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## THE SOIL.

Within the limits of the Colony, there are two distinct varieties of soil. One is a rich black loam, resembling in colour and capabilities the famous soil of Southern Manitoba; and the other is a somewhat lighter loam, containing a small admixture of sand. There appears to be no appreciable difference between the fertility of these two kinds of soil. Both are alluvial in their characteristics; both are marvellously productive; and both rest upon a subsoil of very tenacious clay. The advantage of this formation is that it retains the heat of the day during the night, and is favourable to the early maturity of crops. Every kind of crop will here attain the highest perfection of quality and yield. The writer saw a head of oats, 17 inches long, which had been grown on newly broken land, and he was assured by some of the first settlers—men who have been farming all their lives in Lower Canada—that the crops raised this season on the prairie sod were quite equal to an Ontario average. Under proper cultivation, far better results will be realized. The land is admirably adapted for stock raising, and dairy farming, as well as growing grain. Some idea of the richness of the natural grasses of the prairie may be formed from the fact that, during the past season, more than 200 tons of hay were gathered within a short distance of Saskatoon, and stored up for use during the winter. A growth so luxuriant demonstrates beyond all possible question the suitability of the land for pasturing cattle, and no doubt this important industry will be largely carried on.