

borne unvarying testimony. For the production of cereals, pulse and root crops, and as a stock-raising country, there seems to be no better anywhere. The yield for 1876 is the best proof. A summary in the *Toronto Daily Globe* of a minute account in the *Manitoba Free Press* gives the following averages for the Province as a whole: Wheat, $32\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre; barley, $42\frac{1}{2}$; oats, 51; peas, 32; potatoes, 229; turnips, 662 $\frac{1}{2}$. Such was the result, although the unusually severe and late rains damaged the crops, and other drawbacks during the season operated to lower the average. On newly broken-up ground, where the old sod had never rotted, the yield was small; and many of the settlers had to sow old and decayed seed because of the grasshopper ravages the preceding year. The significance of an average like $32\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat to the acre will be best understood in the light of the following rough calculation by Mr. Dawson: "As a measure of the possible agricultural capacity of this great valley, take one-half of the entire area, or 3,400 square miles, equalling 2,176,000 acres, and for simplicity of calculation let it be supposed to be sown entirely in wheat. Then, at the rate of 17 bushels per acre—which, according to Prof. Thomas, is the average yield for Minnesota—the crop of the Red River Valley would amount to 40,992,000 bushels" (p. 278). The total crop of Manitoba for 1876 was: Wheat, 480,000 bushels; barley, 173,000; oats, 380,000; peas, 54,000; other grains, 5,000; potatoes, 460,000; turnips and other roots, 700,000.

With respect to the vast country beyond that North-west of which Manitoba is only the threshold, we have much more definite information than we had, and every year adds to our store. Besides the township surveys, which have already extended far beyond the Province, a special survey of meridians and bases is also going on. The lines are laid down northerly and westerly, and the work is intended to extend to Peace River. The objects of the survey are to establish a practicable

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