

# REPORT OF MR. J. A. BARRETT, CRESCO, IOWA.

Cresco, Iowa, November, 1899.

Mr. Benjamin Davies,

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 27th was duly received. I called at your office on my return from the Canadian Northwest, about Sept. 22nd, but was not fortunate enough to find you in town. I wish now to give you my impressions of the country as it appeared to me between August 26th and Sept. 19th, 1899, going from my home in the State of Iowa to St. Paul, and then direct to Winnipeg, Manitoba, via the Northern Pacific, reaching there the afternoon of August 26th.

About Winnipeg there is a rich black loam with clay sub-soil. The crops along the line going into the province were fine, but not all ripened, and the ground bore evidence of much rain. I learned, in the city, that the season was one of the wettest and coolest known, and the grain later than usual in maturing. During the greater part of two days I spent in Winnipeg, the weather was sunny and bright and the atmosphere cool and bracing. The people had a tanned appearance. I wore a light alpacca coat all the time I was in the city. It is a flourishing, enterprising place of about 47,000, with a fine, long and spacious business street, well and substantially built of stone and brick. Just at this time the city was full of immigrants and delegates looking the country over, and a large force of harvest hands from the east.

I left the city on August 28th, westward bound for Calgary and the town of Edmonton, in North Alberta, which territory I desired particularly to see. Having some knowledge of the early history of Manitoba and the time when the C.P.R. was built, I was surprised at the evidence of progress made in its brief period of settlement, and of access to the markets of the world. As I rode westward, I saw a beautiful prairie country, composed of rich, black soil, and, where settled, covered with splendid level fields of wavy grain, mostly wheat, oats and barley. I saw no evidence of hail or storm in the shape of lodged or battered fields, nor was there any evidence of frost. I never saw heavy grain stand up so well and present so level an appearance. Herds of cattle were frequently seen and it was noticeable that they were all thorough-bred, mostly shorthorns but some were polled Angus.