with its rich deep calcareous loam and retentive clay subsoil is always associated with a rich wheat development, while its hot and humid summers fulfil all the climatological conditions of a first-rate wheat country. Some fields on the Red River have been known to produce twenty successive crops of wheat without fallow or manure, and the yield has frequently reached as high as forty bushels per acre. An important feature in the soil of Manitoba and the North-West is, that its earthy materials are minutely pulverised, and the soil is everywhere light, mellow and spongy. With these uniform characteristics, the soils are of different grades of fertility, according to local situations. A general ingredient of the soil is sand, of which silica is the base, as of all good soils. It plays an important part in the economy of growth, and is an essential constituent in the organism of all cereals. We are told that about 67 per cent. of the ash of the stems of wheat, corn, rye, barley, oats, &c., is pure silica, cr flint. It is this which gives the glazed coating to the plants and gives strength to the stalk. Now this silica is an acid and is insoluble but readily combines with lime, soda, magnesia, potash and the other ingredients of our soil, and in this condition is readily available to the use of the plant and forms an essential element in the growth of the cereals; from this and other causes is attributable the superiority of our wheat over all other grown East or South.

It is here important to notice, that Mr. J. W. Taylor, U. S. Consul at Manitoba, a gentlemen of considerable agricultural experience, lately sent to some of the largest wheat buyers in the East, samples of wheat from this