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CHICAGO AND
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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Chicago & North Western Railway



NORTH WESTERN HOMESTEADS



SO. DAKOTA WHEAT FIELD

The NORTH WESTERN LINE

LEADS THE WAY

TO

MILLIONS OF ACRES

OF

IRRIGATED AND NON-IRRIGATED LAND

PRAIRIE AND TIMBER LANDS

Business Opportunities

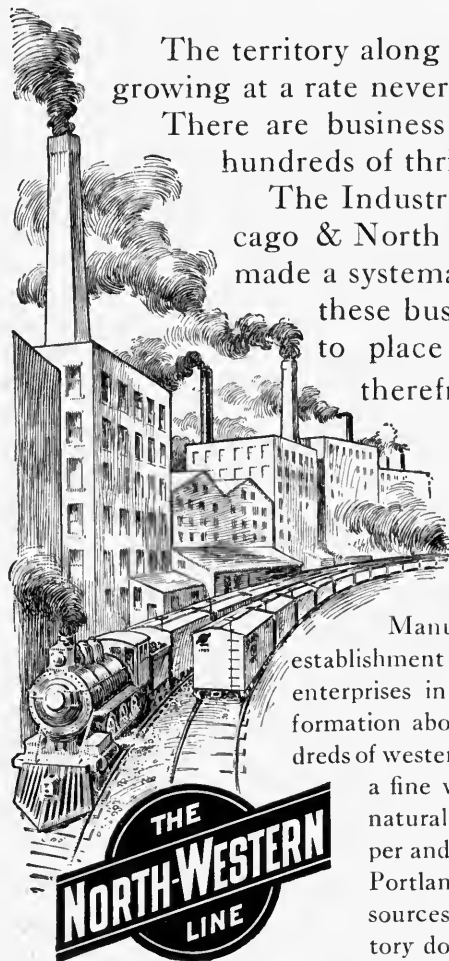
The territory along the North Western Line is growing at a rate never before known.

There are business openings by the score in hundreds of thriving towns and cities.

The Industrial Department of the Chicago & North Western Ry. has recently made a systematic canvass of conditions in these business towns, and we desire to place the information resulting therefrom at your disposal if you are looking for a new location for any business or profession.

Manufacturing

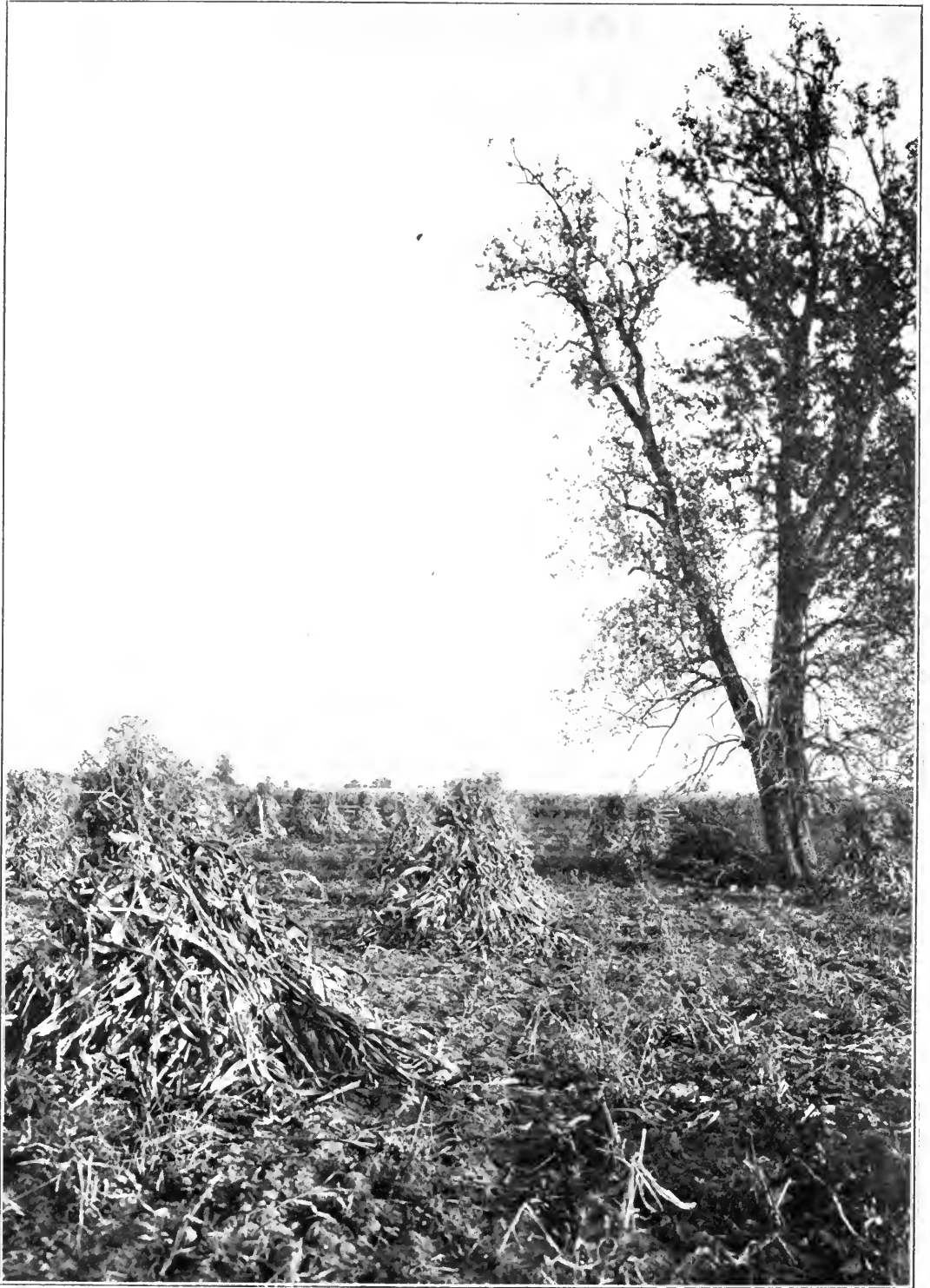
Manufacturers who contemplate the establishment of new business or manufacturing enterprises in the west should write us for information about the advantages offered in hundreds of western towns and cities, where there is a fine water power and an abundance of natural resources—timber, coal, iron, copper and zinc, building stone, material for Portland cement, and other natural resources—situated practically at the factory door.



A happy combination of nearby markets, ideal labor conditions and unparalleled natural resources has made the world-wide reputation of the manufacturing towns of the

Chicago & North Western Railway

FULL INFORMATION ON REQUEST
GEO. BONNELL,
Industrial Agent, Chicago, Ill.





A Typical Western Farmstead.

THE WONDERFUL WEST

So great in extent, so rich in natural resources, and so vigorous and healthful in climate is the region which lies west and northwest of Chicago that it forces itself to-day upon the attention of all who seek to better their condition.

It is the land where opportunity ranks supreme, where poverty gives way to prosperity and where a fair degree of energy repays a man generously.

Great advancement has been made in this western country since the days of the frontier, in all lines of agricultural, commercial and social life.

The pioneer of twenty-five years ago finds himself to-day surrounded by smiling acres and possessed of means to enjoy luxuries which a generation ago were unknown.

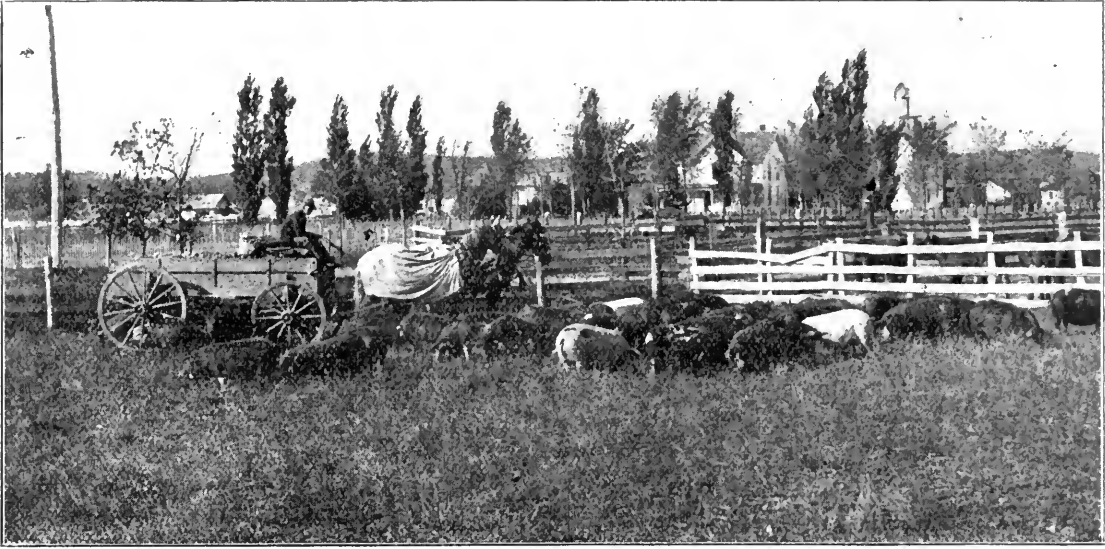
His barns are overflowing, his crops and live stock bring prices that are at the top

of the market, and his land has increased in value until to-day it represents to the average farmer what may be termed a small fortune.

Universities, colleges, libraries, public schools and churches all show the prosperous condition which surrounds them; and the achievements which have been made in education, science, and the arts have placed the northwestern commonwealths in a position high in the world of advancement.

All these desirable things have meant hard work and patient endurance of the life of the pioneer; but never in the history of the world has such endurance and patience shown results so rich and certain.

Nowhere in the world can a man starting in life, and with little or no money in his possession, insure so completely for himself a competence for his later years,



The Raising Of Hogs Is An Important Western Industry.

and an assured position for himself and family.

It is no longer necessary for a man to take his family into an isolated community, where near neighbors are unknown and schools, churches and the conveniences of life are lacking; nor is it necessary for him to make a long and arduous journey to reach his new home.

The North Western Line, with a vast network of main travel arteries and their branches, brings practically every community in nine northwestern states— Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming, into immediate touch with the world.

There are 10,000 miles of railway in this comprehensive system, reaching 2,000 cities, towns and villages, and by traffic arrangements with its connecting lines, bringing practically every point west and northwest of Chicago into direct touch with that city.

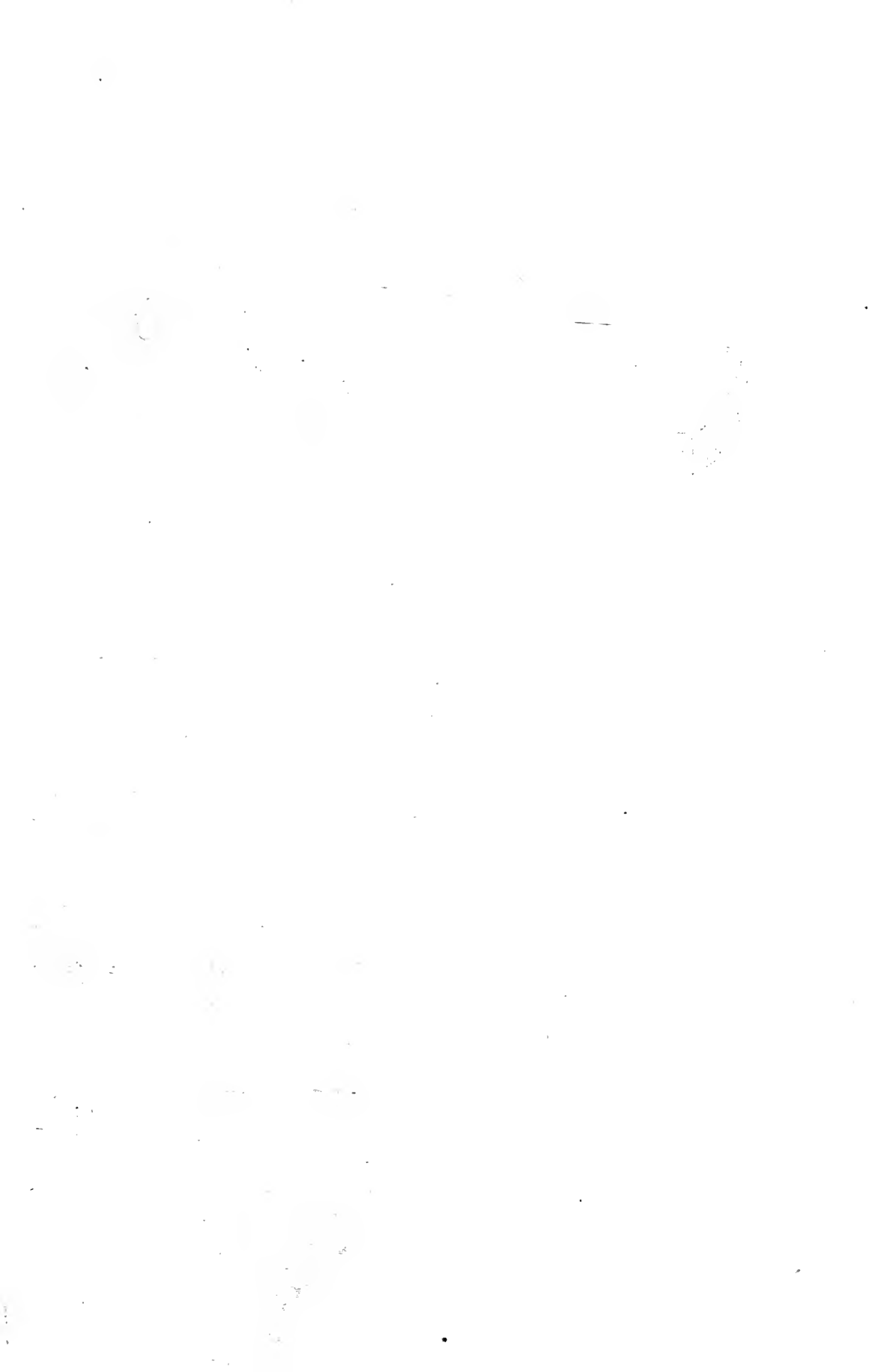
Freight shipments are handled with dispatch, consigned through to any one of 9,500 stations, located on 62,000 miles of railway. This is about one-eighth of the entire railway mileage of the world and one-fourth of the railway mileage of the United States.

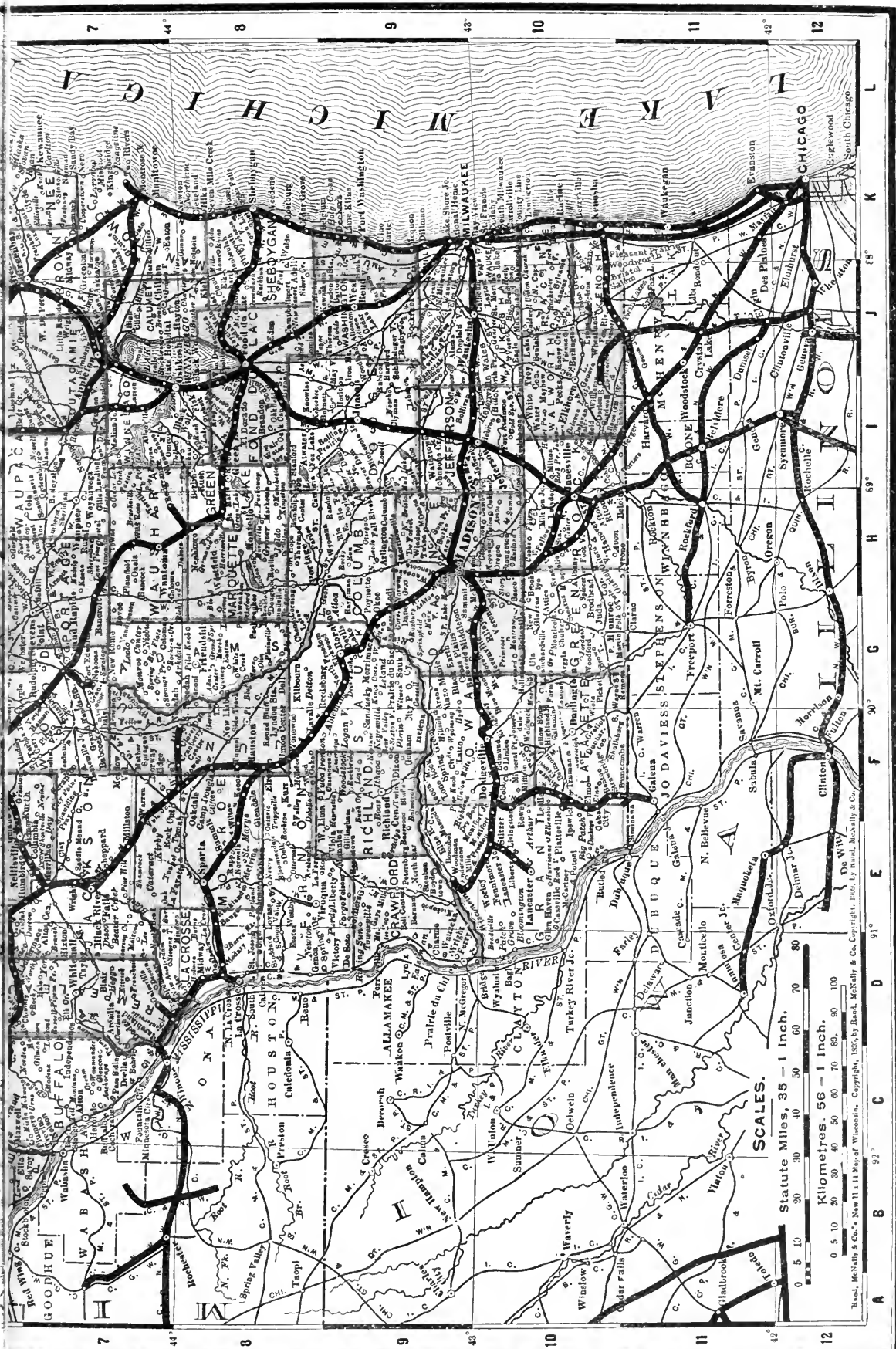
The simultaneous growth of the Northwest and of the lines which comprise The North Western Line is due to the coöperation of the railway and its patrons by which communities have risen to a prosperity that is participated in by the patron and railway alike.

It is to the opportunities offered in such communities as this, situated on the Chicago & North Western Railway, that this book calls the attention of the reader.



An Ideal Sheep Region.

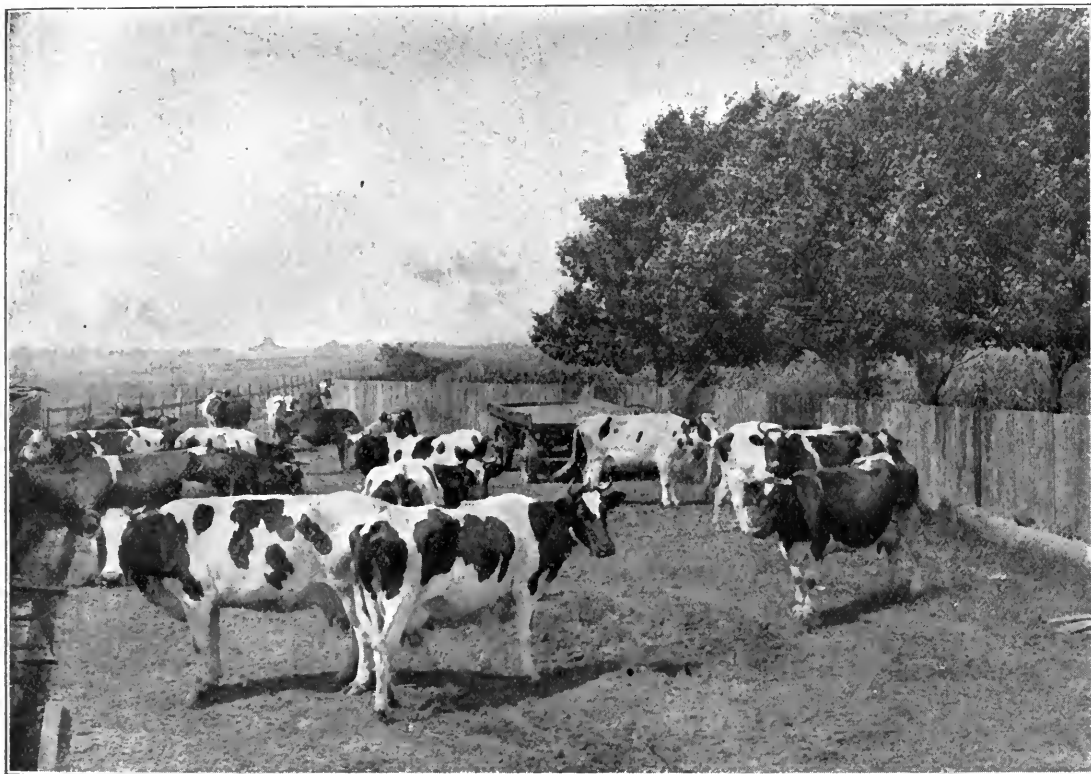




SCALES.
 Statute Miles, 35 = 1 inch.
 Kilometres, 56 = 1 inch.
 0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Base, McNally & Co.'s New H. 11 Map of Wisconsin. Copyright, 1883, by Beas, McNally & Co.

County Map of Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Showing Lines of Chicago & North Western and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Rys.



A Northern Wisconsin Dairy Herd.

Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Through all the years of the nation's growth, the tide of immigration has swept westward to the Pacific, sweeping aside the rich and fertile district of the north, to be left for later development. So it is that to-day northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan offer cheap lands, an ideal climate and markets directly at hand.

The dairying and farming lands which make up the southern portion of this region are to-day the seat of a prosperous and ideal American rural life; while further north are the vast forests of pine and hardwood which have made the two states famous, and where only a night's ride from Chicago, millions of acres are offered as homes for the people, at prices ranging from \$7 to \$12 per acre.

There are two distinct kinds of land:

1. *The cutover land from which the timber has been taken.*

2. *The original hardwood forest.*

It is true that considerable work is necessary in order to clear these wooded lands and prepare them for the first crop; but it is also true that in the process of doing so, timber products are secured that will practically pay for the work, and advantages are found that are surpassed nowhere in the United States.

What are these advantages?

1. *The means of building a shelter—a home—are ready to hand—an axe and a pair of strong hands.*

2. *The soil is productive of every crop known to the temperate region, and in bounteous quantities.*

3. *The climate, year in and year out, is the best for health and strength in the world.*

4. *Winter employment can be had at good wages at nearby mills and lumber camps.*



A Typical Northern Wisconsin Lumber Town.

Through the heart of the region, the various trunk lines and branches of The North Western Line radiate, with close connection between the settler and the hundreds of cities and towns which here find raw material for their manufacturing interests. Several new lines have been recently opened which pass directly through splendid timber districts that are being developed into farm lands.

Saw mills, planing mills and pulp wood manufacturers furnish a market for hardwood products as the settler clears his land, and many towns and cities offer a market for his crops. This market is near at home and affords a ready sale of produce at the highest prices, as well as means of social intercourse.

The question of home building on these hardwood lands and cutover lands is totally different from the home-making proposition as it obtains on the prairies.

The comparative advantages of the two will always be an open question, but, for the average man, with a family to support and with capital that is but meager, there is probably more security, less worry and more contentment in building his home in the timber country.

The average settler placed on a quarter-section of these lands will, we assume, own

his own team of horses or oxen, one or two cows, a few hogs and sheep, and the usual number of barn fowls. He comes to his new home with enough money to make his first payment on his land and with a few dollars left to assist in building. He will find on his land raw material for his permanent improvements, and may thus establish a house, barn, etc., with the least possible cash outlay. In fact, with his own labor, a man can build a log house here with an actual expenditure of from \$5 to \$50 that will be far more comfortable than can be imagined by those who have not tried it. Then if he has settled on a piece of cutover land, much of it will be easy to clear; thirty days will put five acres in shape for crop, and thus the task of farm-making begins. Five or ten acres can be added each year until the entire farm is under cultivation.

In the winter the farmer may seek employment with his team in the lumber camps, barking camps, tanneries, planing mills and stave-heading mills, where he will always find his services in demand; or he may cut and haul ties and posts from his own land.

In this region there are over 1,200 beautiful lakes, and innumerable streams. It is the natural home of the brook trout



As Beautiful Farming Country as One Can Hope to See.

the black bass, muskallunge, pike and pickerel.

Deer are abundant in the forests, fish are plentiful in the lakes and streams, and the region is a natural playground for all small game. For the settler, this adds vast opportunities for delightful days of recreation in the woods or on the water, and for welcome additions to the housewife's bill of fare.

CLIMATE

The annual rainfall is about 36 inches and, tempered as the region is by large bodies of water, the rainfall is remarkably regular, producing green fields, large second crops of clover and grasses and abundance of pasturage.

During the winter the snow protects the ground and guards the soil against hard freezing. The danger of early frost rapidly disappears with the clearing of large areas and the resultant warming of the soil.

With the approach of May the south winds come soft and odor-laden, and there sets in a season of continual delight, with clear beautiful days, weeks and months of fine weather. The wind no longer chills, the balmy air enwraps one like a mantle, the sun looks warmly down, the ozone-freighted air tingles the nostrils—it is a joy to live.

As soon as the snow is off the ground the arbutus creeps forth and the graceful anemone raises its head, followed closely

by the blue violet. Along the low wet reaches, the marsh-marigolds appear with the earliest birds. Dandelions and buttercups, white and red clover are seen everywhere. The woods are filled with the delicate bluebell. Old roads are lined with wild roses, while the fleur-de-lis peeps forth from every sedgy nook. This growth of timber and wildflowers is one of Nature's guaranties of the fertility of the soil.

As the season advances the earth fairly bursts with life. The air is laden with the honey fragrance of blooming linden and nodding clover. The forest resounds with music from a thousand feathery throats—for every song bird finds here a summer home. October comes, and with it the frosts of the autumn. Gorgeous are the woods in their dress of red and gold and brown; the crimson of the maple and the yellow of the birch blending in graceful harmony with the clear azure of the sky.

The sun sinks—the season lingers—the frosts creep slowly on, baffled by the warm winds from the lakes—a gray mist gathers in the sky—a wind breathes from the north—feathery flakes drift down through the air—and the winter is at hand, a winter of exhilarating cold, of snow and ice, fraught with a thousand varied charms.

The climate of northern Wisconsin and Michigan is remarkable for the following advantages:



The Oats Yield is Always Heavy.

1. In its almost entire freedom from spring frosts and summer droughts.
2. In the salubrity and dryness of the air.
3. In the uniformity of the temperature of its winters.
4. In its absolute freedom from all malarial tendencies.

THE SOIL

The soil ranges from a light sand to a heavy red clay, the greater portion of it being sandy loam and clayey loam, fertile and easily worked. One of the peculiarities of the soil is that wide variance is shown within limited areas and a single township may show red clay, clayey loam, sandy loam and sand and swamp soil.

One should under no circumstances buy land without first examining every acre of it, for this peninsular district varies in character of soil to such a degree that the character of any given quarter section is no guarantee of the character of its neighbor.

CROPS

Everything that can be grown in the prairie regions, and more, can be grown here. Wheat, rye, buckwheat and oats, when sown among the stumps in a newly

cleared field, reach the very limit of yield. The tame grasses, clover and timothy, seem indigenous to the soil. Wherever the seed happens to fall it takes root and will not be exterminated. Through the woods, along the "tote roads" of the lumberman, in fact wherever man has been, are found luxuriant stands of clover, timothy and blue grass.

In the production of what is known as "garden truck," the soil seems fairly to outdo itself. Potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots, cabbage and all the family of table delicacies yield here as nowhere else.

Wisconsin is one of the greatest potato producing states in the Union. The soil is peculiarly adapted to the growth of potatoes and the climatic conditions seem to insure large crops, the yield being from 150 to 600 bushels per acre.

Large potato warehouses are maintained at convenient shipping centers along The North Western Line. Special equipment is furnished and fast schedules maintained for the transportation of the crop to the market.

Oats, rye and barley return a large and sure crop of fine grain, and the yield of field peas is extremely large and valuable for dairy food. Rye is used to a considerable extent for pasturage as well as for the grain.



In Many Parts of Wisconsin and Michigan, There are Considerable Areas Where the Grasses and Tender Shrubs Form Excellent Pasturage for the Dairy Herd.

The soil and conditions in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan are especially adapted to the growing of the sugar beet and large factories are now in operation at Janesville, Menominee, Mich., Madison, Wis., and other points. This is not only one of the most profitable farm crops that can be raised, but the deep plowing and close cultivation that it requires leave the soil in an ideal condition for raising extremely large crops of grain.

Alfalfa has also proven a profitable crop and much of it is being converted into pork in a most profitable manner. It is a remarkable fact that a case of hog cholera has never been known in this region.

SHEEP

It is also an ideal sheep region. Red clover, alsike, blue grass and timothy are as luxuriant as they are common. Two advantages are claimed for the region: First, that clover never fails to grow where it is sown; and second, that it never winter-kills. There is a certainty of clover meadows, abundant root crops, climate and supply of pure water, which make it possible to produce sheep to the best advantage.

Sheep drink from a pint to two or three quarts of water each, daily, and no animal demands a more certain or purer supply. The numerous springs and running brooks



In Northern Wisconsin.

insure a generous water supply throughout the year.

The steady cold of the winter improves the fibre and increases the length and density of the fleece. The wool has more "yolk" than the southern product, giving it greater weight and consequently more value.

So far as sheep culture has gone, no disease has been found in this northern country, the cool climate seeming to eliminate the diseases common to the herds farther south. Sleet, slush and mud in winter—the curse of the flocks in the Middle States—are quite unknown here.

ADVANTAGES SUMMED UP

Many considerations enter into the problem of selecting a place to make one's home.

The essentials to health and prosperity must attain a high average in order to satisfy the requirements.

A few of the advantages of this great northern district may be as follows:

There is abundant water supply, rapid gravelly streams and clear lakes. Pure well water can be had at a depth of from ten to forty feet below the surface.

Good roads are rapidly being opened in



All the Hardy Fruits do well.



Northern Wisconsin's Big Winter Industry.

all parts of the country. The lumberman left a legacy of carefully constructed roads in every county where he operated logging roads; and the business management of county affairs maintains these and looks well to the comfort and convenience of the farmer in all public affairs.

Schools and churches are well established, the taxes are low, and the local government efficient.

The University of Wisconsin ranks perhaps as high as any institution in the world, particularly in connection with the experimental work it has accomplished along the lines in which the farmers are most directly interested. The results have been highly practical.

One of the most interesting features of the work to-day is the organization of hundreds of farmers throughout the state, all of whom are engaged in making experiments of the most practical character, the results of which are placed at the disposal of the University for public use.

The settler must not overlook the very

great advantage offered in this timber region of free building material, free fuel, sure crops, timber products that will provide an immediate source of revenue, excellent profits from small crops, diversity of crops, proximity to the best markets and last, but by no means least, the best of educational and social advantages.

The exceptionally complete railway service must also be taken into consideration. The North Western Line places this land within a night's ride of the great cities of Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Superior, Marquette and other cities.

To-day the settler reaches his new home with the greatest ease. The settler of a few years ago had to drive into the new country with his covered wagon, his worldly goods and his live stock, over roads cut through the forest. He had to ford streams and dodge Indians, camping at night and pushing forward over the dreary miles by day. Now his family and belongings reach their new home by rail, and they



Sugar Beets, Oats and Corn, Near Menominee, Mich.

are in close communication with the world by means of the railway, the daily newspaper, rural mail delivery and the telephone.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

The average rainfall of this region.

Truck farming is very profitable in this section, with good home markets.

The best place in America to raise horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Cereal crops average more bushels per

acre than in any other northern state. This may be said particularly of oats, the average yield being from sixty to eighty bushels per acre.

No swamps in this section—no malaria, no catarrh, no chills, no fever, no cyclones, no hail or destructive storms.

Lumbering and manufacturing interests offer ample employment at good wages, both winter and summer.

Every stick of wood from your place can be sold at nearby markets.



A Typical Wisconsin Stock Farm.



A Northern Wisconsin Meadow (near Ingalls, Mich.).

A. D. Campbell, Commissioner of Immigration for Wisconsin, writes in the *Chicago Evening Post* regarding the advantages to settlers in the northern portion of his state as follows:

"Wisconsin has 10,000,000 acres of rich, hardwood timber lands, surrounded by the best of markets, with ample rainfall distributed through the season to produce maximum crops, with splendid climate and the purest of water, where crops are not penalized by a long-distance freight rate, or supplies burdened by the natural consequences of isolation.

"What will these lands produce?"

"All the cereals in abundance, clover pastures and meadows such as are seldom seen, corn as high as sixty bushels an acre, potatoes of the best quality at from 150 to 200 bushels an acre and even more, root crops in surprising proportions, sugar beets bring from \$60 to over \$100 an acre, tobacco at \$100 to \$200 and more an acre, peas at from \$25 to \$75 an acre delivered in the straw at the canning factory.

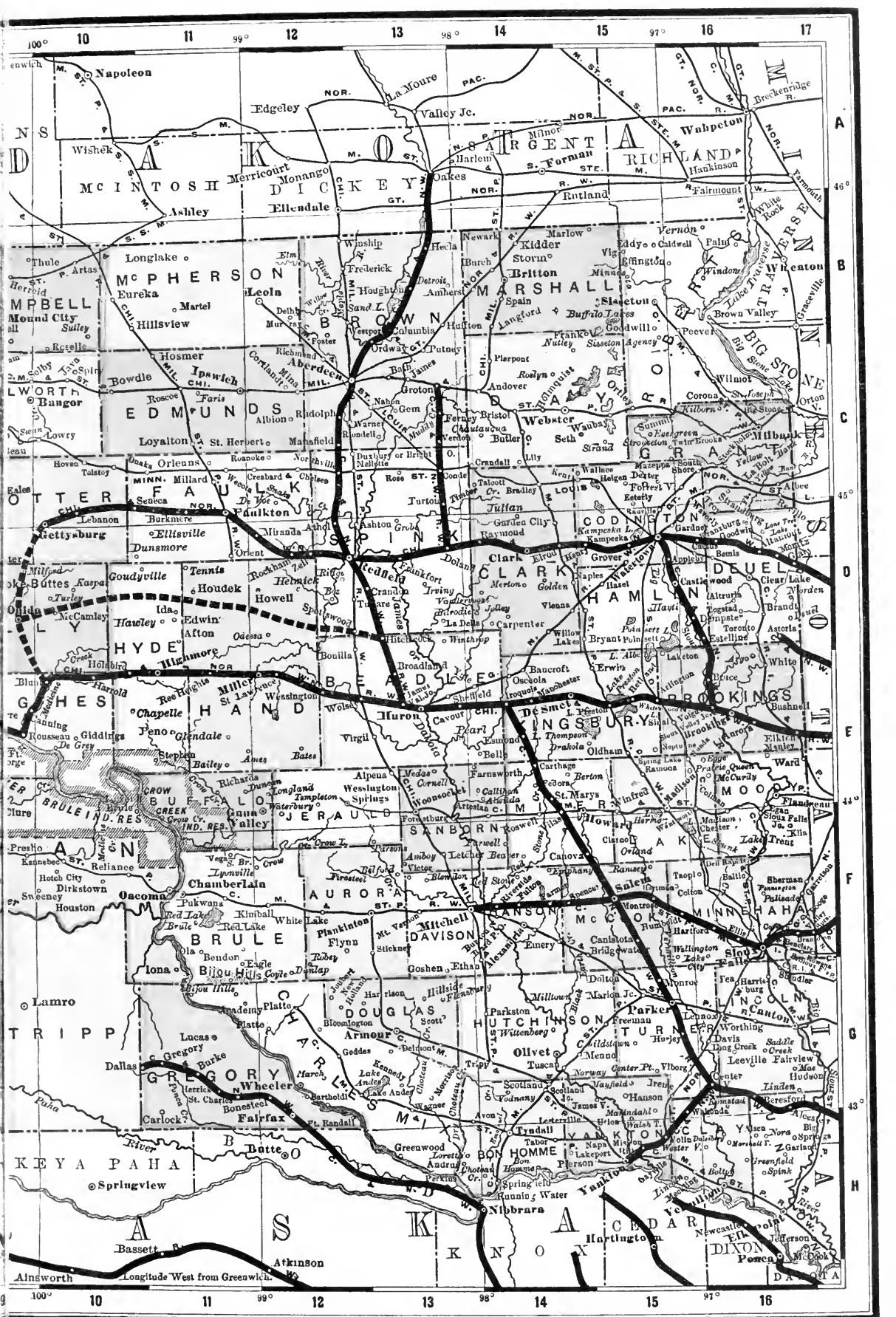
"They will produce also all the small fruits in abundance, in some sections apples up to \$300 an acre, cherries upward of \$500 an acre.

"This land, with the large timber cut off, may be purchased, close to live and growing towns, in the very midst of a splendid market, at from \$10 to \$20 an acre.

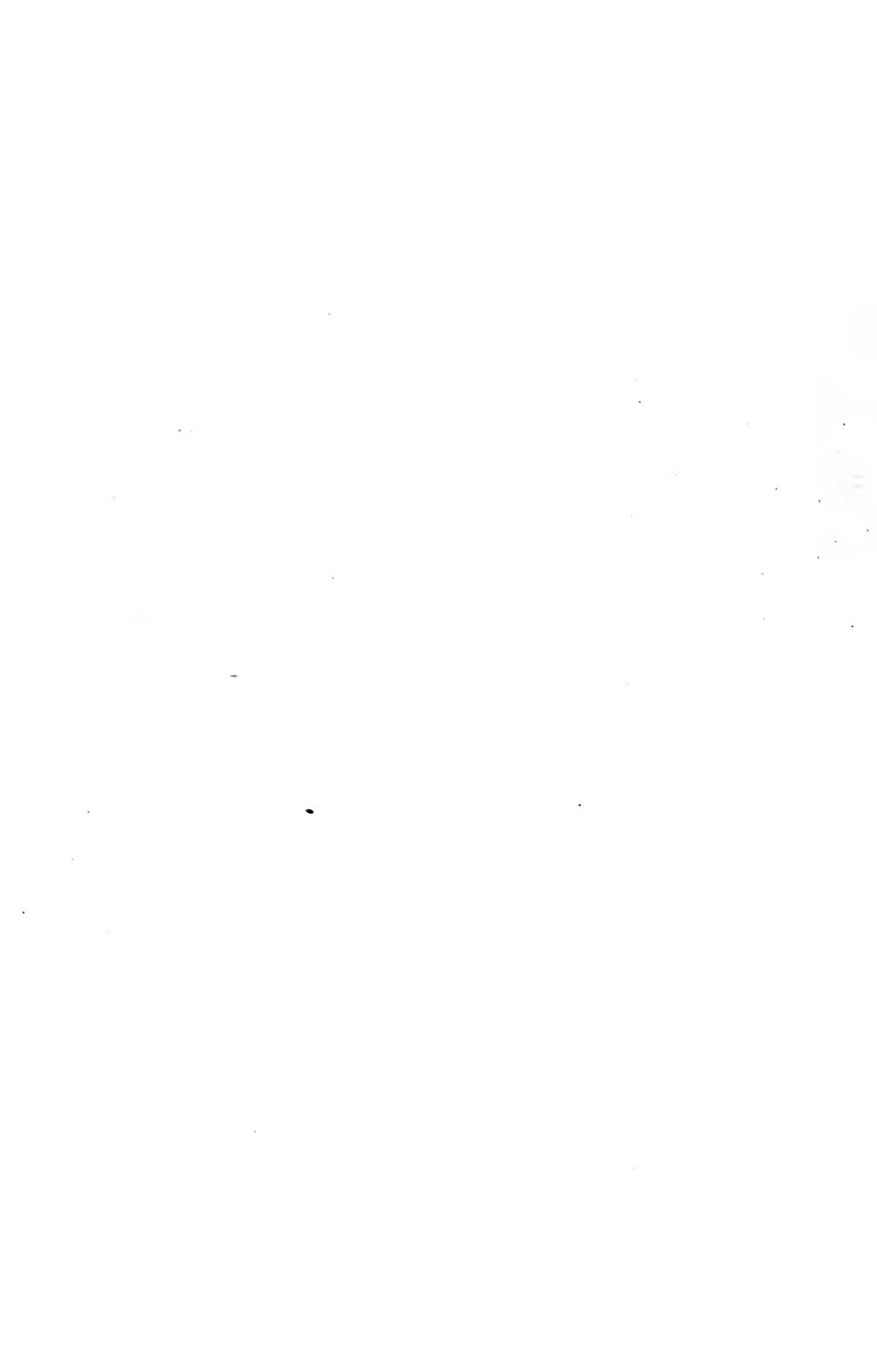
"And inexpensive modern machinery will clear this land quickly: instance the Waukesha Canning Company clearing 140 acres this year and the partial clearing of 600 acres more, to be completed next year.

"Many Illinois farmers have said to the writer that they could not raise on their \$200 land as fine clover, timothy, barley, oats, squash, potatoes and apples as was taken from this area to the Illinois state fair this year.

"To cultivate this magnificent area requires no expert knowledge in engineering or agriculture; to locate on it necessitates no expensive trekking to distant points, nor is the settler isolated from cities, extensive markets, universities and colleges."



re, Rapid City & North Western and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Rys.





A Corn Field in Tripp County, S. D., on the Recently Opened Rosebud Lands.

South Dakota

In South Dakota the new settler will find a wide range of conditions. The great size of the state (200 miles by 400 miles) makes an extensive range of climate, and the commonwealth may be divided into three distinct geographical sections, each of which varies from the others in many essentials.

That portion of the state which lies east of the Missouri River is a populous, prosperous, heavy crop-producing country, throughout which are scattered towns and cities of importance. The entire region is covered with a network of railway lines, furnishing high class service. The land is worth from \$15 to \$50 per acre, the most of it being well improved.

West of the Missouri River is the great Cheyenne Range country, famous since the earliest days of the Indian for pasturage that is not surpassed anywhere. The original buffalo grass and wheat grass cure on the stem like grain. The free range is extensive, and the water supply is abun-

dant. The shipping facilities place the region at all times in touch with the great live stock markets of Chicago, Sioux City, South Omaha and South St. Paul.

West of Pierre, the capital of the state, thousands of settlers have come into the newly opened district tributary to the P. R. C. & N. W. Ry., recently built from Pierre westward to the Black Hills; and there is land for many more and opportunities for good business openings in the new towns along the line.

The construction of other new lines in South Dakota is being worked out by the North Western and the development of agricultural interests is remarkably swift.

There yet remains considerable Government land to be had in South Dakota under the United States Homestead Laws, and the value of this public land has been added to by the improvements made by the thousands who have availed themselves of the opportunity to thus secure homes. The

recent opening of the greater portion of the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Reservations to settlement has added fresh impetus to the growth of the western portion of the state.

It is a fact conceded by the best authorities that this open range country west of the Missouri River has a greater rainfall, richer soil, milder winters, more pleasant summers and natural resources of greater extent than are available in portions of Europe in which 100,000,000 people dwell and where farm lands are worth from \$100 to \$800 per acre.

There is no state in the Union which presents such an array of attractive opportunities for home-building, and safe investments with satisfactory returns. The undeveloped resources of South Dakota are incalculable, and, comparatively speaking, they have scarcely been touched.

The state has approximately an area of 50,000,000 acres, practically all of it fertile. Only 23,000,000 acres have been entered and patented, so that there are yet several millions of acres of public lands. Five years' residence will secure a patent to 160 acres, and the entryman may commute his entry after fourteen months of bona-fide residence by paying the appraised value of the land, as adjusted by the Department of the Interior.

While there is yet much land to be homesteaded, it is being rapidly entered, and the growing scarcity of desirable fertile land that may yet be purchased at reasonable prices, and the crowded population of the middle and eastern states have precipitated a tremendous influx of settlers. Naturally land in the more thickly settled parts of the state has increased in value. Some tracts are being sold for \$90 per acre, and hundreds of tracts readily sell at \$75 per acre.

This land is easily tilled, is generally level or slightly rolling, and will produce crops as large, and with less labor, than much land that is being sold in states farther east for \$100 or \$125 per acre.

In addition to the many facilities for home-building and money-making, South Dakota offers numerous other advantages. Churches of every denomination are established, the public schools are not excelled by those of any commonwealth, and the railroads connect all parts of the state with over 4,000 miles of first-class service.

THE BLACK HILLS

In the southwestern portion of the state is the Black Hills district. This region, thrown up in the midst of the plains by some giant upheaval of past ages, occupies an area about 60 miles wide and 100 miles long. It has an altitude of about 3,500 feet and is remarkably rich in gold, silver



Construction of the Big Belle Fourche Reservoir.



Raised Near Gregory, in the Rosebud Country.

and other minerals, well timbered, well watered and possesses a climate of such bracing and invigorating quality as to extend its fame through all parts of the world.

In fact, in addition to its mining interests, the Black Hills region is noted as a great natural sanitarium, where the pure air and a happy combination of right altitudes with medicinal waters join to make especially advantageous conditions for the healthseeker.

Surrounding the Black Hills on the north, east and south are the prairie lands whose succulent grasses have made them especially suitable for the grazing of cattle, spreading out to such an extent that their

outer rim encloses an area greater than that of Great Britain, Germany and France, and where the pasturage has been famous since the days when herds of buffalo and wandering tribes of Sioux were the only inhabitants.

THE BELLE FOURCHE IRRIGATION PROJECT

In the beautiful Belle Fourche Valley, adjacent to and north of the Black Hills district, the Government is completing an irrigation project, by means of which 100,000 acres of land will at an early date be supplied with water.

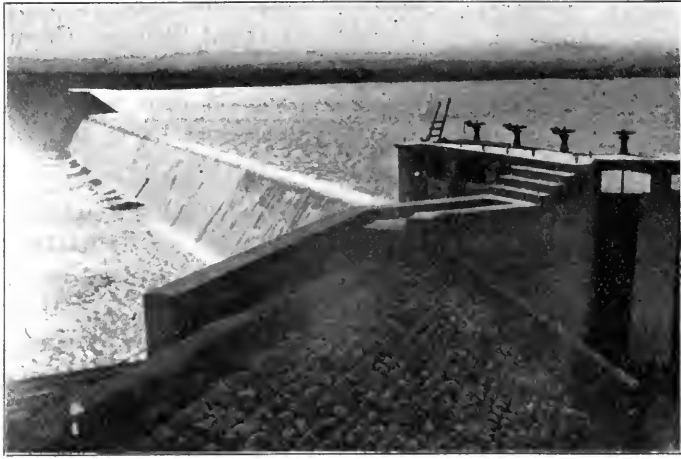
The Belle Fourche River and its tributaries supply the water for the project, it being stored in a vast lake or reservoir from which the lands are to be supplied by the gravity system. So positive is the certainty of water supply and so marked is the simplicity of the engineering plans, that the cost of the project has been reduced to a point where the settler buys his lands and water rights at an unusual advantage.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

These lands partly belong to the public domain and partly are deeded lands. The public lands can be secured under the terms of the United States Homestead



In the Rosebud Country, Near Bonesteel, S. D.



Government Dam and Reservoir at Belle Fourche.

Laws. These require a continuous residence of five years to secure title. The average irrigable area on these homesteads is eighty acres; and in addition to this, there is considerable bench-land in connection with that which is under the ditch, that can be used for pasturage and for raising rough feed for stock.

The cost of water for lands under the project will be about \$30 per acre, divided into ten annual payments, or about \$3.00 per acre per year, without interest, and represents only the actual cost to the Government of the irrigation plant. The first payment becomes due in the fall after the water has been delivered for the crop. In the case of lands belonging to the Government, this includes the total cost of title to the land and perpetual water rights. A maintenance and operation charge of 40 or 50 cents per acre is also necessary.

The lands, when in cultivation, will probably be easily worth \$75 to \$100 per acre, and the crops produced will no doubt pay good interest on this amount. It is an excellent chance for a man to secure a home and pay for it from the crops he produces.

A settler here would require about \$1,000 in cash, one or two teams, a cow, farm implements, etc., as a basis for getting started.

One thousand farms are ready for settlement at the present time, and 12,000 acres of land are under water for the first time this year. The remainder of the land will

be supplied with water privileges as rapidly as the work progresses, there being a total of 100,000 acres irrigable.

Inquiry concerning lands, how to acquire them, crops and other facts relating to this section of country, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Belle Fourche Valley Water Users' Association, Belle Fourche, S. D.

A NEW CITY

A new town is to be laid out by the Government in the midst of the irrigated district; and here, as well as in towns already located, there are rare opportunities for the merchant to establish a trade before the region fills up. The merchant and professional man will here have the advantage of those unusual opportunities for success which always exist when communities are new and growing rapidly.

WHAT CROPS WILL GROW

On one piece of irrigated land in the Black Hills region which has been under cultivation for fifteen years, the crop has never run less than 40 bushels of oats per acre and has produced as high as 100 bushels; the land produces 30 bushels of wheat per acre without irrigation.

Alfalfa, potatoes, sugar beets, hardy fruits and garden truck are grown profitably. Wheat grass, the native hay, sells for a high price—for this country is one of the greatest cattle ranges in the world.



A South Dakota Harvest.

This proposed irrigated valley will also create a new industry—that of winter feeding of cattle and sheep, summer pastured on the nearby free and open range—an industry that will make this section a rival of the most prosperous regions of the West. It is surrounded by a vast range country to the north, east and west, that affords pasturage for herds of cattle and large bunches of sheep, and the advantages of this free range in connection with an irrigated country are of inestimable value.

In other irrigated regions stock is not only wintered on alfalfa and grain, but wintered and fattened on sugar-beet pulp from the factories, which has proven a

cheap feed. The chances that a beet-sugar factory will be built in this territory in the next year or two are extremely good, as capitalists have reported favorably on the proposition.

The housewife can grow her garden and flowers. Insect pests are unusually few in number, and there has never been a loss from grasshoppers or other insect visitations.

The valley is a natural artesian basin. Flowing water of the finest quality is secured at a depth of from 500 to 1,500 feet.

NEARBY MARKETS

Belle Fourche has the advantage of most districts that are being opened to irrigation



On a Government Homestead



Street Scene—A Typical Nebraska Town.

Nebraska

In 1904 Congress passed an act known as the Kinkaid Bill, under the terms of which large tracts of public lands in northwestern Nebraska, reached by the line of the Chicago & North Western Railway, were thrown open to settlement. The principal feature of the Kinkaid Bill is that the applicant may, in the territory named, make entry under the homestead laws of 640 acres (one square mile), instead of 160 acres of land. The purpose of this is to enable the homesteader to use his land profitably for grazing purposes.

There are large quantities of these unallotted public lands in Nebraska, situated in the northern part of the state, through which the Chicago & North Western Railway passes directly. The lands affected have been open to the homesteader in lots of 160 acres for many years, but have not been heretofore taken up to any great extent because of the fact that a quarter-section is not sufficient to use profitably for cattle-raising purposes.

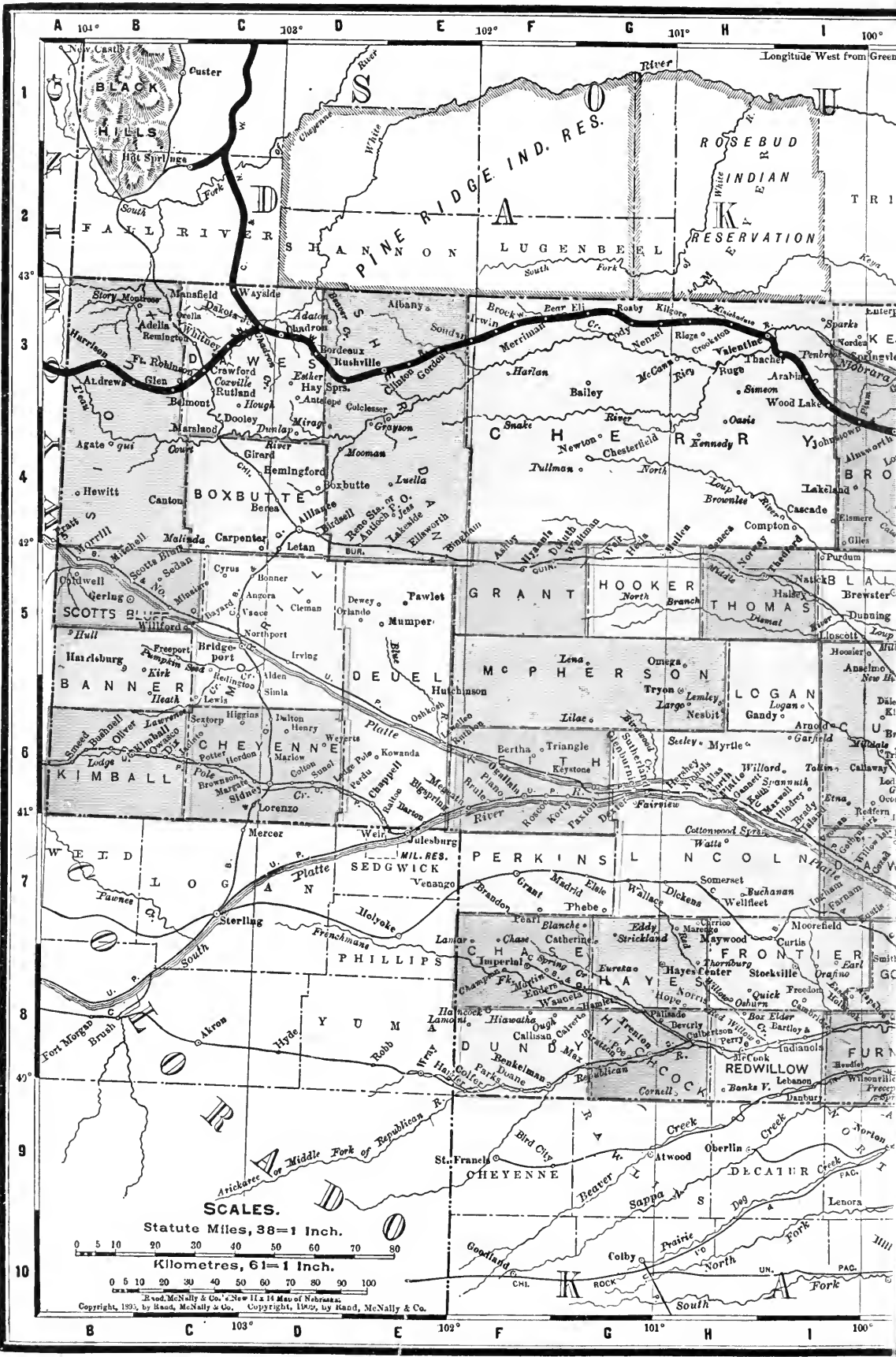
The rainfall in this part of the state is not sufficient for successful farming except by the advanced methods of scientific dry farming, and it is on this account that the

Kinkaid Bill has been passed, *with the result that a Nebraska cattle ranch, one mile square, absolutely free, is the offer which the Government makes to every man or head of a family in the United States.*

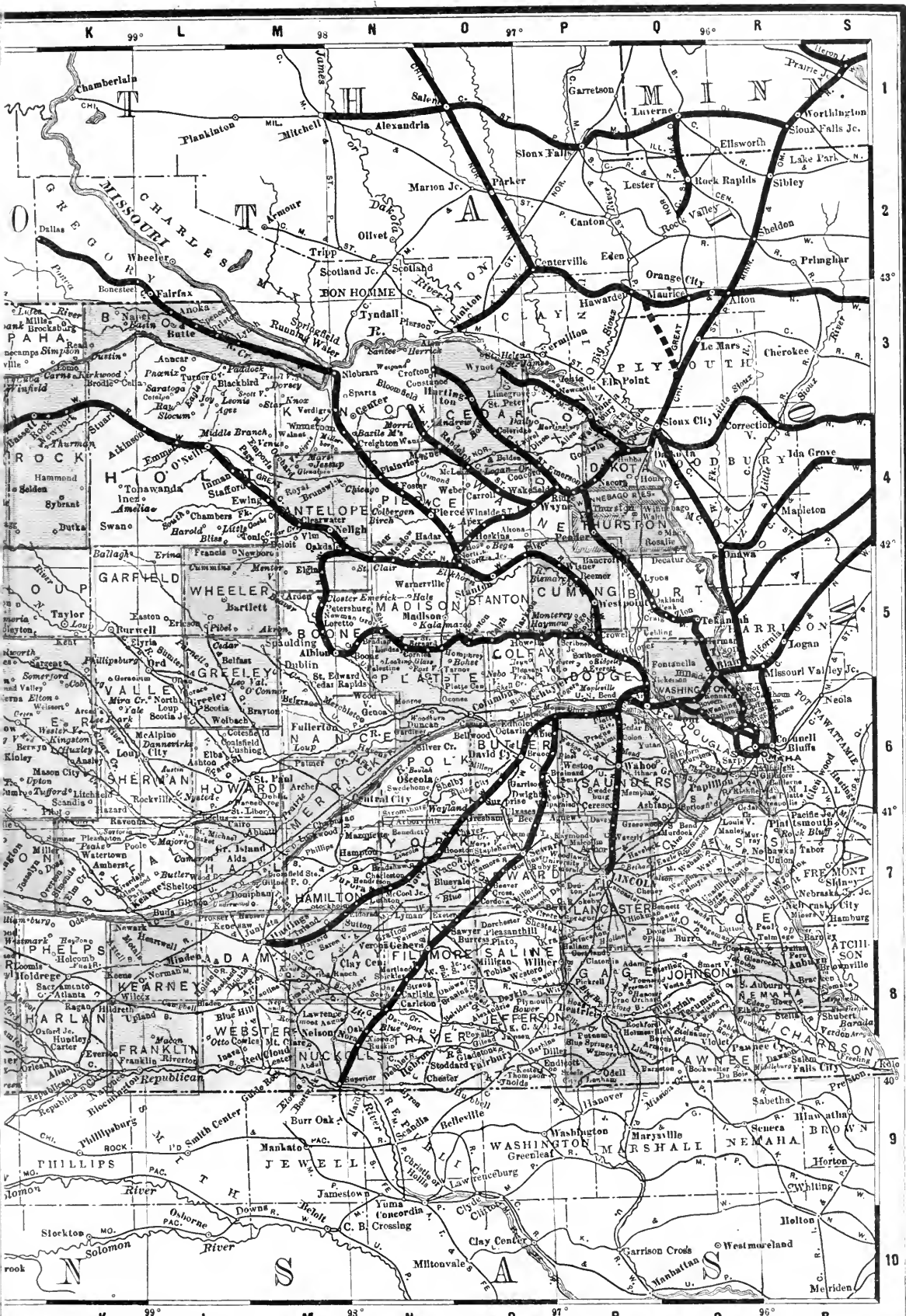
From the 8,500,000 acres of these lands, anyone desiring to become possessor of a section of grazing land should have no trouble in finding a tract suitable to his taste, and now that the practical merits of dry-farming methods have become established clearly, the value of these lands for agricultural purposes has become much greater than ever before.

As an example of the quality of the lands, Rock County actually ships more hay to market via The North Western Line from the town of Newport than is shipped to market from any other one point anywhere in the world; while one of the finest potato-raising districts in the West has its shipping center at Gordon, in Sheridan County.

Such towns as O'Neill, Long Pine, Valentine, Rushville, Chadron, and Lusk are well equipped with stores, banks, schools and churches, and the whole region is well populated.



County Map of Nebraska, Showing Lines of the Chicago & N



h Western Ry. and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry.



One Source of Nebraska's Wealth.

Public Lands in Nebraska in counties reached by the North Western Line, that are subject to settlement under the homestead laws under the Kinkaid bill:

Holt, 12,000 acres.	Boyd, 700 acres
Rock, 4,000 acres.	Brown, 81,452 acres.
Keya Paha, 38,040 acres.	Cherry, 1,015,582 acres.
Sheridan, 164,286 acres.	Dawes, 9,000 acres.
Sioux, 417,620 acres.	

You can make your filing at Valentine or O'Neill at any time, these points being reached by the direct train service of the Chicago & North Western Railway, from Chicago, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Omaha, Sioux City, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and all points west and northwest.

Every man or unmarried woman, over the age of 21; every married man under the age of 21; every widow, every minor orphan child of a deceased soldier, or any person who is the head of a family by adoption of a minor child, not already owning more than 160 acres of land and who is a citizen of the United States, may homestead 640 acres of this land, for the same fee charged by the Government for 160 acres in other states. The amount of this fee is \$14.

A man, for instance, with three sons and two unmarried daughters (all past the age of 21 years) may take up six sections, 3,840 acres of this land, in a compact body, making a first-class cattle ranch, which will cost them nothing but the required residence of five years. Should he wish to receive his deed before the end of five years, he may, at the end of fourteen months, pay \$1.25 per acre and receive his deed.

THE KINKAID BILL LANDS

The healthful climate, the well-endowed system of public schools, the growing towns and prosperous farms, and the steady increase in transportation facilities and in values of land, make Nebraska's future well worth careful examination by the man who, with small capital, desires to establish himself, to make a home for his family, to secure an education for his children and to make certain a competence for the days to come.

That portion of the state in which are found the lands that are available under the terms of the Kinkaid Bill is, as has been said elsewhere in this book, hardly available for agricultural purposes except in a



Nebraska Cattle.

very limited degree, the rainfall being insufficient. Irrigation is being practiced to an extent, but irrigable lands are not open for settlement under the provisions of the act referred to.

Stock-raising, therefore, is the principal industry. There is no finer grazing land in the world than that found on the uplands of western Nebraska, the buffalo grass affording excellent pasturage from early in the spring to late autumn and through a large portion of the winter months, and with enough of the qualities of grain to serve as a fattener to a degree that is not possible with any other known pasturage.

In addition to the stock-raising industry, hay is produced in large quantities, and a great part of the region is open to the successful culture of alfalfa.

The acreage of this latter product is growing yearly, both in the valleys where the plant sustains itself from the subterranean waters which underlie the greater part of the state, and under the still more favorable conditions of irrigation.

The dairying interests of northwestern Nebraska are commanding increased attention also, creameries being established at important points on the railway, and thus creating a convenient market for all the cream that can be produced.

The school system of Nebraska is established on a most desirable basis (the state shows the lowest percentage of illiteracy); the school funds being based on the wise provisions of the early settlers, by which a liberal allotment was made of public lands for school purposes. These lands have grown in value with the growth of the state and thus created a liberal educational fund.

Churches, too, are numerous and flourishing.

There are several live and typical western towns situated in the counties affected by the provisions of the Kinkaid Bill along the line of the Chicago & North Western Railway, including O'Neill, Bassett, Ainsworth, Valentine, Rushville, Chadron and Harrison.

In these and other towns along the lines of the Chicago & North Western Railway, good business opportunities are offered to the merchant, mechanic, farmer, laborer and professional man, opportunities which will largely increase with the growth of the country and the opening of the public lands now taking place.

The former United States Land Receiver at O'Neill says regarding the lands tributary to these towns, that are available for homesteading under the Kinkaid Act:



A Group of Nebraska Yearlings That Brings Handsome Profits.

“Generally speaking, these lands are first-class grazing lands. In my judgment most any of the lands available in my district are worth at least \$5 per acre for grazing purposes. If a man will go at it right I am satisfied there are sections available that can be made to care for more than one hundred head of cattle the year around. That is, small tracts can be had that will produce oats, millet and other rough feed for the winter, while the cattle will graze from eight to nine months of the year.”

Nebraska is essentially an agricultural state and its development along agricultural lines has been and continues to be very rapid.

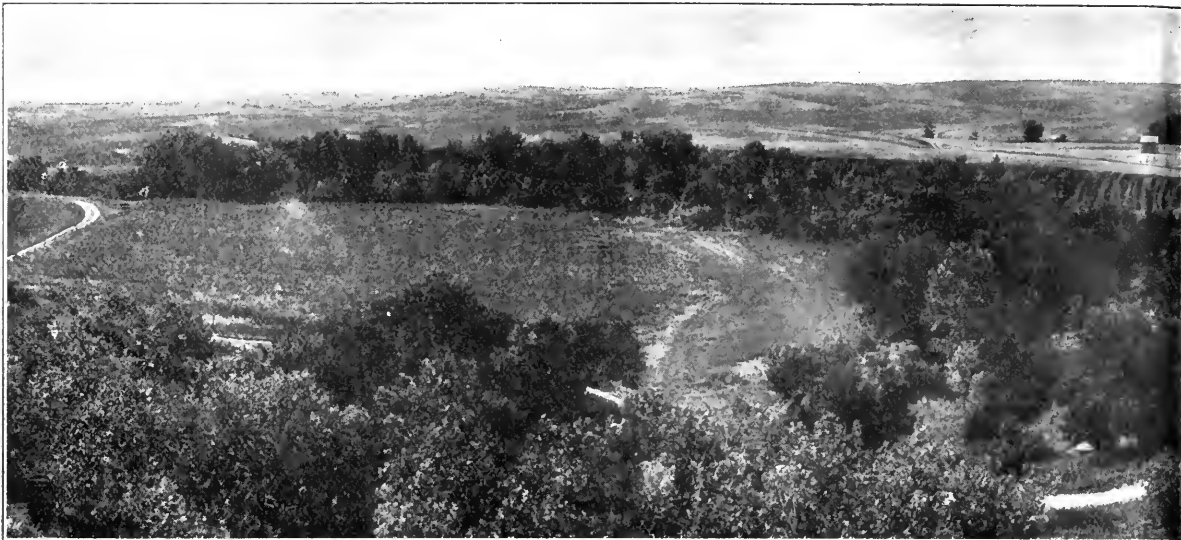
Hand in hand with this agricultural growth, its towns and cities are growing in wealth and population to an equal degree. As an instance of this, the census of 1900 shows that the largest increase in population in the United States was in South Omaha, where the percentage of increase for ten years was 222.5 per cent. Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln, Norfolk and a score of other cities located on the Chicago & North Western Railway, also show a healthy growth each year that places the Nebraska farmer within easy reach of the best markets for his products. Nebraska produces a quarter of a billion bushels of

corn every year, with an average yield for twenty-one years of 30 bushels per acre; and 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, with an increasing acreage devoted to this crop each year.

The live stock from the range finds ready market at South Omaha, the third largest meat-packing and live stock market in the United States, Sioux City, where large yards and packing houses are also located, and at Chicago, all of which are reached by the fast stock trains of The North Western Line. But the agriculturalist's greatest attention at present is given to those diversified features such as the development of the rapidly growing dairy industry, features of western agricultural progress that are bringing to the farmer and merchant an increase in land values and general prosperity that is unprecedented.

THE NORTH WESTERN LINE

Across the state, the lines of the Chicago & North Western Railway from Omaha, and from a point opposite Sioux City, converge with the line from the Missouri River near Blair, and extend along the Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys to its western boundary. A comparatively recent extension of The North Western Line reaches north from Norfolk to Dallas on the



A Ranch Scene Near Phillip, S. D.—On

THE NEW LINE, PIERRE TO RAPID CITY, A

The Pierre, Rapid City & North Western Railway from Pierre, across the Missouri River, through the range at Pierre and the present Black Hills line of that system at Rapid City.

This new line, 165 miles long, opens up a new region that contains hundreds of square miles of agricultural land. It has led to rapid development, giving Pierre, the state's capital and Ft. Pierre, across the river, and the country around them. It connects Lead, Deadwood and the mining district of the Black Hills, Belle Fourche to the north and Hot Springs to the south. It opens up a new region that contains more agricultural land than ever before the Lake Superior Iron and Copper country and the hardwood forests of Wisconsin and the western halves of the state of South Dakota.

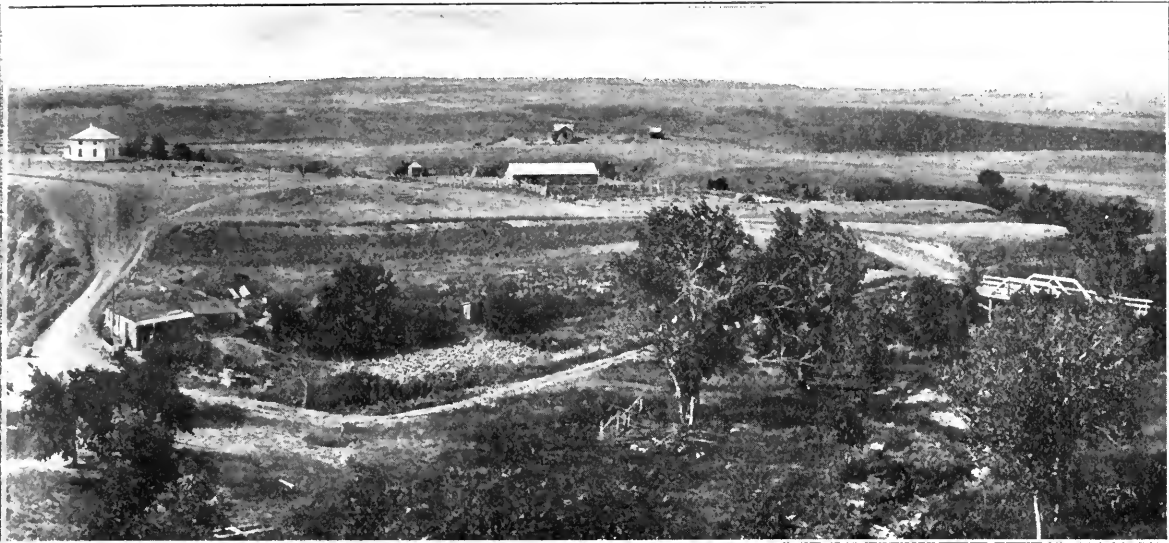
It is a fact conceded by the best authorities that this open range country west of the Missouri River has a greater value than any available in portions of Europe in which 100,000,000 people dwell and where farm lands are worth from \$100 to \$200 per acre. Towns have grown up rapidly along this new line and thousands of settlers have already flocked into the districts for establishing business in the towns. Regarding these opportunities, full information will be sent to you on request.



On a C

The first shipment of western live stock to the Chicago market was a sled load of hogs picked up on the prairie by the Chicago & North Western Railway (in 1848).

To-day the Union Stock Yards of Chicago have a capacity of 100,000 head per day, and the value of the live stock is \$100,000,000. The stock farms and grazing districts of the West are placed in direct communication with the markets of Chicago. Large feeding yards and terminals contiguous to the city are maintained by The North Western Line for the benefit of the stock raisers.



Pierre, Rapid City & North Western Ry.

ACROSS THE RANGE COUNTRY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The line of the Chicago & North Western Railway from Pierre, South Dakota to Rapid City, forms a direct link between the Chicago & North Western Railway

and the range country of South Dakota to Rapid City, forms a direct link between the Chicago & North Western Railway and the range country of South Dakota to Rapid City, forms a direct link between the Chicago & North Western Railway

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Range.

ten miles out of town and brought to Chicago on a construction train of what is now the Chicago & North

Western Railway. The stock received in the Chicago market amounts to over \$350,000,000 per year.

at South Omaha, Sioux City and other points by the fast stock trains of the Chicago & North Western Railway.

for the accommodation of the shippers.



Sorghum Field on a Government Irrigation Project.

eastern boundary of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, while shorter lines extend northward to Wynot, Crofton and Bloomfield. South of the Platte River three diverging lines extend from Fremont to Lincoln, Seward, Geneva, Superior, David City, York and Hastings, so that the Chicago & North Western Railway system traverses the entire length of the state from east to west, and also its breadth from the northern to the southern

state line, providing direct communication between the entire northern portion of the state and Omaha, Council Bluffs, Kansas City, Sioux City, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Chicago and the East.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS

Opportunity to Work.

Opportunity to Earn a Competence.

Opportunity to Educate your Family.



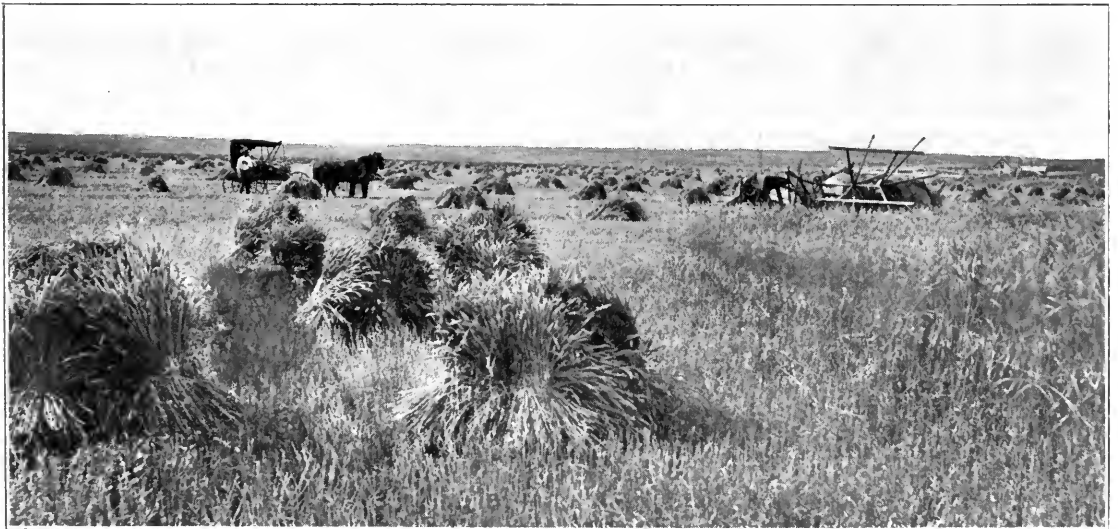
Threshing Scene near Crawford, Neb. This Farm Contains 1,280 Acres of Deep, Black Soil—No Crop Failures—Good Water.



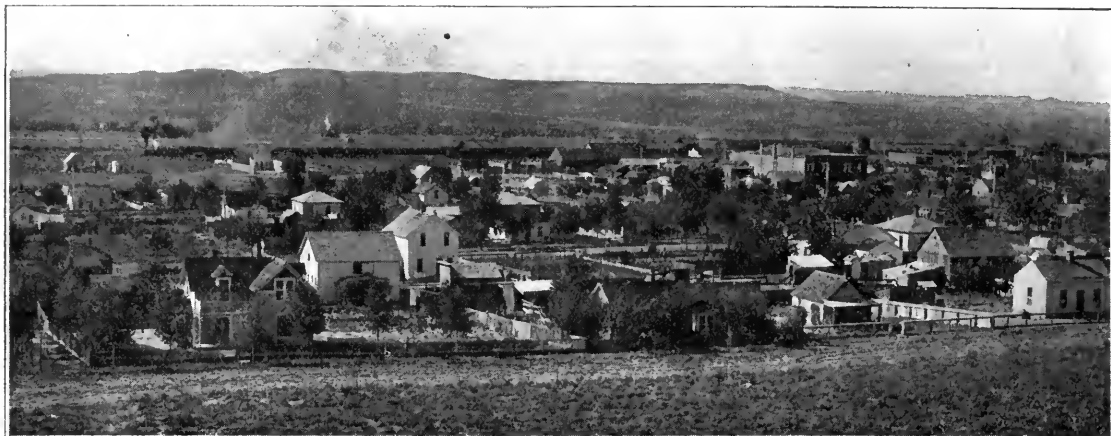
A Field of Broom Grass, Northwestern Nebraska.

To the man, who, under the adverse conditions of high prices for land, high taxes and heavy interest rates, finds the burdens of farming in the East undesirable; to the man who desires that his children shall find opportunity to establish them-

selves in the world; to the farmer who desires to secure fertile lands cheaply, or to the merchant who is seeking for a new opening in the west, the possibility of obtaining a new home is a question of untold importance.



Wheatfield Five Miles North of Rushville, Neb.



Birds Eye View of Douglas. The Wyoming State Fair is Held Here Each Year.

Wyoming

Agriculture in Wyoming is developing rapidly along three separate lines of growth:

1. The active growth of the movement for scientific dry farming, coupled with the opportunity to secure 320 acres of government homestead lands under the Mondell Act.

2. The irrigation of extensive tracts by private enterprise under the provisions of the Carey Act.

3. The opening of lands to irrigation by the United States Reclamation Service.

The successful experimentations in dry farming all along the line of the Chicago & North Western and the Wyoming & North Western Railways, from the Nebraska-Wyoming line, through Douglas and Casper, west across the center of the state, exemplifies the first classification.

The work of the Wyoming Central Irrigation Company, in the Wind River Valley, with headquarters at Shoshoni and Riverton, and the North Platte Valley irrigation project at Douglas, are examples of the second classification; and the government work on the Pathfinder dam, and the North Platte government project, is an example of the third class.

There are numerous examples of extensive progress in agriculture throughout the state. At Lusk and Manville there is considerable farming activity; and at Careyhurst, Judge Carey has made a marvelous development of extensive tracts of

land and has several thousand acres of very rich alfalfa lands under cultivation, watered by a private irrigation system.

At Jireh a movement of considerable importance is being made for the establishment of a large colony of eastern people, and a great deal has also been done at this point in the development of dry farming.

At Lander, the western terminus of The North Western Line, several small mountain streams are made use of for irrigating the village gardens and in the immediate vicinity of the town are several successfully conducted farms, raising fruits and alfalfa. Thousands of cattle are fed here every winter, and there are still thousands of acres of bench lands and some of the valley land that can be irrigated to advantage.

Wheat, oats, rye, barley, potatoes and sugar beets, under the scientific method of cultivation called "Dry Farming," or with the aid of irrigation, are successful crops.

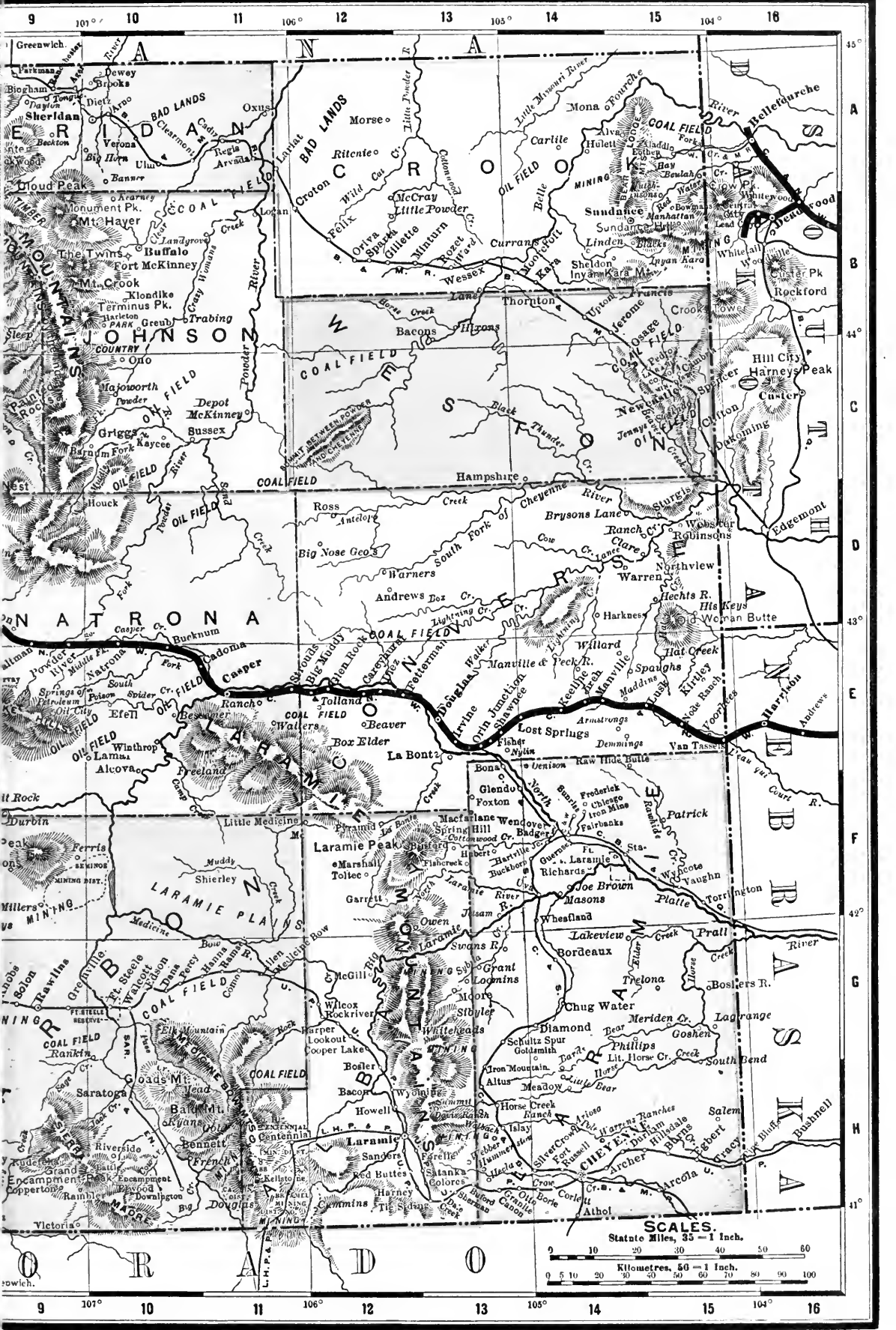
The Wyoming uplands make excellent paying land for sheep, cattle and horses. Last year the state ranked second in the Union in wool production, there being 6,000,000 sheep in the state, valued at \$8,000,000.

The cattle industry is also extensive, and a profitable and growing industry is the breeding of high grade horses, the horse raised in these altitudes being remarkable for his strength and endurance.

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100



County Map of Wyoming, Showing Lines of The Chicago & North Western Railway



North Western Rv. and The Wyoming & North Western Rv.



A Wyoming Herd.

There are many farms in Wyoming on which are raised 30 to 40 bushels of wheat, 40 to 60 bushels of oats (the large yield being due in great degree to the fact that the grain weighs very heavy), and 200 bushels of potatoes to the acre, while two or three crops of alfalfa are easily produced, cutting one or two tons each crop, and hay that runs about two tons per acre.

The climate is much more equable than that of similar latitudes in the East. The air is always pure and dry, with abundant sunshine. The heat is never intense. In the hottest summer weather it is cool in the shade, and the nights are always cool. The air in winter is clear and bracing; in fact, the dry exhilarating air serves as a tonic that makes for health and happiness here in a way that is unknown under the duller skies of the East and South. As a place in which to recover health and strength, Wyoming constitutes one big sanitarium.

320 ACRES OF GOVERNMENT LAND FREE TO THE HOMESTEADER

Congress has enacted a law known as the Mondell Act, under the terms of which large tracts of public lands in the state of Wyoming which are reached by the lines of the Chicago & North Western Railway and Wyoming & North Western Railway direct from Chicago and the East, have been thrown open to settlement under special conditions.

The principal feature of this act is that the homesteader may make entry of twice the usual amount of acreage, as it permits

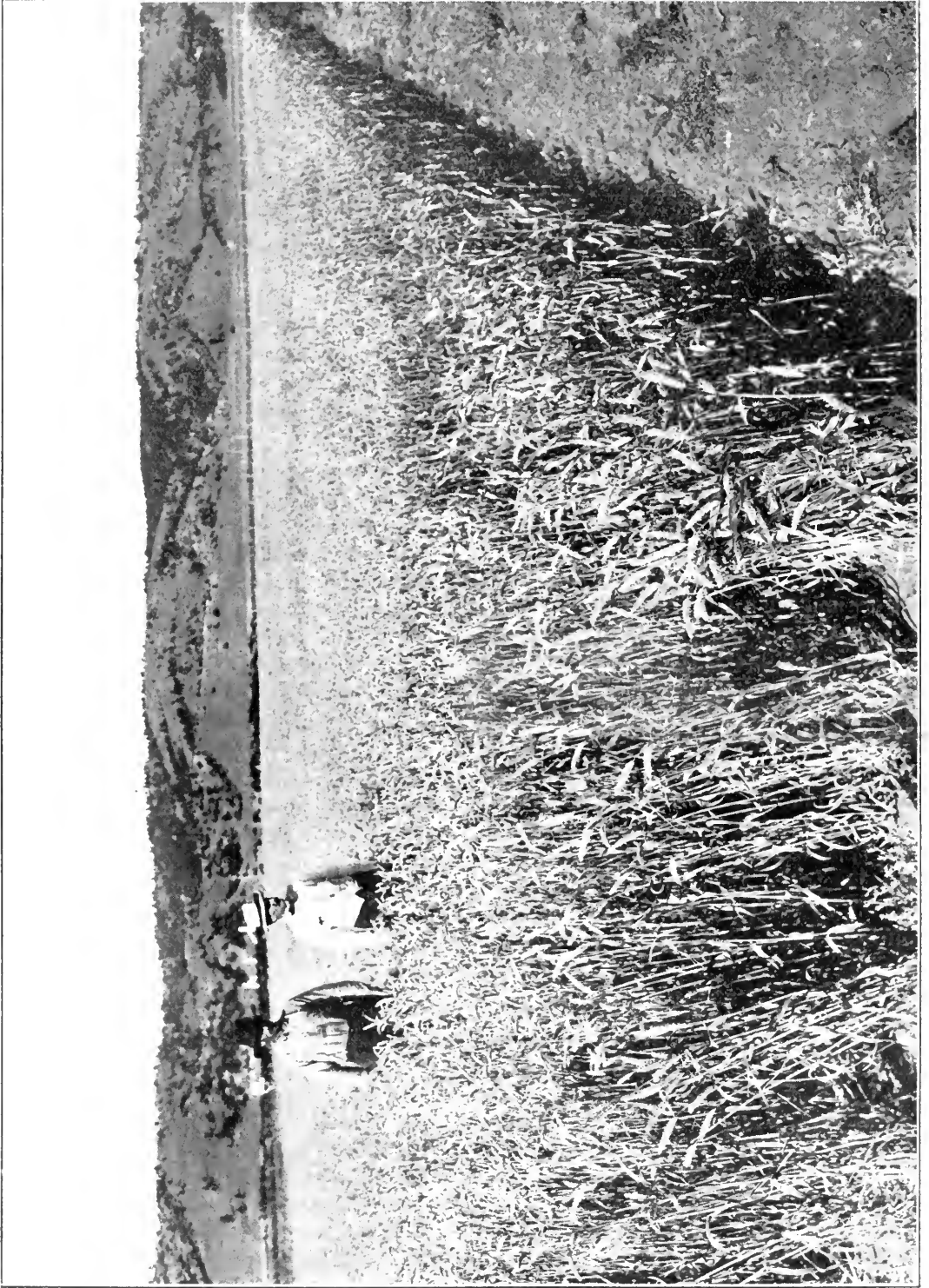
him to secure 320 acres, instead of the usual 160 acres. The purpose of this is to enable him to use his lands profitably for grazing purposes and for scientific dry farming.

There are large quantities of unallotted public lands in Wyoming, The North Western Line passing directly through them and providing facilities for shipment of stock and grain to market and for the transportation of passengers on fast trains to Omaha, Sioux City, Des Moines, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and Chicago.

The Secretary of the Interior has designated approximately 150 townships, tributary to The North Western Line and extending from the Nebraska and Wyoming state line on the east, through Converse and Natrona counties, to Natrona station, on the west.

These lands are non-mineral and have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior as not being susceptible of irrigation.

Entry under the Mondell Act may be made at the United States Land Office at Douglas, Wyo. The usual proofs and affidavits must be supplied as required by the United States Homestead Laws. At the time of making final proofs under the Mondell Act, the entryman shall also prove by two credible witnesses that at least one-eighth of the area embraced in his entry was continuously cultivated to agricultural crops, other than native grasses, beginning with the second year of the entry, and that at least one-fourth of the



A Field of Barley Produced by Dry-Farming Methods.



Fruits Do Well in Wyoming.

area has been continuously cultivated, beginning with the third year of entry.

The advantages the Mondell Act offers to the seeker for a new home are especially attractive when taken in connection with the rapid advance being made in the science of dry farming and the practical results now being produced under dry-farming methods when properly applied.

SCIENTIFIC DRY FARMING

To the farmer who is seeking a new home in this region of great opportunities, the science of so-called dry farming is an important one, and a definition of its meaning and a description of the methods of planting and cultivation that it involves is of much interest.

A proper definition of the term "dry farming" is the scientific cultivation of crops under a limited rainfall and without irrigation.

The basis of dry farming is the establishment in the soil of a natural reservoir of moisture. In some localities enough water can thus be conserved by careful methods of cultivation to make a crop every year. In other localities two years rainfall should be preserved. With a precipitation of fifteen to twenty-four inches of annual rainfall, many farmers in high altitudes are cropping annually.

AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MOVEMENT

The development of the regions of the West, where so-called "dry farming" must be depended upon, will place millions of acres of land that is now worthless, under cultivation, and will furnish homes for many times the present agricultural population of the United States.

Land recently worth no more than 50 cents an acre has, by means of the unusual advance in dry-farming methods, risen to an active market value of \$25.

The area of tillable lands in the United States not yet turned to cultivation is comparatively small, and with the present heavy demands for land, it is especially the part of good judgment that the dry-farming districts be investigated by those who con-



Breaking Ground on a Wyoming Ranch.



Dry-Grown Turkey Red Wheat.

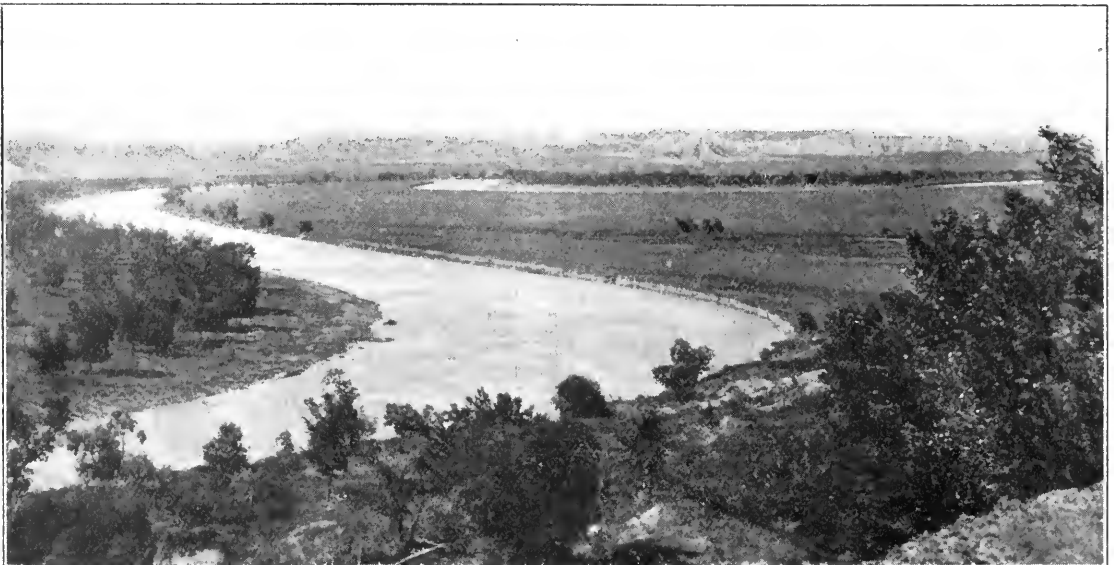
template getting a home under the free homestead laws.

By the successful use of scientific soil-culture methods, 200,000,000 acres of arable land can be added to the nation's agricultural wealth.

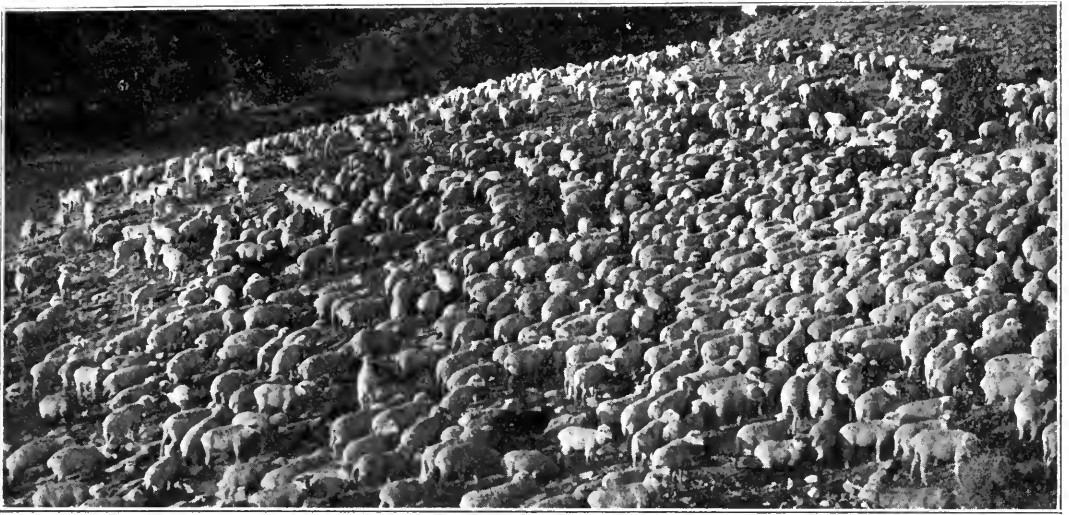
The dry-farming methods recommended for Wyoming have been successfully practiced on the Pacific Coast for more than a generation, with modifications to suit different conditions of soil, climate and rainfall. The farmer simply divides his land into two portions, on one-half raising crops, the other half being summer-fallowed. By this method, which is easily understood and carried out, the farmer has

a long season instead of a short one, and drives his work instead of being driven by it. Crops are produced by this method when the seasons are dryer than usual and one big crop is raised with one plowing, one seeding, several cultivations, practically two years' moisture, and one harvesting.

The plowing must be deep. Old ground should be plowed eight or nine inches deep, and it is always better to plow in the fall if possible, in order that the ground may absorb the winter's moisture, the sod become decomposed, and the soil sufficiently compacted to form a good seed bed for spring planting. All spring and sum-



The Broad Fertile Valley of the Big Wind River.



Flock of 3,000 Sheep in Natrona County.

mer plowing should be thoroughly harrowed the same day it is plowed. Harrow (and drill as well) at right angles to the way in which the winds blow, the object being to prevent the land from drifting, to hold the snow which falls on the plowed ground or winter grain, and to prevent the particles of soil or snow being carried along the furrows.

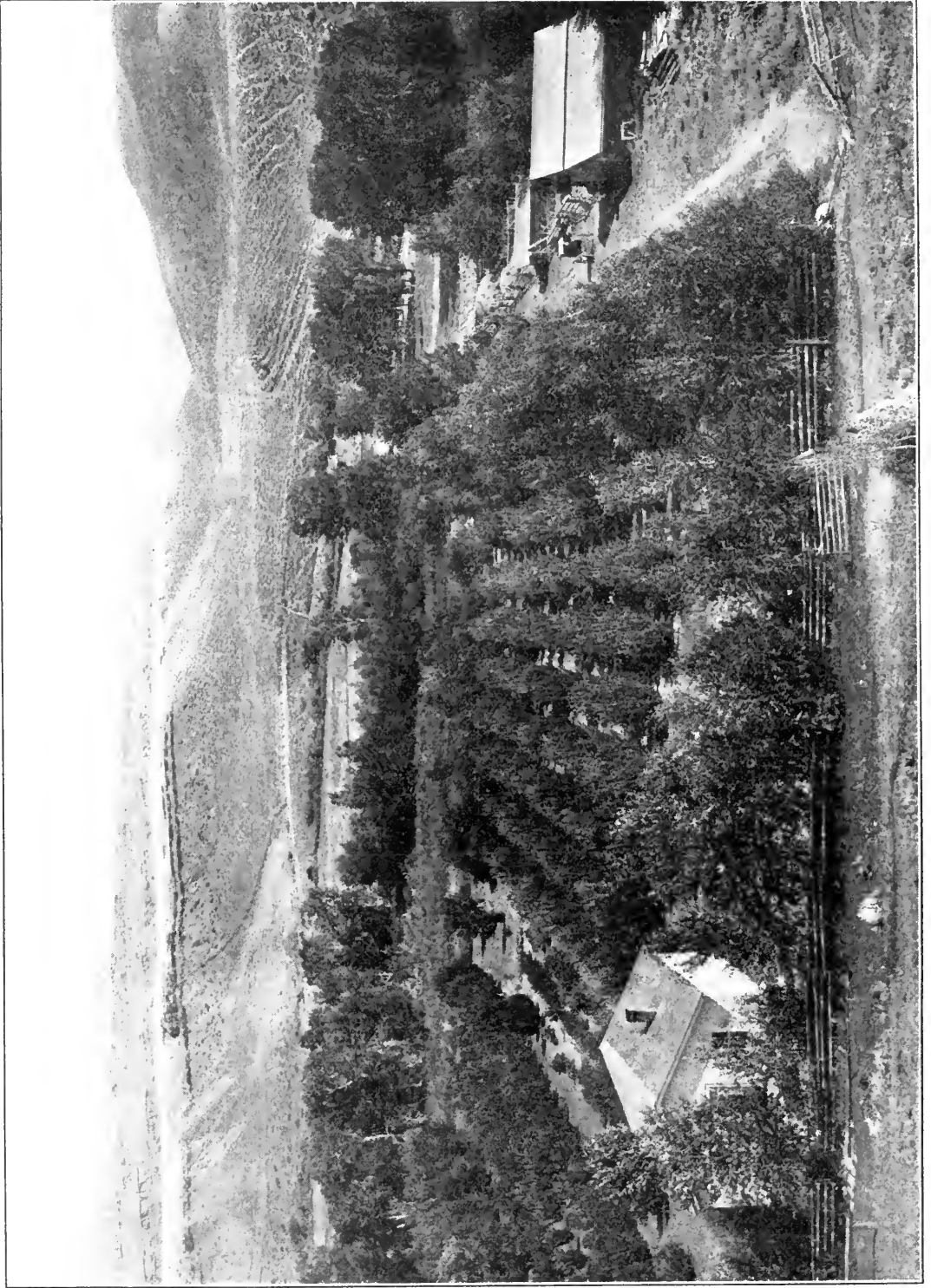
Winter grain should be sown early, spring grain as early as the ground can be put in good condition, and all danger of hard freezing is past, for the earlier it is sown the greater is its chance of stooling. Another thing of vital importance is to see that the seeds are *planted properly*.

The experience of the most intelligent and up-to-date farmers shows that by sowing thirty to forty pounds of wheat per acre in the fall, better results will be obtained than with more.

The press drill is one of the essential implements for the dry farmer. It sows the grain in proper shape and to the right depth, pressing the soil around the seed, which insures germination, making a gain of a week or ten days. The man who sows alfalfa broadcast puts in *from twenty to forty pounds of seed per acre* when if he uses a press drill, *ten to twelve pounds of seed* will be sufficient.



Thoroughbred Cattle on the Carey Ranch, Near Careyhurst, Wyo.



An Irrigated Ranch Near Lander, Wyo. (Note the Apple Orchard in the Central Foreground)



A Fine Field of Dry-grown Wheat.

The soil mulch is a most important factor, for by it moisture is conserved. The summer-fallow ground should be in small lumps, care being taken not to get it too fine. The object of cultivating the summer-fallowed soil is to prevent the formation of a crust.

The soil mulch must also be maintained on the land which is raising the crop. There are a large number of farmers who are afraid of harrowing their grain for fear of tearing it out. The man who once harrows with a good team and sharp harrow teeth will not only have no cause to regret it, but will see that it is always done in the future. Alfalfa and grass meadows should be thoroughly disked.

Where rainfall comes during the summer, disking the stubble after harvesting grain is also important. After harvesting potatoes or sugar beets the drag-harrow should be used to break up the lumps and re-establish the soil mulch.

As for equipment needed, dry farming requires some things absolutely, if the dry farmer would make his business profitable.

He should have four or six horses, a three-section drag-harrow, a 2-12 or 14-inch gang plow, a good disc-harrow (the discs should not be larger than fourteen inches), an Acme harrow for maintaining soil mulch, one or two good cultivators and a press drill. The latter is one of the essentials, and may be either of the "shoe" or the "disc" type. The latter has some advantages where there is much stubble or refuse, but on well-prepared summer-fallow ground the shoe drill, with press wheels following to firmly pack the seed, probably does the best work.

The best paying dry farms are those in which a system of cropping and feeding stock is followed; and where the crops are fed to stock at the farm, there is practically no loss of fertility.

THE CAREY LAND ACT

Under the provisions of the act of Congress, known as the Carey Act, the State of Wyoming has segregated forty-three tracts of land, aggregating nearly 750,000 acres, granted to it by the Federal Government,

to be reclaimed by means of irrigation. In addition to the 320 acres of land allowed by the Government under the Mondell Act, the homesteader may also file upon 160 acres under the Carey Act, providing that he purchase a water right from the association or company constructing a canal for the reclamation of the land, at a cost of from \$10 to \$40 per acre, depending upon location. Not more than one-quarter of the purchase price can be required in advance, the remainder being payable in ten equal installments, with interest at from 6 to 8 per cent per year. The settler has the privilege of paying all in cash if he so desires, or paying in full at the time fixed for any partial payment. Parties desiring to take up homesteads under this act are requested to write to the Commissioner of Public Lands, Cheyenne, Wyo., for full details.

THE NORTH PLATTE VALLEY PROJECT

One or two systems of irrigation are being established under the Carey Act which are especially worthy of notice. At Douglas the North Platte Valley irrigation project is irrigating, with water from the

North Platte River and its tributaries, land that is rich and undulating and produces excellent alfalfa, sugar beets, grain, potatoes and all root crops. They have about 28,000 acres under water at present, and their plans include development of a total of 96,000 acres. None of the land in this project is more than ten miles from Douglas, a city of 2,000 population, with good schools, churches and modern conveniences, such as electric lights, sewerage and water.

The company has constructed sixteen miles of canal and the reservoir of their gravity system has a capacity of 40,000 acre-feet of water, the largest re-enforced steel concrete dam in the world.

The lands lay adjacent to the National Gas Pipe Line extension from the Gas Belt to Douglas.

There are two shipping points on the Chicago & North Western Railway.

This is a great sheep raising country, and lambs can be fed here much more cheaply than by shipping them elsewhere, as immediate results can be obtained from feeding, without the shrinkage occasioned by shipping young lambs. They are taken



Wyoming Apples, Grown with Irrigation



Threshing Scene, near Douglas, Wyo.

instead directly from their range and from the mothers, to the feed lots, where they can be finished for market in one hundred days.

THE FETTERMAN CANAL, DOUGLAS, WYO.

Another extensive enterprise is the canal constructed to cover some 6,000 acres of land west of Douglas, including lands in what is known as the "Old Fort Fetterman Reservation." A large canal has been constructed at a cost of over \$80,000, and is ready to deliver water. The land under this canal is mostly in private ownership, and under the control of Mr. John Morton of Douglas, Wyo., who will, during the present season, put over 1,000 acres in crops. The land is generally level and very fertile. The Chicago & North Western Railway passes through the tract.

WIND RIVER RESERVATION

By act of Congress of March 3, 1905, part of the Shoshone or Wind River Reservation was opened for settlement under the Homestead Act in July, 1906. The portion ceded to the Government and opened for settlement embraces the land lying north and east of the Big Wind River,

and it lies at an elevation of from 4,300 to 6,000 feet.

Nearly 300,000 acres of this virgin land can be irrigated from the Big Wind River, one of the sources of the Missouri River, with 2,000 square miles of timbered mountains and their vast snow banks; and with lakes and reservoirs holding 300,000 acre-feet of water, as the source of water supply.

This forms the basis for one of the biggest plans for irrigation ever undertaken.

The Wyoming Central Irrigation Company is under contract with the State to build a canal system covering all the lands which can be irrigated. Water rights, together with a proportionate interest in the canals and reservoirs, are sold at \$30 per acre on ten years' time, payable \$3.00 per acre down and balance in ten equal annual payments, with 6 per cent interest. When the water rights have been sold, the system will be turned over to the management of the settlers under the canal.

Tributary to these irrigable lands is a vast area of grazing lands, 200 miles square, where 500,000 sheep and 100,000 cattle can be grazed, which can all be fattened for market on the products of the farms in this tract. This farming district

is surrounded by mineral districts containing coal, copper, oil, gold, building stone, marble, shale suitable for Portland cement manufacture, limestone and brick shales. The thriving towns of Shoshoni and Riverton are at present the market places, and the land under the first lateral constructed by the company, amounting to some 15,000 acres, has been filed upon, as well as many thousands of acres for which laterals have not yet been constructed. There are thousands of acres of valuable land open for settlement, and to the settler who has capital to enable him to clear and crop the land there is an unusually good chance to develop an irrigated farm that will make a splendid home and insure

him an income for the remainder of his days.

The settlers here have the benefit of results obtained from an experimental farm established by the company for investigation as to the value of various crops, character of soil and best methods of irrigation.

Small grains, alfalfa and potatoes are the principal crops.

On that part of the reservation retained by the Indians, the Government, under the efficient direction of Major Wadsworth, has completed a series of irrigation ditches, by means of which 60,000 acres of irrigated Indian lands are open to lease by white settlers on easy terms.

UNITED STATES HOMESTEAD LAWS

Who is permitted to secure a Homestead?

A synopsis of what steps are necessary in order to secure a western farm from the U. S. Government.

Under the present provisions of the United States Homestead Laws any man or unmarried woman, twenty-one years of age, who is a citizen of the United States or has declared an intention of becoming such, may take a homestead. In addition to the above, any man or woman who has not yet reached the age of twenty-one years may, if the head of a family, take up a homestead; but any person who owns more than 160 acres, or who has heretofore exercised the homesteading right, is debarred from these privileges (except as especially provided in the Mondell Act).

What is a Homestead?

Any of the persons named above has the right to settle upon and acquire unappropriated public lands not to exceed 160 acres (320 acres under the Mondell act 640 acres under the Kinkaid act,) and the land so taken is called a homestead.

United States Land Offices

Land districts have been established in certain states and territories, each district subject to the supervision of a United States Land Office. At each such office is a "Register" and a "Receiver," each of them public officials who superintend the homesteading or other disposal of public lands.

How to Secure a Homestead

The applicant is required to file an application on a form furnished by the United States Land Office, describing the land it is proposed to pre-empt. This is called "filing the homestead entry."

Certain fees, amounting to a sum of from \$6 to \$14, must be paid at this time.

Having fulfilled the requirements of the law regarding residence for five years, the applicant presents evidence to that effect, and pays certain fees, which amount to from \$8 to \$22. This is called "proving

up," or making final proof, and if the applicant has complied with all the requirements of the law, the Government gives him title to the land; this title being known as a government "patent."

How to File Entry on the Land

The applicant must appear personally at the local land office to make entry.

How long the Homesteader must live on the Land

Residence must be begun within six months after the date on which the entry is made, and continued with cultivation until a patent has been earned by five years' residence and cultivation and the payment of the installments annually. A residence elsewhere for more than six months at any one time is considered by the Government as an abandonment of the entry, and the homesteader's rights are forfeited.

The homesteader may, however, secure title to the land by living on it fourteen months and at the end of that period making final payment of all amounts due thereon, including a certain sum for commutation, usually 50 cents per acre.

Soldiers and Sailors

A soldier, sailor or marine of the Civil War, Philippine War, or Cuban War, may have the time of his service deducted from the five years' residence required.

After such soldiers, sailors, their widows or minor orphan children have actually resided on the land for twelve months, they can claim credit for the period of the soldiers' military service on the remaining four years' residence required by the law. For instance, if such service amounted to four years, only one year's residence will be required; if it amounted to three years, two years' residence will be required, and

so on; but there must be one year's actual residence, regardless of the length of the military service.

Persons not qualified to make Homestead Entry

The following persons are not qualified to make homestead entry:

1. A married woman, unless she has been deserted or abandoned by her husband, or unless her husband is incapacitated by disease or otherwise from earning a support for his family, and she is the head and main support of the family.

2. One not a citizen of the United States and who has not declared his intention to become such.

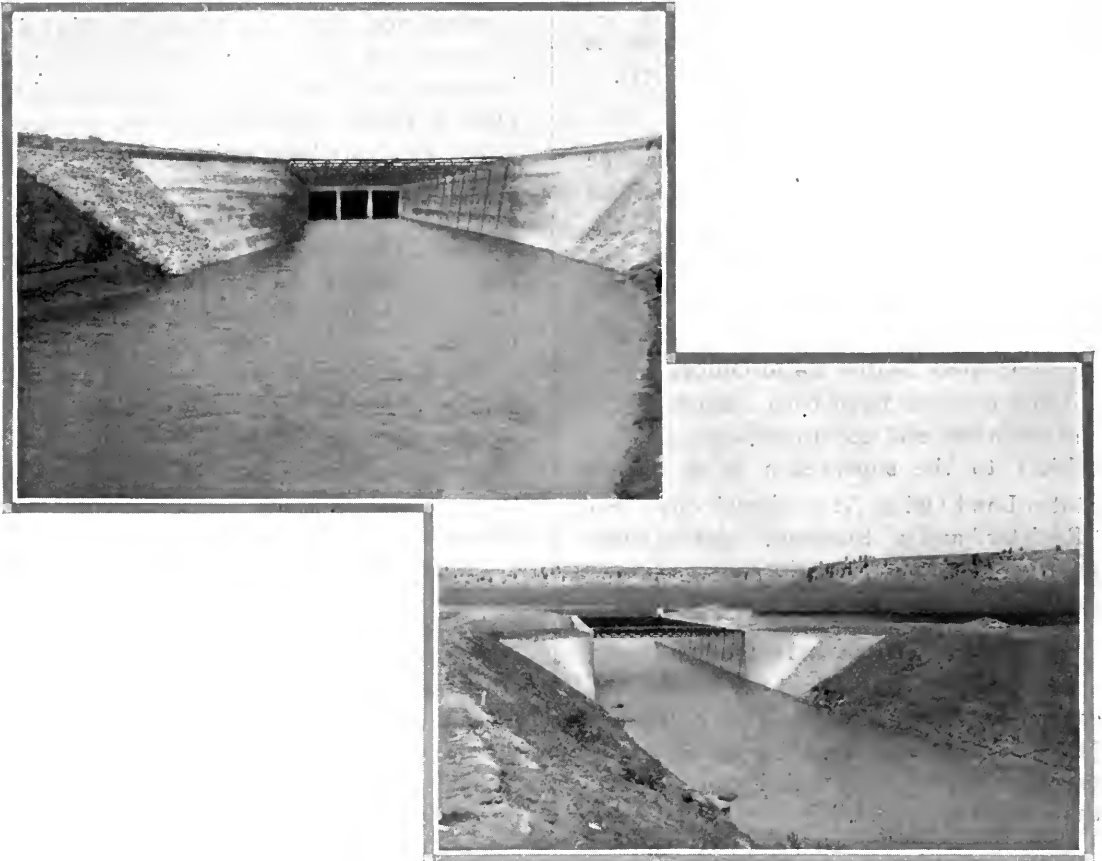
3. One under twenty-one years of age, not the head of a family.

4. One who is the proprietor of more than 160 acres of land in any state or territory.

Homesteads Not Saleable

Do not attempt to buy out a homesteader without keeping in view the fact that he can give you no title as against the United States. If you purchase a relinquishment of his claim it must run to the United States.

Entries and filings for the purpose of holding the land for speculation are illegal and fraudulent; and the sale of relinquishments is also illegal.



Views on the North Platte Government Irrigation Project. Showing Diversion Canal and Entrance to Tunnel

Extracts from Letters by W. E. Curtis

Reprinted from the Chicago Record-Herald

DITCHES TO RECLAIM BLACK HILLS REGION

Irrigation System Over 1,000 Miles Long Built at Belle Fourche

SETTLERS OF A NEW TYPE

William E. Curtis Finds Farmers Instead of Prospectors Entering Country

BELLE FOURCHE, S. D., July 30, 1909—The most eagerly of the irrigation works under construction by the Federal Government to reclaim the arid lands of the west is on the Belle Fourche River, just north of the Black Hills, in Butte and Meade counties, South Dakota. You know that several years ago Congress passed an act providing that the proceeds of the future sales of public lands should be used as working capital for the perpetual construction of reservoirs and irrigating ditches to reclaim the desert lands of the west which otherwise would be available for nothing but pastures. In other words, the money is to be reinvested perpetually until the arid belt is made susceptible of agriculture. As fast as each of the thirteen projects now under construction is completed the irrigated land will be sold to actual settlers at a price that will cover the cost of the plant, and when all of the land is taken up and paid for, the irrigation works will be turned over by the Government to a co-operative company organized by the purchasers.

The proceeds of the sale of irrigated lands is deposited in a special fund in the treasury for the construction of other projects for which surveys have been made in all the arid states and more than a hundred reservoir sites reserved. As fast as the money is available each of these in turn will be utilized. The projects that have been planned and are already under construction will add to the arable area of the United States about 32,000,000 acres, or about 400,000 farms of eighty acres each.

The Belle Fourche project will irrigate about 1,500 farms, or about 100,000 acres—an area of 15 by 40 miles, more or less. Of this area about one-half belongs to private parties, homesteaders and other settlers who have previously taken up government lands; about 5,000 acres belong to the State of South Dakota, being school sections, and the remaining 50,000 acres belong to the Government and is being rapidly taken up in tracts of forty and eighty acres, which are the farm units, and are about as much irrigated land as one family can cultivate. Settlers are required to pay a filing fee of \$7 and actually live on the land for five years, paying \$30 an acre for their water rights in installments of 10 per cent each year.

The state land is offered for sale at \$10 an acre plus the proportionate cost of the irrigation system, which is collected by the general Government. Private lands are being offered from \$10 to \$20 an acre, according to location and improvements, and they also are taxed \$3 an acre for ten successive years to pay for the water rights. About 15,000 acres are already under irrigation and about 60 per cent of the land has been taken up, most of it in tracts of eighty acres, by actual farmers, who have been renting in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri, and have come out here so that they may secure farms of their own.

Everybody here tells me that no man should attempt to run a farm without at least \$1,000 working capital to start with, as there are so many expenses before harvesting the first crop. Many of the new settlers are the sons of

farmers in the central states, and several of their daughters have come out here also.

The Belle Fourche irrigation system consists of about 1,000 miles of ditches, including 100 miles of main canals, twenty to forty feet wide, and from five to ten feet deep, and about 700 miles of laterals from four to six feet wide and two feet deep. These ditches will be fed from an artificial lake twelve miles long, an average of three miles wide and 115 feet deep at its deepest part. It is a peculiar shaped body of water owing to the configuration of the ground, and there will be several islands caused by high knolls.

This reservoir is created by the construction of a dam between two hills 5,500 feet (or 220 feet more than a mile) long, and 115 feet high. It is built of earth, 500 feet thick at the base and 20 feet thick at the top.

The dam is twelve miles from the flourishing little town of Belle Fourche, and the water which feeds it is taken from the river about two miles from the city through a sluice into which it is conducted by a diverting dam. The lake will contain about 8,712,000,000 cubic feet of water, which is equivalent to a body of water covering 200,000 acres of land one foot deep.

The United States Government has an experimental farm in Butte County, a short distance from the reservoir, and has reserved several additional quarter-sections for similar purposes within the irrigated area. The average elevation is 2,800 feet above the level of the sea, the atmosphere is dry, with an annual precipitation of only seven or eight inches; the soil is a clay loam and sandy loam, exceedingly fertile and free from alkali. It is especially favorable for fruits and berries, potatoes, beets, turnips and other root crops, and for alfalfa and hay. There is an almost unlimited market for all of these things in the mining camps and the towns of the Black Hills, and the Chicago & North Western Railroad furnishes an outlet to markets eastward.

Ever since the Black Hills were opened Belle Fourche has been an important center of the cattle industry and for several years was the largest live stock shipping point in the United States. The average shipments are about 75,000 head of cattle, 100,000 head of sheep and 1,500,000 pounds of wool per year. The cattle ranches have been very largely cut up into farms, for the land is becoming too valuable for grazing, especially since the irrigation projects were decided upon. Already there are thousands of acres of alfalfa growing on what were ranges only a few years ago, and all the cereals except corn have been produced by dry farming in the neighborhood, although the farmers will soon have plenty of water.

The class of people who are coming into the Black Hills country now are very different in character and disposition from the early settlers. The tide of immigration is quite as strong as it was during the first few years after the gold discoveries, but the emigrants of to-day are farmers instead of prospectors and they expect to make their fortunes with the plow and harrow rather than with the miner's pick and shovel. The western part of Nebraska and the eastern and southern part of South Dakota, where the soil is capable of producing good crops under the so-called dry-farming system, are being rapidly taken up by filing new homesteads, and also by buying out "relinquishments"—that is, the farms of homesteaders who have failed or are dissatisfied or have become restless for any reason and have decided to move on. Many of the original locators were not practical farmers; many more lacked the energy and the patience to succeed in "dry farming"; but the demand for land has increased so much that they are now able to sell claims of 160 acres which cost them nothing, all the way from \$500 to \$1,500, according to their locations and the character of the soil.

The character of the people that have been coming into this country is indicated very plainly by the homes and

churches and schools we see in the towns. The people of the Black Hills boast a great deal about their schoolhouses, and with good reason. There is a great deal of rivalry in that line. No community in the country or in the world, for that matter, has better buildings, more competent teachers or a higher standard of instruction. They tell me here that the certificates of the high schools in nearly every town in the Black Hills are accepted by eastern colleges as equivalent to an examination for admission. There is a compulsory education law which is strictly enforced. * * *

A school of mines at Rapid City has a high reputation and furnishes an opportunity for the young men of the Black Hills to qualify themselves for the most profitable profession in this part of the country. There are three buildings of pressed brick with sandstone trimmings, surrounded by a campus of ten acres, one of them being devoted to mining and metallurgy, another to chemistry and a third to physics and engineering. They are all equipped with modern laboratories and apparatus, and in the mining department is a miniature reduction plant, with a small smelter, an ore roaster, a stamp mill and cyanide works, where the students can obtain practical experience. The mining course covers three years. The course of physics and engineering four years, and the graduates of the institution have given it a most excellent reputation.

There wasn't much use for churches in the Black Hills a few years ago, although a religious organization was formed by the Congregationalists in the fall of 1876, the first year that the country was opened to settlement, and they built a house of worship in 1877. The Methodists and the Catholics came in 1877, and now all of the denominations are represented and religious worship and Sunday schools are quite as numerous as they are in Massachusetts or Connecticut, and are as well attended. * * *

New Dry Farm Law Held Boon to West

Homesteader Allowed to Enter 320 Acres by
Recent Act of Congress.

CROPS EVERY OTHER YEAR

William E. Curtis Explains Need of Accumulation of Moisture Two Seasons.

LUSK, Wyo., July 31, 1900—"Dry farming" is a term applied to the thorough and scientific cultivation of the soil of the semi-arid region between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, where the rainfall is less than eighteen inches annually. The public lands, where there is moisture enough for ordinary farming, have practically all been taken up, but there is still an enormous area of unoccupied public domain which, until recent years, was considered worthless except for pasture. But patience, intelligence and industry have been able to produce from that dry soil crops of grain and vegetables equal in quantity, and many think superior in quality, to those produced either by ordinary methods of cultivation or by irrigation. Indeed, it is contended, that all of the products of dry farming, particularly early potatoes and grain, have a higher value in nutriment because they contain less moisture than those grown either under an abundant rainfall or irrigation.

Thousands and tens of thousands of land-hungry people, chiefly the overflow of the agricultural states of the central west, are going out into the Dakotas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and other sections of the semi-arid belt entering homesteads or buying lands and establishing homes, and taking their chances for success in dry farming. Most of them succeed; many fail. The reasons for success and for failure are equally apparent, and men of experience can explain the causes in every case.

The land laws of the United States were amended at the recent session of Congress, so that a homesteader can now enter 320 acres of dry land, instead of 160 acres as before, because all authorities agree that it is difficult if not impossible for any farmer to make a living upon less, the fundamental principle of that method which brings success being to cultivate the soil thoroughly every year, and to crop it every other year. That is, to allow the moisture of two successive years to become absorbed in the soil before the seed is planted.

Doctors differ on every subject. There is no point upon which everybody agrees. There is a difference of opinion even as to the way of salvation; and the authorities on agricultural science vary somewhat in their recommendations, but there is certainly no lack of instruction, and the dry farmer who fails cannot shift the responsibility upon other shoulders than his own. The educational work that is now going on among the farmers of the United States is so complete and comprehensive that it would seem impossible that anyone should go wrong. The Agricultural Department at Washington under that grand old Scotchman, James Wilson, has done more to educate and improve the states than all other forces combined, and has not failed to furnish instruction and admonition upon every question that can possibly arise in the experience of the American farmer. In every state there is a board of agriculture to supplement the work of the National Government; there are organizations—state, county and township—of farmers that concern themselves with every branch of the industry; there are national organizations which hold conventions annually and oftener. * * *

Farmers' institutes everywhere in this section are making a specialty of dry farming; the Agricultural Department at Washington has several experimental stations in each arid state, at which a great work is being carried on. The hundreds of agricultural papers publish results which have been accomplished and furnish information, instruction and advice. The railways which run through dry-farming territory have special agents traveling about delivering lectures to the public and visiting the farmers privately in order to encourage them in their work and to insure good crops as far as possible, and I met on the cars to-day Dr. E. W. Hunt, formerly professor in the University of Nebraska, who is spending his entire time traveling from village to village and from farm to farm in this part of the country teaching the people how to get the best results from their soil and their labor.

"I don't like the term 'dry farming,'" said Dr. Hunt. "It frightens people off and has cost us many valuable settlers. It ought to be called 'common sense farming,' 'sensible farming,' 'scientific farming,' or by any other form of expression that can be found to describe a faithful observance of the laws of nature which is necessary to cultivate wet ground as well as dry ground.

"In western Nebraska we have an annual average of seventeen inches rainfall and 75 per cent of it comes in the growing season. That is enough to mature any crop if taken care of properly; and the best method is for a farmer to divide his land in two parts, cultivating the soil that he wants to plant thoroughly every year, but allowing one-half to lie fallow every alternate year in order that the moisture of the two seasons may accumulate.

"In the second place, by deep plowing in the fall, to create a water-holding reservoir under the surface, and in the spring to prevent evaporation by shallow surface cultivation. The soil should be covered with a pulverized dust to be kept loose with harrows, and after the plants begin to show, the ground between the rows should be continually cultivated to keep down the weeds and allow the moisture to reach the roots.

"As one goes farther west the moisture becomes less and less and methods of cultivation have to be modified accordingly, but the main point is for every farmer to find out the natural laws governing the territory in which he lives and to work in harmony with them. The great trouble,

however, is that so many farmers have their own ideas and theories and insist upon working them out regardless of the experience and the knowledge of others. Many insist upon farming on horseback or in a sulky; others farm by the moon; some of the farms are too large and the owners put on a hundred acres the labor and attention that they should put on twenty-five. In my travels about this country I find many farmers who are trying to farm 300 acres with the labor and equipment that would be required for fifty."

"How much land should a dry farmer have?" I asked.

"Not an acre less than a half-section, which is 320 acres, and that is sufficient for one man with all the help he can get in the present state of the labor market. And we must come to farms of that size in this section and careful, thorough, intelligent tillage or this country will not prosper.

"Ultimately the wealth of this section of the country will come from cows and hogs—butter and poultry. The man who sells butter fat off a farm takes nothing from it, but adds to it all the time; and the most profitable use that can be made of corn, alfalfa and other products of this zone is to consume them where they grow and ship them to market in the shape of pork.

"The land in western Nebraska is now in the hands of large holders, who are offering it for sale all the way from \$10 to \$45 an acre. Good enough land can be bought from \$10 to \$20 an acre on easy terms, but every purchaser should buy not less than 320 acres, keeping one-half for pasture and putting the rest under the plow. He will make his best money by sending cream to the creameries and feeding his skimmed milk to his pigs, mixed with corn and alfalfa. The demand for butter fat is unlimited, and it never sells less than 20 cents a pound, while there is an equal demand for poultry and eggs. There is no regular market organized for either in this section of the state, but both are shipped to Omaha and Denver and as far as Seattle. Those cities will absorb all the chickens and eggs we can raise. This climate and altitude are especially adapted for poultry. We are not troubled with the diseases and the vermin that are found elsewhere."

H. B. Card of Manville, Wyo., has been living in this locality thirty-one years and has been dry farming for fifteen years, and when I asked him about his experience he said:

"Dry farming out here is very much like ordinary farming back in the states where they 'summer fallow'—that is, plant every other year, but cultivate every year. We harrow three or four times a year and plow as deep as we can, keeping the soil pulverized and covering the surface with a 'dust blanket' to conserve the rainfall, which will average fifteen or sixteen inches annually and usually comes in April, May and June, when we need it most.

"This rain, instead of running off as it would from a roof, is absorbed by the soil and held in an underground reservoir created by deep plowing and held by a strata of hard earth, which hasn't been disturbed by the plow and is water-tight. During the growing period the roots of the plant reach down to this moisture and suck it up, and there is always enough there for turkey-red wheat, oats, barley, rye, alfalfa, brome grass, potatoes and other root vegetables. No section of the country that I know, wet or dry, rainfall or irrigation, can beat our potatoes or our oats."

"How much land should a man want?"

"A successful dry farmer must have double the area required for ordinary farming:

"1. Because there is a great deal of waste land in this arid region that cannot be cultivated at all.

"2. He can't crop but one-half of the good land at any time.

"3. A wise farmer will raise cattle and horses in connection with cultivating the soil and must have pasture for them.

"No man can succeed in farming in this part of the country on less than 320 acres. That is necessary to make a living.

"Immigrants are coming into this section very rapidly. Five hundred homesteads were filed last year in the vicinity of Lusk, which is one of the first stations on the North Western Railway west of the Wyoming boundary. They are nearly all from Iowa, Indiana and Nebraska, with a few from Missouri and Illinois. Many of them are sons of farmers from those states who have come out here to start for themselves. There is a sprinkling of clerks and mechanics, "A percentage of the immigrants will be dissatisfied because they are not practical farmers," continued Mr. Card. Others fail because they are lazy or indifferent. You cannot make it too plain or too emphatic that dry farming is a business that requires the highest degree of patience, labor, industry and intelligence, and it is a public duty to warn everybody who is not supplied with that sort of capital to go into some other business. WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Wyoming to Provide Farms for 1,000,000

Fifty Irrigation Projects, Under Way, Will Dethrone King of Sagebrush

U. S. AIDS IN RECLAMATION

The area of Wyoming is 62,000,000 acres, and approximately 40,000,000 is grazing land, which cannot be cultivated with profit either by dry farming or irrigation. The forest reserves include 9,000,000 acres. About 6,000,000 acres can be irrigated and about as much more can profitably be farmed without artificial moisture by dry farming. The limits have been approximately established by the United States Weather Bureau. Wherever the average annual rainfall exceeds ten inches and sagebrush will grow, it is possible, by cultivating the soil thoroughly every year and planting crops every other year, to raise grain, potatoes, alfalfa, field peas and other staples suitable to this climate, except corn, where the altitude is not higher than 7,000 feet above the sea.

No state except Idaho has undertaken the redemption of its arid land with such energy and intelligence as Wyoming, and more than fifty different companies and individuals are now engaged in building irrigation systems which ought to provide homes for twice the present population of the state. The Government of the United States is spending millions of dollars on several large works, a portion of which have been completed, and the state Government, under an act of Congress introduced by J. M. Carey of Cheyenne, when he represented Wyoming in the United States Senate, has entered into contracts with private corporations for the redemption of nearly 2,000,000 acres of arid lands, which it has been permitted to segregate for development and settlement. Fully 800,000 acres are in actual process of reclamation under the Carey Act in Wyoming at the present time. And if you want to know more about it, write to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Bulletin No. 205, prepared by Clarence T. Johnston, state engineer under the direction of Samuel Fortier, chief of irrigation investigations. Or you can write to Robert T. Fuller, commissioner of public lands, Cheyenne, Wyo., for a copy of his recent report.

Mr. Fuller kindly explained to me the process of acquiring lands under the Carey Act, as follows:

"The company proposing such developments first makes a survey and plans for the work which are inspected and must be approved by the state engineer; and are submitted with an application to the state board of land commissioners,

which is composed of the governor, the secretary of state and the superintendent of public instruction. The application must describe the lands that are to be irrigated, the prices to be charged for water rights, the form of contract to be used and other particulars. If the state board approves of the application, it is submitted with recommendations to the general land office at Washington, where, upon the approval of the Secretary of Interior, the lands designated are withdrawn from entry and placed in control of the state.

"The work of constructing the irrigation plant is done under the inspection of the state engineer, who requires a system of canals or reservoirs sufficient in capacity to furnish water for the reclamation of the segregated lands, which are then sold to actual settlers at a specified price, based upon the cost of construction of the project, but not to exceed \$50 per acre. This maximum price is allowed for expensive construction of the first class. Any form of construction might be made expensive, but if it is not made of concrete and steel, it would not be considered first class. Small canals of a co-operative nature have sold water for Carey act lands as low as \$10 per acre in parts of the state remote from the railroad.

"The company is not allowed to require more than one-fourth of the price in advance, but may take such lesser amount as the settler may be able to pay satisfactory to the company, with interest not to exceed 8 per cent per annum, and usually 6 per cent. All of the works are carried on under the inspection of the state engineer, who requires specifications as to construction in advance, which must be approved by him before the state will enter into contract.

"Sales of land to settlers are also conducted under the supervision of the commissioner of public lands, so that the settler is protected as securely as he is under the reclamation act of the National Government.

"The state land board requires as a condition of a contract that the company shall not accept money from settlers for water rights until their project is completed, unless the contracts, the money paid thereon and other evidences of indebtedness are deposited in escrow in some bank to be agreed upon, there to be held until the water contracted for is ready for delivery. Every precaution is taken by the state authorities to protect the settler."

"How much of the 2,000,000 acres has been taken up under the Carey Act?" I asked.

"A little over 1,000,000 acres have been applied for, by about fifty different companies. Some of them have been foreign, but the state now requires that all contracting companies shall be incorporated under the laws of Wyoming."

The irrigation map of Wyoming is covered with dark spots showing the lands that have been withdrawn from settlement for this purpose and sooner or later will be opened to settlement with plenty of water for every kind of crop or

fruit. The rivers of Wyoming are large and numerous enough to furnish an abundant supply of moisture for all the land that can possibly be cultivated, while the construction of storage works and reservoirs will prevent the terrible waste of water and the destructive floods that occur every spring when the mountain snows are suddenly exposed to the hot sun. When these works are completed, the floods will not only be restrained from committing the damage that has occurred annually, but the water will be available during the dry months when it is needed for the crops.

* * * * *

C. W. Williams, state commissioner of immigration, is now at Lander making a tour of all the counties for the purpose of informing himself as to conditions and resources, so that he may intelligently perform the duties of his office, which has been newly created.

"There has never been any serious attempt on the part of the authorities of Wyoming to induce immigration," said Mr. Williams. "There has been a bureau of immigration, consisting of three officials, but they never gave much attention to the subject until three months ago, when they appointed me a commissioner with an allowance for printing and advertising and authorized me to visit all parts of the state to inform myself so that I can give information and advice."

"The mineral resources of the state have a great variety, and their development hasn't yet been begun. We have thousands of square miles of mineral country that has never been explored. We have mountains of iron, beds of coal, petroleum, asphaltum, asbestos and all of the precious metals, while prospectors are constantly discovering new metals that we do not know anything about.

"In agriculture we can raise anything but cotton and corn. Wheat and other grains, alfalfa and hay, potatoes and other root crops, fruits of all kinds and berries will grow both under dry farming and irrigation, and there are now about fifty reclamation projects under the Federal Government and the Carey Act, already in progress, that will sustain a million or more people whom we are inviting to come and take free homes."

"How are you going to induce them to come?"

"By making known the advantages of Wyoming," said Mr. Williams. "I am preparing a book that will describe the varied resources of the state and the methods by which a newcomer can obtain a farm and a home. We will also publish sectional pamphlets covering the several counties of the state with their different conditions and resources and the opportunities they offer for settlers. We will have a pamphlet describing the workings of the Carey Act for investors as well as for homeseekers. We are preparing mineral reports also and will set up an exhibit showing the resources of the state to be sent as an object lesson."

WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

The Men Who Have Tried It

What They Say of the West

Testimonials from Men Who Have Made Money on South Dakota Farms

Am one of the old timers in the Elm Springs country. I disced my wheat for eight years straight, and have harvested over twenty bushels to the acre as an average. Climate is fine, water fine, and the country suits me to perfection. For the benefit of the newcomer seeking a home, I will say, "Get a South Dakota farm, and stay with it."

JOHN ASHEIM.

Elm Springs, South Dakota.

BELLE FOURCHE, S. D.

I have farmed this year for the first time under the new Belle Fourche project and can demonstrate practically the correctness of my firm belief in the great agricultural possibilities of irrigated lands in western South Dakota. Oats that will make 80 bu. with one irrigation and corn and potatoes looking fine after six weeks of steady drouth (so far as rainfall is concerned) can be seen on my ranch, demonstrating conclusively that the most sanguine expectations of settlers will be realized and that \$100 land is no dream of the future for this district, for we can get big interest on that valuation the first year of irrigating.

DR. F. E. TOWNSEND.

As a renter on 160 acres of irrigated land in the Belle Fourche valley within one mile of three of the present government ditches, I have raised garden truck enough to pay all my living expenses and hired help, while putting up *five hundred tons* of hay and caring for the usual acreage of corn and potatoes. I received one-half of the crop and paid one-half of the water rent of \$75, or \$37.50 for my share. I hauled some of the hay directly from the windrow to market getting \$10 per ton. The hay stacked in the field with machinery was sold in the stack to cattlemen for \$5 per ton, or baled and sold in the mining camps at \$10 to \$13 per ton, during the winter season.

J. H. WILKINSON.

I came to Butte County in 1883 without means and hired out to work on a farm. In 1889 I bought a farm of 160 acres under the Redwater canal upon which I have since resided. I have found that all kinds of crops do remarkably well under irrigation. I have a good orchard in bearing for many years, the trees being loaded to the ground with fruit this year. I am also engaged in raising stock and run them on the range during the summer season. My farm is located near the government irrigation project.

WM. MATTHEW.

SNOMA, S. D., Aug. 14, 1908.

I have land under the government ditch, also under the Redwater canal. I have farmed under the Redwater canal for the past fifteen years and never had a crop failure. I am engaged in farming and stock-raising. I have never grown less than 40 bushels of oats per acre, and from that up to 100 bushels per acre. My wheat this year without irrigation will go 30 bushels an acre and my wheat partly under irrigation will average 30 bushels per acre. Any man willing to work will have no difficulty in making a success of farming under irrigation.

HANS GRIMSBO.

I am in receipt of your letter, asking me to send you the number of acres that I have sown to alfalfa and the returns from my alfalfa crop the past season. The same is given below.

Total number of acres sown to alfalfa,	30.
Number of acres harvested for seed,	22.
I harvested 180 bushels alfalfa seed, sold at	
\$6 per bushel.....	\$1,080.00
Cut 70 tons from first cutting, worth \$8 per ton	560.00

Total amount..... \$1,640.00

An average return per acre of \$74.55.

From one tract of 5 acres I harvested 60 bushels.

Viewfield, South Dakota. H. C. JUDSON.

I have resided on my homestead in Stanley County three years; have grown nearly everything in the way of crops and vegetables that they grow anywhere else with good success—blue stem wheat yielding 15 bushels per acre on sod, potatoes, 125 bushels per acre, second year. Am milking from fifteen to twenty cows; which, in my opinion, everybody on this side of the Missouri River should do. We have daily mail, 'phone in the house, and think we're about as well off as anybody on earth.

Midland, South Dakota. J. P. PETERSEN.

I came to South Dakota in 1880, from Earlville, Ill., and settled in Spink County after making a filing on a homestead. I had sixteen dollars in cash; with this capital I commenced farming. I have been engaged in general farming and stock-raising. I consider that I have been successful; I now own a well-improved farm a mile from Redfield, South Dakota, which I would not sell for less than \$72,000. I could not sell at this price, but I consider it is worth that amount to me, and I could not invest in any other state and do as well. The receipts from my share of the crop raised this year and last have been \$10,000, the majority of the land being rented. I consider South Dakota the best country I have ever been in to make money in farming, stock-raising and feeding. I have made good money every year of the 25 years I have lived here. I consider that the \$150-acre land

in Illinois is not worth two acres of our lands and Spink County land should sell at \$75 or \$80 to reach its real value.

I am, yours very truly,

AUGUST BRUELL.

When in March, twenty-two years ago, I landed in Pierre I had one round dollar in cash, and the rest of my property was a carload of tools, old horses, vegetables, worth, altogether, say a couple of hundred dollars. My first move was to sell a bushel of onions I had along, increasing my ready money to two dollars and a half. We have had good success in South Dakota; we have nine quarter-sections of land in Sully County, watered and well improved, worth \$21,600. This is mighty good country for mixed farming and for stock-raising.

Pierre, South Dakota.

NORVAL BLAIR.

I came to Dakota in 1883, with \$5 in my pocket and no farm experience. I have done very well. Last year I sold 184 steers, receiving for them \$8,648. I have 1,900 acres fenced. I had about 500 tons of hay and millet to begin the winter and enough cattle and horses to eat it, and I do not owe a dollar.

Very truly yours,

Blunt, South Dakota.

JIM RYAN.

Dry-Farming Testimonials from Wyoming Farmers

The following testimonials not only show what kind of crops are being produced by those who have made use of dry-farming methods, but they also indicate, to a certain extent, the methods that have proven most successful.

A. Christian, Sr., Converse County: Has been farming twenty years on 250 acres, the rain coming mostly in May, and the annual amount averaging 12.76 inches, while in May alone 8.6 inches of rain fell. Plows in spring as deeply as possible, using four-horse plows and harrows entirely, seeding with heavy press drills. His yields have been: wheat, 18 bushels; oats, 30; barley, 28; potatoes, 75 to 200 bushels, with spelt and alfalfa grown for hay.

P. G. Christensen, Weston County: Has been engaged in dry farming thirteen years, on 125 acres. Rainfall about ten inches, which come mostly in May and June. Plows in spring eight inches, using the John Deere stag plow, disc harrow and drag harrow, rollers, and broadcast seeder. Has grown oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and garden vegetables. Yields not recorded. Considers dry farming profitable and that the farm should contain 320 acres. Regards the heavy snows of winter as the most beneficial agency in dry farming.

Harry Henderson, Secretary Board of Trade Commission, Cheyenne, Laramie County: Has been farming three years on thirty to sixty acres. Rainfall comes mostly in May, June and July, averaging 10.33 inches. Plows both fall and spring, six to nine inches deep, using disc and smoothing harrow, and disc drill, and harrows the growing crop twice. Yields have been as high as 53 bushels of barley and 33 bushels of wheat. Estimates average yield of barley to be 25 bushels, and wheat 17. Mr. Henderson would recommend a crop every alternate year, and regards intelligence as the most important agency in producing good crops. He thinks the farm ought to be at least 320 acres.

F. B. Hamlin, Lusk, Wyo. Thirteen years ago I came to my present home with my family from Iowa. I now have 720 acres of land all paid for, besides 25 head of horses, 24 head of registered Shorthorn cattle, wagons, machinery, etc.

I broke twenty acres the first year and raised 22 bushels of oats per acre from the sod. I have increased my plow land and have this year 250 acres in crop. Had a fair crop each year; never a failure. Raised one year over 7,000 bushels of oats. My oats have averaged 30 to 50 bushels per acre for the thirteen years without any irrigation whatever. I have never attempted the so-called dry farming, but have used the same method as in Iowa.

I consider farming a safe and profitable investment. Timothy and alfalfa both do well. I would not take less

than \$25,000 for my property; my improvements I consider worth \$6,000. One year my plow land brought me \$20 per acre. We can produce more dollars per acre one year with another than the average Iowa farmer.

From the State Geologist

CHEYENNE, WYO., June 6, 1909.

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your inquiry I wish to say that the land tributary to Lusk, Wyo., is underlaid with a soft white rock known as Tursary. This rock is spongy, forming a reservoir which holds moisture, and as the soil above dries, it will draw from beneath.

The soil is largely made up of the decomposition of this rock and decayed vegetable matter. In general it might be classed as a sandy loam.

The Pleasant Ridge and Manville sections have been farmed for more than a score of years and I have never heard of a failure in either place. The soil conditions must be the same as Lusk, as it is formed from the same source.

I have been here for five years and there has been no question as to their being plenty of rain and snow to assure a crop.

I do not believe there is any better land in the west than the land set aside by the Government of the United States under the 320-acre act. Farming methods followed around this section have been largely the same as in Nebraska; I believe if the scientific methods of Dr. Cooke were followed by the farmers, the farmers would be greatly benefited and there would be no danger of any year being too dry for the production of a crop.

Yours very truly,
EDWIN HALL, State Geologist.

Testimonials from Well-to-do Farmers of Nebraska Who Started with Small Capital and Soon Gained Competence and Wealth

RUSHVILLE, NEB.

I came to Sheridan County from Wisconsin in 1889. My capital did not exceed \$20 on arriving here. I now have 1,280 acres of land, located four miles southeast of Rushville, which I value at \$20 per acre; 150 head of live stock and all the equipment necessary to carry on my business in first-class shape. For the past nine years, I have raised splendid crops; wheat from 20 bushels per acre upward; rye from 16 to 35 bushels per acre; corn from 15 to 40 bushels per acre; potatoes from 75 to 250 bushels per acre and all other crops proportionate. One year my potatoes netted me \$87 per acre and I know of no place where a man can make money faster or easier than farming in Sheridan County.

Yours respectfully,
NED STAMPER.

GORDON, NEB.

All that I can say for myself is that I came to Sheridan County in December, 1884. I had a team, wagon and harness, and 16 cents in money when I arrived. I raised potatoes and got a few head of cows.

I now own 2,240 acres of land and 370 head of cattle. I purpose to raise from 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of potatoes every year. My income from farming and stock-raising has been from \$2,800 to \$4,200 for the past four years. I can make more money off 160 acres in Sheridan County raising potatoes than any farmer in the corn belt of Iowa or Missouri can make on an equal number of acres that cost him \$50 per acre.

Here you can buy potato land for \$10 per acre and one man and four horses will tend sixty acres of potatoes up to digging time.

I will answer any letters that are written me by men who wish to improve their condition and are willing to work.
A. L. DAVIS.

RUSHVILLE, NEB.

Replying to your letter of the 26th inst., would say I moved to Sheridan County, Nebraska, in 1890, and at that

time was possessed of nothing except the ability to work. I now own 1,360 acres of as fine land as there is in the state, 300 head of cattle, 27 head of good horses, \$500 worth of machinery. For the past six years I have raised from 3,000 to 4,000 bushels per year, besides much other produce. Last year I raised 5,000 bushels of potatoes, 1,500 bushels of wheat, 1,500 bushels of oats, besides \$600 worth of other stuff. I would not now take \$30,000 for what I now own in Sheridan County, Nebraska. I live eighteen miles north of Rushville.

Yours truly,
NICHOLAS LEHMAN.

ATKINSON, NEB.

I have been engaged exclusively in Holt County for five years and can truthfully say that for diversified farming I think this is the best county in the state.

The water is exceptionally fine and can be procured at from ten to thirty feet according to location in the county. The dairy business is fast becoming one of the chief interests and a man with 160 acres of land and ten cows is independent so far as living expenses are concerned.

I am located seven miles northeast of Atkinson, a pushing little town of one thousand people. This town and community do a large volume of business and its transportation facilities are well looked after by the C. & N. W. Ry. Stock loaded here in the evening will reach Omaha in time for the morning market.

Land can still be bought at very low prices considering the many advantages which it offers.

Yours truly,
THOMAS J. WILBURN.

My seven years' experience of diversified farming and stock-raising in Holt County, Nebraska.

I have been a resident of Nebraska since 1896 and during all this time have been engaged or interested in farming and stock-raising. Grains of all kinds can be successfully raised here. I have raised fair crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, spelt and of tame grasses, alfalfa, brome grass and clover. I have 20 acres of alfalfa that was sowed four years ago. After the first year it has produced fair crops of hay, the last year the first cutting made about 25 tons of hay, worth \$8 per ton; \$200. The second crop I let go to seed. It threshed out 38 bushels of good seed, worth \$9 per bushel, \$342; 20 tons of fodder or threshed hay, worth at least \$2 per ton for feed, \$40. Total value of hay and seed from 20 acres, \$582.

I have 40 acres of alfalfa that was sowed in 1905 and 1906. Twenty acres I use for hog pasture. I expect to sow 100 acres more in the next few years. I also threshed 450 bushels of millet seed from 20 acres and 50 bushels of brome grass seed from 10 acres.

I have had good success raising hogs here, for the last four years. I have sold from \$1,000 to \$1,500 worth each year. Hogs keep free from disease and lice and are thrifty and fatten fast when put on full feed. Hogs are quick money makers.

All kinds of fruit can be successfully grown here. We have raised an abundance of strawberries, currants, gooseberries and cherries. I have over 600 fruit trees planted, 500 of which were planted the last two years. Last year we raised about four bushels of peaches, from trees planted four years ago. Those trees are full of blossom buds and if they will not winter kill, will produce a large crop this year. There are many men that could come to Holt County, buy some of the good cheap lands and own a good and comfortable home and have it paid for in a few years. The same care and work that is done on farms in other prosperous states, will produce good crops here.

JACOB ROCKE.
GORDON, NEB.

In answer to your request to make a statement as to my success in northwestern Nebraska during the last few years, I submit the following facts: I find by referring to my list of receipts for the past three years I have sold \$5,337 worth of farm produce (in this I have not included any sales of live stock). During this time I have farmed an

average of 240 acres, a large part of which has been devoted to raising forage crops for cattle. My principal income has been from potatoes, but have, of course, raised corn and wheat besides. I wish to speak particularly of a field of potatoes which I raised last year. I bought enough new seed to plant five acres and gave it particular attention. Last fall I marketed from five acres a few pounds more than 1,200 bushels, besides saving enough seed of that variety for this year's planting. My potatoes all sold for from 30 to 38 cents per bushel direct from the field. I have always invested my surplus cash in land and cattle, and now own 960 acres of land, 120 head of cattle, 12 good work horses and all the farming implements, wagons and carriage necessary to run a farm. When I struck Gordon, Neb., six years ago, I might say I did not have a dollar.

Yours truly,

CHARLES ROBERTS.

Testimonials from Those who Have Made a Success on Wisconsin and North Michigan Farms

John G. Bachhuber, Juneau, Wis.: In June, 1900, I purchased from the Chicago & North Western Railway, some land in Forrest County near Wabeno, Wis. I have seen a great deal of timber land in Wisconsin, but none that can compare with the hardwood timber along the line of the railway from Gillett north. I am well satisfied and believe it a good investment.

C. F. Waller, Columbia, Wis.: I came to Wisconsin from Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois, in the fall of 1901, and bought 120 acres of wild land, not a square rod of which had been cleared, for which I paid \$12.50 per acre.

During the five years I have been here, I have cleared and put under cultivation 70 acres of the wild land, built a good house, a good log barn with stable room for 26 head of cattle and four horses. I have 22 head of cattle, 4 horses, a full equipment of farm machinery of all kinds, and all paid for but the farm. If I can do as well for the next two years as I have the past five, I will have my farm fully paid for. I have had several offers for my farm but I would not wish to sell as I can raise as good crops here as I can in Illinois where they ask from \$100 to \$125 an acre. I will be glad at any time to show my home to anyone who may be looking for a place in which to make a home and can heartily recommend Wisconsin to any who wants a home of their own.

James Tooley, Eagle River: I own a farm of 176 acres three and one-half miles from Eagle River. I have 60 acres under cultivation and 80 cleared. Have lived on my farm for the last six years, and for the last three the average yearly crops were as follows: Oats, 50 bushels per acre; hay, 1½ tons per acre, potatoes, 300 bushels and rutabagas, 1,000 bushels. Wheat is also a good crop, producing about 30 bushels to the acre. The soil is partly clay loam and partly sand loam.

Mike Lillund, Conover, Wis.: I bought 80 acres herein, July, 1902, and moved on my land with my family the following year, and built a house, barn and other buildings. The land is what is known as cut-over land, with some hardwood timber remaining. I am able to raise all the different crops that are raised anywhere in the state, with the exception of corn, and I believe I will be able to raise that if I get the right variety to plant. I am well satisfied with my location as the climate is very agreeable. This locality is very favorable for the small farmer, from the fact that he can always find plenty of work in the mills and lumber camps both summer and winter, at the time when he is not busy on the farm. We have good roads and are only three miles from the railroad station.

J. A. Pearce, Marinette, Wis.: I have a farm of 120 acres, which I bought three years ago. The first year I went on this land I started in the first day of April and cleared enough land so that I raised 600 bushels of potatoes and enough corn to feed a team and a cow the following

winter, besides vegetables enough for ourselves. I now have a clearing of 50 acres and have raised small grain and vegetables of all kinds, and find that they all do well.

Any man that will come here with energy and ambition can make himself a home, and in a short time will become independent. There is always lots of work to be had in the winter time, and in fact all the year round. This is a very healthy climate and we have the finest water that a person could ask for.

Alfred Brandow, Antigo, Wis.: Before coming here I was a farm renter in Winnebago County, Wis., but becoming tired of working for other people I resolved to go to some place where I could get a foothold on cheap land and work out a farm of my own. I had just \$250 when I came here and bought 80 acres of timber land in Section 33, Township 31, Range 10, and my farm to-day is worth \$3,000 and is all paid for. I have had considerable experience in farming and I never saw soil that would average better than this. I have raised oats that run 61½ bushels to the acre. Hay runs 1½ tons and potatoes 200 bushels to the acre. I have raised winter rye that harvested 27 bushels to the acre.

The city of Antigo furnishes us a first-class market for all of our wood, logs, bark, and farm and garden products. We get good water at from ten to twenty feet deep. We have no difficulty in raising all the hay and grain we require for feed in winter, and our grazing land is exceptionally good.

My experience is that dairying and stock-raising is unusually successful in this country. Our winters are cold, but we have the shelter of the timber, so that stock does not suffer in the least.

J. W. Tilden, Wausau, Wis.: Marathon County is unquestionably one of the finest farming sections in this state, and this means much, as it has become an established fact that Wisconsin with her diversity of products is one of the very best in the Union.

I came here five years ago and purchased a farm of 200 acres. I find that the hay crop especially, per acre, far exceeds the yield in the southern part of the state. Timothy and white clover seem to spring into existence bountifully whenever a road or any kind of an opening is cut through the woods. Another advantage is that we have the wood products, which bring us good returns for our labor in the winter. The timber is principally hardwood, which means good soil.

It seems to me that a man looking for a farm as a home has far greater opportunities here than in older settled countries, as he will reap the benefits of the increase in the price of land which is as sure to follow as the day follows night.

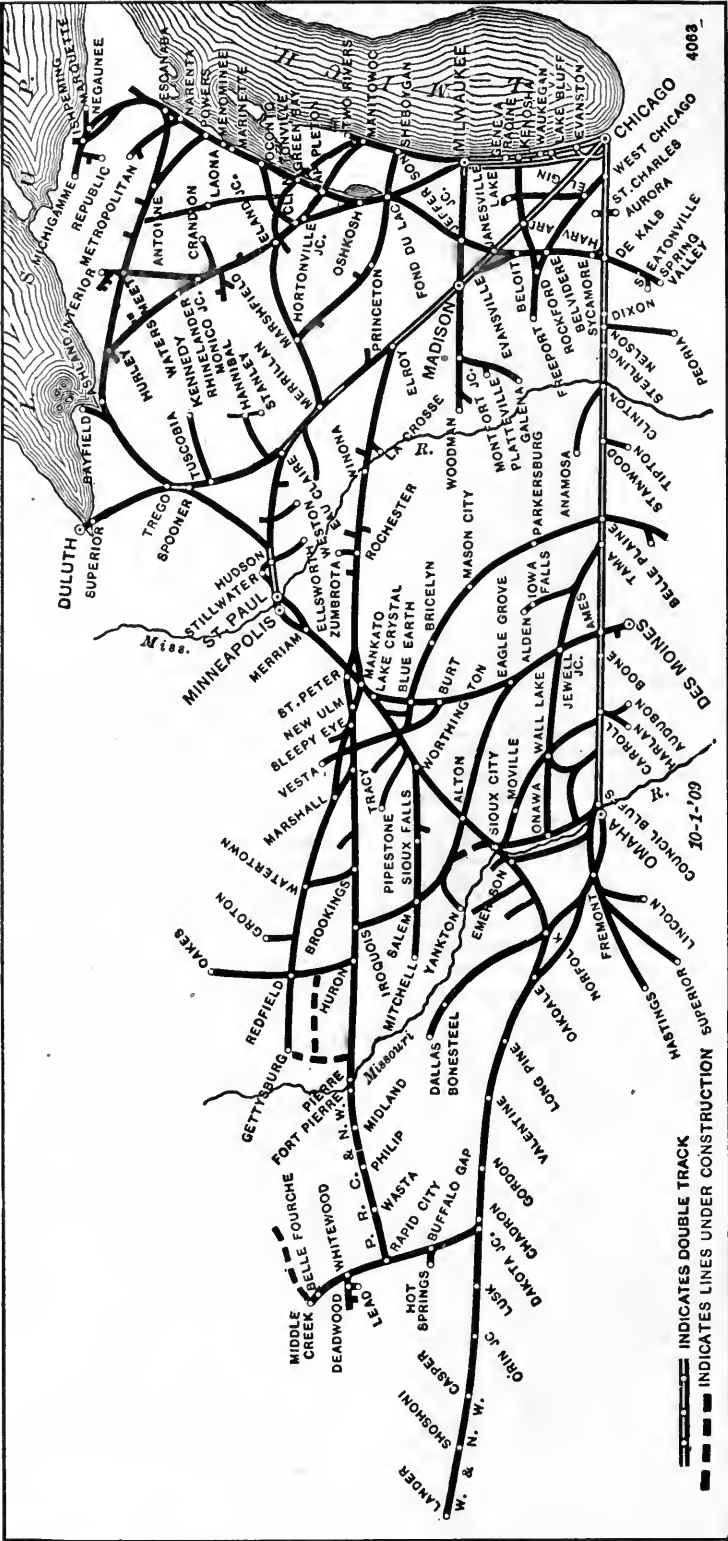
This country is well watered, climate healthful, good roads, good schools, and with the city of Wausau, of 14,000 population, as a trade center, no better opportunities are offered anywhere.

K. C. Davis, Principal, School of Agriculture, Menomonie Wis.: Northwestern Wisconsin is well adapted to sheep-raising. The climate is especially favorable, as are also other conditions. The country is broken and hilly, with timber furnishing abundant shade. Throughout Dunn County a good many farmers keep sheep successfully. The grass and clover grow so well here that there is no lack of feed, and the numerous springs through this section furnish a very fine water supply.

This section of the state is pre-eminently an agricultural region. It is suited to diversified farming and that is what is being carried on to a great extent.

Dairying is a rapidly growing industry in Dunn County. And with the dairying has come greater interest in pure-bred stock. Many farmers are culling out their herds with a view to keeping better stock and are getting in the pure blood.

Hog-raising is also a very profitable branch of stock-raising. Those who have gone into the business find they can make as much profit from hogs as from the dairy cows.



Map of the North Western Line, The Pioneer Line West and Northwest from Chicago.

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