

said : " By means of manuring, I do not know any bad land ; without manuring, I do not know any good." Manitoba is an exception to this rule, for the practice of manuring land has hitherto been scarcely, if not absolutely unknown. At the last Dominion Exhibition, a sample of land was exhibited from a farm on which had been raised wheat during 50 years consecutively without any manuring. We ourselves saw at Dufferin, in 1874, a magnificent field of stalked wheat, and it was the twenty-second year that the land had been planted with grain without any one having ever dreamt of manuring it.

Mr. W. A. Loucks bought in 1875 a farm which had been under cultivation for 70 years and which had already yielded fifty-two harvests of wheat. In the following year he raised on it 26 bushels of wheat to the acre, 51 bushels of oats, 20 bushels of peas, and in the year 1877 he received from it 352 bushels of potatoes from 10 bushels of seed.

The analysis of the soil, made carefully by scientific men, attributes to it most remarkable properties. Mr. Thomas Connolly, correspondent of the *London Times*, in a letter to the *Citizen* of Ottawa, on the 18th November last, wrote as follows : " I assure you that neither in the new or old world have I ever seen a country where the soil was more fertile and the climate more salubrious than in Manitoba and the valley of the Red River. There is no doubt in my opinion that an industrious and energetic man, furnished with a spade and seed, could soon make a home for himself on the prairie and have an excellent farm."

CEREALS—WHEAT

Wheat is a plant *par excellence* specially adapted to the nourishment of mankind. It is the basis of agricultural wealth, the first and most precious of all the cereal plants. The territory which produces it abundantly cannot fail to have a great influence on the market of the whole world. Now, it is universally allowed that the Canadian North-West country, including Manitoba, is particularly adapted to the cultivation of this cereal. We may here appropriately quote, in relation to this subject, an authority who is the least to be suspected of partiality ; it is that of Mr. J. W. Taylor, American Consul at Winnipeg, who addressed the following letter to the *Pioneer Press* of St. Paul, Minn., U. S., shortly after the visit to Manitoba of Mr. Read, M.P., and Mr. Peil, two delegates from England, whose mission to Canada we have already noticed.