

sect it in every way. Its climate is genial, healthy, and invigorating, and the region is capable of absorbing and giving employment to thirty millions of people in addition to its present population. The little State of Illinois was thirty years ago a howling wilderness; it has now 2,500 miles of railway, and a population of nearly three millions, who pay 15,000,000 dollars, or one-fifteenth part of the taxation of the United States. The State of Minnesota in 1857 imported her breadstuffs, but in 1867 she exported 12,000,000 bushels of wheat which was grown upon 3 per cent. of her soil; in 1868 she harvested 16,000,000 bushels of wheat. The area of this State is 54,000,000 acres, but Minnesota is only part of this great continental wheat-garden, which embraces an area of 600,000 square miles. The six States of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, with a population of 7,000,000, produced 530,642,124 bushels of grain in 1868 from about one-third only of their productive lands.

On the question of public works in this region I may state that Congress has made a grant of 46,000,000 acres of land towards the construction of a Northern Pacific Railway from the head of Lake Superior, through the State of Minnesota, and Dacotah, Montana, Idaho, and Washington territories to Puget Sound, on the Pacific. 150 miles is now under construction, and will be completed next summer. The Senate Committee of Congress in February last also reported in favour of Congress guaranteeing the bonds to the extent of 30,000 dollars per mile towards the construction of this railway and a Southern Pacific Railway, in all a length of 5,000 miles. The Committee also reported the important fact that the construction of railways in the Western States increased the production of the country more than five times the cost of the railway in a single year.

Mr. Seward, in a speech delivered at St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, in 1860, said—"Here is the place, the central place where the agriculture of the richest regions of North America