

given—and is given—to those men who understand their work, and who have the capital to enter into their business under conditions which are consistent with success.

#### THE CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

The character of the soil of any country necessarily exerts a commanding influence upon the commercial success of those who cultivate it, and the natural fertility of the soil consequently becomes a matter of very great importance. This is a truth which is more perfectly known in England and Scotland than in any country in the world, for here the greatest efforts and the heaviest expenditure have been made, in keeping up the fertility of our soils by the aid of artificial manures. The soil of Manitoba differs very greatly in different parts, for we must not forget that we are speaking of a tract of country larger than Great Britain and Ireland. No one need be surprised at the fact that we find in Manitoba, soils which are good, bad, and indifferent, and yet experience justifies the Indian title it bears as the "The Land of the Great Spirit or God's country," for this is the literal translation of the word "Manitoba." One man may truthfully describe the soil of his neighbourhood as being most fertile in its character, whilst another man may with equal truth describe some land he has discovered as being of little agricultural value. No one knowing the country can honestly deny these facts, but it does not matter to us as men of business whether or not it is possible to find poor soils in Manitoba. The practical question we have to deal with is this:—Can we find plenty of very good land throughout the Province? I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that land of very high fertility may be most easily obtained there by any man who knows his business, and who can tell the difference between good and inferior soils. I am bound even to go beyond this, and state that although we have hitherto considered the Black Earth of Central Russia (Tchornoi Zem) the richest soil in the world, that land has now to yield its distinguished position to the rich, deep, black soils of Manitoba and the North-West Territory. Here it is that "The Champion Soils of the World" are to be found, and we may rejoice that they are located within the British Empire. Take as an illustration of their powers of fertility the simple fact that on the Kildonan Farm near Winnipeg, belonging to Mr. Robert McBeth, on which land I saw their 50th crop of wheat growing in 1884—crops which had followed each other year after year, and had maintained their full yield from first to last—