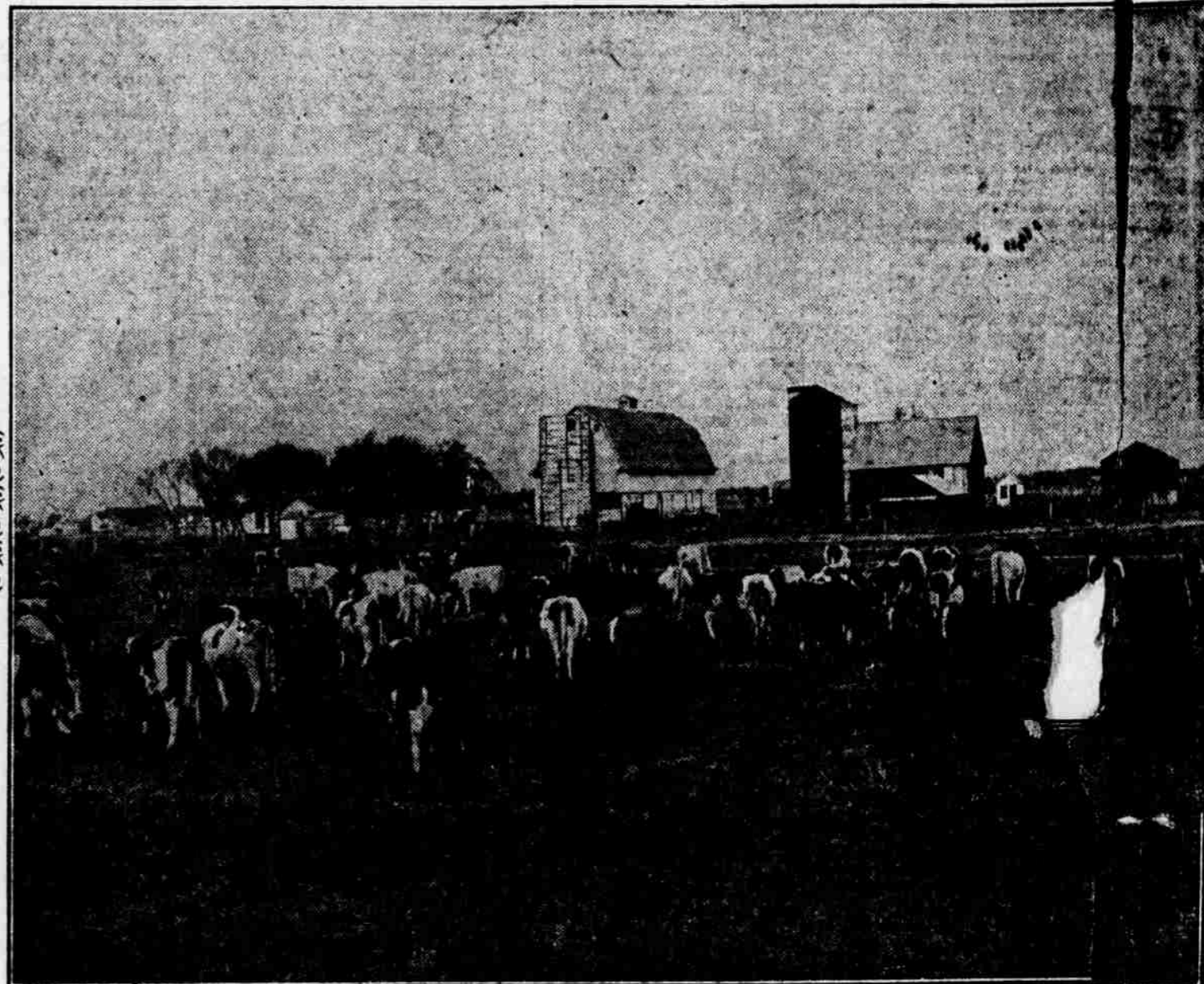


# Wonderful Development



REMEMBER



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## Erstwhile "Happy Hunting Grounds" of Indians Now Teeming With Rich Crops

## In Early Days Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, Fond of Valley on Account of Lush Grass Along Banks of Platte and Abundance of Game.

Exploiters have often sung the praises of lands they were placing on the market in such black-typed phrases as "The Land of Opportunity," "Where Riches Await You" or similarly allusive slogans.

How often has the prospective homeseeker been seduced by the cunning wiles of the "ad" writer's talent, paid out his hard won savings for a piece of this "Land of Opportunity" only to find that even the raising of an umbrella on the land could be done with a great deal of difficulty.

Let it be known at the outset of this article that the lands described here are not being exploited and that no brass-lunged salesmen will be employed to burden the air with high-sounding words and alluring descriptions nor will "boxcar" type advertising in the newspapers to urge homeseekers to make investigations be printed.

### Opportunity for Success.

In the great fertile regions of northwestern Nebraska opportunity awaits the homeseeker, but success can be roped and tied only by hard work and exercising the brain. There is no place there for the man who sits down and waits for success to come to him.

While Nebraska is generally known as one of the agricultural states, ideal for raising beef and dairy cattle, hog raising, sugar beets, corn, sheep, grain, fruits and a

little has been said of the wonderful fertility of the North Platte valley district.

### Indians Liked District.

Unsung, except by the hardy people who live there, the North Platte valley has gone on year after year furnishing more than a liberal living to those who have stayed by it.

In the early days the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians were particularly fond of this valley. Because of the nutritious grasses which grew along the banks of Platte river and its numerous smaller mountain fed tributaries, it was a paradise for game hunters and vast herds of buffalo came there to graze.

Each year the Indians made the valley the goal of their hunting expeditions. Erecting their tipis, they remained for long periods obtaining their supplies of skins and robes and meat for the long winter ahead of them. Because of the wealth of game, the valley became known as a veritable earthly Happy Hunting Ground.

### Inroads of Whites.

When the whites made inroads into the west and gradually pushed the Indians to one side, the trail westward and to the great northwest led through this valley and became known as the Oregon trail. Hunters, trappers and scouts found hunting and fishing ideal. Expeditions going through were fond of tarrying in this land of plenty. Travelers told amazing stories of its richness and fertility, and its reputation was early established. Long before the now more familiar portions of Nebraska were known the North Platte valley was known.

### Becomes Cattle Country.

With the Indians and bison gone, and expeditions westward growing fewer, the cattlemen rediscovered the valley, and it then became one of the best cattle countries in the west. With 15 or 20 inches of rainfall annually

They found the annual rainfall insufficient to assure any degree of reliability of crops. However, pioneers that they were, and determined to establish agriculture in that section, they struggled on against odds, particularly those who had settled on lands away from the rivers.

finally officially recognized the importance of the valley as an agricultural area and began surveying with the idea of establishing irrigation canals and thus assuring the reliability of crops.

The government began work and now the valley is a network

Wyoming, a part of the North Platte irrigation project.

### Irrigation Projects.

There is also the Fort Laramie canal, one of the biggest canals of the whole project, which will feed approximately 50,000 acres of excellent land in western Nebraska.

Private concerns have also carried out irrigation projects and water in the valley is assured for all seasons. And where once the abundance of the crops could only be hoped for crops are assured.

are rough areas, but they are negligible compared with the vast fertile areas, of which 75 per cent is tillable. Here are found some of the largest and most highly cultivated ranch properties in the state, as well as the smallest and most intensively cultivated farms. Non-irrigated lands range in price from \$15 to \$100 an acre, while land values for irrigated farms range in price from \$100 to \$300 an acre.

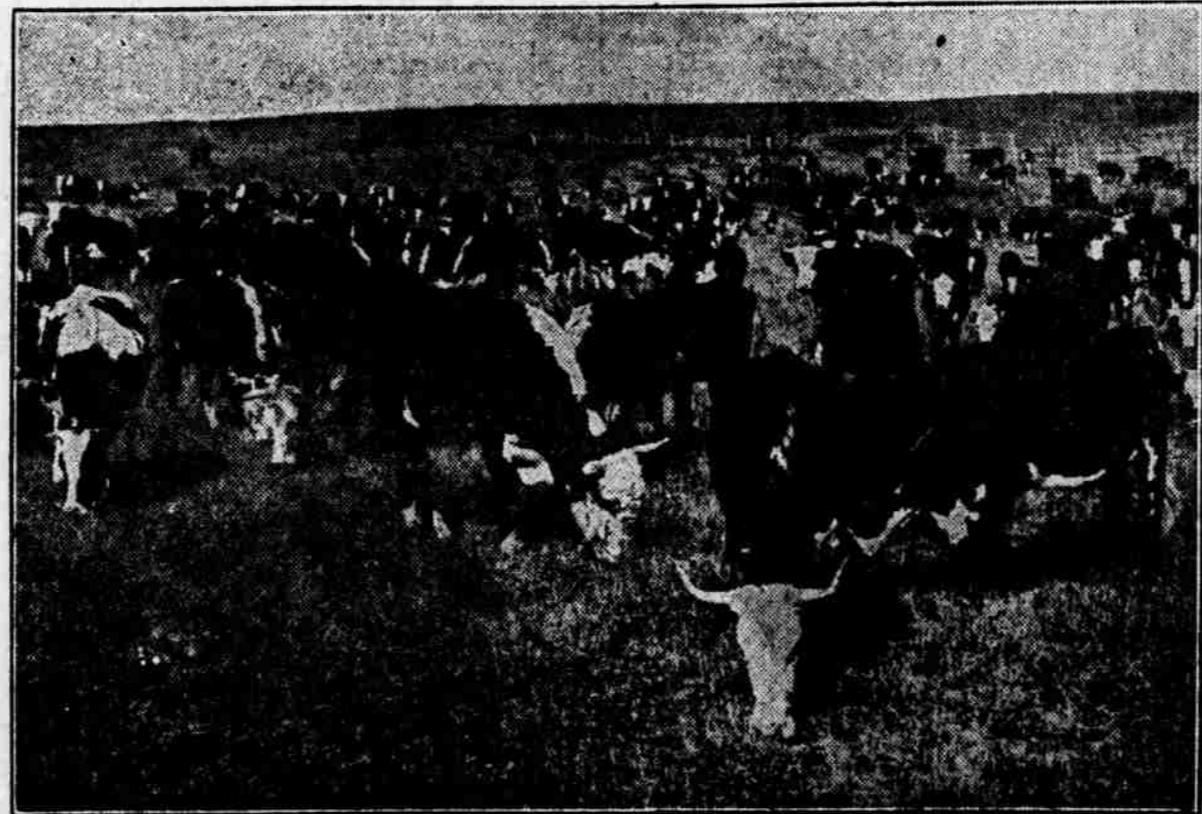
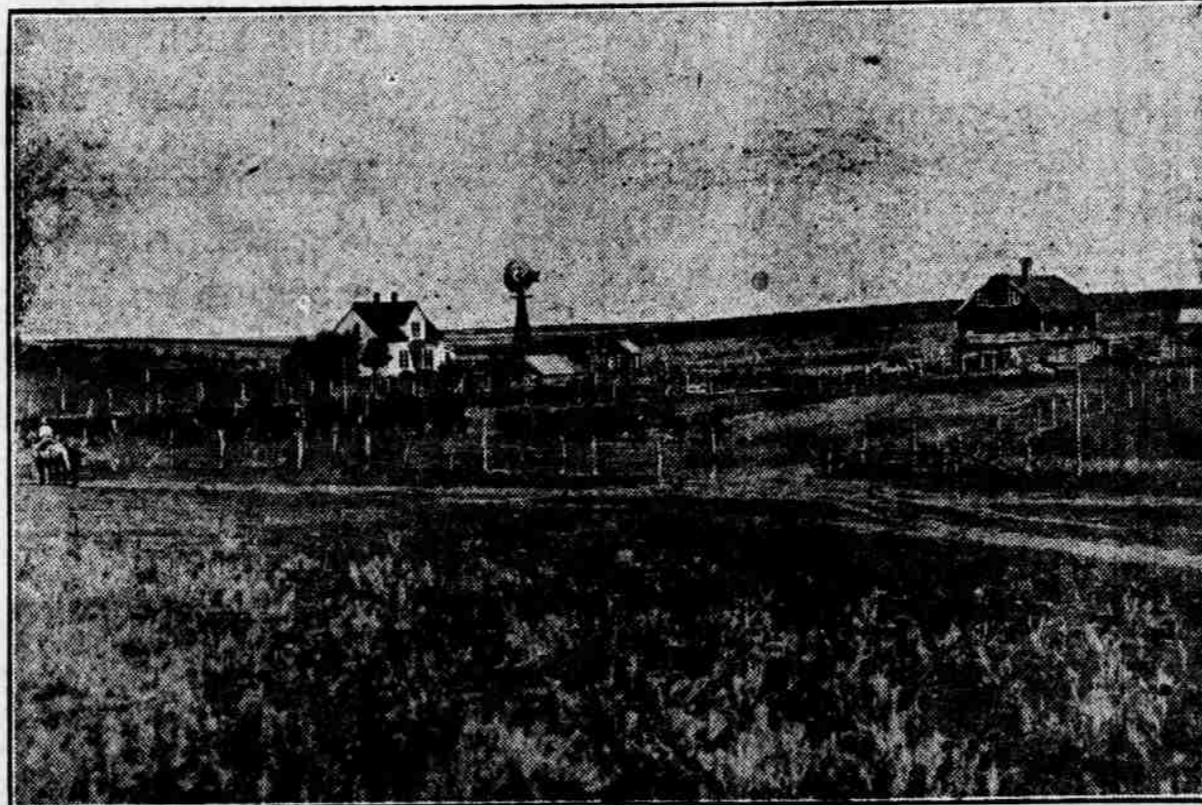
Of the 72,296 acres of sugar beets grown in Nebraska last year 70,000 acres were grown in the valley. Four sugar factories

past few years. Many of these fine specimens have found homes on valley dairies and form the nucleus of excellent herds. Dairying to the newcomer is appealing, as it requires but small capital to start and is profitable.

### Hog Raising Profitable.

The raising of hogs and cattle is profitable and the large raising centers nearby furnish an excellent market.

Previously the one great drawback to the intensive settlement



and the waters of the Platte and smaller streams, grass was in abundance and the cattle grazing was profitable.

Cattlemen ruled the country for years before the arrival of homeseekers who expected to get their living from tilling the soil.

### Excellent Crops.

These men persevered and, despite their difficulties, were able to attract the attention of the government reclamation service because of the excellence of their crops. In 1905 the government

of irrigation canals, furnishing water to approximately 500,000 acres of rich farm lands west of North Platte, on which crops are unexcelled by those in any other portion of Nebraska. These canals for the most part are fed from the Pathfinder dam in



Many farmers have settled on this irrigated land and today the North Platte valley is conceded to be the most fertile portion of Nebraska. Its agricultural products are not surpassed by any other section, statistics prove, and in many lines the valley leads.

### Vast Fertile Areas.

Because of the irrigated districts and vast acreage of sugar beets and other special crops the group contains much of the high-priced Nebraska land. Of course, in these counties there

are located in the valley.

### Principal Crops.

The principal crops are sugar beets, alfalfa, potatoes, small grains of all kind and some corn. Garden crops do well, and large canning concerns have annual contracts with growers of these products. There are a few orchards, for fruit growing is not looked upon as favorably as other pursuits, but small fruits are most reliable and grown in abundance.

Thousands of dairy cattle have been shipped into Nebraska in the

of this country, which is so old, yet new, was the insufficient transportation facilities. There have been good roads always and most transportation was done by wagon. But transporting products to any far away market was out of the question and at a great disadvantage. Consequently farmers and stockmen were denied any selection of a market.

The roads are now operating and passenger trains are enough to take care of the freight originating