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Letters from farmers on ready-to-start farms. [192-?]

Madison, Wisconsin: Agricultural Literature Department, National Land Colonizing Company, [192-?]

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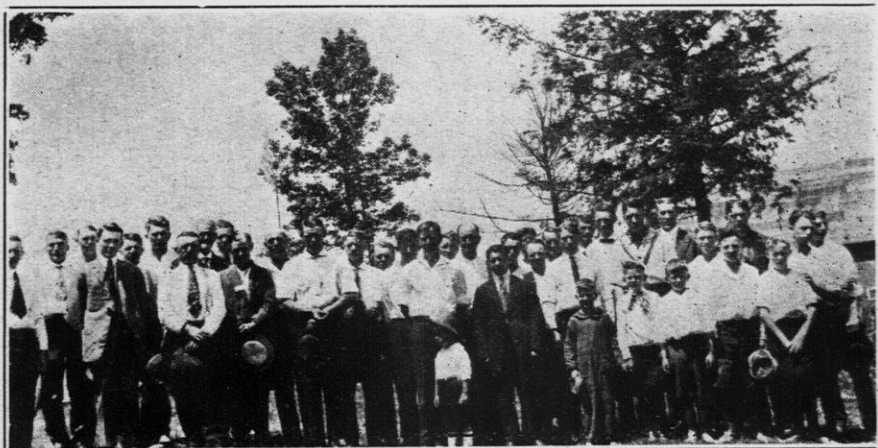
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Letters From Farmers On Ready-To-Start-Farms



A GROUP OF READY-TO-START FARM OWNERS ON A PICNIC

No country is so neighborly and friendly as a new country where everyone owns his own farm, where everybody is getting ahead, and where all the neighbors are on an equal footing. Owning your own farm makes a man and a good fellow out of you.



THE WOMEN GET TOGETHER FOR ENJOYABLE TIMES

These wives and their happy, healthy children have just as good a time at a picnic as their husbands. There are also sewing clubs, dances, and parties to entertain the women, as well as many friendly calls.

AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL LAND COLONIZING COMPANY
MAIN OFFICE—MADISON, WISCONSIN

LETTERS FROM FARMERS

Introduction.

These are just a few of the dozens and dozens of letters that we have on file in our Madison Office. The original of any of these letters can be seen upon request, as well as dozens of others that we could not print because of lack of space. When you read how well these men like their new farms and how well they are succeeding, it will make your heart beat faster with hope and ambition. Come up and pick out one of these fine Wisconsin farms for yourself, and you will be just as satisfied and just as successful as these men, and you will feel just as friendly toward the National Land Colonizing Company.

I Would Not Sell My Farm for Double the Amount I Paid For It

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Dear Sir:

I am very much pleased with my 60 acres that I bought from your Company. The soil is first class in fact I don't think that you can find better soil if you search all over Wisconsin. I plowed a piece for my garden today, and I just wish you could have seen it. I would not sell my farm today, for double the amount that I paid for it. I came up here with the idea of making a home for myself and family and you can bet your boots I am going to do it too. One of the main things are, we have a fine new \$6000 school here in the settlement, so you see we are not neglecting our children's education. That's another reason why people ought to move up here too.

Respectfully yours,

FRANK HARTWIG,
From Wauwautosa, Wis.

As Good Land as There is Any Place in the State of Wisconsin

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Dear Sirs:

I would say I like it very much here. I think it is as good land as there is any place in the state of Wisconsin. I moved in the old camp on the Company's land on November 18, 1920. I purchased through the Company agent Mr. Norton whom I think is a fine man, at least I have found him so as well as the rest of the Company's men whom I have chanced to meet and I hope them success in building of their colonies. I did not get a great deal of crops in last year, but what I did was good. We had fine potatoes, some corn and good garden truck. I never seen a garden grow better and we planted things so thick on the ground we could not hoe it at all, but in spite of the dry weather the crops just keep on growing. We had as good water melons and pumpkins and squash as I ever seen grow in fact I think we can grow almost any crop here that can be grown any place in Wisconsin, and I am sure it will do as well. I have only 48 acres located close to the store and school house and we like it very much here. The climate is fine also plenty of good water and good neighbors. I will close hoping you people success. I remain your friend,

JOHN KNAPP,
From New Lisbon, Wis.

We Sure Have a Great Future Before Us

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Gentlemen:

I take pleasure in taking time to write you to tell what I think of my eighty acre farm I bought of you a little over a year ago. I have nearly fourteen acres

ready to plow this spring and have 40 apple trees to set out this spring.

I am proud of our settlement, and am sure we have a great future before us with this wonderful soil of ours. I could go on raving for ever about our colony and mean every word of it, but would like to say a word to the plodes in the city if he wants a future for himself and family to come and join us.

Yours in haste,
W. R. McNEIL,
From Stevens Point, Wis.

I figure I Have a Better Farm Than my Dad

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Gentlemen:

In December we moved onto our farm so haven't had a chance to raise any crops yet. We like this country better than any place we have so far seen. I have quite a strip ready for plowing and hope to get our crops in soon. We are not lonesome because their is plenty of entertainment around here.

I was raised on a farm and I ought to know good land when I see it. I figure I have a better farm than my Dad and he paid a good deal more for his.

When we moved up here my wife was sickly but now her cheeks are as rosy as they can be, and the red doesn't come off either.

Yours truly,
LESTER E. KEENEY,
From New London, Wis.

It Took Me Three Days to Brush and Log One Acre

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Dear Sir:

Must say that it is hard to beat on soil and productiveness when a man of small means talks of buying a farm I can tell him this is the only place I know of to get a home of your own and get started. The land is easily cleared has good drainage and the soil is easy to work up. My brother-in-law and I drove up here in a car from Green County last August, built a log house and barn in two weeks drove back home got our house hold goods came back and put in the winter. Another thing is we don't worry about the high cost of fuel.

I didn't get any clearing done last fall but I am making a good showing this spring. It took me three days to brush and log one acre and at this writing I have three acres more brushed. My advice to a poor man is get a hold of some of this cut-over land while it is cheap and it won't be long until you will have a dandy little farm. Wishing you the best of luck in development of the land I remain yours for success,

MR. AND MRS. JAMES KILDAY,
From Brodhead, Wis.

WHO HAVE READY-TO-START-FARMS

We Can Recommend the National Land Colonization Co.

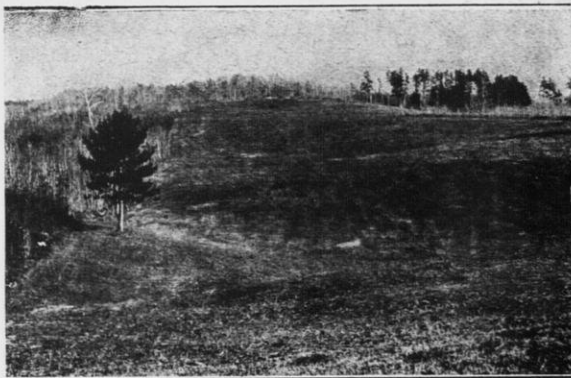
National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

We like it fine it is a good place for a poor man to get a start. The Company does just what they say they will. We came here just a year ago. We have quite a clearing already and expect to have more by the time to plant stuff. It also seems to be a healthy place.

The clover and timothy are fine. I think this place will be a good dandy country. The people in here seem nice and neighbors are also. We can recommend the National Land Colonizing Company to all who want to look over the land as O. K.

MR. AND MRS. GUY CRIPPS,
From Madison, Wis.



All The Land Is Not Covered With Stumps.

Where there are no pine stumps, the hard wood rots out. Our lands are practically all hardwood, and in many large patches, the stumps are out entirely, and as soon as the brush is cut off, the land is ready for crops.

The Land is Everything That the Company Represents it to Be

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Dear Mr. Crowl:

I moved onto my place the 16th of June last year and feel that it is time I write you what I think of things here.

I was pretty hard hit on the start by having 2 loads of my household goods burned up while I was bringing the third load in. We lost all our good clothes, about \$50.00 worth of tools, besides most of the furniture etc. I can tell you I was badly discouraged then. Well we scratched in a little garden right away and my spirits came back when the vegetables began to show above the ground. Our beans were up 48 hours after planting. Can you beat that?

I've been on my place nearly a year now and think that is long enough, to have found out what kind of a section this is and what kind of a company I bought from. The land is everything that the Company represents it to be. I have 80 acres. I won't have a waste acre on it. I've been over most of the Western half of the United States and never lived in a section I liked better than this or a section where the crops are better than here. We always get plenty of rain, which is the main thing and this soil will grow any crop.

About 60 to 70% of my eighty is easy clearing. The rest is green timber that I am leaving for the time being and making wood out of during the winter and getting out logs for more buildings.

I built my own house, a good log barn, dug a well and have 7 acres in various stages of clearing which I think is pretty good for less than a year considering the heavy snow we had last winter. I can say that the National Land Colonizing Company certainly helps a settler on the start and stands by everyone that tries to do their part. Everybody can make a farm and a home here if he works steady. You don't need to kill yourself, just keep steadily going, that's what counts. Make a little showing every day.

I hope you can come out this way soon for I will be proud to show you what a man of my years can do.

Yours truly,
HENRY C. DEITRICH,
From Milwaukee, Wis.



Plant Hay Before You Shoot The Stumps.

The best way to clear a farm is to cut the brush by hand, sow clover and timothy among the stumps, and let the stumps rot out. Cut the hay around the stumps with a hand scythe, and cut the balance with a mower.



The First Breaking Means Independence.

How differently you feel after you have been on your farm a few weeks, and have brushed a few acres, and have made your first plowing. As the rich mel-low loam rolls over, you would not sell your farm for twice what you paid for it.

LETTERS FROM FARMERS

Beat Everything They Saw Two to One

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th at hand. The reason I bought a piece of land was because I saw an ad in a paper and I went up and looked it over and liked it. The soil is first class and it grows clover and timothy natural everywhere in the stump and I think it will be one of the best sections in the state and every man who is willing to work can make it go with a little capital the way the National Land Colonizing Company sells to a settler. The settlers are mostly American people. I took some of my friends that thought they would like a farm to look at this land that had been looking around for 6 weeks and they said it beat everything they saw two to one, and I think it is O. K. I could sit and praise this country all day.

Yours truly,
C. E. SOFER,
From Ogdensburg, Wis.

The Land Suited Me and the Price

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Dear Sir:

I and my family were just talking over old times, we were wishing we could get a farm, then we could all enjoy ourselves to home, at work, when the mail carrier brought me your Bulletin explaining your land, so I came up to see it, the land suited me and the price, so I bought 80 acres, although I had very little to pay down, or to live on until I could get some cleared and a crop raised, but, God will help a man if he will help his-self, so will the National Land Colonizing Company. So I have made up my mind to stay here, for this is the land that flows with milk and honey. All you have to do is to clear the brush and raise the hay for to feed the cows for this land can't be beat for dairying. The worst we have to cut down our delicious berry brush in clearing our land, we had a good garden and very nice potatoes and corn, both field and sweet, last summer our first year.

I dug me a well about 12 feet deep and struck a vein of good drinking water. Hoping that others reading this, that want to get them a home, or don't like their sand or hill farms will come and look at this land and be welcomed at my table while in the colony looking around.

Yours truly,
CHAS. C. SMITH,
From Mauston, Wis.

"I Saw Many Fields of Good Corn"

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter asking me to tell what I saw that made me buy eighty acres of land for a home for my family, when I visited your tract.

I was raised on a farm in Ohio and when Mr. Norton took me on a tramp through part of the tract, I was able to tell that it was good land with good drainage, not too hard to clear, and certain to be settled quickly and become a prosperous community. I was quite surprised to see how much had been already done and how many families were making a home there.

Crops that I saw were good, and I know good corn can be grown there, because on my way out to the tract last September I saw many fields of good corn.

I have been working in the city for nearly fifteen years, but I know I can do much more and make a better home for my family, by working for myself on good land such as this is that I bought.

I met a number of the settlers and found them the kind I would want for neighbors. I can scarcely wait till I can move onto my place and begin working for myself.

Yours truly,
A. E. REGAL,
From Chicago, Ill.

"After a Thorough Investigation I Bought 40 Acres for a Start"

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Dear Sir:

Will try and write you a small letter on what I think of the possibilities of Northern Wisconsin.

Now, I would like to say this, in regard to the opportunities of owning a farm home in Wisconsin, I have been over the ground owned by the National Land Colonizing Company, and it couldn't be better for producing crops. Even in July, after about six weeks of very little rain, the pastures were as green as early spring. The climate is simply grand, and the finest of water, very near the surface.

After a thorough investigation, I bought forty acres for a start, but would have liked to have bought at least eighty acres. I talked with the settlers already there, and they are all pleased with the outlook for the future.

There is the finest of hunting and fishing and fine roads for so new a country. Anyone willing to put in a few years of hard work cannot go wrong in buying here. This land on the improved farms is now selling for \$150.00 and \$200.00 per acre.

Looking forward to the time when I start work on my tract, I am

Very truly yours,
W. J. BURK,
From Chicago, Ill.

"When We Were in Iowa My Wife and I Always Talked Farm"

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Gentlemen:

Well, here I am up in the cut-over country, the home of my dreams.

When we were in Iowa, the wife and I were always talking farm, but never could get money enough to buy one, until I read an advertisement of the National Land Colonizing Company, and started to see for myself and also to find out just how they did it.

I went through their holdings and found what I wanted, closed the trade, went home, packed my household goods and was back up here in less than three weeks. Got here the first of August and have got a nice clearing started. Have been getting my garden and potato ground ready to plow.

Have never seen finer garden truck, potatoes, or hay than was grown here last fall.

Also to us it seems to be a healthy place, as we have been free from sickness except the little fellow caught the scarlet fever coming up here.

M. H. BECKETT,
From Mason City, Iowa.

WHO HAVE READY-TO-START-FARMS

"I have Opened a Store at Dairy Center."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin,

Gentlemen:

I believe this is going to develop into the banner dairy county of the State of Wisconsin, rivaling Green County, which has a great record. We have advantages here that excel those of Green County by far, in fact there is no comparison, viz.: much more fresh running water; a more certain rainfall, thus insuring plenty of pasture and a certain hay crop; and a better soil that will produce clover, timothy, grains of all kinds, and root crops that can not be beaten anywhere.

I have 120 acres, nearly all of which is easy clearing and I believe will develop into a real farm rapidly. I have opened a store at Dairy Center and am enjoying a fair business.

From all indications your company will experience a much greater business the coming season than you did last, and I trust that you will be able to bring us many new settlers.

I can recommend the National Land Colonizing Company to all who want to look over land in this locality as being O. K.

Wishing you every success in your efforts to develop this county, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

MORRIS BELKNAP,

From Freeport, Ill.



There Is Money In a Big Garden.

The nice thing about our soil is that it is not a special soil. You don't need to depend on a few fancy crops like you do in some places. Up here, you can get big yields of all the staple money making crops.

"We Have a Fine Bunch of Neighbors Up Here."

National Land Colonizing Co.,

Dear Sirs:

I went to your office and asked for Mr. John Bordner. I met him, and he is a fine man. He got a car and lunch for dinner. He showed me lots of land, and I was surprised when I dug into it. It was so nice and mellow, just as good as that land that I was farming down home that they were asking \$300.00 and \$500.00 an acre for, so I got busy and picked out an eighty acre farm, being the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 30, range 5, township 36.

The climate is fine, just about the same as where I lived in Iowa. They can grow any crop that Iowa can, and some lots better. Clover grows as good wild up here as when it is seeded and taken care of in Iowa, and we are so centrally located to the big markets, as the Twin Cities, Chicago, and Duluth.

We have a fine bunch of neighbors up here, so neighborly and ready to help anybody get a start, and say, we sure have got some roads, as good as Iowa roads that are costing from thirty to forty thousand dollars per mile while our expense up here is very little.

I sure like this country up here where you can grow clover and milk cows. You have a steady income each month. You can own a farm up here and have a home while a poor man can never pay for a farm down in Iowa. My eighty up here is not for sale. I can truly say that National Land Colonizing Company of Madison, Wisconsin, will back a good man up here so he can get a home.

Yours truly,

F. C. GODWIN,

From Paton, Iowa.



Corn Does Well On Our Farms.

Corn is always a good crop to raise, and it does splendidly. You will not be out of the "Corn Belt" on one of these farms. The corn fields will look good to farmers from Iowa and Illinois.



The Roads Are Good.

Wisconsin is famed for her road systems. The roads to our farms are in fine shape, and are lined with valuable farms, as you will see if you pay us a visit.

LETTERS FROM FARMERS

**"You People Want to See Men Get Started
on Good Land and Have Success."**

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

In regard to the country I can say I liked it at the first sight, and was well aware of the opportunity for a man who wants to start farming with small capital. The roads are excellent in that part of the country, to be a new country at that, and there is no better soil in the state of Wisconsin.

Now about the Company. Well, many people get the impression in dealing with a land company they hail them merely for a land seller. But, I feel that you people have the goods to give and want to see a man get started on good land and have success. So, from my experience with you, I have you as my best friend.

Now when I start with cattle it will be with full blooded stock, even on a small scale from the beginning. I haven't been sorry a minute for getting a good farm in Upper Wisconsin.

Yours truly,
LARS LINDAHL,
From Detroit Harbor, Wisconsin.

"When I Left Illinois to go Up Into Wisconsin Last Year I Never Expected to Find Such a Country."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you a few words in regard to the land. Well here it goes.

When I left Illinois to go up into Wisconsin last year, I never expected to see such a nice country as I found it. It was in haying time and it was the heaviest crop I ever saw.

As I'm figuring on going in the chicken and bee business, I picked out forty acres of standing timber, but the majority of the farmers up there are in the dairy business, as it is a very good clover country.

The soil is very rich, I brought a sample of it back home, with me. I showed it some experienced farmers, and they said it was the richest ground they ever saw.

It is good for all sorts of crops. All of the farms have good springs, or plenty of good clear water, that is, the ones I saw.

Yours truly,
A. J. LAVALLEE,
From Morrison, Illinois.

"I Think the Price the Land Sells at, and the Terms the Company Extends to a Settler Certainly Makes it a Poor Man's Paradise."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Gentlemen:

I like the country fine. The neighbors are all sociable, and the kind of people a man likes to neighbor with.

All the settlers I talked with were contented and glad they had bought land. The crops looked good, which spoke well for the soil.

I think the price the land sells at and the terms the company extends to a settler, certainly make it a poor man's Paradise.

I expect to move onto my land this fall. The roads are good, really better than one would expect.

It's a great clover country and a country that gets the rain fall, and will grow clover, that a man can not go wrong on it.

Yours respectfully,
EARL KNIGHT,
From Scranton, Iowa.

"I Think I Have One of the Best Farms in the State of Wisconsin."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Gentlemen:

I am well pleased with the farm I bought from the National Land Colonizing Company.

I think I have one of the best farms in the State of Wisconsin. It is a nice and rolling piece of land. I think it is well worth what they ask for it.

Yours truly,
J. B. HELMING,
From Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

"From One Who Knows a Good Piece of Land and Has Got It."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wis.

I am glad to inform you we are all in the pink of condition. This climate sure agrees with us. I think as the majority of settlers hereabout do, that the good pure water here is also responsible for said condition.

It is certainly amazing to see what great progress a person can actually make in a short while. I fully realize that in the space of a very few years, we will have as splendid fields and crops as any of my good old Iowa friends and relatives can show there, for we've surely got the soil and climate that's mighty hard to beat. My last year's crops proved the land good and proper. I've never seen the beat of such a yield from so small an acreage, and I've covered many a state from East to West, and helped reap many a crop. In fact, it was a right smart bracer to grip the axe and hop right after the clearing, and we are still hopping. The results will be,—in my case,—as in several others in the immediate community, 25 to 35 more acres of good old, or rather, good new, land under cultivation.

I somewhat hesitated for a brief spell before purchasing my farm last spring, owing to fear of extreme cold weather, but after exchanging a few words with other settlers decided to chance that part of it. My only regret is, I didn't come here sooner, say ten years, at least. The little tots haven't had the least sign of a cough so far this winter, no sickness of any kind, and, as you know, I have eight of them.

I have lots and lots of things I'd like to write about, but will have to postpone the greater portion until the future as we are having some of our neighbors over this evening. I wish you were here. We have some splendid times when we get together these long evenings,—and lots of music and games and so forth.

Give Mr. Crowl, Mr. Miller, well, in fact, each and every one who is connected with the good National Land Colonizing Company, ours and neighbors best greetings for the happiest New Year of their lives.

From one who knows a good piece of land and has got it.

J. BOLITHO,
From Postville, Iowa.

WHO HAVE READY-TO-START-FARMS

"So I Closed a Deal for 80 Acres."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wis.

The reason I went to Wisconsin was because I have had a liking for Wisconsin for a number of years. I believe it was in the year of 1908 that I first saw the state of Wisconsin, and I have thought a great deal of it ever since. But, it took me some time to make up my mind to give up trying to farm in good old Iowa, for I was born and raised there. It is a very hard task to give up the idea of raising corn, as I believe that there is not another state in the Union that can beat Iowa for corn. The rent has grown so measly high here that we poor renters are up against it, so I decided to take another look at Wisconsin. I have been through Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, Kansas, and part of Minnesota, but I found no place that suited me as well as Wisconsin.

I went to Wisconsin with your representative, F. R. Farley. He and my wife coaxed me to go. Mr. Farley told me just how I would find the land if I would go, so I decided to go.

Mr. Farley showed me the cut-over land, and I found it far nicer than I expected, and I said to him, "This is good enough for me." So I closed a deal for eighty acres of cut-over land, and I told Farley and all that I wished that I had my business straightened up at Scranton, Iowa, I would not have gone home with him.

I will not be satisfied until I am settled upon our farm in Wisconsin, and I have been the cause of five different ones going there with Mr. Farley since, and each have bought an eighty acre piece. I do believe that it is the best place on earth for a poor man to go to make a living, and more, too. I will do all I can to boost for Wisconsin.

Very truly yours,

J. W. CULVER AND WIFE.
From Scranton, Iowa.

"You Know We Drove Our Teams Through From Indiana."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Gentlemen:

Well, we think this land up here is all right, and the soil good.

The roads here are better than one would expect in a new country. You know we drove our teams through from Indiana, and I will say that the roads in this new country are better than a lot we were on in well settled communities.

We settled here because we liked the terms the National Land Colonizing Company gave us, and they have treated us fair enough ever since we have been here.

The ground, as far as we can see, is easily enough cleared, if you go at it with a will. No one could expect to come out here and sit down and think the land will clear itself. Some one has to do the clearing part, and we, for one, want to be some of the first on the land.

Our school is good and our neighbors we know are all right.

The crops on land already cleared up were fine. The clover seems to come up first anywhere.

With best wishes for a good year,

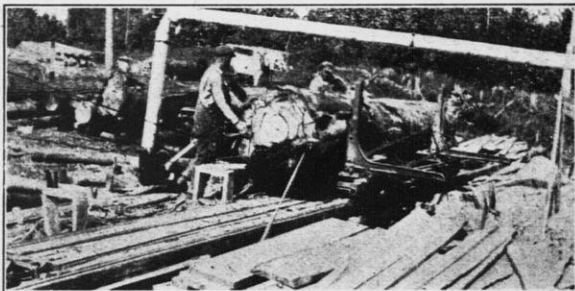
Respectfully yours,

MR. AND MRS. HERBERT MCGRAW,
From Wabash, Ind.



A Good Piece of Timber Means Money

Some of these Ready-To-Start-Farms have patches of fine timber left by the lumbermen. A farmer wants to leave a nice woodlot, not only as a thing of beauty, but as a source of revenue.



Saw Your Logs Into Lumber.

There are many portable sawmills in this country. You can get out some good logs in the winter, and then have a mill moved to your farm for a few days, and get them sawed into first class lumber for about \$5.00 a thousand.



In The Winter Cordwood Brings In Cash.

Getting out cordwood in the winter is the way many farmers spend their winter. There is good money in this, and you will be clearing your farm at the same time.

LETTERS FROM FARMERS



First Year's Crops on Farm of Chas. F. Koepke

Below is a letter from Mr. Koepke, the owner of this farm. Read this letter carefully. Mr. Koepke bought this fine farm and moved onto it sometime in the fall. During the winter, he wrote us the following letter. Then in the summer this picture was taken. This picture gives an idea of what he was able to get in the first year, although it is unfortunate that he shows only his oats and does not show his fine garden and big potato field. These fine oats were raised by Koepke on land that he simply brushed by hand. He did not even plow it, and as you will notice, he has a fine yield. He also raised enough potatoes to haul to town at a big profit, besides getting much hay land cleared. You can get exactly the same good land as this, and you can come and see how quickly these men get in big fields of money-making crops. Don't you think it would be a good idea for you and your family to get one of these rich farms that you can buy so cheap and pay for on such easy terms? And remember that to get one of these farms, you do not need to move out into a lonely frontier. They are located in one of the best farming districts in the United States, with many neighbors, fine towns, and good schools and churches.

"About Three Months Ago I Flatly Refused \$600 Profit for My 40 Acres."

National Land Colonizing Co.,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Gentlemen:

In regard to your letter of November 29, asking me to write you a few lines of what I think about this country since I have settled up here.

Well, I will tell you in a very few words, and just the plain truth. It is the real God's country. The climate is moderate and the winters are not as cold as lots of people think they are, but are by far healthier than what they are in the southern part of the state, where I came from.

I have purchased 40 acres of land from your company, at \$40 per acre, with which I am more than pleased. The soil is a clay loam, with just enough grit in it to make it light and easy to work, and for productiveness it can't be beat. I have not put in any crops on my land, since I purchased it last June, but have seen very good crops on my neighbor's place.

I have spent seven Sundays with my wife and thirteen year old boy, clearing a place to build our house on. I will say we were more than pleased with the showing we made in such a short time. We had about two and one-half acres logged, brushed and picked up and mostly all burned. Then we commenced to feel that, what people have told us about clearing land, and that a man would be a worn out cripple before he was on a place five years, and would not have a farm then, was just a lazy man's bunk, and that kind of a man surely would starve to death in Paradise.

So far as I can see we have a nice lot of thrifty settlers out here, all happy and

surprised at how a poor man and his family can build up a home in a few years by working for themselves. A man doesn't have to be a woodsman to clear land. I certainly did not know a thing about clearing land, for my previous work, for twenty years, was barbering, and in all this time I could not save enough money to buy a home of my own. When I bought this 40 acres of the Colonizing Company, and after paying them \$500 down, I had \$200 left June 16. I kept on working until October 1, and then I moved on my place. During that time I had saved logs enough to make me 1800 feet of lumber, with which I built a barn, 18x30 feet, which cost me besides my labor, sawing logs, \$16.20, nails and hinges, \$4.50, paper roofing, \$15.00—total \$37.50, which I think is very reasonable and the barn is built so it can be made into a machine shed later on. Besides building the barn, I have burned brush and slashings on about 20 acres of land, which I intend to have all picked up and reburned and seeded into hay, by next spring.

I have purchased a cow through the company, and bought a team of horses, on which I still owe some money, but intend to pay for same when my note is due, as there is a lot of work here for a man or team. Besides I have bought a heifer and a good brood sow, from which I raised nine pigs, which, if luck is with me, will about pay for my interest on the land, when it is due. About three months ago, I flatly refused \$600 profit for my 40 acres. Some people say, "Well why didn't you sell? You could buy another place near by." Which is true, just as good as the place I got, but I bought to have a home. I did not buy this 40 acres to go in the land clearing business. If my place is worth \$600 more to the other man, it is worth twice that much to me.

Sincerely yours,
CHAS. F. KOEPKE,
From Green Co., Wisconsin.