

# CALLS CANADA A FAKE

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**Wisconsin Man Comes Back to Stars  
and Stripes Heartily Sick of  
"Johnnie Land."**  
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New Richmond, Wis., Aug. 24.—  
That the Western Canada land boom is a fake, a delusion and a snare is the declaration of Fred M. Oakes, who has just moved back to St. Croix county from Barrons, Alberta, where he moved in May after selling his farm near this city. He paints anything but a glowing picture of "Sunny Alberta," and says it is altogether too sunny for him.

Mr. Oakes says that he is but one of 15,000 farmers who have moved or are moving or making plans to move from Alberta and Saskatchewan back to the United States.

"The crops all through that region are a complete failure this year, says Mr. Oakes. "The fact of the matter is they do not figure on having more than three crops out of five in that district, and there is no way of finding out until one gets there. Last year's crop was the best in the history of those provinces and the boom has been pulled off entirely on the strength of that.

"The ground just now is absolutely bare, devoid of vegetation of every name and nature. There has not been a rain in over a year. There has been one killing frost already this season, but it did no damage because there was no vegetation to be harmed. The ground is covered with a fine dust, and when the wind blows a gale, as it frequently does, the dust penetrates every nook and cranny in the house.

"Another thing the emigrants from the United States complained of is the sudden and extreme changes of temperature. June 1 we had a snow flurry and a cold wave. Seven chickens froze to death in my coop. The weather was so cold and irregular and uncertain that we were unable to operate our incubator successfully during June. One day in the latter part of May the temperature was 102 in the sun at noon. A northwester started up and by 2 o'clock the mercury had fallen to the forties.

"We also found after we got up there that we were not allowed to sell anything we took with us within eighteen months, without paying the duty. I sold my cattle just before I came out and the government collected 20 per cent duty. We were checked in and checked out by the Canadian customs authorities. One of the horses died while I was in Canada, and they would have charged me 25 per cent of the valuation of the animal had I not been able to prove to their satisfaction that the animal had really died and that I had not sold it."