

towards the west and see a little cloud coming up, a gentle shower follows, the sun shines forth again, and in a little while you forget it has rained.

The balm and wild cherry bushes are very fragrant, and the wild flowers are beautiful. Large red lilies are as common as the daisies; blue bells and numberless purple flowers, and the wild roses grow on tall bushes like tame ones, from a pale pink to a deep red shade.

Cyclones are unknown here and the thunder and lightning is very light. We had two storms this summer accompanied with wind and hail, but nothing to lodge the grain. The average heat is about 78 degrees. We had three or four days in July at 90. The nights are always cool.

The winter season is one of great activity. All the fencing is gotten out then and logs for the farm buildings. By paying 25 cents you are granted a permit at the land office to cut logs upon vacant lands. The roads are good and smooth, for the snow never drifts, not even around the buildings, and this is a great saving of time to the farmer. Hay is hauled from the bottom lands all winter long, and a man can work outside every day as far as the weather is concerned. There are cold snaps when it reaches 40 and 48 below zero, but the lack of wind prevents one realizing it and the mountains 150 miles west of us are a great protection.

Our neighbors are mostly Canadian, Scotch, Swede, and we have a nice sprinkling of people from the States. We had considerable fun on July 1st, displaying our flags. The stars and stripes were hoisted alongside the red, white and blue. I did not wish to be disloyal to the dear old flag of my native land, but I had to wear the stars and stripes I had enjoyed to live under for so long a time.

The creeks abound in small fish, but for real good fishing one must take three days off and go out to the Sturgeon River (40 miles) where the finest pike, goldeye and sturgeon are plentiful.

We are now in the midst of haymaking (Aug 7th). Wheat will not be cut until early in September, this being a little later season than common, but the crop will be immense. I send you a sample of wheat and barley. its height is almost even with my shoulders, average 50 inches. Newcomers lacking binders can hire their grain cut for 75 cents per acre. Prairie chickens are here by the thousands.

The water is good. We have a fine well 15 feet deep. In the creeks the water is soft and of a yellowish color.

The material is here for the erection of the first school house in Ross Creek. Twenty-one children are anxiously awaiting the fall term of school. We have organized a Sunday school with an average attendance of 35. A young Presbyterian minister preaches every two weeks