

## RAINS.

The Great American Desert derives its barrenness from the lack of rain. The valley of Lake Winnipeg, on the other hand, is abundantly supplied with moisture during the summer months, having an excess of humidity, compared with Toronto, by about 14 to 17 inches of rain. No feature in the meteorology of Manitoba and the North-West Territory is likely to excite so much interest to agriculturists as the extraordinary fall of rain during the agricultural months, while we have less snow by about 33 inches on the total fall of winter.

## SALUBRITY OF CLIMATE.

Of paramount importance to the emigrant is the healthfulness of the locality which is to be the scene of his future labours, and the home for himself and family. What to him are fair fields, flowering meadows, buried in the luxuriant growth of fertile soils and tropical suns, if they generate fever-producing miasma and vapour?—what are soft and perfumed breezes, if they waft the seeds of pestilence and death?—What are bountiful harvests of golden grain, rich and mellow fruits, and all the wealth the earth can yield, if disease must annually visit his dwelling, and death take away, one by one, the loved and the young? It is well known that some of the fairest portions of the Western States are so fruitful of the causes of disease as almost to preclude settlement. And thousands have left their comparatively healthy Canadian and European homes to find untimely graves in the prairie soil of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. And even in the sections of these States deemed most healthy, the climate has an enervating effect upon those accustomed to the bracing air of Northern Europe and our Eastern Provinces.

The dryness of the air, the character of the soil, which retains no stagnant pools to send forth poisonous exhalations, and the almost total absence of fog or mist, the brilliancy of its sunlight, the pleasing succession of its seasons, all conspire to make Manitoba a climate of unrivalled salubrity and to make this the home of a joyous, healthy, prosperous people, strong in physical, intellectual and moral capabilities. Therefore, the assertion that the climate of our North-West is one of the healthiest in the world may be broadly and confidently made, sustained by the experience of its inhabitants. Some of the hardest and strongest men the writer has ever seen are Europeans and Canadians, who came to this country at an early date, and finally became settlers. Agriculture, therefore, cannot suffer from unhealthiness of climate.

## SOCIAL STANDING AND POPULATION.

The social standing at present of the agricultural and industrious classes in Manitoba may be estimated by the great proportion of excellent schools and churches, the latter being as follows: Roman Catholic, nine; Episcopalian, ten; Presbyterian, five; Methodist, three. This is exclusive of the Roman Catholic cathedral of St. Boniface, and Church of England