

I began to farm in May, 1882, having previously homesteaded and pre-empted the east half of Section 12, Township 5, Range 15 West, Manitoba. My effects consisted of a yoke of oxen, wagon, breaker, harrow, pony, tent and about \$80 cash. My nearest neighbor was about five miles away, and the nearest store 22 miles. I brought two bags of Red Fyfe wheat with me and, as soon as I had enough prairie broken, seeded the wheat. I also planted two bags of potatoes; on the breaking they yielded 50 bushels.

I broke 35 acres that summer; cut with the scythe enough hay to last oxen and pony till next year. The wheat was then cut, and I had a good stack of No. 1 Hard from the two bags sown. A log house was then built before winter, and a granary 16 x 20. Thus passed the first year. The crop of 1883 promised well, so I bought a binder, the price being \$350, but I can buy a better one to-day for \$150. The wheat was slightly damaged by frost, and Brandon, 50 miles distant, was my nearest market. The crop was sold at a loss.

The crops of 1884 and 1885 had to be teamed to Brandon. Here let me say that I began wrong. I should have gone more into stock-raising, and fed my grain to hogs, and I could then have teamed \$150 worth of pork to market as easily as \$20 worth of wheat. But experience teaches. When the C. P. R. Glenboro Branch was built I was 15 miles from the station, and wheat-raising began to pay. The N. P. Morris-Brandon Branch gave us a still nearer market, being five miles from Belmont and six from Baldur.

In 1888 I bought 160 acres of C. P. R. land two miles from Belmont, and in 1890 another 160 acres adjoining my homestead at \$6.00 per acre. This makes a section which gives me enough grain, meadow and pasture land.

I have 200 acres under cultivation, 140 of that being ready for wheat. My stock consists of six working horses, three 2-year-old colts, a pony and 14 head of cattle. I sold \$275 worth of stock this summer. In 1889 85 acres of wheat yielded 1,400 bushels, and 25 acres of oats 1,500 bushels. The crop of 1892 was lighter, 100 acres of wheat yielding 1,600 bushels, the lowest average, with one exception, since I began farming.

My wife manages the garden and raises all the small fruit we can use, having 200 currant bushes and the same number of gooseberries. There are apple trees under my care, two of which I expect to bear fruit next summer. We found it no trouble to raise watermelons, cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, corn, or any other garden vegetable. The only thing in the garden line that failed to come to maturity was grapes.

CHARLES MARTIN,

Formerly of Heatherdale, Lot 59, Prince Edward Island.

TWO YOUNG ENGLISHMEN'S EXPERIENCE.

Messrs. Blasjon and Johnston are two young Englishmen who came out to Manitoba in 1888. Mr. Blasjon came out in May and worked out first on Messrs. Bouverie & Routledge's farm at Virden, and then on their own ranch in the Riding Mountain.

After working out and gaining some colonial experience, they bought a farm of 320 acres one mile from Virden on the C.P.R. They bought land from the Hudson's Bay Company, without any improvements on it, and in the fall we find them with house, stables, wells, pasture fenced in, and one hundred acres ready for the next year's crop. Fortune favored them, and they made \$1,400.00 (£280), their first year's attempt at wheat growing, doing all their own work and employing no hired help at all. Besides the \$1,400.00 wheat money,