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. his fine oats were raised by Koepke on land 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 $800 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 productivity 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 woodman 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 this 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 to make me 1500 feet of lumber, with which I built a barn, 18x30 feet, which cost me besides my labor, saving logs, $12.25, nails and hinges, $4.15, paper goods, $15.60—total $27.56, 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 returned 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 heller 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 $800 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. KOEPEKE,
From Green Co., Wisconsin.