

THE SOIL.

is a rich sandy loam, eighteen inches to two feet in depth, with clay subsoil, and is easily broken. Once broken it does not require "backsetting," as does the soil of the Red River Valley, but simply requires harrowing to be in shape for the reception of seed. The sight of the vast stretches of rich mellow loam turned up to the pulverizing rays of the sun would make the eyes of the average Ontario farmer bulge out with amazement. The simple statement "four thousand acres" gives little idea of the extent of the ploughed fields, but when one imagines a field two miles wide by three and one half miles long, then some idea is obtained of the size of the fields on the Bell Farm, by which title the place is now generally known. Take another comparison. Were the furrows in these four thousand acres stretched out in one continuous furrow it would reach a distance of 36,000 miles, or encircle the earth nearly one and a half times. Or were the land ploughed into a stretch twenty feet wide it would reach from Winnipeg to Montreal, *via* St. Paul and Chicago, a distance of 1,800 miles. The company proposes to break 7,000 acres next summer, and will have a force capable of breaking

ONE THOUSAND ACRES PER WEEK.

Oxen are chiefly employed in breaking, because they are most easily kept. Early in the season three yoke pulled a gang plough of two ploughs, cutting each a furrow fifteen inches wide. The season having been very dry, the sod has become tough, and five yoke are now required to pull a gang of two ploughs. It is a novel and interesting sight to see a number of the ploughs in line, five yoke of oxen to a plough, and the whole forming quite a caravan, converting the brown prairie into a sea of black wavelets, turning up a rod or more of sod at a "swath." The breaking force commences work at daylight and work till 11 o'clock a. m., when the oxen are turned out to grass and allowed to feed till 3 o'clock p. m., when the oxen are again put to work and kept at it till dark, the calculation being to cover

FOURTEEN MILES EACH DAY.

The oxen get no other feed except what they pick up on the prairie. Eighty yoke of oxen are employed in breaking at present, and in addition to these 35 mules and 34 horses are used in ploughing and other work. Next year only mules and horses will be employed, as a good supply of hay (400 tons) has been put up, and now that the railway is in operation oats can be obtained at a