

Irrigated Land to be Reserved.

To the Editor:

A number of inaccurate statements have been circulated concerning the irrigation of land by the Government from the Belle Fourche River, and it is to correct erroneous impressions which have been made that I offer the following for publication.

A party of engineers under the Reclamation Service of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been engaged during the past summer in making an investigation and survey of what is known as the Belle Fourche Project in South Dakota. A number of engineering facts have been, and are to be, determined, before the present field season closes. From the data thus obtained, the computations will be made and a report presented to the Chief Engineer. This report will finally be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior through the director of the Geological Survey. It is impossible at this time for any one to say, even the engineer in charge on the ground, that the project is feasible. After the results have been worked up in the office, it may be found that the cost will be excessive, for as it is well known, the land reclaimed must pay for the cost of the works. Or it may be possible that sufficient data has not been secured to demonstrate all that is required before the feasibility of the project can be settled. The investigation is going on as rapidly as possible, but no approval will be given until after all essential questions are determined.

A number of filings have been made upon the land which is withdrawn from entry except under the Homestead Act, and it is probable that others will be made unless it is made clear to those who desire to

that it will be impossible to make a living upon the land without irrigation and that they have exhausted their rights to take up other land under the homestead Act.

make such entries that it is unwise to do so until the feasibility of the project is determined. Those who make entries now will find, if the project does not meet with approval,

If the project should be approved by the Secretary of the interior, the fact will undoubtedly be promptly published, and also a statement of the amount of land which may be taken up under this project, which amount may be less than 160 acres. Even after the approval of the project considerable time must neces-

sarily elapse before water is actually conveyed to the ground.

C. H. Fitch, Engineer,
U. S. Geologist Survey.

EXCITEMENT IN BIG HORN BASIN.

From Cody, Wyoming, comes the report that great excitement exists throughout Big Horn Basin over the fact that W. H. Smith, one of the participants in the lynching that occurred at Pas'n last July, has made a confession and given to

the attorneys the list of persons who formed the party on that occasion. It will be recalled that a party of thirty-five men rode into the county seat at midnight, and, after firing into the structure, a court house and jail combined, killing Deputy Clerk Price, and wounding Deputy Sheriff Meade, gained entrance into the jail proper. Being unable to unlock the steel cage where in the two convicted murderers, Gorman and Walters

were confined, they shot them to death with guns. Governor Chaterton and the local authorities determined upon the prosecution of the mob, and for the first time in the history of the county a grand jury was called. They met last week at Basin and proceeded to indict parties engaged in the affair. The names given by Smith embrace some of the most prominent and substantial citizens in the eastern part of the county, and the information given by Smith has created a profound sensation, and will doubtless cause more trouble in the meantime. Smith, whose reputation is none of the best, is closely guarded for fear he may be killed by some of those implicated.

INTERCHANGEABLE MILEAGE.

The passenger officials of the western railroads have reached an agreement relative to issuing interchangeable mileage tickets good on all railroads entering into the agreement.

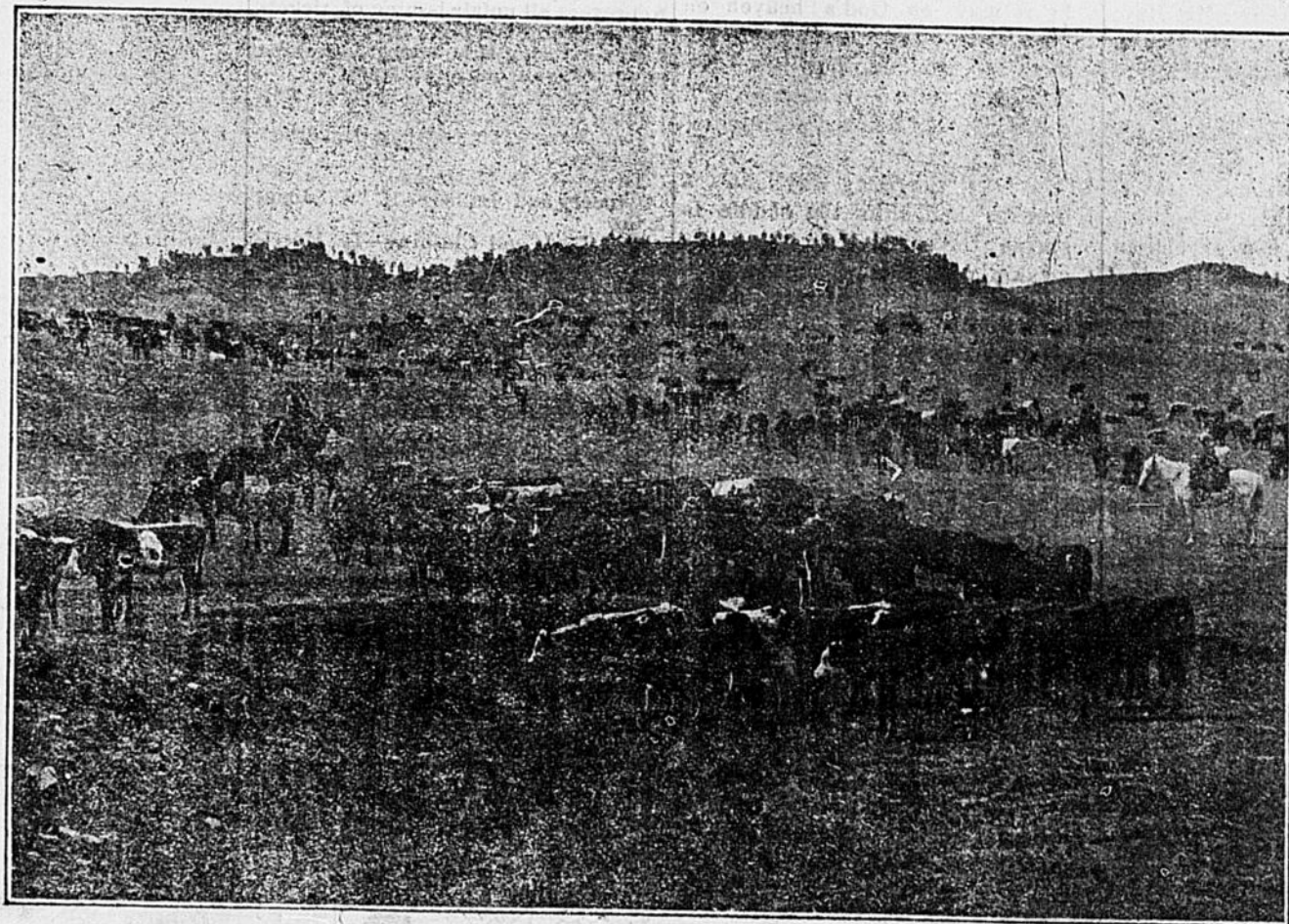
The roads agreeing to this plan are: Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Chicago & Alton, Chicago Great Western, Wisconsin Central, Illinois Central, Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Minneapolis & St. Louis, Iowa Central and the Quincy, Omaha & Kansas City.

The new ticket covers 2,000 miles and will be sold for \$60. If the original purchaser uses the entire ticket he will be entitled to a rebate of \$10.50, reducing the cost of mileage to two cents a mile.

Conductors will honor the new ticket no matter who presents it.

The plan will allow a family to use a mileage ticket at regular rates provided one travels at a time. To get the rebate the whole ticket will have to be used by one person, the purchaser.

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