Is there any place where I could get one-quarter section free and buy the next from the railway or the Government?

Yes. In Manitoba, but there is a greater choice in any of the Territories before named.

Is the land there as good for farming as it is in Manitoba?

Quite as good in parts. In Eastern Assiniboia, as far west as Regina; in Northern Alberta, north of Red Deer on the Calgary and Edmonton Railway and in parts of Saskatchewan. For ranching it is better to go to Western Assiniboia or Southern Alberta.

Must I stay at Winnipeg to make a homestead entry on Government land?

No. There are land registration offices at Winnipeg, Brandon, Minnedosa, Lake Dauphin, in Manitoba; and in the Territories at Alameda, Regina, Yorkton, Prince Albert, Battleford, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge.

What advantage has Manitoba over the Territories that makes folks take up land there first?

It was opened up first, that is all. It is more thickly populated, and therefore more neighbours, and easier for the children to go to school. On the other hand, if you want more unoccupied land near you for grazing your cattle and cutting hay, you had better go farther west.