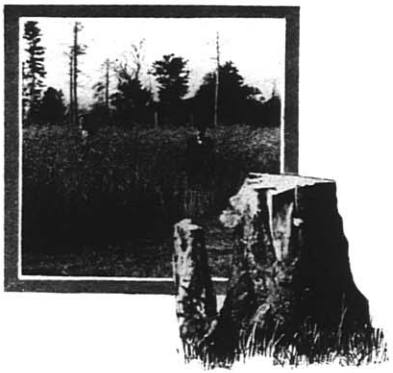
# Personal Testimony

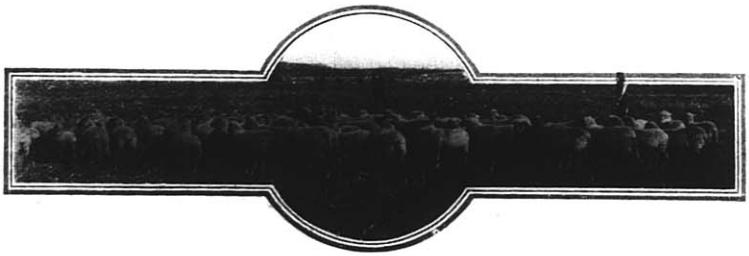
Sugar Grove, Ill., Oct. 29th, 1904.
Wm. H. Killen, Esq.,
Land Commissioner, W. C. Ry.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: Having had thirty-two years' experience as a feeder and



buyer of sheep over nearly all the Western Range Countries, and having carefully observed the conditions in the raising and production of lambs and mutton sheep in the various sections of this range country, and after one years' experience in Northern Wisconsin raising lambs and handling sheep, I do not hesitate in saying that I believe this country is destined to become one of the best, if not the very best place for the production of mutton lambs that I know of. I saw lambs that were dropped in April and killed in October that dressed 43 to 51 pounds of meat, and had only the grass for food and no grain, and were of only very ordinary breeding. I wish to call the attention of sheep men to the fact that our ewes milk the whole season through, and do not dry up in June as range ewes usually do. Consequently our lambs get no setback, but keep growing right along. My friend, Mr. George Taylor of Saratoga, Wisconsin, formerly of Meeteelse, Wyoming, and a Western man of much experience, was at my ranch near Ashland, Wisconsin, this summer, and he told me that he had lambs at that time, July 5, that were dropped in May that weighed 55 pounds or better. Another point, and that is this: I was told by some parties that they doubted if our clover and other grasses would make good hard fat, and I am free to say that I had some fears of it myself, but I have set all fears at rest so far as I am concerned. I shipped a double deck of ewes to the Chicago market on September 23rd, that were good enough to sell as high as anything of their class, and were pronounced good by the killers.

Not being a dairy man, I do not feel like saying too much along this line, but from what I have seen the past season with our pure water and nutritious grasses I do not hesitate in pronouncing this a fine dairy country. And aside from this, we have a country that cannot be surpassed in the production of hay, small grains and vegetables, and in conclusion I would



say to the young man who is struggling with land that rents from $5.00 to $7.00 per acre—QUIT IT. Come to Northern Wisconsin and get a piece of good land—stay with it—and at the end of ten years it will double many times and you will make no mistake.

Yours very truly,

FRANK CATLIN.

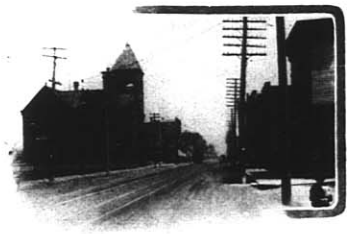
"GRAZING WESTERN SHEEP ON CUT-OVER LANDS."

Marengo, Wis., Jan. 4th, 1905.

Mr. W. H. Killen,

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In regard to your inquiry about our sheep will say that our sheep were Western sheep that were raised on our sheep ranch in Wyoming. The experiment was a success-



**Street Scene, Ashland**

ful one and we expect to make a large shipment from the West this year. One carload was grain fed and they topped the market that day. They brought $5.60 per hundred pounds. I will state further that Ashland county is as fine a sheep country as ever I saw. Sheep do fine here. The country has natural drainage enough so as to make it a good sheep country and clover and timothy grow in abundance. I do not think that the Marengo River Valley can be beaten for sheep raising and hay. I have always heard of the cold of Northern Wisconsin, but I have not felt any cold yet that will go through you like a north wind on the Western Plains.

Yours truly, A. J. DIXON.

**Oats**

CHEQUAMEGON VIEW FARM,

Ashland, Wis., Dec. 16th, 1904.

Mr. Wm. H. Killen,

Land Commissioner W. C. Ry.,

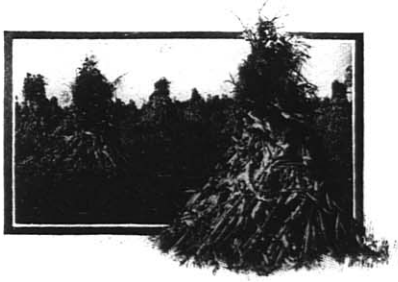
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir:

* * * * *

We raise strawberries and I am always ready and happy to talk about them. We feel that we are past the experimental stage in growing them, and that we now KNOW that we can raise as fine berries here as can be raised anywhere. Our home is always a very lively place in strawberry time.

We have been growing some fine ones ever since we have lived on the farm, and two years ago this coming spring we went at it in earnest. Sent to R. M. Kellogg's famous farm for several thousand plants, which gave us a fine crop last year, and we planted many more plants last summer, from which we expect good results next



**Excellent Fodder Corn is Grown**

summer. The plants grow very rapidly. Dr. Dodd and G. M. Burnham of Ashland measured some of the berries here in berry season of 1903. One measured six inches in circumference.

Yours very truly,

MRS. ELIZABETH KETCHUM.

**Saw Mill of John R. Davis Lumber Co., at Phillips**

Phillips, Wis., Dec. 31st, 1904.

W. H. Killen, Land Commissioner,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir: In reply to your favor of recent date and in reference to the capacity of our mills at Phillips, we are pleased to inform you as follows:

Sawmill cuts about 150,000 ft. on the average in ten hours and runs about nine months each year. Planing mill has a capacity of ten cars and box factory two cars per day, planing mill and box factory running the year round.

When our mills are running full force at Phillips we employ about 500 men all told. This includes the men in the woods logging, peeling bark, railroading, etc.

The average wages at Phillips is from $1.50 per day for common laborers up to $5.00 per day for skilled workmen boarding themselves, and in the woods from $26.00 per month for common laborers up to $35.00 for skilled workmen with board.

Skilled laborers are in demand at all times both in the woods and about the mills, and of course their salary depends entirely upon their industry and skill in the performance of special kinds of work.

There is a good market here for all kinds of forest products, logs and bolts, bark, poles, posts, cordwood, etc., and probably no less than 150 settlers haul logs and other products to us during each winter season, which gives full employment for themselves and their teams when they are not working on their farms.

We wish to state that we need more farmers, more cows, creameries and cheese factories. We have splendid soil, grasses, and water and yet there are not farmers and dairymen enough to supply our home markets with meats, poultry, or dairy products.

Respectfully,

JOHN R. DAVIS LUMBER CO.,
Per B. W. Davis, Sec'y.

"WORK IN THIS DISTRICT MEANS PROSPERITY."

Price County, Feb. 18th, 1904.

Mr. Wm. H. Killen,
Land Commissioner, W. C. Ry.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In 1897 I purchased and moved my family, consisting of my wife and six small children, on one hundred and sixty acres of stump land about seven miles east of Phillips. This land was all I had and on it I had a debt of $1,000. The outlook was very gloomy. I soon sold eighty acres of my land, and then bought five cows, a pair of old plugs, and an old dilapidated farm wagon. I had no building of my own, so I moved my family into an old logging camp, and the cows and horses into an old logging barn. Things did not go very smooth at first, but we worked hard and did not get discouraged. We had many troubles, but where seven years ago you could not see anything but stumps there stands to-day a modern eight-room dwelling all finished, and 20,000 feet of lumber on the ground for a large new frame barn, which will be built next summer. In place of those old plugs we have a heavy team weighing 2,800 pounds, new harness, new wagon and buggy, new mower and hay rake, new plows and cultivators, twelve head of cattle, of which seven are good milking cows.

One thing more, we have confidence in the future, and I am thoroughly convinced that North Wisconsin is the coming cow, butter, cheese and sheep country of America.

With these prospects in view we keep right at it, attending to our own business. I am,

Yours very truly,

C. F. GLISSENDORF.

**The Home of Mr. C. F. Glissendorf. Read his Letter**

"A MAN IS HAPPIER OWNING A SHEEP FARM THAN WORKING FOR SOME OTHER FELLOW."

Price County, Feb. 28th, 1904.

Mr. W. H. Killen,
Land Commissioner W. C. Ry.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In the Fall of 1900, after realizing that I would not live long if I remained in the South, and hearing of Northern Wisconsin as being healthy and also a fine grass country, I concluded to investigate, and came to Phillips, Price County. Here I found that wherever the land was

opened up at all grass was growing knee high. Grass and clover were everywhere. It had possession, nothing else could grow.

I bought a section of land eight miles northeast of Phillips, and moved on it in April of 1901. In June of the same year I shipped a double deck car of sheep from Arkansas, 850 miles south of Phillips. When the sheep had been shipped they had not been doing

**Mr. McKibben Among His Chickens**

well for some time and we had lost quite a number from internal diseases.

When the sheep landed in Phillips, we drove them direct to my land, which was pretty wild at that time, but the sheep began to pick up wonderfully, except a few that were sick at the time they came. I have had no trouble with my sheep being bothered with internal diseases since they have been here. On the contrary, my sheep have kept freer from disease here than any place I have ever lived.

I think that this is the most healthful place for sheep that I know of and I will add further that I consider this one of the best dairy countries on the face of the earth.

Yours truly, J. H. McKIBBEN.

**A Creamery**

"THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A DEMAND FOR LAND THAT WILL RAISE GOOD STOCK."

Price County, Wis., Feb. 16th, 1904.

Mr. Wm. H. Killen,
Land Commissioner, W. C. Ry.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In answer to your recent inquiry, would say that we have raised from our farm in the last six years seventy-two head of stock; sold and butchered thirty-one head and lost but one steer fifteen months old. We have forty head of stock on hand, which are always in the best of health, feeding on the grasses and clovers that grow here in abundance. We have a market here that is second to none. Farmers here make good money, but must hustle and figure the right way. Anyone interested should come up here and see for themselves how it is done. Yours truly,

FRED PLINKE.

**The Beginning**

"WHAT ONE MAN HAS DONE ANOTHER CAN DO."

Taylor County, Wis., Jan. 6th, 1904.

Mr. W. H. Killen,
Land Commissioner, W. C. Ry.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In answer to your request as to the possibilities of Taylor county as a farming country, I would say I don't think there is a better country in the State for a man of small means.

I came to this country in 1896. At that time times was very close, and there was about ten men for every day's work, but I made up my mind that Taylor county was all right, and I got a job in the woods at $14.00 per month. I worked until the next fall and bought eighty acres of land, making a small payment down, and at the present writing I have eighty acres, and I will get eighty more this coming spring. I have horses, cows and hogs. This next spring I intend to start up with sheep. This is the country for sheep. All kinds of grass, roots, oats, wheat, barley and peas. No man need be afraid of the cold or else he is too lazy to move, and that class of men we don't want here.

Any poor man that comes here, goes to work, tends to his own business, will find all the friends he can use, but woe to the lazy man, I don't believe he is wanted in heaven.

I am fifty-nine years old and when I arrived at Rib Lake I did not have money enough to pay for a month's board. Now if I want $100.00 I can go to either bank and get it. If a man of my age can make a good home in seven years and be in shape to stay at home, what ought a young man to do? I have not had any outside means to work with, every dollar being made here.

Send on your sheep men, they can't make any mistake in coming to Taylor county. Yours very truly,

J. M. SMITHERS.

"IT IS NOT THE EASY ROAD THAT LEADS TO SUCCESS."

Taylor County, Wis., Jan. 12th, 1904.

Mr. Wm. H. Killen,
Land Department W. C. Ry. Co.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In the year 1886 I came to Rib Lake from Vienna, Austria, with but very little money, nearly nothing in my pocket, but I had the good will to work and the necessary energy. I bought forty acres of land on installment, and started to clear the land, that is, when I was not bound to take up other work to make my living.

**At the Taylor County Fair**

During the first years there was only a very little movement toward improving my financial condition, but now I don't need to fear for the future.

Looking backward at my first start, I hardly can believe that a man can stand all the hardships we pioneers had to go through, and of which the man who begins now has no idea.

During the first four to five years, we had to carry all our provisions for miles on our back to the settlement, as there was, with the exception of a few logging roads, no other road. Today we have in our town about fifty-two miles first-class roads, which enable us to bring all our farm products to the market and sell them for good prices. At that time we hardly could sell anything, but now we cannot get enough stuff on the market.

In regard to climate and soil we can

be satisfied in every way. Our climate and soil are more adapted for dairy and stock farming, but still you can raise all and every kind of grain, vegetables, potatoes, etc.

Red clover is first-class and I doubt whether there is any place in the Northwest where clover grows in so rich abundance, or brings better crops than in Central Wisconsin.

Next spring there will be opened here a new cheese factory, and when once a start is made there will be more in a very few years. In the southern part of Taylor county four years ago, they could keep hardly one cheese factory up, now you find one every two or three miles apart, besides many butter factories, which work with good success. That all the farmers are prosperous you can see by the fine farm buildings they erect on their farms, since dairy farming goes ahead.

With the raising of apples I have also had good success, and I hope to earn in a very few years a good deal of money from my fruit trees. With best regards, Yours truly,

JOHN SCHREIBER.

[Translated from German.]

Chicago, March 9th, 1904.

W. H. Killen,

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: In answer to your inquiry as to my opinion of Ashland county, Wis., will say, last fall I bought four hundred (400) acres nine miles south of Ashland, at $10 an acre. I am going to clear at least forty acres this summer and at least as much more each year until the farm is cleared and in grass or some other crop. I know the quality of the soil warrants this. One thing I am sure of and that is that I can raise as much clover and timothy hay on an acre as I could raise on the same amount of land that would cost from $75 to $100 per acre.

Yours respectfully,

J. W. EMMETT.

**Wisconsin Central Depot at Ashland**

Chicago, March 9th, 1904.

W. H. Killen,

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir: Replying to your inquiry I may say that I bought five hundred (500) acres of land five miles south of Ashland, from the Wisconsin Central two years ago, and one hundred and twenty (120) acres more one month ago, joining the first.

I have cleared only forty acres so far, but will try to do more in that line the coming summer. I think the land in question will raise first-class crops, and am very well pleased with the country. The growth of clovers and grasses is wonderful, the district being especially adapted to stock raising. Yours very truly,

W. W. WILSON.

[Note—Mr. W. W. Wilson is a brother of Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture. Both he and Mr. J. W. Bennett were at one time well known Iowa farmers and are both well and favorably known in the live-stock commission business as cattle salesmen in the Union Stock Yards, Chicago.]