

APPENDIX No. 3

each. As it is, they are learning to scratch for themselves here which is a good lesson for them. My wife and I will soon have been married 50 years, as we were married on December 15, 1874."

There is another letter from Mr. Bohanan. It is very interesting as dealing with the situation this Spring, and it leads up to his method of farming. It is a letter which appeared in the *Hanna Herald* issue dated April 19th. Mr. Bohanan wrote to the Editor of the *Herald* as follows:

"Sibbald, April 17th, 1923.

Editor, the *Herald*:—

"We are working on the land now with the Acme harrow and will be seeding soon. We are about a week earlier than last season. The land is in fine shape for crop this spring, with plenty of moisture to start the crop. With a few good showers later on we should have a good crop on good summer fallow.

"I was in Sibbald yesterday and was talking with some of the implement men. They say they could sell several car loads of cultivators if the farmers had money to buy, or could buy on time, so something has made quite a stir among the farmers in the Sibbald country.

"A good many of our farmers here will not be able to put in any crop this spring because they haven't money to buy seed grain and feed for their work horses. One party offered to mortgage any and everything he had for money to buy seed grain to sow 150 acres of summer fallow. So you see things are in bad shape here.

"I can get along all right because I haven't had any crop failures, so I guess it would be a good plan to adopt the summer fallow system and quit trying to raise crops on stubble."

Mr. Bohanan has never put any grain in any stubble for the last four years. He has never used a plough on his land. He cultivates it with cultivators. He discovered a system of moisture conservation and through his process of farming has eliminated weeds from his farm, so he has clean land, and with the limited amount of moisture in that district has raised good crops successively for eleven years. Last year on 150 acres he raised 25 bushels to the acre, and on a ten-acre lot which he is raising for seed purposes, his average was 33 bushels. The moral is, if his neighbours had carried on the same operations in the same way they would have had a similar degree of success, and if the same system of farming had been carried on during the eleven years in the *Hanna District*, we would not have the tale that we get from that district, because the conditions are much better. The reason I am bringing this before the Committee is, that 75 per cent of the financial troubles of the western farmers to-day are due in our judgment to an absolute disregard of sound economics and sound operation, and our hope for the future is based on this, that we have evidence that the western farmer is being convinced that this is an absolute fact. We are optimistic because we see evidences all along the line that they are paying more attention to what, in my mind, is the greatest factor in bringing back prosperity to the west, and that is, the practice of sound economics and sound farming, and the western farmer is paying attention to these factors, as he never has before. That is my reason for bringing before the Committee these facts at this time. So far as the Province of Alberta is concerned, I have another concrete case. I have a letter here from the party himself. It was sent to Mr. Robinson at my request. He gives me the history of his life. He has been farming for many years in Southern Alberta. I think I am correct in saying it is considered to be in the dry district. It may not be in the dry district but it is in Southern Alberta. This man has been very successful. He has suffered the

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman.]