

Lacombe P.O., Alberta, N.W.T.,

December 7, 1898.

The Commissioner of Immigration, Ottawa.

Sir,—I came out from Sheffield, England, in 1889, to Manitoba, for a change as much as anything, and with no fixed determination to stay in the country altogether.

I was a school teacher in the old country, and scarcely ever enjoyed good health. I remained two and a half years in Manitoba, and then returned to England in the winter of 1891. I could not, however, content myself there after the life on the prairie, and returned the following spring to Manitoba. I worked there until June, 1894. When my parents and brother came out the following month, we came to Red Deer, Alberta, with the intention of settling on homesteads, my father and myself being, at that time, the only members of the family qualified to enter for land.

Our capital on arrival, after payment of baggage dues, amounted to about \$25. We had no stock or machinery at all. I was the only one of the family who had any experience at all of farming, and I found it stood me in good stead out here. We found the country, at that time, just beginning to be settled up. Neighbors were scarce, and everything was very dear, and there was very little work to be had.

We located on the west half of section 30, tp. 39, r. 25, west of the 4th meridian, myself on the n.w. $\frac{1}{4}$ and my father on the s.w. $\frac{1}{4}$. We found the soil to be a deep black loam, varying from 10 to 24 inches in depth, suitable for raising anything.

Of course, without capital we found it a hard struggle uphill; work being scarce made it a great deal harder. The difficulties we had to contend with are now practically over. There is plenty of work to be had and everything is much cheaper than it was then.

For a country that has only been opened up for about six years, I consider the progress here has been marvelous.

Owing to having had to work from home so much, we have not the work done at home which we might have had, if we had had sufficient means to give us a start. We are, however, gradually getting the stock and machinery around us, and in the course of two or three years hope to be doing well.

Most of our crop this year was cut green, as it was on new land and sown too late to ripen.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

(Signed)

Wm. A. Roe.