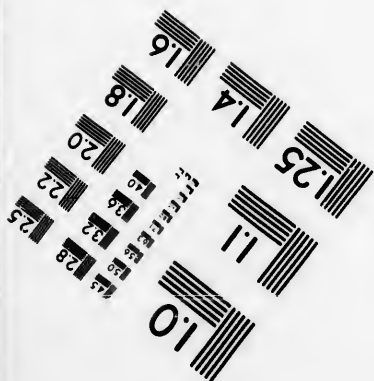
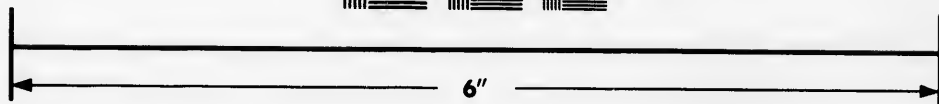
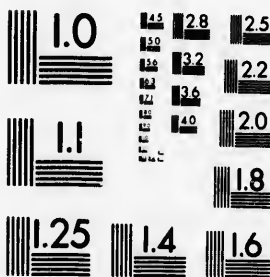


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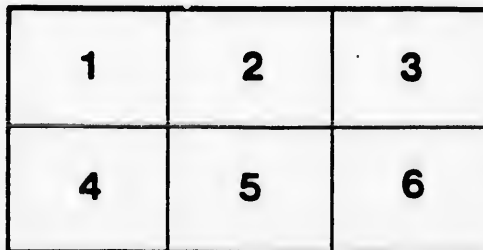
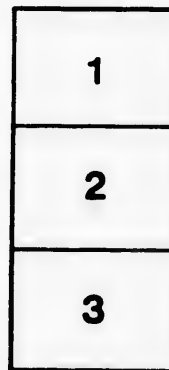
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MANITOBA AND THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST,

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LETTERS FROM ACTUAL SETTLERS.

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Alexander Begg, Esq., General Emigration Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has been the recipient of a large number of letters from practical farmers in the Canadian North-West which contain a great amount of important and interesting information with regard to the agricultural capabilities of the country. His correspondents are scattered all over Manitoba and the Canadian Territories. A perusal of these letters will satisfy most persons that the Canadian North-West is one of the best countries in the world for farmers to emigrate to. Appended are summaries of the statements of a number of Mr. Begg's correspondents, selected at random from amongst about five hundred letters. The facts are conclusions of these correspondents are given in their own language and present a remarkable body of unanimous testimony on this interesting subject:—

R. McKNIGHT, ESQ.,

Carman, Manitoba, states his experience as follows:—He went from Oxford County, Ontario, into the Canadian North-West in April, 1879, having purchased a homestead and pre-empted 640 acres of Government land. His capital amounted to \$5,000. He has now 160 acres under cultivation. His first house was of logs, built at a cost of \$200, and he now values his property at \$10,000. His crop for the present year is 55 acres of wheat yielding 20 bushels to the acre, 26 acres of oats yielding 55 bushels per acre, 17 acres of barley at 45 bushels per acre, besides roots and vegetables. His potatoes yield from 200 to 400 bushels per acre, his turnips from 400 to 600 bushels per acre. He states that vegetables grow with very little trouble and he can raise almost all kinds, including rhubarb, beet, corn, onions, parsnips, cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, peas, beans, cauliflower, asparagus, cucumbers, melons, citrons, pumpkins, and other varieties. The wild cultivated fruits grown are strawberries, raspberries, currants, cranberries, plums, blueberries and wild cherries. Of flax, he remarks that it grows splendidly. The soil is a clay loam from one to three feet deep. Manure is not required for the first few years, but it will be necessary after a while. He has any amount of hay and his cattle thrive well on the wild grasses of the prairie in summer, and he has no trouble in keeping them fat in winter when they run out in the day time and are stabled at night. His stock consists of four horses and twenty-nine head of cattle, besides sheep and hogs. He has suffered no hardship or loss in winter from the climate, which he considers very healthy. The winter extends from the first or the tenth of November to the first of April. Plowing commences at the earliest about the 11th April and harvesting about the 12th August. The fencing he uses is mostly

barbed wire of three wires, costing \$103 per mile for posts and wire. He uses mostly wood for fuel, which is easily got as he has 50 acres of timber. He has plenty of water, namely, the Boyne river and a well 12 feet deep. The cost of breaking land he places at \$2.50 per acre, when labor is hired, and \$2 for backsetting. He has suffered no serious loss from storms in winter or summer, he finds that the sheep do well and are paying stock, and he finds stock raising, combined with grain farming decidedly profitable, even where cattle have to be housed during winter. The necessities of life are a little higher in some things than in Ontario. Summer frosts are entirely exceptional. The best time for breaking the virgin soil is from the 1st of June to the 1st of July, backsetting in the fall. He estimates that a man with oxen will break an acre a day; with horses one and a half to two acres. In harvest, cutting and binding cost one dollar and a half an acre. He is perfectly satisfied with the country and the climate, and his prospects are as good as can be. Mr. McKnight says: "I would advise anyone with a small capital to come to this country. I have made more capital in five years in this country than in twenty years in Ontario, and have not to work so hard. Here all the work is done with machinery. It is a great deal easier to sit on a binder than to swing a cradle." He advises settlers coming from Great Britain to bring good warm clothing and bedding in the case of families, and if single men, as little as possible.

S. HANNA, ESQ.,

Reeve of Whitehead, resident in Griswold, Manitoba, gives the following as his experience: He went into the Canadian North-West from Oil City, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1881. He homesteaded the eastern half of section 12 of township 10 of R 23, and purchased section 7, T. 10, range 22 and 46 acres of wood lot. He owns 1,006 acres, of which 450 are under cultivation. He values his property at \$10 per acre. His first house is a frame building costing \$370. This year's crop includes 170 acres of wheat, yielding 25 bushels per acre, 70 acres of oats at 45 bushels per acre, and 15 acres of barley at 30 bushels per acre. Flax grows well, yielding 16 1/2 bushels of seed to the acre. The soil is black loam, two feet deep, with a yellow clay subsoil. The cattle do well on the wild grasses, and they are stabled in the winter. He has plenty of wood and water, having two wells on his property, one 21 feet and the other 62 feet deep. He expresses himself satisfied with the country and climate and the prospects ahead of him.

PHILIP DICKSON, ESQ.,

lives in Chater, Manitoba, and has been there since 1879. He had previously resided in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and Ontario. He owns 320 acres of land, which he values at \$4,000. His wheat this season yielded 25 bushels to the acre, his barley 40, and his potatoes 400 bushels. He is thoroughly satisfied with his new home and its surroundings, and considers the climate of the Canadian North-West

the most healthy of any country he has been in.

MR. JOHN B. DAVIS

lives at McLean, Assiniboine. He went to the Canadian North-West in April, 1882, from Ontario. All the money he had was \$15. Between homesteading and purchase he has acquired 480 acres of land, which he values at \$5,000. He has built a frame house which cost him \$400. He has raised this year 600 bushels of wheat, besides oats, barley and a great variety of roots and vegetables. He has not had to do any fencing so far, nor has he any use for manure. He finds plenty of good water in a well six feet deep. He estimates the cost per acre, of preparing the land and sowing, including the price of seed grain and harvesting, at \$10 per acre at first. Mr. Davis says, "I would sooner be here now without one dollar than have \$2,000 in Ontario and have a day there."

Here is what an Englishman thinks about the country:—

W. C. KNIGHT, ESQ.,

is from England. He settled at Oak Lake, Manitoba, in 1879. He commenced with a capital of \$2,000. He homesteaded and purchased 800 acres of land, and devoted his attention chiefly to stock raising. His first house was of logs, built complete by half-breeds for \$25—certainly not a palatial residence. Wheat yielded with him forty bushels to the acre and potatoes 160 bushels. His garden supplied him with an abundance of vegetables of all kinds, and without manure. His cattle thrive well on the wild grasses. This is what he says on that subject:—"My thoroughbred short-horns have *nothing* but the wild grasses of the country, and they are in splendid condition—in fact, quite fat. I should take a prize for Christmas beef in England. The beef cannot be beaten." The cattle thrive well in winter on hay only. He considers the climate wonderfully healthy, the exceeding dryness of the air in winter being very favorable to the healthy and vigorous action of the lungs. He has not suffered loss from early frosts, which he regards as altogether exceptional. He has enough to do in the winter attending to his cattle, hauling wood, hay, logs, fence poles and visiting his neighbors. He, in fact, regards the winter as a very enjoyable season. He is satisfied with the country, as it comes quite up to his expectations. He advises any one who is able and willing to work, and has a capital of some £200 to start with, to settle in the Canadian North-West. He says: "There is no doubt the country has a brilliant future before it, and there is room for millions of independent happy homes to be established. I would strongly recommend," he continued, "a new settler to take up land immediately on his arrival, and get on it without delay; it will save no end of trouble and expense."

THE HIND BROTHERS.

are Englishmen, and Cockneys at that. They settled in Assiniboine in April, 1883, and give their first impressions of the country. They have taken up a large quantity of land, 1,640 acres, and have evidently gone to the Canadian North-West to stay

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"and grow up with the country." The virgin soil yielded them good crops of potatoes, mangolds and beets. Their garden too has done well with the most primitive kind of cultivation. They had all the garden luxuries in abundance—lettuce, peas, cucumbers, melons, citrons, vegetable marrows, onions, cabbages, cauliflower, &c., &c. These gentlemen have been eighteen months in the Canadian North-West and are fully satisfied with their prospects and with the country. They say: "We have no hesitation in stating that a man who is willing to work and to put up with a few inconveniences at first, cannot help but succeed. We have found the climate all we could wish. The summer very warm with cold nights, the winter cold but bracing."

#### MR. GEORGE VANDERVOORT,

of Alexandria, Manitoba, went to the Canadian North-West in June, 1876, from Hastings County, Ontario. He was poor but plucky. He says that after entering for his homestead he had not one dollar left to take him to the Canadian North-West. This was in 1882. He has now a farm of 320 acres, with a snug house upon it built by his labor and worth, according to his calculation, \$300. He had, this year, eight acres under wheat, twenty acres under oats, and five acres under barley. He had also a considerable breadth of land under potatoes and turnips, and a good kitchen garden. His wife, he says, values his farm at ten thousand dollars. Whether he regards that estimate as too high or too low he, as a dutiful husband, does not say, but most people will conclude that the country in which a man who commenced worth forty dollars less than nothing two years and a half ago, can acquire such a snug little property as Mr. Voyer possesses, cannot be a very bad one. Naturally this settler thinks a great deal of the country in which he has done so well in so short a time. He, however, advises settlers to be cautious and to husband their resources, and he concludes his letter by saying that "as I claim to be a successful Northwesterner I would be pleased and most happy to give advice and information to incoming settlers free."

#### MR. D. N. GRUMMET,

Elm Valley, Manitoba, formerly of Blandon, Oxon, England, after four and a half years residence in the back woods of Ontario, emigrated to Manitoba. He had very little money to make the fresh start with, only two hundred dollars. In 1882 he settled on a farm of 160 acres which he values now at \$1,200. He has had many difficulties to meet but he has surmounted them all. He is well pleased with the quality of the land and believes that at present measure would do it more harm than good. He believes that, with industry and economy, a settler cannot fail to do well. If a poor man now wants to earn money he can always get employment at from \$25 to \$35 a month. He thinks that a man from England or anywhere else would do well to bring out with him a good set of carpenter's tools.

#### MR. W. M. REID

of Rapid City, had only two dollars and

twenty-five cents when he went to the Canadian North-West in 1875. He first settled upon a homestead lot, then he pre-empted more, and afterwards he bought a quarter of a section from the Canadian Pacific Railway. He now owns a farm of 480 acres of good land. He, like the other settlers, had to rough it for a time. His first place of abode was a \$10 log house. But he got along. This year he had 90 acres under crop, but next year he expects to have 150. He owns a pair of mules, a team of oxen, two cows and four head of young cattle. Altogether Mr. Reid by his industry and thrift during the last five years has made himself and family very comfortable. The account that he gives of himself is so interesting that we cannot help reproducing it. "I landed," he says, "in Rapid City with my family of three, with only \$2.25. I had neither furniture nor stove, but the times were good then. I would not advise anyone to come here now with so little capital as times are hard and money scarce, although any industrious man, willing to rough it, can get a start here better than in the older provinces. I never did any farm work until I started to plough on my homestead. I am a shoemaker by trade."

We have seen above how a Canadian without money and without any practical knowledge of agriculture or any experience of farm work managed, from a very small beginning, to get on in the Canadian North-West; we will now see how an English farmer, with a small capital, prospered, and what he thinks of the country.

#### MR. GEORGE DICKSON

settled in the Canadian North-West in April, 1882. He was not by any means rich. After he got his family from Toronto he had \$600 to commence life with in the Canadian North-West. It cost him \$200 to get a house to live in. He took up, in all, 320 acres of land. The soil is a black loam with a subsoil of porous clay and slate. His crops grew well, and he has collected a nice little herd of nineteen head of cattle. The animals have thriven as well as they would in England with the same shelter as he can provide for them. He can get plenty of hay, and the cattle do as well on it as they do on pasture in England. The climate suits him in every way. His health is good, and he does not feel the winter to be very severe. He says he travelled twenty miles with an ox team in the worst blizzard that came last winter, when the thermometer showed 47 degrees below zero. He has plenty of water on his farm, but wood is, he says, getting scarce; but he will be able to get coal before it is gone. He has lost nothing by summer frost, and he does not think that there is any danger from frost to crops sown reasonably early. He remembers having seen frost in England in the climate of June. An acre of land can be broken in eight hours by a team of oxen, doing it at early morning and evening, filling up the time with gardening, &c. There is no lack of employment in winter, and there are but very few days that farmers cannot get out from sunrise to sunset. Mr. Dickson's remarks relative to

the best kind of settlers for the Canadian North-West are pertinent and sensible. He says: "There are those induced to come here who are an injury to the country, owing to their ignorance of agriculture. Seek emigrants from the class of agricultural laborers and small farmers. They will have an idea of the new land and how to work it. I may say there is a living here for a man if he will seek it. I have a wife and nine children, the eldest twelve years old, and I am better off to day than when I came here, though I have made our living by teaming, of whatever else I could get to do. There is the same chance for any man if he will seek it."

While looking over the letters received by Mr. Briggs one is struck with the rapid way in which men who began in the Canadian North-West, with a very small capital acquired what, under the circumstances, must be considered very handsome properties. It must be remembered that while they were improving their farms, erecting buildings, buying machinery and increasing their live stock, they had to support their families. When this is borne in mind, the rapidity with which property is acquired in the Canadian North-West will be looked upon by many eastern men as something wonderful. Even admitting that some of Mr. Briggs' correspondents over-estimate the value of their farms, and making every allowance for exaggeration, it will be seen that the greater part of the settlers have done better in the Canadian North-West than they could have done in the same time, and engaged in the same occupation, in any of the eastern provinces, or in any of the countries of the Old World. Let us take a few examples at random.

#### MR. W. M. MCKERTRICK,

now of Rosebank Farm, Crystal City, left Goldburn, in the County of Carleton, Ontario, in the spring of 1880 to try his luck in the Canadian North-West. He brought with him \$800. He homesteaded and pre-empted 320 acres. He has now 100 acres under cultivation, a snug house, three horses and other stock, and altogether he values his property at \$4,000, or five times his original capital. Mr. Mc Kertrick has been growing rich to the extent of \$800 a year since he settled in the Canadian North-West.

#### MR. THOMAS OLIVER,

of Burnside, emigrated to the Canadian North-West from Dumfries Township, Ontario, in 1877. His capital amounted to \$500. His farm consists of 320 acres, of which he has now 150 acres under cultivation. He has built a house, which cost him \$500, and he has two horses and well equipped cattle. Mr. Oliver values his farm at \$6,000. This is an extraordinary increase in seven years.

#### MR. J. W. FANNING

left Bruce County, Ontario, on the 8th of April, but forgets to say in what year. He had with him \$400 to commence with. He settled on 320 acres of land. He built a house and purchased two horses. He values his farm now at \$3,000. It is evident that Mr. Fanning is a bachelor, and now that he is getting on in the world, he longs for the comforts and the delights of

domestic life, for he concludes his letter with this modest, and, under the circumstances, very natural request: "If you have any grown-up daughters, send them along." Perhaps some young lady in the East, where eligible young men are becoming so lamentably scarce, may take pity on Mr. Fanning's solitary and comfortable condition and become the sharer of his rapidly growing prosperity.

#### MR. RODERICK McRAE,

of Minnedosa, Man., emigrated from Bruce County, Ontario, to the Canadian North West in April, 1881. His capital amounted to the magnificent sum of ten dollars. He homesteaded 160 acres. He has now forty acres of his farm under cultivation, twenty-five of which are under wheat. He built a log house, and he owns a yoke of oxen and two cows. He values his farm at two thousand dollars. For ten dollars to swell to two thousand in little better than three years seems to be an impossibility, but, as Mr. Roderick McRae shows, there is nothing impossible about it—in the Canadian North-West.

#### MR. A. R. STERS,

who lives in Griswold, Manitoba, and who came there from the town of Alexandria, in the State of Minnesota, says about the Canadian North-West:—

"I consider this the grandest grain producing country in the world without any exception; and as I have handled considerable stock here I know that they pay well. Last spring I sold one stable of cattle for \$100 per head for butchering. My sheep have paid well, milk cows do very well, and also poultry, and in fact everything I have tried. No man need fear this country for producing anything except tropical fruit."

Yet Mr. Speers commenced with a capital of \$5,000 and he considers his farm at the end of the year after he settled upon it worth \$3,840. Mr. Speers' stock consists of 5 horses and 25 head of cattle. He adds, "I wintered 80 cattle and 50 sheep last winter. They did well, and realized seven cents per pound live weight for 40 head. I fattened on the 1st June last."

#### MR. JOSEPH LAWRENCE,

who came from Restrouquet Farm, Mylor, Cornwall, England, in 1870, to Ontario, where he remained nine years, and then went farther west to Clear Water, Manitoba, thus concludes his letter to Mr. Begg:

"I might say, in conclusion, there has been a lot said about this country this past year that might sound very strange to an outsider, but it does not seem strange to us here, as there are men in this country as in every other country who are too lazy to work, and find it much easier to slander the country with their tongues than follow the plough for their daily bread. I hope here next year, as there is any amount of Canadian Pacific lands yet if the Canadian Pacific Railway would only put it on the market for sale."

Mr. Lawrence has not done badly at all, considering the short time he has been in the Canadian North-West. He came to it with a capital of \$3,000, homesteaded, pre-empted, and purchased 1,540 acres of land, built a house on it at the cost of \$1,000, and has 200 acres under cultivation. His stock consists of five horses and ponies, thirty head of cattle, and 40 pigs. He estimates his farm worth from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Taking the lower estimate as the true one, Mr. Lawrence has increased his capital just four hundred per cent in four years.

#### MR. THOMAS BOBIER

who has been a resident of Moosomin, Assiniboia, since April, 1882, says—

"I consider every man secures a home in this country is well off. The last year I spent in Ontario I farmed and grazed one thousand acres of land, and I was raised on a farm of 700 acres, and farmed all my life, and I have never been so well pleased with crops as I am in the Canadian North-West; and as far as the soil is concerned I never saw its equal in any country."

Mr. Bobier is from Elgin County, Ont. He and his two sons settled in the Canadian North-West with a capital of \$7,000 in cash. They took up in all 1,290 acres. He had this year 170 acres under crop, 100 of which is wheat. He built an excellent house, and has a large stock. The old gentleman values his own half section stock and implements at \$6,000.

#### MR. THOMAS ROGERS,

who went to the Canadian North-West from London, Ontario, eighteen months ago, and who seems to have kept his eye and his wit about him, says:—

"To any interesting settler or to anyone wishing to make a comfortable home for himself to live a life of freedom from landlordism the Canadian North-West offers such a home. We work hard seven months of the year, but we play the remainder. What is required is a man who will work during the busy months, and he will not fail to reap his reward. The agricultural prospects of the country are not to be surpassed. The more the land is cultivated the better it will be. I have been in the Dominion of Canada seven years. I emigrated eleven years ago from England, but I only wish I had been here ten years before this. There is better yet in store for us."

**The Settlers named above, and hundreds of others, may be written to for further particulars.**

For further information, Maps and Pamphlets, apply to

J. H. McTAVISH,

*Land Commissioner*

Canadian Pacific Railway Company,

WINNIPEG,

MANITOBA.

**BIER**

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