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Report of Special Agent
on Manitoba & N.W. Colonization
(Mr W. Webster)

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The Honourable
The Minister of Agriculture
Ottawa.

Kinross 31 Decr 1889

Sir, I have the honour herewith
to submit a Report of my operations in connexion with
the colonization of Manitoba and the North West.
during the past year.

On the first of each month during the year (except
the last half of January and the month of February which
period I was not in the employ of the Department) I mailed
to the Department a detailed statement of my operations.

during last winter I travelled more or less in every county
in Eastern Ontario, and through several counties in western
Ontario, also on the south side of the St. Lawrence as far
as Quebec. before starting I procured from the Department
an ample supply of ^{various} Emigration Literature, which referred
more particularly to the advantages possessed by Manitoba
and our North West, over Minnesota and Dakota. for
Ontario Emigrants. this I distributed to the best possible
advantage. One result from this distribution was, that
I received a very large number of letters from intending
Emigrants, asking further information, particularly in regard
to details, such as price of Land, quality of soil, water supply,

list of Fuel, Lumber, and all such practical questions as are generally asked by practical Farmers, as a rule these enquiries wanted very definite information as to where Homestead Land could be got, which was the best district, etc. etc. these letters were promptly answered, and all the information asked for was given, where possible.

[In addition I gave Fifty Lectures (most of these were given at the invitation of Committees, Councils, and Farmers Institutes,) in the Counties of Grenville, Leeds, Frontenac, Addington, and Northumberland, at the close of these Lectures I distributed Reports, pamphlets, and other information to all those desiring it. The Local Papers generally gave liberal notices of these Lectures and through that medium reached a very large number of people, during the year I distributed over half a ton ^{weight} of Literature.

[During the year I received a number of Letters from England, Ireland, and the Isle of Wight, the writers saying that they had read my "Report on Minnesota & Dakota compared with Manitoba & the Canadian North west" and asking me to write them particulars, also to mail them Literature. This was promptly done in each case. As I met several of these parties in Manitoba during the Summer, as a result of this correspondence in every case they bought Land and located.

Many of those old country correspondents, and all of them that I met in Manitoba during the summer, urged me strongly to go to the Old Country, and go into the Rural Districts, and present the information I possessed in a practical way, that there was thousands of small Farmers that would avail themselves of it. ~~And Emigrate to~~ Manitoba that they might become Owners of the Soil on which they lived.

A Large number Emigrated to Manitoba, last spring, from the Eastern Counties of Ontario, during the Month of April I was kept busy corresponding with, and meeting those parties, assisting them to make final preparations, as to, just where to locate, securing the most favourable rates for settlers effects, my experience in matters of this kind was ~~invaluable~~ as many of them had never travelled, and I received many expressions of gratitude from them on their arrival in Winnipeg.

Having completed those arrangements, to my satisfaction, I left early in May for Manitoba, with a view of meeting as many of those parties as possible on their arrival at Winnipeg, I spent the latter part of May, and the Month of June, Meeting those parties on their arrival at Winnipeg, taking them over the Province, and assisting them to make selections for their future Homes. Many of those Families I visited again in early fall I was astonished at the Progress made by them in a few months.

they having good Houses built 30 to 40 acres of Prairie Broken ready for Crop in spring. Stables built. Their cattle rolling fat. Themselves Healthy, Happy, and more than pleased with their prospect in their Prairie Homes, particularly as many of them had only 30 acre Farms in Ontario (which they sold to a neighbor adjoining) whereas now they have from 160 to 320 acres of fine Rich Prairie. it was admitted by the Winnipeg papers that a more valuable lot of ^{new} emigrants never reached Manitoba, than those to which I have referred.

[For the early part of last summer a very serious drought occurred in Manitoba, little or no rain falling up to first of July. Many fields of wheat not receiving more than one inch of rain from seeding until harvested, and yet produced a fair crop. I know of no other Country that could produce like results under similar circumstances. And it fully proves the enormous fertility of the Soil. And notwithstanding this unprecedented drought. Farmers continued to Break Prairie, a much greater acreage having been Broken than any previous season.

News reached me in Manitoba early in July that the drought in Dakota had in many parts destroyed the entire Crop. and that in consequence much destitution prevailed there. that hundreds of Farmers were Ruined, and must leave ~~the~~ in fact I had this information from Farmers direct from

Dakota, they having come up into Southern Manitoba, to examine it, I showed several of these Farmers ~~over~~ portions of the Province, and in every case they expressed themselves as astonished at the fertility of the Soil, at the fine crop of Hay and Grass, and at the Number of live stock and their splendid condition, and also at the low rate of taxation as compared with Dakota, being less than half. Several of these Farmers told me they would leave Dakota and settle in Manitoba owing to the foregoing advantages.

[In consequence of the news of the utter failure of crops in North Dakota, I left Manitoba early in July, determined to examine it County after County, as far as my time would permit, that I might know from personal observation the true state of affairs there, but the result of my observation must of a necessity be given here in a very condensed form, as it would take a large Book to give it in detail.

[In the last week in July I was in Walsh County Dakota, and at Grafton the County Town. I attended a large public meeting called for the purpose of appointing a "Relief Committee" to distribute Food to the Farmers in the west side of the County estimated at 500 Families, they having lost their entire crop from drought, and the year previous lost all by Frost. It was admitted at that Meeting that these Farmers must be fed, and be

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provided with seed, else, actual starvation would ensue. Now it must be remembered that this is one of the Red River Counties but while this state of affairs existed in the west of this County the East side bordering on Red River will grow half a crop.

I attended a similar meeting at Lacota the County Town of Nelson County, held for a similar purpose, on that day two Cars of Flour arrived from Minneapolis, and was handed over to the "Relief Committee" to be distributed among the Farmers. I travelled ^{over} this County ~~very~~ carefully, and found the Farmers Ruined, and Discouraged having now lost two entire crops in succession. Most of the Public Schools in this County were closed for want of funds to operate them. In all my life I never saw such actual Poverty in a Farming Country as I saw there.

I travelled through Ramsey, Brulette, Bottineau, Benson, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Stanton, La. Moore, and Ransom Counties, and in a large degree ^{found} the same state of affairs existing, and old settlers told me at Lisbon, that the Farmers of Ransom County are poorer now than they were Ten years ago, when the place was first settled, on the Fort Totten Reserve, the Government and ^{Indians} sowed a crop of wheat hoping to harvest 100,000 bushels but they harvested barely 1000 bushels! I travelled over, Richland, Cass, Triall, Grand Forks, and Pembina Counties, there all by on Red River, and will produce half a crop this year, drought, drought,

In these Counties I found the taxes more than double what they are in Manitoba, averaging in Dakota \$30 to \$35 per quarter section, and in Manitoba \$10 to \$15, while travelling in these Counties in Dakota. I wrote two and three letters a week to Newspapers in Manitoba and Ontario, giving the facts as I found them, these letters were extensively copied in both Provinces and must have come under the observation of a large number of Farmers. I mailed a few copies of these papers to the Department at the time.

The Farmers of North Dakota. I found all banded together in what is termed a "Farmers Alliance" that by being united they may be the better able to "Fight" "Railway Extortion" "Land Monopolists" and "Combines". I attended some of these "Alliance" meetings. The Farmers in their speeches, denounced these Monopolies, and claimed that it was impossible to make a living ^{by} Farming in Dakota, while these existed in their present form. At these Meetings I always seized on the advantage to talk up the Superior Advantages of our North West and to distribute Literature.

I examined the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture of the United States in regard to Dakotas crops, and found this fact, in 1886 (and that was one of her best years) the wheat crop averaged $11\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre! the Money value being \$5.95 per acre.

The prices of wheat were in, 1882, 80 cents, 1883, 72 cents, 1884, 46 cts, 1885, 63 cents, 1886, 52 cents, 1887, 52 cents, the Potato crop averaged 73 bushels per acre. Add to these, small crops, and low prices, the high taxes, and these "Monopolies" that the "Farmers Alliance" complain of, and I think any Farmer in Canada can well understand why the Dakota Farmer, is Poor, Complaining and Dissatisfied.

I arrived in Ontario last of September, for the purpose of attending as many of the Agricultural Fairs as possible as there are splendid opportunities of meeting intending Emigrants, distributing Literature, etc. I attended the Fairs up to the last of October, I might say that between May 1st and November 1st in the discharge of my duties I travelled, 7000 miles by Rail, 1000 by water, 1000 by land a total of, 9000, at a cost to the Department for travelling expenses of less than one hundred dollars, and with all my opportunity for observation I do not know of one Ontario Emigrant, that went to Dakota this year to locate.

The American Emigration Agents, seeing this great falling off during the past three years in Ontario Emigrants, have made another "Dead Set" on Ontario this summer, by thoroughly advertising by large

Posters, and Flaming Bills. This time it is Manitoba. They are trying to "Boon", these flaming Bills, I find very conspicuously posted in Railway Stations, in the remotest parts of Ontario. They are also advertising the country to the extent of half Columns, in the County weekly papers, glorifying Manitoba. I have been offsetting this attempt by a liberal supply of our Literature. This is a matter that requires looking after sharply.

[During November I travelled over the Midland district, and part of Bruce, distributing Literature, attending Farmers Institutes, answering correspondence, and meeting, and talking with intending Emigrants. While up here I met three Canadians on their return from Dakota where they had been for some time, they had "Shook the dust of Dakota off their feet," were then on their way to Bruce County, the same day I met two on their way home from Michigan, they were going to Northumberland County, the last two are going to Manitoba in spring to settle on Land.

[During December I gave a number of Lectures by request, always getting free Halls, Lights, etc. at these Lectures I had a Fine Exhibit, of grain in straw and threshed, Prairie Hay, Grasses, etc. This Exhibit

was much appreciated by Farmers, intending to Emigrate, in those very countries in which I have been Lecturing. There was eight years ago quite a number Emigrated to Dakota, that is all stoped now. The advantages of our own ^{country} has been practically set before them, and their good judgment has enabled them to see those advantages. I have striven hard to make that impression as deep, and lasting as possible.

While in Dakota I made arrangements at several points with parties to distribute Literature in their several sections, as I mailed it to them, I am just now (December) in receipt of urgent letters from those correspondents asking for more Literature, and furnishing me ^{of} names to mail matter to. I find the work I ^{have} done there is now beginning to bear a good crop of Fruit.

The facilities so kindly afforded me by the Canadian Pacific Railway, for Travelling over their splendid system of Roads, has Reduced my travelling Expenses to a Minimum.

I take the liberty to hereto append a few samples of Literature prepared by me, also of Letters written to papers, whenever time permitted me, during the year.

Department of Agriculture,

Ottawa,

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The press extracts appended herewith, give evidence of the distress existing in Dakota and are in no way overdrawn.

(Note. A number of extracts in addition to those were given by Mr. Webster, but are too voluminous for insertion.)

Let any intending Dakota settler read the following from the Utica Saturday Globe, of the 26th October last.

BISMARCK, Dakota, Oct. 25. — The condition of the people in certain parts of the great North-West has never been so deplorable. In Western Dakota and North-Western Minnesota the suffering is so widespread that it has been decided to appeal to the principal cities of the union for aid. Without this aid thousands must go hungry and many perish of starvation and cold. Already this charitable work has been begun in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Ramsey county, D. T., has a population of seven thousand people. Of these about six thousand are engaged in farming. The frosts of last year cut off the crops generally, and the farmers were obliged to mortgage their farms for seed, provisions, clothing, etc., to carry them through last winter. This spring other paraphernalia, such as stock, machinery, etc., were mortgaged for seed to put in the crops. There has been a continual drought throughout the entire season and the crops have been

ALMOST A TOTAL FAILURE.

The borrowed funds are entirely exhausted, as well as the credit of most of these people, and in Ramsey county there are about 500 families of farmers who are destitute. In Nelson and Walsh counties there is also great destitution and suffering, and there are probably in this district of North Dakota not less than 1,000 families who are nearly entirely destitute.

THE SAME IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

There is a district in South Dakota that is in likewise condition. This district is embraced within Miner Lake, Sanborne and Beadle counties, but is surrounded by populous towns and cities like Sioux Falls, Yankton, Huron, Watertown, Pierre, &c., and it is thought that if application is made to these cities by the proper authorities in the several counties, sufficient relief can be realized to take care of the people for the present. But the devastated district in North Dakota is directly dependent upon St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and the larger towns on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Dakota for assistance.

Grand Forks has already appointed committees and is actively engaged in supplying clothing and some provisions to the North Dakota district.

ASSISTANCE WANTED IMMEDIATELY.

The committee of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce has decided to correspond with the mayors of Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck and other Dakota cities, and ascertain whether any organized movements have been made towards relieving these people, and also to communicate with the State authorities of North Dakota to ascertain if there are any funds available which may be used for this purpose and what action will be taken by State officers in this matter. It is imperative that the devastated district of North Dakota should receive assistance immediately. The

most urgently required are boots, shoes, hosiery, mittens, under garments, flour, corn meal, necessary groceries and grain for their stock. Arrangements have been made for the free transportation of products intended for distribution among the people.

A DISMAL PROSPECT.

Two years ago the farmers of Marshall county, Minn., were unfortunate enough to lose almost their entire crops. Since that time they have been struggling to relieve themselves from the burden of financial embarrassment, but during the past year devastating hail storms visited the eastern part of the county and practically laid everything waste. This disaster came after the previous visitation had reduced many of the farmers to the verge of starvation, and unless something is done to relieve the distress there will be much suffering this winter.

THE CURSE OF USURY.

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THE CURSE OF USURY.

The prevailing great distress among the farmers in the Northwest has roused them almost to a fury, and at a meeting of the legislature they will demand a strict usury law. The legal rate of interest in the territory is 12 per cent. but money is being loaned in this and other regions at 5 per cent per month. Seed wheat was sold last spring in many instances at \$2 a bushel, which was worth but 60 cents, and mortgages were taken not only upon teams but on farming implements as well. When the crops failed the mortgages upon the other stuff were fore-closed. Sheriffs and their deputies are out every day after mortgaged stock, the last cow being often taken. One institution, not being content with taking a mortgage upon crops and personal property, took in addition what was called a "preliminary mortgage" upon the homestead, which could not be enforced in law, but it serves as a club, and forces the settler to borrow money of them to "prove up" paying a bonus of 33½ to 100 per cent besides the old debt and 23 per cent interest.

...sam, the surest, safest and best
for coughs, colds, asthma, hoarseness,
bronchities, and all throat and lung
troubles.

**WORMS CAUSE MUCH SICK-
NESS** among children. Freeman's
Worm Powders prevent this, and make
the child bright and healthy.

ATTACKED THREE TIMES.

"HAVING been attacked for the third
time with inflammatory Rheum-
atism, which kept me in bed six weeks
under medical care, without relief, I
resolved to try Burdock Blood Bitters,
and before I had finished the third
bottle I was able to work again."
GEORGE ROBB, Garden Hill, Ont.

TAKE NO CHANCES.

BUT depend on solid facts. Nothing
equals Hagyard's Yellow Oil for
burns, scalds, frost bites, chilblains,
neuralgia, croup, sore throat and aches
and pains of every description. No
matter where the pain or soreness is, or
from what it arises, Hagyard's Yellow
Oil will give quick relief.

A PLEASANT DISCOVERY.

I SUFFERED with neuralgia and
obtained no relief until advised to
try Hagyard's Yellow Oil. Since then
I have found it to be an admirable
remedy also for burns, sore throat and
rheumatism. MRS. F. CAMERON, 137
Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ont.

NEVER ALLOW the bowels to re-
main constipated lest serious evil ensue.
National Pills are unsurpassed as a
remedy for constipation.

STOP THAT COUGH.

Many people neglect what they call a
simple cold, which, if not checked in
time, may lead to lung trouble. Scott's
Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil, with
Hypophosphites, will not only stop the
cough but heal the lungs. Endorsed by
thousands of physicians. Palatable as
milk. Try it. Sold by all druggists at
10c and \$1.00

DAKOTA'S DISTRESS.

The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Prepared to Extend Aid—Statement of the Destitution.

The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce met last week to devise means of rendering assistance to the destitute people of Dakota. Governor Miller, of North Dakota, who was present, stated that the legislature had, at his suggestion, confirmed the appointment of Mr. Helgerson as a special representative of the state to investigate matters. As such representative he had been sent out to acquire the fullest and most impartial information regarding the most effectual distribution of relief. Heretofore there had been little system in the handling of this relief. The year before last there had been an exceedingly poor crop, and last year a poorer one in some localities. Many of the people had come there with but little means and were illy prepared for failure of crops. Whatever property they had had been mortgaged to its full value.

From various distressed districts Mr. Helgerson read a number of reports. Ramsey county was in a peculiarly distressed condition. Mr. Helgerson read the following report of the county commissioners, prepared December 21:—

To the Commissioner of Agriculture: We have the honor to report that we have made an investigation into the condition of the people of our county and find the following to be the facts:

That the bulk of the crop of 1889 was destroyed by drought—wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, with a short crop of hay.

The county board has in consequence been compelled to issue in addition to the donations sent into the county from July 15 to date, 300 sacks of flour. The board estimates that there are 1,200 people who will require to be furnished with clothing and the necessities of life until July 1, 1890.

In addition to these there are very many people who require aid in procuring feed for their horses; who have the necessities of life for themselves, but have no means of buying feed, and will be unable to carry their stock or put in their crops without this aid. There are others who, if they could procure horse feed free of freight, would be able to pay for it and not ask further aid. That 60,000 bushels of wheat, 25,000 bushels of oats and 5,000 bushels of barley will be required for seed by people who have no means of paying for it, and who will have to procure it either from the government or from charity. The bonded indebtedness of the county is \$58,000 and the valuation \$1,975,371.

From a further statement from the same commissioners it appears that while in 1887 the total receipts of wheat at the elevators were 1,175,000 bushels, they fell in 1888 to 369,000 bushels, followed in 1889 by a still further decrease to 113,442. In 1887 225,000 bushels were received at Coary, and in 1889 but 6,000 bushels were received in the same locality. There was an average yield this year of but two bushels an acre, the acreage sown being 57,562.

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Just before closing this Report I have received Letters from correspondents in Dakota, telling me that there is a very strong feeling among a large number of Farmers there that they must leave there or starve, and asking me for full information as to how Dakota Farmers can take their live stock, ^{or} ~~as~~ ^{settles} into Manitoba without paying Duty, or ^{being} subject to quarantine. ^{delegation} This information I have received quite recently from the Deputy Minister, and am now corresponding with parties in Dakota in regard to that matter.

I have the Honor to be
Your Obedient Servant
W. A. Webster

It is in cases where
where the stock comes
from localities on the
frontier, or within such
distance from the frontier,
where there is known to be
no contagious disease.

The Honorable
The Minister of Agriculture
Ottawa.