

NO.

NAME
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Personal Letters

Received.

1983-84

Brownlee

Bursford
Dec

Dear Friends:-

We received your welcome, newsy letter other day, and as we have had a quiet day at home seems like an opportunity to start my annual mail.

I do not think much of ^{the} weather forecasting service. Last night they said, "continuing mild, with intermittent snow in the afternoon." We came home from Lauris quite late and the cattle had not come home, as it was very mild I decided to leave them out. I also left the car by the pitch door all night, from laziness I guess because I never do it. This morning I awakened to find a howling blizzard there was a three foot snow bank between the car & the shed. The wind had changed in the night & blew the cattle out of their shelter into the open and they were a pretty miserable bunch. So, by the popular expression, I guess "we've had it." We have been very well pleased with the winter thus far, but would have especially liked another couple of days, as our Farm Town Group ^{is} to meet at our place tomorrow night, we are spread over about seven miles so enjoy it much more when the cars are running. Gladys put in a busy time preparing for them, and it will be rather disappointing if we do not have a full attendance. I think there was only one night last winter when it was called off altogether. There might be a question as to whether we are getting very far from the efforts of the Town, but we do enjoy the day.

Gladys does not go, partly on account of the family, but even if they could be arranged for, the hours are very late - always 2 or 2.30 a.m. when I crawl in. It is my job to report the meeting for the Souris Placidizer, & I try to make a different complimentary remark about each hostess's lunch. Gladys maintains the lunch is what we go for.

It has been quite an extra chore getting the youngsters to school, since winter started. We are starting a new plan. Our horses are a little too keen for kids to handle, so they are using a van & Andersons team. Unless the weather becomes very extreme, ours can drive to Andersons where they pick up their girl and the teacher. Four of them should manage to unhitch, hitch up, and it gives us all more freedom. I have not so many cattle this year, but they are working up to near the faty mark again. I planned sharing out 10 or 12 in the fall but when the local dealer was around, his offers were from \$10.00 to 20.00 per head less than I wanted, so I did not sell, then the embargo was put on with the result that I am holding everything, & hoping for that market to open across the line, at the same time wondering what it will do to the consuming public. I have two senior yearlings shaping nicely for the winter fair, (commercial class) I am pondering an entry in a futurity class. & Terry may take a calf for the Boys & Girls class. Had figured on starting him in our local club, but learned yesterday that they have a limit of sixteen, for membership, & it is filled up. His calf could stand the extra three months for weight, but if it does well we may

I had five pure bred calves this year & 4 of them were bulls. while in the grades there were 6 ^{times} out of grade.

I had a yearling P.B. heifer & two grade calves at the sale in Bon. The heifer brought \$230.⁰⁰ The calves were 1 grade calves & a bred propaga^{ga}nda stunt, the buyers wanted ^{one} of them, one of mine went to Ollameda. Sask. for \$85.00 I don't believe she was over 400 lbs. the other, 50-1⁰⁰ lbs heavier, but not smooth made \$80.⁰⁰ Have often wished I'd had more, there were not many just the right age & size. Our asso. is planning a calf scramble at the Winter Fair, as a publicity stunt. The financing, requirements etc are incomplete yet, but the general idea is to ^{turn} a bunch of calves loose in the arena with twice the number of boys, the boy that ropes a calf gets it for his own. Should be some fun.?

Now, you will be getting tired of cattle, but the longer I work with them, the more interested I am, & regardless of what the future markets may be, I think the real good ones will always be profitable.

Yes. The Hydro is wonderful, every once in a while I marvel all over again at our good fortune in getting it so soon. I was hauling ice last week & got home just at dusk, as I snapped on the barn & yard lights. I was thinking of days gone by when I would be coming in, with numb fingers fumbling for a match to light the lantern. I believe I told you last year what power equipment we had. This year I added an electric drill & a pump to pump the water out of the cellar which was a steady job for a while this summer. Also an electric radio.

The district between our place and Brandon have been
expectantly all fall. to get it, the transformers were
put up last week & they hope to have it by Christmas.
we could not afford the expense of installation, but there
our family, very well to do, right by the side of the road
to get it in. Because, they had got along alright without
it. I will not. I cannot understand such an attitude
forgot to mention the best thing of all, I was fortunate to get
range through the Power Com. in May. Gladys said at first
that there were other things we needed more, but she really
enjoyed it before the summer cooking, canning & preserving
was done. we do not often use it now, it was installed in the
summer kitchen, & we used the other stove for heat anyway.

Winter sports are always slow to get going at Beresford, they
just started flooding the curling rink last week. I will not be
able to curl regularly, but am trying to gather up a rink
to play one of the regular rinks on Sat. afternoon. We are
having a meeting on Tues. to see what about the skating rink.
I am anxious to have it go for the sake of the youngsters.
but it was not chanced off in the fall, & now we have
a three foot growth of weeds & grass, blown full of snow,
to tackle before flooding can start.

Dad & Mother are just fair. mother had light stroke
in August & has had to be very careful ever since, she
is not supposed to do anything, but there ^{are} some things
around the house that Dad cannot do. They had a two
weeks holiday in Wpg in November. Not a gay holiday

but just a change & rest. Glad at his brothers & mother
at an old neighbours. They celebrated their golden wedding
last March. the friends & neighbours of the community
gathered & gave them a pheasant surprise, & presentation.

Christmas time comes on apace, the kids are busy
getting ready for the concert, the little fellows are anticipating
something wonderful. The Baby is not interested of course,
but is coming on, the last two days she has managed to get
up on her feet in the crib. she is a lovely baby with a fine
growth of beautiful auburn hair, & I think the most good
natured one of the bunch. Navy plays with her at great
length and it is thrilling to hear her rippling gurgling
laughter as she watches some capers which he is performing
for her benefit.

The hour is getting late, I am a slow writer, & if I had
do not finish a job it sometimes a long time before I get started
again, So wishing you and yours a very merry
Christmas and the very best of the good things that the
New Year has, from us and ours.

Yours sincerely

Robert Brownee

If I could just write as ideas flit through my mind.
you really would be weary of the letter.

Beesford Man.
Dec. 12/48

Dear Norn. & Family.

Another milestone has almost passed and we come near the Christmas season once again. This was to have been our White Gift service but we have had such a week of winter & the roads are in such a terrible condition that it was thought wise to postpone it. It has been a very nice day, ^{tho} a little sharp in the morning.

We have a very quiet, restful day with time to sleep, read & meditate over many things, the outcome of which I started to write a letter without being urged by my wife to do so. Looking back over the year, there has been ups & downs & many worries, but as the Christmas season comes around we find that we have many many blessings to thank God for. Our family is growing up at a tremendous rate, and the help that Lury gives me now is unbelievable when we think of the few short years since he was a little toddler. I managed to get them a piano and both Cordy & he are taking lessons. Their teacher is very well pleased with the progress they are making & the interest that they take in their music. Harry was very unwilling to start school last spring, but on the very first day he told his Mum, that it was far nicer than he ever thought it would be, by the report cards all three seem to be doing very well at school.

Clark has to be his Mother's helper, as it is almost more than one persons job to look after the youngest child. She is the prettiest, the smartest, & the most mischief finding youngster we ever had. She has rich auburn hair, bright blue eyes, plump rosy cheeks & the merriest smile, & steals the heart of everyone who sees her. The strain of managing them all is beginning to tell on their mother, Glad has not been too well, and last week was in Brandon & had a thorough checking over at Mr. Matheson's. An operation early in the new year, seems to offer a general improvement in her condition.

Mother has not been well since July, around harvest time she was so frail & poorly that I thought she was coming near the end of the road, she spent some time with my sister, but had to be brought up to Bede hospital. That news, apparently gave my dad a bit of shock, on our way into Brandon he had a light stroke, which rendered his right arm & leg helpless so that both of them were in the hospital. Dad for 5 weeks & mother for two. Eventually, we got them both home again, very weak & shaky but better than I ever expected to see them again, and able to manage for themselves with some help from all of us. Gladys has just told me that she has already written to you so maybe I am repeating some of what she has told you. So I had better turn to cattle & crops n things.

The crop generally, was good, except the barley which was a complete flop. We had the nicest crop of wheat we ever grew (Redman), but the acreage was not large. I made a modest splurge in rye, but the yield was only fair, & the price ditto. I did not sell for two reasons, I hoped the price might improve, & I thought it might help on Income Tax if it was held over to next year. The price rose from \$1.25 to about 1.52 and then started to slowly settle again. I have not looked at it for some time but it must be nearly 1.25 again. (The Grain Exchange & Tree Press try to tell us the advantage of open markets.)

Good old standby Vanguard oats gave me 50 Bus on third crop of good oats & splendid feed straw. I slipped from years of determination and sowed a small quantity of flax. I was fortunate to get out with 8 Bus many fields went half of that and less. So taking it all over we were fortunate.

I cut my cattle down considerably this fall, quite a few cows were getting up in years, & some grade stuff needed culling out, so I thought this was a good time to do it. I sold 1400⁰⁰ at one sweep & the years cattle receipts were just within reach of \$3000⁰⁰. If that U. S. market had been opened up earlier in the year, we would really have got some gravy. I had two fat cattle at the Winter Fair & Terry had a calf in the Club, besides several commercial stars. The prices were reasonably good, but if a few American bidders had been there it would have been really worth while.

I do not seem to be very sympathetic to the poor consumers I maintain, that they don't mind paying for anything else but raise a hell over food prices, my idea seems to be in line with a statement in this weeks paper, which said Canadians paid. 800 million for liquor & tobacco, and 200 million for milk & food products.

Our Farm Forum Group is carrying on again this winter, but had to give up last week on account of weather. World conditions still seem to be terribly unsettled, with a new sore spot breaking out this morning I don't seem to be clear yet as to who is attacking Nicaragua.

How are all you folks? we read of Bonnie's wedding & heard your names on Hamiota amateur night, we decided that Hamiota had one of the best performances this season. Is Bob still out west? & how is your baby? It is time I was in bed so to you and your house, from me & our house, I send wishes for a very merry Christmas with a Happy & Prosperous New Year

Sincerely
Robert Browder