

**FORMERLY OF MINNESOTA—HE SAYS,
“COME OUT HERE”**

Virden, Man., 18th Nov., 1899.

Hon. Clifford Sifton,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Sir,—Thinking that my experience in Manitoba might be both useful and interesting to my fellow-countrymen in the United States, who may be looking to Manitoba and the Northwest with the intention of settling there, I have much pleasure in stating that through information received from Mr. W. F. McCreary, Immigration Commissioner at Winnipeg, I was induced to visit Manitoba in February, 1898. When I called upon Mr. McCreary he spared no pains to give me all the information, etc., in his possession, the result of which was that I came here with a letter of introduction from him to the Secretary of the Virden Board of Trade. That gentleman provided me with a competent land guide, and although there was considerable snow on the ground, I had no difficulty in selecting three homesteads for myself and sons. Having made the necessary homestead entries at the Land Office in Brandon, I returned to my home in Lyon County, Minnesota, and came back here in May following, accompanied by one of my boys, bringing with us two teams of horses, implements, etc. Our first work was to erect a temporary shanty and stable, after which we broke and levelled 75 acres and put up 30 tons of hay. I went back to Minnesota about 20th July, leaving my son here. I returned in October, bringing my family with me. I found that the land we had acquired was of good quality, being a strong clay loam with clay subsoil. Last spring I sowed 100 acres in wheat, 50 acres in oats and barley (75 acres of this grain was sowed on breaking plowed last spring). My crop was threshed in October, the result being over 2,700 bushels of grain in all. Wheat averaged 15 bushels per acre, and graded No. 1 hard, but that which was sown on land other than sod (“coback”) went 24½ bushels per acre.

To say that I am well pleased with the result of my first year's farming operations in Manitoba does not adequately express my feelings, and I have no hesitation in advising those who are living in districts where land is high in price, to come out here, if they are willing to do a fair amount of work. I am 10 miles from Virden, which is a good market town, and 9 miles from Hargrave,