

NO DEBTS THERE

South Manitou People Are Thrifty Colonists.

Sixteen Families the Island's Population—Agriculture and Stock Raising the Industries.

(Special to The Evening Press)

Traverse City, Jan. 15. - It is doubtful if anywhere else in the United States there exist conditions so conducive to happiness as are to be found on South Manitou Island. This pretty island is located in Lake Michigan, some six miles from the main land of Leelanau county, and is as charming a bit of natural scenery as is to be found anywhere along the Michigan shore.

Its chief charm, however, lies not in its natural advantages, but in the ideal condition of its residents. The permanent population includes in the neighborhood of sixteen families, who have made their homes there for many years. In all numbering about eighty persons. While lumbering and fishing occupy their time to some small extent, their principal occupation is agriculture and stock raising. Their farms are fertile and well cared for, and South Manitou cattle are annually shipped to Chicago and outside markets in quite large numbers.

It is claimed by those who are well acquainted with the people that not a foot of their land is mortgaged, that no man has a note outstanding against him, and that a chattel mortgage is a thing unknown. More than this, they have money enough for all their needs and to spare, and more than one has good property investments on the main land.

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