

(4-360.)

# HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Elmer Beck, being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry, No. 9677, for NE 1/4 Sec. 21 Twp. 20 Range 57, testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?

Ans. Elmer Beck—28 years old—Full Bannock County, Neb.

Ques. 2.—Are you a native born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?\*

Ans. Yes—Was born in the State of Michigan

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No. 9677, at the

North Platte, Nebraska land office on the 16 day of March 1886, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. Yes—NE 1/4 Section 31 Township 20 Range 57,

Ques. 4.—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. House was built in August 1886—established actual residence therein Sept. 10 1886—Log house 14x20 ft. by stable 14x20 ft. well 11x12 ft. deep—Cane 10x12 ft.—30 acres of prairie. Total Value \$450.00

Ques. 5.—Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. Am unmarried—Have resided continuously on the land except a few times when I left temporarily to obtain labor.

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. Was absent in 1887 from June 27 until Oct. 25—did absent in 1887 from Sept. 11 until March 1 1890, also absent also in 1890 from Sept. 21 until November 1. Cause of absence was to obtain labor. Have no family.

Ques. 7.—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?

Ans. Cultivated 5 acres in 1887—in 1888 cultivated 10—in 1889 and 1890 cultivated 30 acres. Raised crops: corn, timothy.

Ques. 8.—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans. No—No.

Ques. 9.—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans. 1. Prairie and agricultural land most valuable for farming and grazing—good sandy loam soil.

Ques. 10.—Are there any indications of coal, oil, or minerals, of any kind, on the land? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. No no indications

Ques. 11.—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)

Ans. No.

Ques. 12.—Have you sold, conveyed, or mortgaged any portion of the land; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?

Ans. No I have not

Ques. 13.—Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? (If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.)

Ans. No.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 18 day of March 1886

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

\* (In case the party is of foreign birth a certified transcript from the court records of his declaration of intention to become a citizen, or of his naturalization, or a copy thereof, certified by the officer taking this proof, must be filed with the case. Evidence of naturalization is only required in final (five year) homestead cases.)