

3021 E. 1st Ave
Gene City Ill.

11-13-17



Messrs. J. & W. E. Crosby
Bartle
Cuba

Gion City Ill. Nov. 13-17

Dear Brother—

You will see by the above that I am still in the City of Gion. After spending six long months out on the "Front" i.e. a few days of City life, at home, had been quite a welcome change. After encountering the usual difficulties and obstacles of several months of bachelor life I left Montana with a little less than two hundred, or about 183 acres of wheat, to my credit. It took me quite a lot longer than I had anticipated to do the job but I wanted to do it a little better than the other fellow so I consumed considerable extra time working up the land. I turned the sod over to an average depth of four inches and then by double disking and then double cross disking and harrowing I have a thoroughly pulverized seed bed, and of course am expecting ample returns for my extra work. A large amount of the new land turned in the region of Uncle A's this year was

very poorly broken and very little work done on it to make a fine seed bed so if the other fellow is so fortunate as to produce ten bushels I am expecting fifteen or twenty.

Montana is certainly a great state and from what I saw of its climate and production I am very much interested in it and look forward quite enthusiastically to what may be accomplished there. The Montana State average yield per acre, for the past six years, for wheat has been 25 bu., and tho under normal conditions I should expect a twenty bu. yield anyway next year yet I shall be very happy to receive ten for even that would net me far ~~more~~ more than any thing I have ever been able to accomplish by a years labor before. Even tho the past summer has been by far the driest in Montana for twenty years yet wheat in the immediate vicinity of Toluca yielded from five to fifteen bu., so I feel quite sure that I am not over enthusiastic over Montana possibilities. I have a very fine outfit so far for machine farming and am especially proud of

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my tractor. It has ~~run~~ run all summer under full load most all the time and has required all most no attention at all except to replenish gasoline and oil as needed, and has always been ready to go with a simple turn of the crank. Practically all the tinkering I have done on it for the whole summer work was to adjust the cranks twice, and these have a patent take up and convenient place to get at so I can adjust all four of them and be ready to go in fifteen minutes any time. The only attention aside from oil that I have given the Magneto was to clean the breaker points once and wipe out the distributor box three times. I wore out two master gears and replaced them at a cost of a little under sixty dollars freight and all for the two. They are very easily changed and it only takes half a day to take the ~~two~~ old ones off, replace with the new ones and be ready for a new start.

On a good days plowing during the long summer days I frequently made over a thirty mile run, and even after the days began to shorten the mileage

would go up well into the twenties.

My regular round was to go to the field in the morning as soon ^{after daylight} as I could eat a bite and pour in gasoline and oil, then run without a stop till noon. After eating dinner and spending fifteen or twenty minutes applying oil and gasoline I was back in the field again and made continuous run till dark. So you see I have gotten real service from the machine and it is in good shape now with the exception of a few minor adjustments which need making and a little valve grinding to put it in first class shape for next seasons work.

I come out well on my summers work all the way round. Of course it was rather close figuring to stay by it and get in the crop. However I took the average allowance for breaking and with the addition of \$200⁰⁰, I made ^{clear} with tractor on the side, paid all expenses and got in my crop, besides sending most \$300⁰⁰ home. So my part and payment of my part of the expenses are all made and if I have a normal season will come out in

fine shape. The postman had just left a letter from Mama. Said the weather was warm and pleasant out there and the wheat was looking fine. Said that Papa had just finished the fence.

If I can make arrangements for enough money to clear myself in Geon City I will take Ma and the children and go out there within a few weeks. Uncle A told me that he could provide the money now to build a house for us so thought if I could get away clear here I would fix the little shack we have on the place so we could winter there and build the house before the Spring work opens up. During the time I was making my trips to Cuba and tied up there I ran behind several hundred dollars, and my summer work, till returns are in from the crop, leaves me in about the same condition. It would take about 180.00 to clear me on the amount I am behind on my place here and put it into my own hands so as I can trade or sell it and thus come out on the deal without sacrificing what I have invested in it. It would take a little better than 200.00 more to get me out of town square or in all about 400.00. In talking over the proposition with Papa he told

me that if I could get hold of what I
needed anywhere where his name would
be taken with mine for the amount
that he would gladly sign with me
for the amount. ~~He~~ ^{myself} suggested that
I write to both of you first and find
out if there was anywhere there where
the money could be secured till my
crop is harvested. Papa as well as
myself is quite enthusiastic over
prospects there ^{in Mont.} and thinks there is very
little chance on the outcome. I am
anxious to be at home there as soon as
weather conditions are favorable in the
Spring and sufficiently located so that I
can break the other hundred acres and
seed it to flax, as I have been anxious
if possible to get in a 300 acre crop
for next year. Uncle A has had to
furnish near \$5000 or so for his part of
the job and it has kept him going to
keep the current expenses cared for, so I
am trying to care for my own outside
of what he pays me for services rendered
for him. Think I could trade or
sell out here soon if I had the
place where I could handle it myself
and get back something of what I have
put into it. There is plenty to do on the
place in Mont. and will be sufficient
returns to keep me going for the winter.

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It is merely a question of getting out
here and getting there - to it.

As soon as you have had time
to consider or investigate the matter
I would be very glad if you would
write me what the prospects are so
I will know what ^{other} arrangements I may
have to make in case there is no
help there. I did not know how
things were there since the trouble
but did not know but perhaps I might
be able to make the arrangement
some way there which would be
perhaps the easiest and best way all
round provided it could be done.

Of course Papad name would not be
any help to me here as where he
has no investment. I have written
to you both at one time as I had in
mind to write the same things to
each so I am sure you will pardon
my "economy" in war time.

All seem to be feeling quite well here
now. I was about tied up for a few
days with a cold when I first began
to inhale lake air but am about over it
now and ready for business again.

Will close now and deliver this to
the Postman.

As ever,

Geo.