

Mr. C. House.

Dear Sir,—As I agreed to write to you some four years ago, when I took the train at Brown City for Western Canada, I will now give you my experience since I left Brown City. When I arrived at Didsbury I thought it was a queer looking place to try and make a living at, but, nevertheless, I found it all right. I went to work on a ranch for \$300 a year. I worked something over three and a half years and earned \$1,135, and now I am on my own homestead. I have a good house and barn and some fencing, also some cleared land. I have three horses, ten head of cattle, and farming implements. I find it easy to make a living here. The crops were very good this year.

This is a good stock raising country, and all the stock are doing finely this winter, as there has been little snow to hinder them from feeding in the open pastures; but it looks a little hard to see 300 or 400 head of cattle let loose in the morning to hunt up their food when it is 35 degrees below zero and a foot or so of snow on the ground, but they do it all the same, and make good beef, too.

The largest cattle ranch near here has 1,500 head, and that is quite a nice bunch of cattle. The nearest sheep ranch has 18,000 sheep. We also have a new store here now, and it won't be long before there will be more. Some one has to be first everywhere to start business going, and it will not be many years till Didsbury will be a great town.

There has been 7,660 acres of land taken up here in the last six years, and I hear there are twenty-five families coming from Ontario next spring. This will help to fill up Didsbury, and that is what is wanted to make a country. I hope we will see some Michigan people come out, too. I would like to see some of them very much, for I could tell them more than I can write about this fine country.

I find this to be a very healthy place. A person can eat till his eyes bulge out; but, of course, some people think that there is not anything to eat at all out here, but that is where they get left. There is just as much to eat in this country as there is in Michigan, and I think a little more, too. If you don't think so, come and try it and find out for yourself.

This time last year we had fine sleighing, but we are left this year. The snow has all gone to Ontario, as near as I can find out. I suppose some people would think that there would be plenty of snow in Western Canada, but that is a mistake. As far as the cold weather goes, I do not mind it as much as I did in Michigan. I have tested the weather here. I have sat in the saddle for fifty