

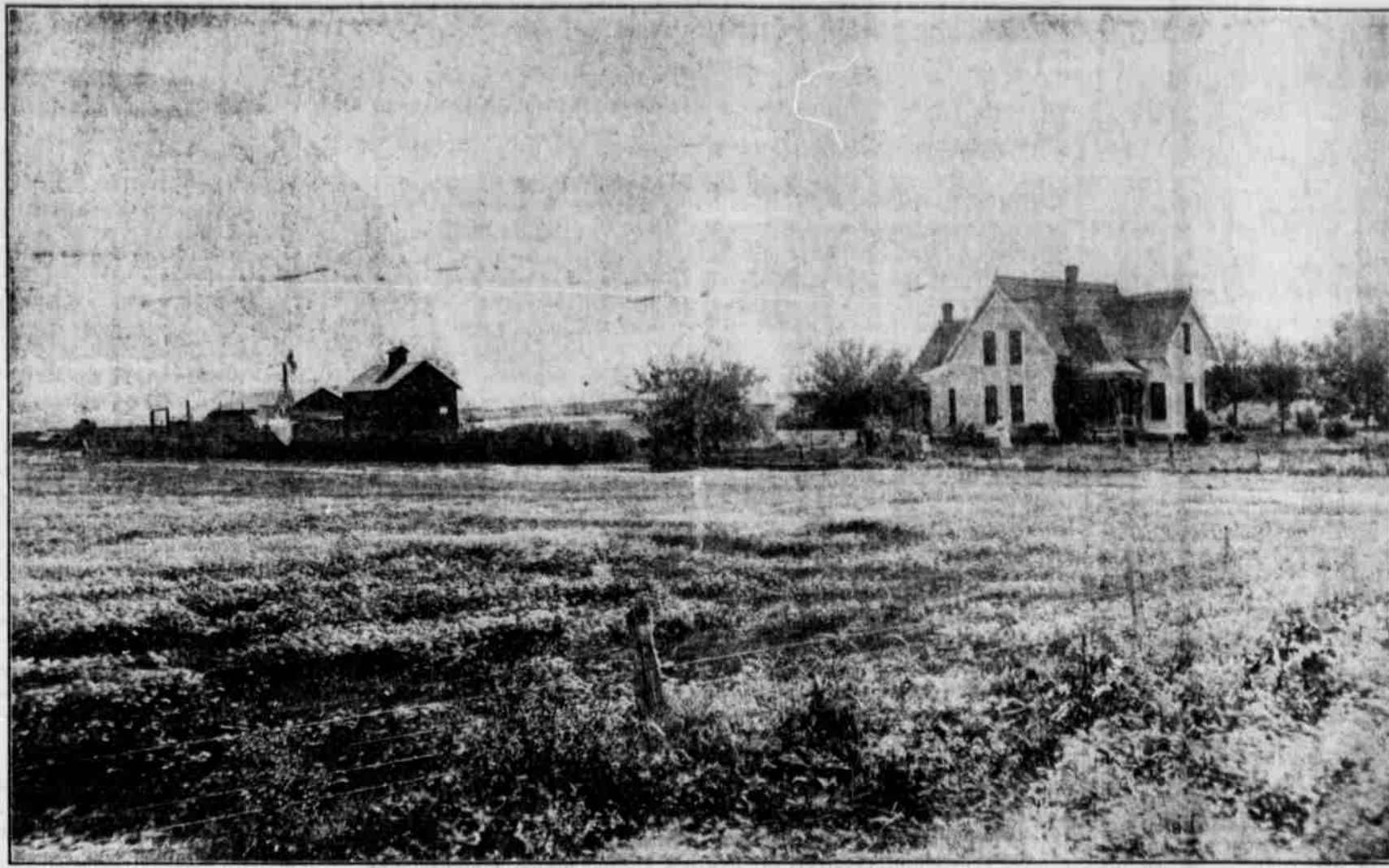
BEAUTY OF THE N. P. VALLEY

Scenic Attractions of the North Platte Valley Second Only to Its Remarkable Fertility

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY ABOUNDS

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever." The poet may not have had the North Platte Valley in mind when he wrote the foregoing sentence, in fact at the time it was written not much was known about this wonderful country, but what he said fits this part of the world to a T. When the new arrival lands here he invariably falls into ecstasies over the picturesque valley of the North Platte river. Immediately to the south of Mitchell a range of fantastic-shaped bluffs (which, by a queer caprice of nature in some seismic upheaval has been fashioned into grotesque domes, pyramids and minarets) form a striking background to the broad and fertile Mitchell valley. Outlined sharply against a clear sky they appear to be but a half hour's walk in distance, while in reality they are a dozen miles away. The North Platte river, which even in an intense emotional mood one could scarcely praise from a scenic viewpoint, has no banks worth mentioning after emerging from its upper reaches in the Wyoming hills. The alluvial deposits in its muddy waters add much fertility to the already rich soil which they irrigate in the Valley.

But the most attractive scenery in the North Platte Valley to one who is interested in gaining a livelihood and fortune is contributed by its waving fields of alfalfa, grain and sugar beets with their intervening dwellings, barns, stacks and growing orchards—a panoramic view five hundred miles in length that speaks of peace, prosperity and plenty every mile of the distance. The rarefied atmosphere of this altitude (4,000 feet) admits of seeing long distances. From the city of Mitchell one can see the outlines of Laramie Peak in Wyoming, nearly 100 hundred miles to the west, and from a point northeast of



Irrigated Ranch of B. L. Kay, in Mitchell Valley

town while looking at Laramie Peak to the west one may turn his eyes to Chimney Rock near Bayard, and other distinguishing features of the landscape near Bridgeport, fifty miles to the east.

Many points of scenic interest are found along the great irrigation canals and their supply reservoirs. Among these are Lake Alice, the Tri-State headgate, Pathfinder Dam, Whalen Diversion Dam, and a lake and grove near Henry, in this coun-

ty, where, I am told, a Denver company is arranging to build an extensive amusement resort next season.

Hunting and fishing in the Valley are both excellent, and during the open season large numbers of ducks, geese and other waterfowl fall to the hunters' guns, but grouse and quail are protected now. Jackrabbits and cottontail, both of which are plentiful, may be killed at all times. A few antelope, deer and elk may be found just over the Wyoming border,

but these animals, which a few years ago were so plentiful here, are now protected by the game laws. Wild cats, porcupine, coyotes and a few prairie wolves are still found in the hills and the lid is off on these varmints all the year round, night and day. Beavers, muskrats, and an occasional otter are found along the North Platte, and now and then a man may be seen following the primitive occupation of fur trapper. At the headgates, dams and reservoirs

of the irrigating canals, great quantities of wall-eyed pike and a few channel cat, buffalo and carp are caught, and while the season is open fishermen always reach the game law limit of twenty-five fish each per day if they are adepts in the art of casting and understand the game.

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MANY THOUSAND SHEEP BEING FED

North Platte Valley Rapidly Becoming the Greatest Sheep Feeding Section of West

GREAT INCREASE IN NUMBER

In the strip of country between Torrington, Wyo., which is a few miles west of the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, and Bridgeport, Nebr., a distance of about sixty-five miles, 450,000 head of sheep were being fed this winter, two months ago, before shipping them out began. This number is more than double the number that were fed two years ago, and probably less than half the number that will be fed each winter within the next few years.

With an immense acreage of irrigable land coming under cultivation within the next year or two, on which will soon be grown great crops of alfalfa and sugar beets, with another large sugar factory now being constructed and others assured when needed, with the facilities for handling and feeding sheep and cattle being greatly increased and improved each year, it is probable that the feeding industry in the North Platte Valley, great as it is already, is only in its infancy.

In another part of this paper are reprinted from Clay, Robinson & Company's Live Stock Record for February 11th, some items relative to the shipping of sheep from the North Platte Valley to the St. Joseph and Kansas City markets. The statement, contained in one of these items, from B. F. Hobbick of Minatare, a practical cattle and sheep feeder, is of particular interest as showing the magnitude of the feeding already being done and the possibilities and probability of a large increase in the near future. These items will be found under the head, "Fed for the Market."

The Nebraska Stockman represents the ranch country of Nebraska and features the irrigated section of the state. You will like the next number, too. Subscribe now.

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Sheep Feeding, a Growing Industry in the North Platte Valley



O'Shea and Family Looking Over His Patch of Irish Potatoes

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