

Opening of Indian Land

By act of congress approved by the president in April, 1904, 1,150,000 acres of land within the Crow Indian reservation and lying tributary to Billings, becomes available to settlers just as soon as the surveys are completed and approved by the general land office at Washington.

The lands to be segregated, as shown by the map accompanying this article, are adjacent to the Big Horn river to the east and the Yellowstone to the north. Upwards of 400,000 acres of these lands are classed as agricultural and the remainder of the tract, which will become a part of the public domain, are classified as grazing.

Congress realizing that irrigation is necessary for the successful cultivation of land lying within the territory ceded, provided in the law opening the lands

for settlement that a system of canals shall be constructed under the federal irrigation law.

Already preliminary surveys have been conducted by government engineers to determine upon the construction of these canals. There will be two main canals to cover the farming lands within this splendid domain to be given over to the white tillers of the soil. One of these will be for the purpose of conveying water out of the Big Horn river for the use of the farmers who will exercise the right of homestead in the valley along that stream, and the other will tap the Yellowstone near Billings and cover all the lands tributary to the Yellowstone eastward to the mouth of the Big Horn. It is expected that active operations on the part of the government for the construction of these immense water carriers will be begun in a few months.

