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"Given Half a Section of Land in Manitoba with Twenty Acres Broken; Lay out a Three Years' Programme as to Cultivation and Equipment of this Half Section."

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All who have ever had the ambition to own and operate a farm have often in their spare moments discussed with themselves the plans they might follow, the ideas they might put into execution, and the methods which they might employ in the management of a farm if they only had the means to enable them to purchase a suitable piece of land. As a natural result of three years' residence in Manitoba in the employment of different farmers, thoughts similar to the above have often passed through my mind and I welcome this opportunity of giving them a more tangible form.

In attempting to give a detailed account of the work to be done, the crops which might be raised, and the revenue which would probably be received from half a section of land in three years, we must first have clearly in mind the conditions under which the start was made. The factors which govern the scale on which operations are to be carried on are: the age and health of the party engaged in the work, whether he be married or single, and the capital on hand. Besides these, there must also be taken into

account the conditions of the land, whether clear of obstructions or more or less covered with bluffs, stones, or swamps, the nature of the soil, the climatic conditions of the locality, the progressiveness of the neighborhood on which is dependent to a certain extent the value of the land. It will be necessary to answer all the above questions at the outset.

In the first place, I am a young bachelor, twenty-one years of age, strong and heal-

thy, and have been given the south half of a school section three miles from Youill, a small flag station on the Portage-Neepawa line of the Canadian Northern Railway. The land is just west of the fertile Portage Plains, the soil varying from a loam to a sandy loam. The whole half section is arable, the only obstructions being an occasional stone. These are for the most part too large to be easily removed but may be plowed around with

little difficulty. There is no harmful alkali in the soil and though the district has occasionally been visited by hailstorms, these are not of frequent occurrence. The neighbors are sociable and willing to co-operate among each other for the improvement of their district, and here let me insert, that few realize how much this means to the new settler and to what extent the prosperity of a locality is affected by the friendly relations between the

members of a community. Co-operation on a small scale among neighboring farmers would assist then in obtaining in car load lots, special feed for their stock, as bran or shorts, lumber, fence posts, etc., and thus by buying in large quantities reduce expense. Special machinery which one man would not feel himself justified in purchasing could also be secured for their smaller crops, such as potatoes and corn. With regard to capital, I have \$3,000 in cash and would borrow \$2,000. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum will be charged on my total invested capital of \$5,000, as well as on the total value of the land, which at the

