

BRIDGEPORT

Railroad Center of the North Platte Valley--Popular Convention City--Location of the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association

A Few Pertinent Facts

By Wm. Ritchie, Jr.

Bridgeport, the county seat of Morrill county, in the words of a prominent official of the Burlington

with Northport as a division point. The development of the North Platte Valley under irrigation commenced at the west border of the state and has followed the river eastward. There are thousands of acres of valuable, irrigable land lying in and around Bridgeport which have yet their development before them.

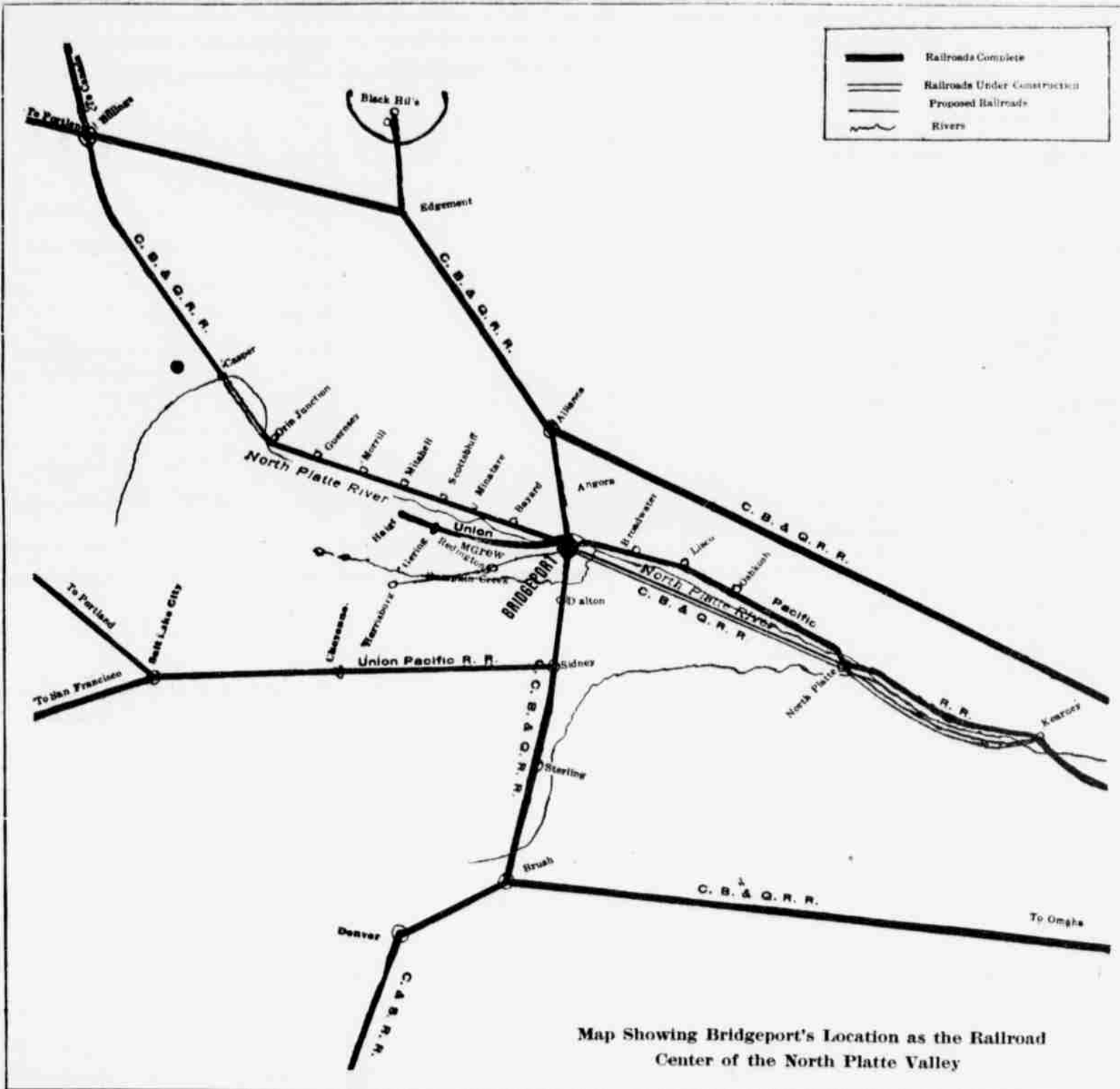
companioning map will show. When the U. P. completes its north river line, Bridgeport will have direct lines to the Black Hills of South Dakota and to all sections of Wyoming and Montana, and the lines running south towards Denver will bring trade from Colorado points, while the lines north, east and west thru the North Platte Valley in Nebraska make Bridgeport the logical wholesale center of the west.

Manufacturing interests have long looked upon Bridgeport favorably. Thousands of tons of ore are annually shipped thru this town from the mines of Wyoming and South Dakota to Colorado smelters and when the Kearney-Bridgeport line of the Burlington is completed tons of ore

furnishes an abundance of feed for the thousands of cattle raised in the sand hills north and east of town. Twenty miles south there is a table land which for years has produced an average of 25, 30 and 35 bushels of wheat of the very best quality.

One hundred acres of horse radish are being planted this spring, and cabbages, cucumbers, sweet corn and other such vegetables are raised in abundance and grow in profusion.

The business establishments of the city include three general stores, each carrying a large and varied stock of goods; three banks with ample capital for the transaction of a large business, a hardware store, several grocery stores, one of the best hotels in the valley, restaurants, two



Map Showing Bridgeport's Location as the Railroad Center of the North Platte Valley

railroad, "Has before it a greater growth and development than any other city in the state."

This is accounted for by the fact that the Burlington railroad has recently completed its line from Bridgeport through to Billings and is planning to connect this line with the Omaha-Hastings-Kearney branch of the Burlington, which will make the only water grade route to the Pacific coast. Bridgeport is to be a division point on this line.

In addition to this, the Union Pacific runs through Northport, just a mile from the central business part of Bridgeport, and eventually the U. P. line will be completed to make a through freight line to the coast,

The prosperity which followed the development of the country to the west of Bridgeport, in and around Scottsbluff, has just begun to be felt in Bridgeport and vicinity.

Last year fifteen hundred tons of sugar beets were shipped each day thru Bridgeport to Colorado sugar factories. This shows that Bridgeport can and will eventually support a sugar factory, which, in the words of a Burlington official, "Will cause Bridgeport to duplicate, if not outstrip, the growth which followed the location of the sugar factory at Scottsbluff.

In addition to its agricultural facilities, Bridgeport is an ideal location for wholesale houses, as the ac-

which formerly went to Omaha by other routes will be routed thru Bridgeport.

Coal and oil are found in abundance within a radius of fifty miles and there are indications of oil in the immediate vicinity. The large amount of water power now stored in the dams of the North Platte river and capable of development in the immediate vicinity spell a wonderful future for this town.

The surrounding country is wonderfully adapted to cattle feeding and stock raising. The cattle and grain markets of Omaha, Kansas City and Denver are within easy reach. The town lies in an irrigable valley approximately ten miles wide which

garages, blacksmith shops and such other lines of business as are necessary to accommodate the large and rapidly increasing trade of the prosperous farming and ranch country contiguous to the city.

There are three churches in the town, Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal, and the school facilities are of the best. The High school is an accredited school with Normal Training and business course, and a new \$25,000 High school building has just been started.

The scenery in the valley is very beautiful. The hills to the north and south of the valley and the unusual rock formations are picturesque and add greatly to its beauty.