

The Aftermath

a small grove of Fir and Cedar. Barnes started back in morning for supplies. Sat. Dec. 10th we run 8 miles and 30 chains, mostly thru open marsh. Camped in Cedar and Tamarack Marsh.

On Dec. 11th we closed the line north and started back, going about three miles and camped in a cedar marsh. We went down the line about 14 miles the next day, and about 9 miles on the 13th of Dec. The 14th we arrived at the Sibley at 10 A.M. We got dinner there and packed up and took the train for Junction. Arrived there after dark, and stopped at the Forest House. Dec. 15th. We took the 9 A.M. train for St. Paul, where we arrived at seven thirty P.M. Here we stayed at the American House.

Dec. 16th took the 8 A.M. train for Faribault, arriving there at 11 A.M. Dec. 17th Home again. About one inch of snow on the ground. Went down town in the afternoon.

This finishes another episode in Dad's life. It must have been anything but pleasant. No mention is made of the wages that he received. We do know that he was on the shore of Lake Superior because he picked up a pretty stone there, which he gave to Mother. She had this mounted in a ring many years later. (M.H.B.)

☆ A START ON THE FARM

Dad's diary gives us a glimpse of what the life of a farmer was in the Big Woods country in Rice County, Minnesota just five years after the end of the great war.

The war boom was over. The gigantic upheaval in the political, and financial life of the country was slowly subsiding. The tragic disturbance in family life over the land, was healing over, with the passage of time. The trek to the west was on.

Many of the returned soldiers, their home life disrupted by the war, headed for the west. They wanted to see the elephant, that is, that great hunk of free land that Uncle Sam was giving to the boys who had fought the "Johnny Rebs" in the land of cotton and hoecake. Dad's diary shows that he too wanted a look at that Elephant, and would be satisfied with nothing less. This elephant was that "something," big, grand, and rich in the future. He and thousands of others were up and hustling for their share of the