

"With respect to the 18 families who left their homesteads, it seems their crops of the first year proved a failure, owing to a long continued drought, which told more upon the newly broken-up prairie land than elsewhere where the soil had been under cultivation for some years. While on this point, I may say a material saving might be effected if emigrants were taken out during the month of September. They would have time to break up enough land to seed down the succeeding spring to enable them to tide over with rations for a year instead of 18 or 20 months. There is also the fact of interested parties working upon their ignorance. These are sufficient reasons to account for the action taken by these families.

These 18 families would not take the locations selected for them near the others, but went in a body to the Leech Lake district and selected the location for themselves, thinking they were better judges of land than the officials in charge of them. Some of the land was odd numbered sections, and consequently the property of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company, who gave the sections up to the Government so that the Crofters would be allowed to homestead them. Thirteen families have left from this location of their own selection.

"Lord Aberdeen, in a speech delivered at Winnipeg, in October last, proves that the Crofters located at Lake Pelican or Killarney have been most successful, and are in a fair way of becoming prosperous. I give a few instances of those and Crofters sent out by Lady Cathcart, selected at random.

"D. McKenzie, Harris, began life with a team of oxen, cow, and calf, and settled down on 160 acres of land. In the first year, 1888, he broke eight acres, and in 1890 had 40 acres under crop. His cattle have done well, and he keeps his house with the produce of his dairy and poultry. He does not consider the winter so severe as in the old country. He would not leave Canada, even although he could get the same amount of land to farm in the old country as he has in this. He has a good school and church near his homestead.

"D. Stewart, Fort Augustus.

"Interviewed Mrs. Stewart who, said :—

'I did not like the country at first, as I felt it very lonely, as there were no neighbours; but I have got over that, and would not now leave it for anything, because we are more independent and have always the best of living, and we are making a little money. I have four of a family, which we mean to do well by. We have 70 acres under wheat, besides potatoes; we have also eight cows in calf, and six cows giving milk, and a litter of young pigs. I do not find the winter colder than in the old country, because the weather does not change. I get 5d. a dozen for eggs, and 9d. a pound for butter. This is the grandest country under the sun for rearing stock and poultry, as a heifer will have a calf when 18 months old.

"McKinnon South Uist came six years ago. 'I had no money to begin. My crop this year will be about 2,000 bushels wheat. I sold 18 or 20 cattle this year, and have 40 on hand yet. I bought two horses for \$250. I like the country very well.'

"Note.—Many other instances may be given of what men with a moderate amount of brains and energy can do when settled in Canada."

GEO. BROWN.