

ANNANDALE, SALT LAKE, SHOAL LAKE, P.O.

3rd January, 1882.

N. D. ENNIS, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

A paragraph in the Rapid City *Standard* has just reminded me that your letter has been till now unanswered. I must plead election business as an excuse for my delay, and, if not too late, will be happy to give my experiences now as a settler in the Saskatchewan district.

As you know, it is not yet two years since I came to this country, and I may here state I never had any reason to regret the impulse which led me to settle here. Going into figures is going into dangerous ground, so I will keep out of them at present, and merely state that for a first grain crop I was more than satisfied, the total yield of about 50 acres being over 2000 bushels, oats and wheat. Barley a failure, owing to being sown on spring breaking.

Crops must be got in early owing to summer frosts, to which this country is more or less liable, and it must be admitted that this matter is rather significant.

For those who do not care to risk the summer frosts there is abundance of scope in stock-raising, a branch which in my experience is much more profitable. Against this branch the long winter has been held up as a serious objection, and the quantity of hay it takes to winter each head; but as hay is very plentiful, and easily saved, this is indeed a very small item. The winter, though cold, is not severe, in fact, is preferable to the summer, and to an "old country" winter. I am sure you will get plenty of opinion more qualified than mine on the subject, though I am sure all will agree with me in that the Little Saskatchewan district can speak for itself, and only requires one to look over its prosperous and happy homes to be convinced that crops can be raised as heavy off the rolling prairie as they can off the dismal flats.

No one can wish you more prosperity than I in your endeavours to bring the Little Saskatchewan district more prominently before the great influx of settlers which we are sure to have next spring.

Yours very truly,

W. PRINGLE JOHNSTONE,

Late of 6 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh.