Mrs. Peck, Finley, Wis.

21 acres oats, 795 bu.; per acre, 37½ bu.
5 acres rye, 48 bu.; per acre, 9½ bu.
3 acres potatoes, 80 bu.; per acre, 26½ bu.
9 acres corn. 5 double wagon boxes of husked corn.
Amount of crop on hand: 600 bu. oats; 70 bu. potatoes; 25 bu. corn,
and 48 bu. rye.
1½ acres pickles sold, $225.
6 members in family.

LETTER FROM CLARENCE BROVALD

Babcock, Wisconsin
January 16, 1926.

E. R. Jones
Madison, Wis.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of December 15th which I should have
answered long ago, I have been unusually busy as I had about 50 tons
of wire grass to bale and haul, besides my regular farm work.

I do not think I will be able to get away to attend the Drainage
Convention this year as there is no one around here I feel I could
trust with all the chores as I keep no hired man in the winter.

My crops last year were fairly good which consisted of oats, corn,
buckwheat, potatoes and ¼ acre of beans.

I had 25 acres of oats yielding better than 1000 bu., 13 acres of
corn of which two or three acres drowned out in June when we had
that wet spell. With this I filled a 12x33 foot silo and shredded 6
double wagon boxes of good corn. In raising this corn I spread a
light coat of barn-yard manure and 500 lbs. of 1-8-3 commercial fer-
tilizer, which was not as strong of potash as I wanted, but all I
could get at that time, this corn field had not been manured for 13
years.

I have got best results by manuring before corn, raise one crop
corn, sow two oats and seed down for two or three years, then ma-
nure for corn again, etc.

A little commercial fertilizer for corn sure pays big. Should
have said this 500 lbs. I used was for the whole 13 acres. Hay was a
poor crop here last year and I do not know why.

I had 25 acres of buckwheat yielding 510 bu. which was the fourth
crop of buckwheat on the same ground.

I only raised about enough potatoes for our own use. They were
not so good this year. We tried a few string beans this year, selling
them to a canning factory and find one can do well with them as a
side line.

I believe this drained marsh is productive if handled right with
dairy cows, but there are too many people who come here with noth-
ing and who could not make good on the best farm in the state.

Of course as you know these marshes are far from being all
drained without tile and other small laterals, but there is considerable land near the main ditches that is dry enough to farm that is lying idle.

I have heard the remark made that this country was better off or worth more before drained, but I can's see where they get it. We have lived here 28 years next March and saw these marshes in their wettest, when it was impossible to make a living farming, and could not get to town dry without hip boots. Now we have fairly good roads which are being improved every year.

I don't think you have seen our place since we have made these improvements in 1924, so am sending you a small picture of the barn and silo, have made other improvements since this picture was taken.

Now I don't know if this letter will be of much interest to you, but I don't think, without any experience, I could give much of a talk before an audience.

Sincerely yours,
Clarence Brovald.

A YEAR'S PROGRESS IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN
O. R. Zeasman

Many historic battles have been staged by the boosters and knockers of Central Wisconsin marshes. Some boosting has been done with selfish motives, but the marshes have many staunch friends who make that region a permanent home, have faith in the future and labor for its improvement. Much of the knocking has resulted from disappointment of the transient settler who has failed to adapt himself to the extraordinary conditions. Money lenders have lost money and become bitter knockers. The unwary investor was foredoomed to lose because land there can never be in the investment banking class like the farms of southeastern Wisconsin. Much of central Wisconsin land has and probably always will have comparatively low market value. The man who farms it has a job and his farm operations should be planned to give him a good labor income and not be dependent upon profit from the increment of land values.

I am expected to discuss a year's progress in central Wisconsin marshes but it is difficult to pick a standard measure. Most of the districts have been constructed over 15 years and in some of them no development that can be called agricultural progress has occurred during their entire life history. On some of the marshes drained 20 to 30 years ago, considerable progress was made the first 10 years in sale of land, construction of buildings, breaking up wild land, expansion of areas planted to crops, etc., but development has been at a standstill in recent years. This is common history of central Wisconsin marshes.

The above conditions became aggravated by the agricultural depression that began in 1920. Since that time total agricultural production of the state shows no increase, except the expansion of a few special crops such as alfalfa. Isolated farms have by efficient