

## *A Start On the Farm*

*big public pie. Nothing could stop them. The "West" was their nut to crack, and they were going to bust her wide open.*

*So he picked out the Gal that he wanted in the great adventure, and they were married March 22, 1871 at Faribault, Minnesota. As a start he rented a small farm in Rice county, Minnesota. The following gives us a brief glimpse of what farming was like in those days. It was hard, cruel work, but he still had his eye on his share of that Elephant. It was not until 1874 that he set out on the final trail. This would end in success, on the home farm where we live today and where he died on April 9, 1897. (M.H.B.)*

I have rented the Spencer Farm for the year, and will try my skill at farming. There is a small log house and barn on the place. This should be ample for our needs for the present at least. We are looking forward to a place of our own, but haven't the money to buy at the prices they are asking, and under present conditions. Would like to get a prairie farm, and get away from those infernal stumps in the fields and the brush burning. I do not feel justified in grubbing out stumps for someone else the rest of my life. Its labor in vain for me. There is open prairie land, rich and free from stumps, somewhere to the southwest. Perhaps the wide prairies of Dakota, is the answer. May try it there later.

I drove out to the farm this morning. The roads are real bad, with the mud knee deep in places. The snow is all gone from the fields, and is melting fast in the woods and along the river. I think we can start sowing the wheat and oats in a day or so. We must get it sown soon, if we expect to reap a crop. Will start to plow for the oats tomorrow if it doesn't rain again. This rainy spring is a bugbear for me.

April 13th, I plowed some today, and sowed some oats on the land I had prepared before. It is still a bit too wet, but we must get the crop in the ground, if we expect to get any harvest. So I will keep plugging away. We are not alone at this. Everyone is working in the mud, and getting the sowing done between the showers.

Hattie's sister, Georgia, has been helping fix up the house. Am driving to Faribault, and will take her home today. We will bring back a few necessities, not much, prices are too high. In spite of the mud and bad roads, we brought out a small load of stuff for the