

**Minnesota
and
its Advantages for
Immigrants
by
H. Mattson
Commissioner of Immigration**

TRANSLATOR COMMENT:

Some comments may be in order regarding the author Hans Mattson. Hans Mattson emigrated from Sweden ca 1852 and settled in the Red Wing area where he encouraged other Swedes to settle. He organized Co. D, 3rd Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which he recruited from the Swedish and Norwegian immigrant settlements in Minnesota and became its captain. He eventually became the Regiment's Commanding Officer during its campaigns in the Army of the West and was its commanding Office at the Battle for Little Rock, Arkansas and the fall of that city to Union forces. Mattson had received military training at the Kristianstad Artillery School, Kristianstad, Sweden and served in the Swedish Army prior to immigrating to America. After the Civil War, he was active in Minnesota politics and, as noted above, served as Minnesota's Commissioner of Immigration where he was very active in promoting Scandinavian emigration to Minnesota in the 1870s. He also was employed by the St Paul and Pacific Railroad as a land agent essentially in the same capacity as his tenure as Commissioner of Immigration. He also served as Minnesota's Secretary of State in 1870-1872 and was U.S. Minister to Calcutta.

Charles John LaVine, Translator

This document in the Minnesota Historical Society Collections is identified as

*F604.1
1867m
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It translates as follows:

Title Page

**Minnesota
and
its Advantages for Immigrants
containing
a description over
the State's history, its geographical situation, government,
cities, rivers, lakes, woods, climate, soil
minerals, railroads, commerce, manufacturing
and more of interest and importance for those who
seek their home in the West.**

Issued free

Chicago
“Svenska Amerikanarens”¹ Print Shop
157 Randolph Street
1867

On the reverse side of the title page is:

To my countrymen in America

This little book is by the undersigned authored with the view to serve the poor worker and those who wish to be self-standing farmers in America's West with information of use.

It is distribute free to all who desire to read it and if anyone wishes to send it to friends in Sweden or in America, he has only to by either word of mouth or in writing give to the undersigned the necessary address then the book will be sent potage free to the proper place and person.

Copies are also available (free) oat the Swedish-American's Office, 157 Randolph St., Chicago; there as well is reported all possible information and advice to immigrants.

Red Wing, Minnesota 1867

H. Mattson

Member of Minnesota's State Emigration Bureau

Minnesota and its Advantages for the Working Farmer.

Agriculture

Agriculture's history is civilization's. Every people, who during the different periods of time and going in the lead for civilization, have also been those, who most made themselves noted in agriculture's development, and history shows that there is nothing, which contributes to a peoples' freedom, independence, culture, well-being and success. than the occupation of the earth.

A new field, great and fertile, it to be found in the West, and it is there the strong and full-of-hope immigrant ought to turn his glance. Used to the working of land from the home, gifted with good strength, the desire to work, frugality and perseverance, is there not a people, who succeed better with agriculture/farming in the West, than the Scandinavians. Principally the end goal of the trip to the new land is, with the most, is to get one's own farm; but these, not-withstanding, stay in all too great masses in the cities and there seek work. Many do it certainly from lack of money to go further or to begin a little farm with, but when they have

¹ Translates as “The Swedish American's”

acquired the necessary money/means, they have become used to the life in the city and often remain there.

The hand workers or tradesmen is not talked about here, for they ought always to stay in the cities so far as they wish to continue with their occupation, rather if the greater class, which by means is of unskilled labor, make there their residence there, and it is certain that these make a great mistake, both against themselves but especially their children through not acquiring their own land. The worker's pay is certainly much great here that in Sweden, and day work in the cities is therefore an opportunity to acquire for oneself better food, better clothing and many pleasantries that he in Sweden only knew by name. But this is also all. It is seldom he can acquire for himself even here in order to get oneself one's own home in the great cities, for there property is very expensive. He is more exposed to illness [or] for lack of work in regard to the financial turbulences; he himself and his children are exposed to many dangers and temptations, which farmers do not know. In brief, he can never feel himself so free, so independent or attach himself to the home with such joy and with such hopes as the farmer, the one who owns his own land, his animals and the harvest that God allows to grow, as well as when he sleeps as when he is awake, as well as when he is sick as well as when he is healed.

Among the many fruitful states in the West, none is more suitable or more advantageous as a home for the Scandinavian emigrant than the young state of Minnesota.

History and Geographical Situation

Minnesota is one of the youngest states in the Union and [was permitted] to enter as a state in 1858. The name stems from two Indian words "Minne" and "Sotha" (sky colored water) because of the many beautiful rivers and inland lakes, whose crystal clear waters mirror themselves with the azure blue skies. The State lies between 43 ½ and the 49th degree of Latitude and 91 and 97 degrees West Longitude.

It is in its area one of the largest states, namely 84,000 English square miles and contains 54 million acres of land.

This important tract was almost completely unknown to the Anglo-Americans, long since after other less inviting parts of the country had been the object for industry's, science's and religion's creation moving in. In truth, up until the last 25 years was solitude's sacred' silence unbroken by any sound, with the exceptions of those from the wild animals and the wild men: and the prairie, the lakes and the streams were in like degree in the wild native's occupation. But now steamboats plow through our state's waters, locomotives whistle through these valleys; the chop of the axe sound from the immense woods and culture's work goes forward with almost example-less speed.

The emigrant, the tourist and the surveyor have now scouted throughout the state to its outermost borders, observations have discovered facts, scientists have made their conclusions and the spirits of enterprise ness have developed sources of help, which give Minnesota a foremost place among the Union's states because of its natural beauty, its climate, its richness

in the land's economic and [natural] resources. The extensive and the great diversity of the advantages, which relieves manufacturing establishments, and its exceptionally advantageous for commerce's location makes it into the most excellent location for the multitude who come from the East, either to seek/find for themselves a home or a new land for their spirit of enterprise and better reasons to finally find success.

Minnesota's history stretches far back into the dark beginnings when savage and warlike tribes were the country's lords. Almost two hundred years are past since the white man for the first time visited the Upper Mississippi River valley; and since he, during the passage of this period, slowly, steadily and surely has established his position and as a result brought in a civilized life's arts [and] have on each other following generations debauched the savage natives of their life of hunting, fishing and warring and are vanished without a remains of any trace of civilization or improvement.

But first for twenty-five years past, the while pioneer in multitudes began to intrude upon his copper-colored brother's hunting territory, and since then has the stream of immigrants rushed forth with unappeasable power. Hardly was the fire extinguished in the Indian's Wigwam before one saw smoke sling up towards the sky from his white successor's cabin.

The great prairies were quickly changed to fields of wheat, school houses and churches, villages and cities sprang up as if through a stroke of magic; the last traces remaining of the Indian are now almost vanished, and under Christianity's and civilization's mild influence, these bountiful stretches of land are in a rapid increasing culture's condition.

Governance

Minnesota has, like the other states in the Union, a republican constitution divided in three definite separate divisions of power: the legislative, the executive and the judicial. The legislative power consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives. These corps/bodies meet annually the first Tuesday in January and are in session 60 days.

The executive power consists of the Governor and Vice Governor, a Secretary of State, an Auditor, a State Assessor and an Attorney General who are elected by a plurality through the people's voting.

The judicial power rests with the Highest Court, District Judges, Investigative Judges and Justices of the Peace.

The State Constitution assures the adopted citizen the same civil rights and freedoms as the native citizen. No ownership of property is required in order to employ the right to vote; and while persons born abroad, who has assured/sworn their intention to become citizens in accordance with the United States' legislation about naturalization, enjoy this right together with the native or the naturalized citizen.

Counties and Towns (sic)

The state is divided into 72 counties, whereof 50 are organized in the legal sense with regard to the exercising of the taxation function, the exacting of taxes, etc. The County's officers are a committee called "Board of Commissioners", a Treasurer, an Auditor, a Sheriff, an Examining Judge, a Register of Titles and other documents, a Surveyor, a Probate Officer, a Procurator/County Attorney, a Justice Commissioner (Court commissioner) and a Coroner. More than half of these counties are again divided into Townships (communes), whereof each especially elects its officer, which consists of three Supervisors (sic), a Secretary (Town Clerk), an Assessor, two Justices of the Peace and two police officers or Constables.

Taxation

The maintenance of a combined machinery of government must, in a new, sparsely populated state in comparison to its ability to support it, be more expensive than in an old and rich community. Yet Minnesota, in the regard, may be advantageously compared with older Western states.

Surveying of Land

Approximately half of the state's area is surveyed. This surveying was carried out after the same principle over the whole of the Western states such that the lines go towards north and south, east and west. The divisions proceed first into townships six miles square, and each and everyone of these townships is again divided into 36 sections, each a mile square, and numbered from 1 to 36; in this it begins with the northeasterly corner of the township where after the numbers run west and then east again in a regular manner. Boundary markers are established for every half mile on the section lines, so that one by thereafter by drawing a line across each section [between these markers] from north to south and east to west dividing it into $\frac{1}{4}$ parts, each of a 160 acres.

Cities and larger places

St Paul, the state's capitol and the foremost place of commerce, has a romantic location on the embankments of the Mississippi's head of navigation, The population was, at the last census in 1860, 10,401. The city has a capitol, a beautiful building of stone, various beautiful churches, several first class hotels and many elegant private buildings.

St Anthony on the east side of the river, nine miles above St Paul, has a beautiful overlook of the waterfall from which it gets its name. It is the seat for Minnesota's university and has numbers of beautiful buildings. The population is 3 or 4,000. Its principal functions are its milling and sawmill firms.

Minneapolis on the west side of the Mississippi divides with St Anthony the there available water power, which is available through the waterfall at the same location. A canal is under construction, which shall make this waterpower usable for an unlimited collection/congregation of machinery. This village lies on a high, undulating prairie. It has

various beautiful public and private buildings, a population of several thousand, and is, to no insignificant extent, engaged in the commerce and fabricating traffic. A railway, which goes over to the south, shall here attain a connection with the Minnesota and Pacific Line, which goes west. The countryside, which surrounds the three principal cities with their suburbs, is noteworthy for beauty and variety and picturesque views. Towards the east and the west stretch out broad and open prairies, decorated with beautiful groves of trees and wonderful lakes with crystal-clear waters. The Mississippi shoots and slumbers in its deeply gouged, rapid-filled bed; not long from it is found the lively foaming Mine-ha-ha of classical fame, a fall of 64 feet at the one ledge, between high escarpments, steep cliffs and numerous grottos created by nature's hand in the soft sandstone, and birds and flowers and refreshing winds and a clear sky create a frame around this delightful summer landscape and makes it to be one of the most pleasant places on the earth.

Hastings, Red Wing, Wabashaw and Winona are significant, flourishing places on the Mississippi below St Paul; each and everyone of these has some thousand residents and great amounts of grain are shipped out from there.

Stillwater on the St Croix is a flowering place, which conducts a large wood shipping business.

Anoka on the Rum River near its joining with the Mississippi is a country city with around 1,500 residents, who principally employ themselves with wood shipping functions and barrel making.

Shakopee, Henderson, Carver, St Peter, Mankato and New Ulm are the principal places on the Minnesota River.

Kingston and Forest City on the Crow River; Excelsior on Minnetonka; Richmond, Paynesville, Hutchinson, Glencoe, Sauk Center and Alexandria are small country villages in the interior of the state's western part. Rochester, Chatfield, St Charles, Owatonna, Mantorville, Faribault and Northfield are blooming places in the interior of the state's southern part. Lake City is a flowering city by Lake Pepin. St Cloud is the principal city in the upper Mississippi valley 69 miles above St Anthony Falls. It has around 2,000 residents and is the center for a significant commerce with the interior. Duluth and Portland are the principal places on Lake Superior.

Schools

Minnesota's common schools are liberally remembered through the Congressional law, which appropriated to them all Sections with the number 16 and 36 in every Township [and] which makes up an eighteenth part of the state. The Constitution establishes that the income from this land shall remain as a standing/permanent school fund for the state, and the capital, which comes in through the sales of such land, shall be undisturbed, undiminished for perpetuity and the income from [its] covenanting or sale be divided to the different Townships in relationship to each one's number of youths between 5 and 21 years of age.

This immense inheritance for the yet unborn millions shall, protected by an appropriate legislation, bring primary schools into the neighborhood of every home in the state. It does not scrimp either on the efforts of those who have gotten themselves entrusted with the state's training system to make Minnesota's public schools in every way equally as good as similarly established schools in the eastern states.

The Population's Character

Around $\frac{1}{4}$ -part of the whole Minnesota population belongs to the Catholic Church; the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ - parts are divided among the different Protestant faiths of which the Baptists, Methodists and Lutherans make up the greatest part.

The population for 1860 shows that, of Minnesota's population, around 65 percent are American citizens; of these hardly 2 percent come from the slave states while the remaining 63 percent are from New England, the free Middle States/Border States or the western Northern states. Of the remaining 35 percent, foreigners are representatives from the British provinces: Great Britain, Ireland and almost every land in the British [Empire]. Of the natives, the most come from the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, Wisconsin and Illinois, while the Germanic States, Sweden, Norway and the British Province of Canada have sent the greatest part of the foreign-born population.

We have herein a key to the character of the population, which here laid the groundswell to this great and important state in the Northwest. The hardened Swede and Norwegian recently arriving from their strong mountains; Germans from the fatherland used to work and well brought up, Irish with their strong and hard muscles and incomparable characteristic humor; native citizens just arrived from the farms, factories and schools, which are the Free States' pride. Criminal statistics speak to the advantage for Minnesota compared with other states. Supervised criminals in Ohio stand in the relationship of 1 of 1,950 residents, 1 of 884 in New York, 1 of 1,990 in Massachusetts and in Minnesota only 1 of 3,854. This comparison-wise large freedom from crime has without doubt its basis in the peoples' character who have immigrated here. Minnesota did not shout about any gold mines and made no promises about luxurious calm for the drowsy, simple minded or the spoilt, and if the rich decline to exchange enjoyments in their palaces against a neighboring life's privation, so are they who create the outer extreme of society and with whom the crime is a treatment, to likewise so unwillingly stand off from the city life's advantages.

The great majority of the emigrants, who have settled in these northwesterly states, consist accordingly of the industrious, enterprising and intelligent middle class in the society – such, who have saved a part of their earnings in order to improve their position and assure themselves better outlooks for their children, and who have saved a little bit aside for one or another financial accident.

These carry with their industrious customs, frugality and good management, and quickly plant in their new home education's and religion's honor-filled institutions. Side by side and almost at the same time by some humble, timbered cottages, a log school house arises, which in some few years serves in the different attributes of a church or a meeting place

for political meetings of all types. Some few years pass by and the cabins give room for dapper, comfortable residences, the school's log house is exchanged against a beautiful building, painted and equipped with new improvements, and in the vicinity stands the tower-adorned temple, consecrated to religion's worship.

Lyceums, reading societies and other similar associations are created and are persisting in country villages with only some few hundred residents. Daily postal times are found at all of the places on principal thoroughfares, and the most remote-laying settlement is visited once a week by the letter carrier. Local newspapers in all of the principal cities enjoy a widely spread support and maintenance, and educational/scientific papers are read as well by all classes. – It is not any exceptionality to see a man of scientific character who understands a labor of hand or to steer the plow or swing the axe, while in his cabin, a woman manages, whose education should honor the magnificent social rooms in the eastern states.

Climate

The climate is now generally recognized to be the best in the United States. The air is dry and clean and free from the humidity that leads to fevers and lung illnesses. Thousands of invalids from the East and the Middle States take their haven here and are often returned to health without other means than only the breathing in of the fresh air. Likewise adequate rain falls here, and in no other state in the Union does rain and snow fall more regularly.

Summer is adequately warm in order to make corn ripe and all the other products/crops of the Middle States/Midwest. Much misunderstanding abounds concerning winter in Minnesota; many think that here it too cold for farming, livestock raising and the resident's comfort. This is a mistake. The cold here is no severer than in the middle part of Sweden. Snow usually falls at the end of December and lies one or two feet deep until the middle of March. The country/land is, because of its high situation, free from fall frosts, which so often lay waste the growing products/crops in the lower middle states.

The following table is an excerpt from the official United States Census for 1860 and speaks best for itself in regard to the climate's healthiness in comparison with other states in the West:

<i>State</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>One of Each</i>
Illinois	1,711,951	19,263	88
Iowa	684,913	7,260	93
Indiana	1,350,438	15,205	88
Kansas	107,306	1,443	74
Michigan	749,113	7,399	101
Missouri	1,182,012	17,557	67
Ohio	2,339,511	24,724	94
Wisconsin	775,831	7,129	108
Texas	694,215	9,309	64
Nebraska	28,841	381	75

Physical Character

A country's physical character exercises an important influence on its residents. "Grand scenery, rushing waters and an invigorating atmosphere" – says the history writer – "beget men of another character than they who live where the land is dead flat and the streams run slowly." Although Minnesota is not a mountainous land, its general elevation gives, all the same, all of the advantages that belong to a mountain country without having its disadvantages. As Minnesota is equally distant from the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and is located on a raised plateau with a system of lakes and rivers suitable to a whole kingdom, it has an exceptional climate, which is not found in any other state. The earth's surface in general for the greater part of the state is even or wav, in a pleasant manner changing with rolling prairies, wide stretched bands of woods and oak "openings", numerous lakes, and streams with their meadows, waterfalls, wooded valleys and high mountain tops

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Mississippi, 2,400 miles long, which waters a greater land district/area than any other river in the world, with the exception of the Amazon River, arises in the lake Itasca in the northern part of Minnesota and flows southerly through the state for 797 miles, of which 134 established its different boundaries. It is navigable for large boats to St Paul, and above St Anthony Falls for smaller boats approximately 150 miles further. The time of the year for the opening of navigation has opened as early as the 25th of March, but usually begins the first to the middle of April and ends between the middle of November and the 1st of December. [In] 1865 and 1866, excursions on steamboats occurred from St Paul on the 1st of December and the river remained open for several days longer. The foremost cities, great and small on the Mississippi in Minnesota, counted upward from the bottom, are Winona, Wabashaw, Lake City, Red Wing, Hastings, St Paul, Minneapolis, St Anthony, Anoka, Dayton, Monticello, St Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Watab.

The Minnesota River, whose source is located in the Coteau de Prairies in the Dacotah Territory, flows from Big Stone Lake at the state's western border, a distance of near 500 miles, through the heart of the state's southwestern part and empties into the Mississippi at Ft Snelling 5 miles above St Paul. It is navigable as far up as to Yellow Medicine, 239 miles above its mouth under good water conditions. Its foremost places are Shakopee, Chaska, Carver, Belle Plaine, Henderson, Le Seur, Traverse de Sioux, St Peter, Mankato and New Ulm.

The St Croix River arises in Wisconsin near Lake Superior, creates about 130 miles of the state's border. It falls into the Mississippi almost opposite Hastings and is navigable to Taylors Falls around 130 miles. It goes through coal districts and falls with enormous waterpower along its course. The principal locations on the same are Stillwater and Taylors Falls.

The Red River, which arises in Lake Traverse and flows northward, creates the state's western boundary from Big Stone Lake to the British Possessions, a distance of 380 miles. It is navigable from Breckenridge at the mouth of the Bois des Sioux River to Hudson's Bay; the Saskatchewan, a tributary of the Red River, is understood also to be a navigable river, therefore promising an active commercial engagement from this wide-stretched region via St Paul and the Pacific Railroad when it is built, which unites the navigable water in the Red River with those to the Mississippi.

The Carmon River², which divides Dakota and Goodhue Counties, can be made into a navigable stream through various improvements, for which a society/association with a capital of \$50,000 has established itself.

Among the more important of the numerous small streams are the Rum River of value for those who ship timber, the Vermilion River, which falls with inexhaustible water power and possesses one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the United States; Crow, Blue Earth, Sauk, Le Seur, Zumbro, Cottonwood, Long Prairie, Red Wood, Waraju, Pejuta, Ziza, Mauja Wakan, Buffalo, Wild Rice, Plum, Sand Hill, Clear Water, Red Lake, Thief, Black, Red Cedar and the Des Moines. The St Louis River, a large river which flows into Lake Superior, is navigable for 21 miles from its entrance into the lake and with a water power at its falls comparable with the Mississippi's falls, St Anthony, and many others as well as the innumerable tributaries to all of these larger tributaries. The sources for most of these streams are high, their courses strongly downward and bring about the most beautiful system of water power in the world. Many of the streams, with deeply gouged channels, are filled with trout, hum and dance over the prairies, often taking a higher beginning, creating a beautiful and romantic character.

THE LAKES

Lake Superior, the greatest inland lake in the world, forms a part of Minnesota's eastern border, giving it 167 miles of seacoast with one of the best natural harbors and wave breaks at Duluth, Minnesota, which is found on this coast. When the Superior and Mississippi Railroad is completed, which joins the state's commercial center with Superior, a great sea traffic will come into existence.

The state's surface is filled with innumerable lakes besides. They are of all possible sizes, [from] 500 alnar³ in diameter to 10 miles. Their picturesque beauty and loveliness with their gravel bottoms, transparent waters [and] wooded shores must wake wonder within every man of nature. They all overflow with fish: perch, pike, "catfish", "sun fish", etc. of exceptional quality and taste, and in the spring and the fall, they are the haunt for innumerable ducks, geese and other wild birds. In some locations they are found alone, in others they are found in groups. Many are without outlets; others are the sources to winding and of meadow-bordered streams. These lakes are like water reservoirs, which penetrate through the soil and through their transpiration/evaporation cause the summer rain.

² May be misprint for the Cannon River.

³ An "aln" is an old Nordic measurement of length dating from the Viking times roughly equivalent to our "yard. It can be from 2 to 3 feet plus in length, varying by time and location.

WOODS

The land is rather evenly divided between woods and the so call prairie land, and no prairie state has so great a supply of woods as this one. The northern part of the state contains an enormous woods, which is estimated to be 21,000 square miles; from here many of the southern states are supplied with their building lumber. Another woods called the Big Woods begins on the western side of the Mississippi River near St Paul and stretches 100 miles to the west out by the Minnesota River and 60 miles to the north; in addition there are a multitude of woods by all of the rivers and the hundreds of mirror-clear lakes, which here and there water and decorate the landscape.

MINERALS

COPPER AND IRON. Minnesota' mineral products are an important source to the kingdom. In the northern part of the state is found copper and iron ore of exceptional quality. The copper mines are located by the northern beaches of Lake Superior and are rich and extensive. Rather pure test of copper ore have been gotten from the Stuart and Knife Rivers. Compact iron ore supplies have also been found in the Portage and Pigeon Rivers, which iron in toughness and workability shall be comparable with the best Swedish or Russian.

Physical Characteristic

THE NOBLE METALS. A geological investigation under the state's auspices in the summer of 1865 showed the presence of noble metals on the shores of Lake Vermillion 80 miles north of Lake Superior's upper most end. Scientific analysis showed gold and silver in quartz in suitable amounts in order to recommend the employment of labor and capital for their [extraction], and for this purpose, a number of stock companies have been created, and a goodly number of enterprising persons, equipped with the necessary work tools for mining, to give off to this location to seek gold. But the richest sources for a state's wealth is a productive soil, and in this regard Minnesota is not to be exceeded. There is a gold mine in each farm of 100 acres and it does nor requires capital to work it, rather diligence.

LIMESTONE of fine quality for building purposes is found in many parts of the state (Truthfully almost every where) and provides ample material for the production of lime.

SOURCES OF SALT. Numerous, rather pure sources of salt, giving around one bushel of salt for every 24 gallons of water, are found numerously in the Red River valley. The Northwest, which consumes great quantities of salt for the packaging of pork and beef meat and other purposes, can presently get its needs from this source. The value of this branch of income can be estimated from the fact that two million bushels annual are imported alone to Chicago from New York and Pennsylvania.

COAL. Coal supplies have been discovered by the Big Cottonwood River, a tributary to the Minnesota, and a sign of its presence have been observed in other locations. A company

has been established in order to work the Cottonwood veins and some geologists believe with certainty that rich beds still should be discovered.

Peat for Fuel

In a northern land, it is an available and cheap fuel of the greatest weight. If anyone imagines that Minnesota is a cold, wood-less tract, might he immediately come out of this fantasy. Our pine and spruce woods are adequate to provide the whole country with lumber, while over the whole countryside, the proportion of woodland and prairie is just right in order to make it for a good agricultural and livestock grazing land. Besides, nature has so arranged that every shortage of wood or coal can be filled through the immeasurable and inexhaustible supplies of peat, a cheap and available substitute for both household need and fabrication's purposes.

Such supplies are found 20 to 50 foot deep over the whole state. A machine for the pressing of the peat has been invented, which makes this equally as solid as stone coal and almost equally useful for the production of heat and superior to wood.

THE SOIL

An investigation of the soil in different locations in this state shows an exceptional sameness/uniformity of the presence of the elements, which are acceptable importantly for the highest fertility. Organic materials, lime, potash, are, in the investigation, found in great proportions. In the district, which lies on the Mississippi's westerly expanse and southward from Ft Snelling, the great proportion should be of clay, in everyday language characterizing the soil as "greasy loam". But that layer, which usually is created over the surface in this part of the state, should be called "black loam". This layer varies in depth from one to three feet and rests in general on a very thick substrate of a sand and clay mixture.

THE DRAINING OF WATER

Without regard to the peculiar elements to fertility, which Minnesota has in common with the whole Mississippi valley's fruitful bottom land, it appears impossible to speak in all too sharp/definite terms about the peculiarities, which insure the complete drainage of unnecessary water and the greatest possible warmth [for the soil].

A substratum of clay, which retains water, should cause a serious postponement of plowing in the spring, and a substratum of course sand could often lead to the occurrence of drought during the summer's almost tropical heat. But the top surface-present fine sand's quick absorption of the melting snow insures the farmer the advantage of an early spring. Through the same medium is drawn up the moisture from the earth's nurse in order to satisfy the west's need during the growth's most hazardous period.

Later on, the almost everywhere the ruling dark brown color of the soil becomes support for the acceptance of the sun's rays' warmth and this warmth is retained with noticeable strength through the sand's exceptional fineness.

The informed agriculturalist, who is familiar with the results of a thorough draining (sic), shall understand the importance of these natural advantages and look to which extent they allow themselves to be used. [Also following this drainage is] freedom from swamp ness or the avoidance of the minor frosts, as well as the agreeable nature and assurance, which follows with cultivation of a soil, that does not offer any difficulties, rather the opposite makes possible the use of all type of agricultural machinery.

Products/Crops

Wheat is the state's main crop, and Minnesota is recognized as being the best wheat field in America and Europe, both in regards to the earth's fertility and the grains' quality. Minnesota's wheat is worth from 15 to 20 cents more per bushel than any wheat in the United States. The following table, according to official statistical information, gives the wheat yields in Minnesota in comparison with the other best wheat fields in America:

	<i>Yield on average</i>
	<i>Per acre</i>
Minnesota	22 bushels
Ohio	17 “
Michigan	10 “

PRODUCTS, GROWTH

In the year 1865, 400,000 acres in Minnesota were sown with wheat and gave a harvest of 10 million bushels, or on the average 25 bushels per acre. But it is not only wheat, which grows so favorably here, rather all the other northerly products. So, by example, the oat harvest was for 1865 51 ½ bushels per acre; rye 24 bushels per acre; potatoes yield often 300 bushels per acre and corn 50 or 60 bushels.

The following table shows Minnesota's crop resource/supply and harvest in average per acre”

<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Average of bushels per acre</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Average of bushels per acre</i>
Wheat	...22.05	Sweet potato.....	150.00
Rye	21.56	Beans.....	15.00
Grain.....	33.23	Hemp (skålpund) ⁴	1,140.00....
Oats .	42.39	Flax	750.00
Buckwheat	20.00	Sorghum (gal. of syrup).	100.00
Corn	35.67	Hay (tons)	2.12
Potatoes	208.00		

⁴ A Swedish weight of measure before Sweden adopted the metric system in 1889. It was the equivalent to 425 grams or and English/American pound.

The above table is extracted from the 1860 Census and several other sources, and gives only the yields of the harvests in average numbers and can be considered as a beautiful result for the state as a whole, the one year to the other. It must likewise be remembered that the annual yield of most of Minnesota's soil, with fertilizer and careful cultivation, is often near double against the above noted numbers.

Rye, barley, and buckwheat thrive exceptionally in Minnesota. The climatic influence, which gives Minnesota wheat its recognized precedence among grain itself, is noted particularly upon the barley's quality. This begins so generally to be recognized, that it is already exported in significant quantities in order to supply the breweries in the middle states. The average harvest per acre of various types of grains are as follows:

	1857	1860	1962	1863
Rye	19.4	21.56	24.00	-----
Barley,.....	29.1	33.23	34.00	37.50
Buckwheat	6.5	15.73	26.00	-----

One must remember thatr 1859 was a poor grain year, and the limited buckwheat for some years results from the fact that it is usually sown on land that that is not of use to any other thing.

POTATOES. Minnesota produces the best seed in the North. In regard to their floury richness and tastefulness, they are already considered as a delicacy in the states to the immediate south of Minnesota, and the market places for them appears quickly across the Mississippi Valley's states, as can be seen from the their increased transportation. Minnesota's potato yields are especially free of potato diseases, which often attack those in the states south of Minnesota. In the fall of 1864, the greater part of the potatoes in St Louis and the Eastern markets [were] sick, while Minnesota potatoes were completely healthy. The average harvest in 1859, according to the Assessor's' information, [was] only 115 bushels per acre; 1860 138; 1865 164. These figures must however not be taken to give a reliable presentation of the soil's ability, when one knows that the soil that gave these results was over grown with grass and only plowed up and not cared for in other manners than through a pair of plowings. If the necessary attention is paid to with the plowing, the harvest should be from 300 to 400 bushels per acre.

SORGHUM . Only limited attention is granted to this crop in Minnesota. It is distinctly suitable for a warmer climate, but if it is planted early in the spring in our rich soil/ground, it shall grow and produce equally with any other place in the world. [The average yield] from rather incomplete information has been given as 72 ½ gallons, but in some cases cite though, a production of 200 and up to 300 gallons has been gotten from one acre, and it suffers no doubt of course that the average harvest can with certainty be anticipated to be from 100 to 150 gallons per acre.

MAPLE SYRUP Sugar maples are found in masses in the state's wooded parts. A yield of 370,947 skålp⁵. of maple sugar was reported in 1860.

⁵ An abbreviation of "skålpund".

TOBACCO. [In] 1862, 48,137 skålp of tobacco, in average 1,140 skålp per acre in the state.

HAY. Timothy and clover thrive in Minnesota; white clover, red clover (red top) and blue grass (blue grass) seem to be especially suitable for the soil and soon cover every well-grazed land. The cultivated fodder crops are however used highly little; the luxuriant availability of natural grasses, which cover the immeasurable surface of natural meadows created by the alluvial bottoms among the intertwined net of streams that overall course through the country, are equally rich and present at this latitude as the best exotic types, which makes cultivation [of the fodder crops] unnecessary. The average yield of these grass types is 2.12 tons per acre.

LINEN/FLAX TYPES. The usual types of linen [and] hemp, which only reaches their completeness in a cold climate, thrive especially well in Minnesota. Their outer cover in the southern climate is hard but brittle because the growth is so quickly forced to ripeness that the linen does not have neither firmness nor tenaciousness. Minnesota is comparable to northern Europe in regard to linen and hemp production. The hemp harvest came to 1,140 skålp per acre in 1862, linen 750.

Onion, turnips, parsnips, carrots, red beet, and almost all root crops feel at home, like potatoes.

SWEET POTATOES. Our marl-rich, warm, sandy soil is just suitable for them, but our time of year is somewhat short. Set early, this potato gives however a good harvest. The average yield in 1862 was 150 bushels per acre.

SALAD CORPS. Lettuce, endive, celery and spinach are not only crisper here than in warmer climates, rather also more nourishing because they grow slowly.

MELONS And PUMPKINS of all types reach a surprising size and possess a rich sugar content and an aromatic taste.

BEANS and PEAS of various types are beautiful and bountiful. Rhubarb grows wild.

It may be that no state in the Union rewards the earth's working so surely and richly as here. It is easily cleaned from weeds, and once free there from, the harvest [of crops] can easily prevent their return again. Two properly carried out workings of the soil/ground can assure a yield of almost every type of grain.

ANIMAL and ANIMAL PRODUCTS The immense introduction of sheep, whose numbers up to the present time have annually risen in a very strong relationship, is suitable proof therefore that the people in Minnesota are convinced about the state's climate and the

soil's duly considered suitability for this important branch of agricultural management For those who are not acquainted with this fact, it can be expedient to take note:

1st That the land's natural water flows and the air's extreme dryness are known as the means of security against injurious illnesses and contribute to a high degree so that sheep in general flourish.

2nd The land's undulating surface is fit for sheep through the thus available protection from the wind.

3rd The complete absence of rain storms and sleet during the winter months, and such weather disturbances are seldom during the other seasons, making it so, that the animals are less exposed to hard weather and consequently to illnesses.

4th Sheep in good condition require less supervision and less expensive feeding than normal/usual.

5th As a result of the natural situation, a cold climate brings forth finer qualities and greater quantities of wool and better pelts than a warmer.

These above standing truths probably are conceded by all and one hardly needs to add:

1st that infectious diseases are hardly known here, rather that they are imported from the outside.

2nd that sheep flourish without any especial care during the course of the severe seasons and need only the common cover as protection against the wind.

3rd it is well known that sheep irregardless of race, which are brought from the southern states here, reach a finer quality and that one usually looks forward to an increase in the wool from a half to a whole skålpund.

Before we leave this matter, we should note that the costs for the transportation of a skålp of wool to the seacoast under normal conditions is two cents, while the corresponding costs for a bushel of wheat is 75. When we also take into consideration the, proportion-wise, greater inexpensiveness and security in production, and the important fact that in one field our soil loses in quality and in the other field [it] rises, so could we not make ourselves wonder over the general speculation in sheep breeding, or that, as a result of the encouragement that lies in an increased production of wool, first class wool factories arise and brings about an in-home/local market and a profitable competition with foreign buyers.

HORSES and cattle thrive well and could be raised to the utmost greatest advantage for the farmer.

FRUIT CULTIVATION. Both local and from the outside introduced small fruits flourish in Minnesota.

Gooseberries, cranberries, wild raspberries/black berries⁶, strawberries, and black and red currants of exceptional goodness are found in masses. The wild wine grapes found on the higher locations and the cultivated grape types, which are accustomed to the northern states,

⁶ Mattson writes the word "brombär". It is not in current usage. In the Svenska Akaademiens Ordbok (The Swedish Academy's Dictionary of the Swedish Language, it is archaic but can denote either the wild raspberry or the black berry, both of which are found wild in Minnesota.

become fully ripe. The wild apples are everywhere. The wild growing plumbs here is a fruit of great value, not only because some of its types are free from its binding properties and thus to be ordered as a dessert, but also because one through knowledgeable cultivation can increase their size and goodness.

GROWTH

No state in the Union, with the exception of California, has such fast growth and [development] as this, and the population, through emigration from Europe as well as the tightly populated states, so quickly increases, that it can not take long before it become one of the most populated states, and one whose [every] resource is soon developed. In the year 1850, the number of residents was only 5,000, in 1860 it came up to 175,000, 1865 to 250,000 and further increased in the beginning of last year by 60,000, so that the population the 1st of June this past year was estimated as 310,000. The Governor in his last address considered 30,000 as a moderate estimate of the growth since this last named date, which make the present total population in the state, 340,000 in number, of these around 50,000 are Swedes and Norwegians.

Only the discernable part of the state is occupied. The middle part, which is the best part of the state, is still for the most open for the new settler and there are still in different parts of the state so much unoccupied, undivided and fertile land, that that each arriver can still in several years get a farm of 100 acres.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW

The Untied States' so-called "Homestead Law" gives the following persons 160 acres of land against payment of \$15 at the Land Office and guarantees this land to the possessor against all presented debts and seizures, namely:

- 1st The applicant shall finally be the head of a household.
- 2nd Or over 21 years old.
- 3rd Or having served in the United States army, in which case he can be under 21 years
- 4th He may not have bourn arms against the Unites States' government or have helped or supported its enemies.
- 5th He may be a citizen of the United States or have officially declared his intention to become one.
- 6th He shall live upon and cultivate chosen farm for five years.

Widows and unmarried women of the established age have equal rights under this as as the men.

Thousands of poor workers in all the states and countries now direct their glances with desire towards the West; there they could on such good conditions become owners of their own land. It would be desirable that all of the common laborers among our own countrymen, who now are living in the large American cities, they from the giver of work, getting their sustenance, will in full force move out and take advantage for themselves of these

opportunities. No more certain means is found in any country for their independence. The American understands that to take advantage of the opportunity, he leaves his old worn out farm in the East and takes up a new one here; the best opportunities are quickly taken up by him, and the foreigner gets to afterwards purchase it from him for \$10 to \$20 per acre.

THE SETTLER'S LIFE

In order to be able to utilize the advantages, which the Homestead Law gives, it is naturally necessary to go beyond the great settlements to where the government's land is still available.

The author of this little book should be badly misunderstood if anyone, from what here is said about Minnesota, should come to the conclusion that settler life, not only here but everywhere, is not united with laborious privations and troubles for each and everyone, but especially those who are poor shall not avoid to meet such, [both] in Minnesota as well as in other locations/places; those who do not possess fresh courage and firm purpose to overcome/conquer the settler's difficulties, ought not to come here, but for such it will be well difficult to improve themselves where ever they go; he can however by his own knowledge/experience and with the greatest sincerity/honesty be assured that the life in the West in a new settlement, where the nature squanders its richest collections, has so many happy life-changing and encouraging sides that they properly outweigh all privations and courage.

Those who have a couple of hundred dollars of capital can easily take themselves out to a new settlement. He takes his land, builds his "logg" house, leaves his family there and seeks then work in the area or on the railroad. [If] he can only provide for himself and keep the land for three years, then is his future safe; for the land itself is then worth enough to make him independent.

It would be desirable if a larger association of [fellow] countrymen could, for the first year, join together and have animals and agricultural equipment in common, and so establish it that the work of those without private means could correspond to the capitalist's money, and all be equally helped. But if this could not well become reality in consequence the settlers' unfamiliarity with each other, it would be well if 3 or 4 families, who know each other especially if they have only little means, join together regarding the draught animals and equipment; in this way they can be of greater help to each other. So could, for example, four persons with \$100 each buy an ox team, wagon and plow together, and this will, during the first year, be sufficient for all of them.

Those who intend to reside in a new settlement ought to be there in the summer as early as possible [so that] he may get some acres of land plowed up for the coming year. (Neighbors help each other to build their "log" houses, which with 2 or 3 days of work is able to be made comfortable.) If his means permit him to stay at home during the summer, so he finds adequate work with the new plowing, the harvest of hay, and the like, but if he is in need of earnings, so 2 or 3 of the four, who have joined together, go out and seek work during the summer; during [this time], the fourth sees to the work at home and with the common draught

animals plows up 10 or 15 acres on each [others] claim. Products are always cheap in a new settlement provided some have lived there more than one year. One can therefore, with the summer's earnings, easily provide for the family during the winter, and the following year the then partly plowed up land will richly provide for them. Each dollar that can be done without ought to be used for the buying of livestock: cows, pigs, sheep, etc. The rich fields give rich nourishment to thousands of such, and in several years they increase themselves so much that they in important degree contribute to the farmer's well-being and independence.

If the poor settler is able to get ten or only five acres plowed up the first summer, so will it be easy enough for him to get this acreage doubled the following year and again doubled the year following that; then he begins to be able dispose of some hundreds of bushels of wheat and corn, and then he can even, as far as he has chosen the right location, with tolerable certainty count upon that the railroad [has arrived] to his neighborhood in order to transport these products to the East. His livestock has during this time increased, he has built a better house and stone fence, and if he is only careful and does not involve himself in any speculations or assume any debts, so must he thereafter unconditionally improve his circumstances year after year. His land now has high value and he can rightly say to himself to have made his own luck, which the work-willing poor immigrant can on any place count upon.

The emigrants, who do not have any means, ought to, especially if they have large families, stop/stay in the older settlements or by the railroad, where at they could with more assurance receive work and earn enough to be able to purchase for themselves the necessary necessities before they go off to the thinly populated tracts, and all ought to provide that they have adequate supplies of provisions before winter begins.

LABOR'S EARNINGS

In a state where almost every male person has his own farm, the general well-being always rules, and although we do not have many especially rich people here, so we do not either have many poor, and because each person as far as possible wishes to work his own land, so are there not found many who offer their work to others. The earnings from work are in general therefore much better here than in the other states. Especially is this the case in the summer and the fall. The many railroads that are now being built present moreover work to all who wish to accept it, and no one who can and wishes to work needs to fear to be without earnings.

The general wage for a common laborer now is 1 ½ dollars a day. Carpenters and bricklayers receive 2 or 3 dollars a day; a servant girl 2 dollars a week. During the harvest season, much larger day's wages are paid.

RAILROADS

The whole state is now cut through with six different railroads, which to a part some are complete and all of the others under construction. The United States' Congress has, through gifts of land, laid the ground for the railroad system in Minnesota, which is not exceeded by any other state. These gifts (grants) consist of ten sections or 6,400 acres of land

on every mile of right-of-way of the proposed main line, considered to be useful for all of the state's parts/areas and providing [for] their increased needs. These links are the following:

FIRST DIVISION OF THE ST PAUL AND PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

From Stillwater by St Paul and St Anthony to a point by the state's western border near or by Big Stone Lake. This line passes through the state's center and extends from [its] east to the western border. It is around 229 miles long. The road is laid, completed and under operation from St Paul to St Anthony, 10 miles. It has been graded to Lake Minnetonka, 15 miles west from St Anthony, and a large workforce is being used to hurry up the construction of the line towards the west. A spur line from the above mentioned right-of-way is going out from St Anthony, from there via St Cloud and Crow Wing to Pembina by the north's great Red River, in Dacotah Territory, a distance of 400 miles.⁷ This road is now ready to St Cloud, 75 miles from St Paul.

MINNESOTA VALLEY RAILROAD CO.

A line from St Paul up the Minnesota River valley to Mankato and from there in a southwesterly direction to the Iowa state line; there it meets a railroad from Sioux City, Iowa to the Minnesota border. The railroad is completed from St Paul to Belle Plaine, 50 miles, and will be finished 40 miles further to Mankato during the present year.

THE MINNESOTA CENTRAL RAILROAD CO.

This line from St Paul and Minneapolis (joining with Mendota) via Faribault and Owatonna to the Iowa state's north line. This runs almost straight north and south, is around 110 miles long and is completely built to Owatonna, around 70 miles; there it cuts through the Winona and St Peter Railroad.

WINONA AND ST PETER RAILROAD CO.

A line from Winona via St Peter to the state's western border. This runs east and west over the whole state and is completed to Owatonna, 90 miles west of Winona, and comes/plans to go up to the Minnesota River, 140 miles during the year 1867. When this line is completed, it will be about 250 miles long. It cuts/crosses the Minnesota Central at Owatonna.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RAILROAD CO.

A line from La Crescent up through the Root River valley through the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower⁸, Freeborn, Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Noble and Rock to the state's western border. This line is completed to Rockford, Fillmore Co., around 30 miles to the west of the Mississippi and is being energetically worked forward. It cuts through the

⁷ It should possibly be noted that Mattson is using English miles. There is a Swedish mile, which is equivalent to 10 kilometers or 6 English miles.

⁸ Probably Mower County.

whole state from the east to the west through the southern counties and is around 250 miles long.

LAKE SUPERIOR AND MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD CO.

A line from St Paul, which is the head for navigation on the Mississippi River, to Lake Superior 's beginning in Minnesota. The distance to Lake Superior's navigable waters is 133 miles. It has been graded for 30 miles from St Paul, and the whole line shall be completed within three years or before 1870.

Besides these six main lines, numerous spur lines are projected, which all are planned to be built as soon as workers and materials can be obtained.

It is impossible to over estimate the importance of this system of railroads for the state's presently anticipated population. The construction of the lines, which are now under way, gives employment to a great number of men, and insures that every part of the state shortly shall enjoy the advantages of a cheap and fast transportation of passengers and products to and from. These lines, which cover over 2000 miles completely within the state's borders, quickly open entrance to some of the best tracts/areas [of land] in the world and brings them into the market. The different railroad companies present a liberal policy towards the emigrant, in that they offer them good conditions with regard to the purchase and payment times [for their land], regarding that their own advantage is identical with the state's.

COMMERCE

The great ease that Minnesota has to send its products to market is not the least of its many advantages. The richest land, the most beautiful climate in the world are of no use in the commercial viewpoint if it does not stand in association with the great markets though wide stretched and available commercial channels. The Mississippi's broad river carries our commerce to the Gulf of Mexico and brings back the South's cotton to be worked with our immeasurable waterpower; our railroads open other channels to the Atlantic coast, while sea traffic, via Lake Superior and the great Pacific Railroad, joins us with both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and thus offers a wide stretched and incomparable communication system.

FACTORY OPPORTUNITIES

This state has the best waterfalls in the West for powering factories. Besides unaccountable water falls in the smaller rivers, which in all direction lead the clear spring water through the state to the Mississippi River, may especially be noted the St Anthony Falls on the Mississippi River between St Anthony and Minneapolis. This great river here makes over fragments of limestone a fall of 64 feet leaving a water power, which should be enough to drive all of England's and Scotland's mills together. This river gives as well a row of stream currents and rapids from its source to St Anthony Falls, which could be used as power sources for factory establishments. The most important of these rapids are Pokegama, Little Falls and Sauk Rapids. The river is sailable almost to St Anthony. So thus one can bring raw products from every part of the globe by steamboat almost even to the factory door.

St Croix Falls, which is only behind St Anthony's, indicates the goal for water transportation on the St Croix River. Besides these, the Elk and Rum Rivers on the east side of the Mississippi and the Cannon, Vermillion, Crow, Sauk and other rivers on the Mississippi's westerly side give an abundance of water power to almost every county in the state, so that every area has the means to be able to mill its own grains and saw its own lumber and planks.

For the employment of this powerful waterpower, Minnesota has an almost inexhaustible supply of raw materials in the immeasurable coniferous woods that cover the northerly section and the Big Woods, which goes through n the middle of the state. Into the most remote lying parts of these woods go branches of the larger rivers, which give the opportunity to float logs to the various manufacturing places.

Iron and copper in the Lake Superior district and the coalfields in the Cottonwood Valley should, through the railroads, within a short time be placed into connection with the area by the St Anthony Falls.

The southeasterly section's lime and sandstone, the westerly section's salt sources and the immense supplies of clay in all localities offer a surplus of materials, which can be fabricated into articles of general use. The fruitful valleys and drained river beds give grains and potatoes, which can be turned into flour, starch and human nourishment, while the prairie's swarms of sheep, whose thick wool, soon can set the spinning wheels and the looms in movements at these places.

Minnesota lies in the middle of the North's great wool production and its rivers go down to the South's cotton markets, and every [sort of] material, which is needed, can be obtained on this great king's highway for the domestic commerce.

CHARITABLE ESTABLISHMENTS

Minnesota, although too young to have a system of public charitable institutions, has however in this regard gotten its needs somewhat satisfied as soon as it was permitted to recognize itself. An asylum for the deaf and blind is found in Faribault; large gifts of land have been granted for the establishment of a madhouse [and] likewise for the support and education of the children of the [Civil War's] fallen soldiers. The insane asylum is located in St Peter and is now ready for receiving patients. Two establishments for fatherless and motherless children are found in St Paul, one under protestant and one under Catholic supervision. In addition, there are children's homes and educational institutions in the larger Swedish settlements under the leadership of the zealous and honorable Swedish pastor E. Norelius⁹ and without doubt similar among our Norwegian brother, however the author does not have precise knowledge about these.

SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES AND CONGREGATIONS

⁹ Erik Norelius was a pioneer Swedish Lutheran pastor in the state of Minnesota establishing a number of Swedish Lutheran congregations. He was the pastor of the Vasa, Minnesota church.

Among the Scandinavians here, the Lutheran Church is the ruling one, then next the Methodists and the Baptists.

In all of the older settlements there are legally organized congregations with their priests and churches; in many places well kept temples have been built and bear witness to our countrymen's well being and zeal. Well-organized Sunday Schools, possessed especially towards the children's Christian education, are under the congregations' direction/care. In the newer settlements, [our] countrymen are visited by traveling preachers and as soon as the settlers' numbers are suitably large, new congregations are organized, which are provided with priests/pastors by the different synods or conferences.

EXEMPTIONS- (Release-exceptions) –LAW

The poor Scandinavian, whose house has been unfortunately enough through his poverty to fall in the hands of the law and because [such] seizure has been robbed not only his little property rather also there by the means to provide for his family and acquire for himself an assured future, should especially embrace the value of Minnesota's Exemption Law.

In it [is] that no one may through his debts, often inconvenienced/drawn down through illness or other accidents, be forced into the state of begging. The state has [therefore] legislated a law that frees for each family the following property from seizure for debts, namely:

House and land (not exceeding a lot in the city or 80 acres of ground in the [countryside]), upon which the family resides.

Books, family portraits and musical instruments.

All everyday clothing, beds, bedding, heating stoves, kitchen equipment in the family's use, and all other household furnishings not exceeding 500 dollars in value.

3 cows, 10 pigs, 2 pair of oxen and one horse, 20 sheep, wagon, sled, plow and other farm equipment.

Provision for the debtor and his family for one year.

A craftsman's work tools and instruments and supplies of materials to a value of 400 dollars, with more.

THE INDIANS

It should be in place to mention something about the Indians in our state. Many settlers had already by the year 1861 pushed out as equally far out in the West as the emigrant now seeks his home there but were, by the dangerous Indian uprising in 1862, driven back from there. The Indian were however soon taken prisoner by the United States' troops, the chiefs punished by death and the others transported almost a thousand miles to the southwest, and since then, no enemy Indians have shown themselves in our state. There now are large settlements scattered overall in these areas, whereat the newcomer can receive government land; besides the whole western borderline of civilization is strongly watched by United States troops. Civilization now goes with such giant steps through our state, from the east to the west,

that the Indian, even if he would be present, should not venture to uplift a hand against [the settler]. The author considers that not the most limited danger exists in the regard.

How then can one come to Minnesota

All emigrants who land in Quebec, Montreal, Boston, New York or other northern harbors give off there from to Chicago or Milwaukee; it is best to take as northerly a direction as possible and go direct to Milwaukee. This course is the most healthy, and the emigrant avoids thereby many unpleasant nesses, which he is otherwise be exposed to in the Middle States and in Chicago

From Milwaukee or Chicago. The best way is with the railroad direct to La Crosse, a city on the Mississippi River. There he will find steamboats waiting to carry him to St Paul or some closer station. [If] he is decided upon the southern part of the state, he can land at Winona, Red Wing, Hastings or at another landing place along the way. If he wishes to travel to the tree-covered district in the eastern part of the state, the steamboat can carry him to the St Croix River. If he wishes to travel to the Minnesota River's rich valley, he can change boats at St Paul and go up the noted river. Will he to the upper Mississippi, he can go by railroad to Clear Water or St Cloud.

The Principal Scandinavian Settlements

In Houston, Fillmore and Freeborn Counties, located in the southern part of the state, [there] are many large Norwegian settlements; in Freeborn are also many Danes.

All who wish to depart to these locations ought to go over the river at La Crosse on the ferry to La Crescent and from there to the west with the Southern Minnesota Railroad.

In Olmstead, Dodge and Rice Counties there are also large Norwegian settlements; the way there is from La Crosse by steamboat to Winona and from there to the west [with the] Winona & St Peter Railroad.

The largest Swedish and Norwegian settlements in the state are in Goodhue County; the way there is from La Crosse to Red Wing by steamboat.

[In] Afton and Chisago Lake are large Swedish settlements by the St Croix River; the way there is by steamboat from La Crosse to Hudson, Stillwater or Taylors Falls on the last named river.

In Carver, Sibley, Nicollet, Le Seur and Blue Earth Counties by the Minnesota River are [found] larger Swedish settlements; in order to get to these places, it is best to go from La Crosse to St Paul by steamboat, [and] from there on the railroad or steamboat up the Minnesota River.

The settlements, which now are accounted for, are the oldest in the state. Our people there are very advanced and the land is naturally more expensive there than further out in the

west, but such who have means enough to purchase a property there should find many advantages with regard to the social circumstances/condition: the means of communication, schools, organized congregations, churches and more, which they in the new settlements still lack.

Among the new Scandinavian settlements whereat the immigrant still can get government land free under the "homestead" law is Cambridge, Isanti County, east of the Mississippi River and only 50 miles from St Paul. This location is especially suitable for sheep and cattle breeding, but the soil is not as rich as on the western side of the river. One travels from St Paul to Anoka by railroad, [and] from there by wagon up the Rum River valley to Isanti.

Douglas County is located west of the Mississippi River around 70 miles in a northwesterly direction from St Cloud. It is exceptionally beautiful with fertile land and lots of woods, and offers to the settler many advantages.

The way to Montana goes through this country and a large traffic is already conducted to there. Many Swedes and Norwegians are already residing there, and it certainly shall come to be one of the largest Scandinavian settlements in America. For the present, there is no export from there for products nearer than St Cloud, but this impediment is outweighed to a great part by the traffic that holds sway out upon the Montana road, where at thousands of wagon loads with supplies are transported yearly to the Red River and Montana; besides it can not be long before a railroad is built from St Cloud up through the rich Sauk valley to and through Douglas County.

South of and bordering Douglas lays Pope County; here also are many Scandinavians; the land is exceptionally rich and beautiful and much government land is still available.

But among the many exceptional locations that are open and suitable for greater Swedish and Norwegian settlement, are hardly found any exceeding or in all principal parts outweighing themselves [than] the central point of the cultivatable part of the state, namely in Monongalia and Kandiyohi Counties. These locations are around 80 west of Minneapolis, and in a couple of years, they will be in direct connection with this West's greatest manufacturing city through the St Paul and Pacific Railroad, which now is under construction.

If one looks up on a new map of Minnesota, one finds a little south of the middle part of the same, a terrain whereof approximately 1/3 of the area consists of smaller lakes from a 1/4 to 2 or 3 miles in length; the most of these lakes lie in Kandiyohi and Monongalia Counties. The mentioned railroad goes [towards] the border between them. These counties border to the east to Meeker and to the west Chippewa Counties. The land consists if a fertile prairie, not completely flat, nor not either [so] uneven than but that the plow and the harvest machine is able to comfortably be used everywhere; the mirror-clear and fish rich lakes lie in the glens, or else small spring-fed brooks, and a section of land can hardly be found that does not have open water. At the northern end of the lakes, exceptional deciduous tree grow, the soil consists of a rich, dark loam, 3 to 4 feet deep upon a clay subsoil; the wild grasses grow 4 to 5 feet high upon the meadows. The country is to an extent lived upon, mostly by Swedes and Norwegians;

these have settled down around the lakes and taken the best woods; this is a privilege that the first settlers always have and, in justice, comes to them as compensation for the work they have had with [fighting] the red wolves, to transport their own products for the first years and the other difficulties/hardships which the now arriving are spared of. The wood however is and always will be very cheap in consideration to the great amount that is found a short distance from there in the so-called Big Woods, and for \$100 or \$200, one can buy sufficient wood for a farm. Would the settler again unconditionally have land consisting of both woods and prairie in one piece, so they only need to go some miles to the west of the present settlements; would they rather have only woods, so can it still be gotten under the Homestead Law nearer Minneapolis in the Big Woods.

The St Paul and Pacific Railroad is staked out and under construction in a nearly westerly direction from Minneapolis and cuts through the whole of this rich district. The company that builds it has received from the government every odd section on 10 miles on each side of track or 10 sections of land for every mile of track, and the price of the other sections of land within the 10 miles have, as is usual in such cases, doubled. This happens always on the basis that land within 10 miles of a railroad is worth double against that which lies further out, and the "homestead right" is consequently limited to 80 acres for each family within the same territory/area. If one wishes, on the opposite, to go beyond this 10-mile border, so the 160-acre homestead is gotten. A great advantage for the settler there is this, that within the 10 miles, no land is sold to others than to real settlers under the homestead or preemption laws, consequently every section of government land is without delay under cultivation and the speculators, these western blood suckers, get to stay away there from.

In order, now before the railroad becomes ready, to come to this part of the state, the easiest way [is to go to] St Paul as previously noted and take the railroad from there to Clear Water or St Cloud, whereat horse conveyance can be gotten at almost any time desired throughout the countryside.

The embrace of this little work does not allow further description over all of the different parts of the state where at the settler can get land; the author has only tried to point out the principal ones or those known to him. There are many others perhaps likewise as suitable as these. The field here is large enough, so that good opportunities through agriculture to soon be in an independent position are offered almost everywhere in the state.

The Land Office

Each and everyone who shall take up government land ought to first [go to] the United States Land Office for the district where at he intends to reside to determine what land is open/available, and as soon as the land is chosen, register this at the Land Office and receive security there upon.

The Land Offices for the various land districts in Minnesota are located at the following places: St Peter, Nicollet County; Greenleaf, Meeker County; Winnebago City, Faribault County; St Cloud, Stearns County; Taylors Falls, Chisago County; Duluth, St Louis County.

The State's Emigration Bureau

In the purpose to encourage immigration to Minnesota and with advice and help serve the foreign emigrant on his way here, the state's government has set up an Emigration Bureau. The administration of this little bureau, which consists of the Governor, the Secretary of State and the author of this little work, has for intention, that through the newspapers' press and writers' publications in the different European languages, inform all who seek a home in the West, about our state and what advantages it has to offer to the immigrant. They have also decided to send dependable men of the different nations to the port cities in the East, where at most of the foreign emigrants land, in order to there reside during the summer months and through advice/counsel, information and a stretching out of the hand be available to the immigrant. A Norwegian comes for this purpose to, as the state's agent, reside in Quebec and a Swede in New York These will, when it is needed, send interpreters who assist with the emigrants' drive to the West.

Necessary arrangements should also be taken in order to, in Chicago and Milwaukee, to furnish [information to] the emigrants who intend to go to Minnesota.

Finally may be added, that the Scandinavian people in Minnesota have through their diligence, order, honesty and virtue, already earned for themselves a well regarded name, and the state's government as well as the private person here should with joy and good pleasure see these numbers increase and greet all welcome here.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: This ends Hans Mattson's epistle to the Swedes and Norwegians.

There now follows an advertisement for the "Svenska Amerikanaren"

Svenska
Amerikanaren

Which is published in

Chicago
No. 157 Randolph Street
Northeast corner of Randolph and La Salle

is the largest, most content rich and most distributed of the political Swedish papers in America. The newspaper, which ever since its beginning, has had as its purpose to carry freedom's, truth's and justice's voice, to make of itself an honor to be an organ for private/individual Swedish persons in America and to among them try to spread knowledge and information in general, and about their new fatherland in particular. Workers, as well as

farmers [and] the craftsman have in the “Svenska Amerikanaren” a speaker who shall always stand by his side and defend his just matter against all despots. The newspaper also can be considered as an organ for the Swedish emigrant, because they therein receive the most complete and most valuable information about how emigrants ought to behave during, at and after the arrival in America, about the best locations for settlers, work opportunities, and so forth, as well as he can therein publicly complain against cheating and poor treatment that he is possibly exposed to. In religious questions, the “Svenska Amerikanaren” takes a completely impartial standpoint, respecting every sect’s thoughts and freedom of conscience and avoids all that can lead to religious conflicts. The good testimonial, which the newspaper has won for itself both in Sweden as well as in America, manifests for above all sufficiency that the “Svenska Amerikanaren” is a paper of moral value and elevated tendency.

“Svenska Amerikanaren” cost for the whole year\$3.00.
for the half year\$1.50

to which comes 5 cents a quarter, which is paid to the postmaster at the place the subscriber resides, as compensation for his trouble with the distribution.

Letters addressed to the “Svenska Amerikanaren”, Chicago, Illinois, P. O. Box (postal box) 2017, at whose office all needed information for emigrants is reported for free.

⇒ All types of printing is performed cheap and well done at the “Svenska Amerikanarens” printers.

TRANSLATOR COMMENT: There are two appendices following the above. There are as follows:

Prices in Minnesota

The passenger fee from Chicago to St Paul with the emigrant train is approximately \$12.00

A pair of horses cost from\$350 to \$450
A pair of oxen 125 to 160
A cow 35 to 50
A wagon100 to 125
A plow215 to 25

Livestock, provisions and all necessary household goods can be purchased almost wherever in the state.

Remarks

An acre of land is between 26 to 27 kappland.
An English mile is not quite as seventh Swedish mile.
A bushel is approximately a halvspann or not a full 7 ¼ kanna.

A dollar in gold is worth around 3 rkd¹⁰ 75 öre.
A dollar in paper is now (the 26th of April) 2 rkd 70 öre.
Norwegian and Swedish specie riksdaler are worth a little more than gold.

Emigrants do best if the exchange their money in Chicago and for this purpose turns to the Swedish and Norwegian Consulate located there or another responsible person.

Only paper money is used in daily business.

With their arrival in New York or Quebec, the emigrant ought not under any circumstances trust himself to other person's leadership than authorized agents. They who intend [to go] to Minnesota ought to turn to Minnesota's State Emigration Bureau's agents located there. If they intend to go by the emigrant train to Chicago, they ought to provide themselves with foodstuffs for 4 to 5 days, otherwise they for such will be audaciously taxed at the stations under the way, and upon the arrival in Chicago, they ought as well try to find out the respective companies' or emigrant assistance associations' agents rather than turning to hearing the runner's beautiful prospects and glowing promises. If they do this, they are able to, in order to without having been cheated, safely arrive at their destination.

¹⁰ The abbreviation for "riksdaler", the principal monetary unit in Sweden before the adoption of the "krona" and the decimal monetary system.