

killing, excessive wet in the spring, and the chinch bug. These are the principal causes; but there remain two more to be added,—the wheat-fly, about which I heard but little, and the drought which followed the excessive wet of the spring. In answer to my inquiries how it was, if winter-wheat is so precarious a crop, that it is not abandoned for spring-wheat, I was told that the wet springs prevent the grain being got into the ground in good season, and the hot weather that follows bakes the surface hard. This crop is, therefore, considered even more precarious than winter-wheat. The farmers are generally united in the opinion that wheat will not average over ten bushels an acre. The few who had tested the productiveness by threshing, were inclined to put the average still lower. One, who had threshed 400 bushels, said the average yield did not exceed eight bushels an acre. Regarding the prospects of the corn crop, great difference of opinion exists; but it would be very difficult to arrive at any accurate conclusion as to the probable yield, as much of it is not sufficiently far advanced to make it secure against early autumn frosts. Potatoes have been considerably damaged by the drought. They sell here at present at 60 cents a bushel.

PAPER CITIES—THE SQUATTER HAS NO RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES IF HE HAS NO MONEY.

The Americans, to do them justice, have an astonishing facility of making cities—especially upon paper. I observe, for instance, that there is a joint-stock city-making company in Minnesota, called the "Dacotah Land Company." No sooner does the Indian surrender a tract of land, than this company sends parties to explore for the sites of future cities, and to take such steps as they can for securing the locations they may pitch upon. This, however, is a ticklish business; for in the United States, even the honest squatter, who intends to purchase and improve the lot he has set himself down upon, is not assured of any sort of protection whatever, unless he has money. For instance, the Government is about to bring a large quantity of lands into the market, in Minnesota. All these lands, whether squatted on or not, must be offered for sale by public auction, *and as many of the squatters are notoriously without the means of purchasing, they will have to submit to the loss of their improvements.* If the lands on which they had squatted had not been brought into the market for some years later, as they doubtless expected would be the case, they might have been able to purchase. Nobody will give them anything for their improvements, for the simple reason that they have no rights, which the law recognizes, to transfer; and there will be sure to be plenty of purchasers of their lots, because they have been improved. Squatting, it must be borne in mind, is something very different from taking steps to secure a pre-emption claim. The former relates to lands not yet in the market, which will be offered at auction, and sold to the highest bidder, without the slightest regard to what the squatter may have done. A pre-emption claim can only be established in respect to lands already in the market. The public sales of lands to take place in Minnesota this fall, will play tremendous havoc with the squatters.