

THE SOIL.

The soil of Wisconsin is varied in character according to locality, and diversified in a manner to permit of the raising of almost any crop. It is one of the greatest dairy States in the Union, and the cheap lands that are now offered to home-seekers will some day be one of the richest butter and cheese producing sections of the Northwest. The northern part of the State is a great grass country. There are large areas of low lands which can, with small labor, be made into very profitable meadows; wherever this plan has been tried it has proved a very paying one and the quality of the hay grown has been unexcelled. The nature of crops and the amount grown per acre in the year 1895 show that the country north of the line drawn through the center of the State is capable of the greatest possible development to the agriculturalist. The crops of Northern Wisconsin this year were uniformly larger and better than those of any surrounding State or section. There are many reasons for this. Long-continued droughts are unknown; hot winds never blow in this locality, and the season is quick and sure. In some sections of the thinly-settled part of the State the soil is heavy clay loam, wonderfully rich and productive; from that it varies to a lighter loam, which is no less valuable insomuch as it is much quicker. Rains are plentiful and sure. There is no part of the State where irrigation is necessary. A good average of the crops raised in the northern counties of the State, which offers lands and homes for thousands, has been compiled from reports of twenty different counties. The average is this:

Oats, 60 bushels per acre; barley, 40 bushels per acre; rye, 30 bushels per acre; corn, 40 bushels per acre; wheat, 30 bushels

per acre; potatoes, 200 bushels per acre; hay, $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre; peas, 30 bushels per acre; turnips, 400 bushels per acre. The qualities of these products were extraordinarily good. There can no country excel this part of Wisconsin in the abundance and excellence of the crops of all kinds of vegetables and grain.