

Why the North Platte Valley

By J. E. BANGS
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The three fundamental factors of commerce and business development are

Products to exchange.
Desire to exchange.
Means of exchange.

Any one of these factors being wanting there can be no commerce, no industrial progress.

A man might dig or find a very valuable diamond, yet valuable as it was it would not be to him food, drink, clothing or shelter, and unless he was able to exchange it for that which would meet his needs he would starve. On the other hand, one might have both the desire and the means of exchange yet if he had no product to exchange he would become an object of charity or starvation.

The most important factor of the three is products to exchange, for when one has the commodities he usually can find the means for exchange, and the desire is usually a constant factor.

In the final analysis products must come directly or indirectly from the earth. This is true whether the commodities be agricultural, mineral or manufactured.



J. E. BANGS

The most important and fundamental of all commodities are agricultural for without them no life can exist. It naturally follows that that section of the country which can most advantageously produce diversified agricultural products will be the one to forge ahead in real prosperity.

Our great cities are not made by chance, neither are our prosperous farming sections; both are the result of fundamental principles of production properly developed.

The fundamental factors of agricultural production are
Good soil,
Moisture,
Climatic conditions.

The North Platte Valley possesses these fundamental factors in an unusual degree and should take advantage of them to produce the diversified products which with its excellent means of exchange—railroad transportation—will spell great prosperity for the farmer, the cattleman, the merchant and the manufacturer.

It has been my privilege to investigate agricultural conditions to con-

siderable extent in this country and in Canada—from the Gulf of Mexico to Manitoba and from eastern states to California—and I am pleased to say that the agricultural conditions I find in the North Platte Valley compare very favorably with most of the other sections of the country visited and in fact are superior to many.

Soil—the all important factor—is very good in the North Platte Valley, and responds to intelligent culture with most bountiful crops of grains, grasses and sugar beets, which will make the farmers wealthy wherever industry and judgment are used.

On the fertile high level bench lands the soil under very moderate rainfall but intelligent cultivation is producing larger crops of wheat and other grains than lands in some of the more favored eastern sections, while in the valleys under the beneficent sunshine of western Nebraska and the scientific application of water, the crops outrival those of the humid regions.

It is commonly admitted that the North Platte river has more water than the South Platte, the Arkansas and several other rivers combined, and that its water supply is practically inexhaustible. By the construction of the Pathfinder dam and reservoir on the North Platte river in Wyoming where over 1,000,000 acre feet of water are impounded the U.S. government has provided perpetual insurance of crops under irrigation in this valley so that no drouth however severe can affect.

The extension of the government canals on both sides of the river combined with the canals now in active operation will eventually make the North Platte Valley the largest irrigation district in the United States and I believe one of the most prosperous. When we remember that last year the Scottsbluff sugar factory paid the farmers in its vicinity over \$2,000,000, one can imagine that with proper development and co-operation the farmers who come to this valley cannot fail of reaping a rich reward for their labors.

The large areas of ranch and range land on either side of the valley offer the cattlemen and the valley farmers unusual opportunities for co-operative effort—for mutual advantage—which opportunities should be utilized by both.

With development of agriculture must come the establishment of manufacturing and better means of exchange through the extension of railroad facilities—the bringing of the producer and the consumer in closer relation which always benefits both. It is no idle dream to see water level through line transportation to the coast established through this valley within a reasonable time by both the great railroad systems now here.

The great need of this valley now is more farmers and united co-operation—(1) More farmers who will intelligently take hold and work hard for results that will change the dormant latent resources of this valley into potential realities, and (2) a co-operation among all people and callings, all pulling together for the ultimate benefit of all classes and industries, fully recognizing the fact that that which benefits one's neighbor must in some way react so as to benefit oneself. This being accomplished we may be certain of abundant prosperity and real advancement along all lines in the North Platte Valley.

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