

Has Succeeded Wonderfully.

Valley City, N. D., March 25th, 1892.

EDITOR PIONEER:

I came to this country and settled in Steele county in the autumn of 1882, bringing with me six teams and about \$1,000 in money. I took up a pre-emption in the southwestern part of Steele county and settled upon it. I have greatly added to my original grant by purchase, and have made it profitable by farming and sticking to it. I still farm my Steele county land, though living at present in Valley City. I have large farming interests also in Barnes county, and have 120 horses, mules and colts, about 20 cattle and 2,000 head of sheep. In 1890 I bought 1,400 Montana sheep, of which 780 were ewes. During the winter, however, I lost about 100 head of sheep through lack of knowledge, buying too many old ones. The balance of the sheep wintered well on the range, with some hay and straw in bad weather, and a little grain fed to them last spring just before the lambing season. Last spring from 750 ewes I raised 800 lambs. My clip of wool last season from 1,300 sheep was 9,425 pounds, averaging 7½ pounds per head, which I sold at 15½ cents per pound, realizing \$1,460.87. I also sold 250 wethers for mutton, which netted me \$4 each—\$1,000. Last fall I bought 300 more sheep, and also bought 12 full blood Cotswold rams, at a cost of \$400 delivered, for the purpose of improving my flock in the product and quality of wool and mutton. I consider my purchase of sheep the best investment that I ever made. Having spent considerable time in Montana at different periods and having a knowledge of that and other grazing countries, I consider North Dakota better in several respects for success and profit in sheep raising than any state that I have visited. Having plenty of straw and hay here for feed during storms and bad winter weather, we can avoid the serious losses which sometimes occur on the large open ranges west and south of our state. I have been through all the western states and territories and I consider North Dakota the best of any of them for profitable farming and stock raising. My poorest crops in Steele county have never been less than 11 bushels of wheat per acre.

NELS P. RASMUSSEN.

[The greater part of the above was taken from a letter written by Mr. Rasmussen for the N. P. Ry. folder, which was sent by him to us, together with other facts. Mr. Rasmussen owns 7,500 acres of agricultural land in Steele and Barnes counties, 7,000 acres of which are under cultivation. He has some indebtedness, but says that two years of fair crops will pay all he owes. He has now in his name \$100,000 of property.—Ed.]