

ABOUT

SOUTH PLATTE
VALLEY
COLORADO



What the Union Pacific is Doing in South Platte Valley.

Through various agencies the Union Pacific has been busy with the work of installing new settlers in the South Platte Valley, and the flourishing condition of these settlements bears the most flattering testimony to the rich possibilities of this country. The people there are, without exception, highly pleased with the results thus far.

Wonderful Future.

The soil of the beautiful lowlands in the South Platte Valley is a rich alluvial deposit; the climate partakes of the elements of the pure mountain air, and, with ample irrigation, which is now assured, this great valley leading down from the Rockies will prove one of the richest farming sections in the United States. For choice lands, under ditch and ready for the plow, the price now averages about \$40 per acre, but the day is coming for many parts when \$75 and \$100 per acre will be considered cheap.

It is not too much to say that in the vicinity and tributary to the Pawnee Reservoir site, under proper



EXHIBIT AT STERLING, COLO., OF GRAINS AND GRASSES GROWN IN SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY.

auspices, there will soon be large communities of intelligent and industrious people, desert wastes will have been transformed into beautiful fields and meadows; farm

325.00

2201

Mike Vinson



BEET SUGAR FIELD NEAR STERLING, COLO., SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY.

settlements will have grown into towns and cities, with their establishments of commerce, their schools and their churches, and the trades and industrial acts indicative of a progressive and prosperous people.

Climatic Conditions Perfect.

It is a well-known fact that the success of a country depends on its soil. It must be made up of constituents that respond vigorously, else these elements must be supplied by the use of fertilizers. Nowhere is there a more perfect soil than that of the South Platte Valley, and this soil has a depth almost incredible. This soil is of the very best kind for irrigation, and the farmers, unlike those of the Eastern and Middle West States, do not have to depend on the spring and summer rains for their crops. Large storage reservoirs have been constructed for the purpose of impounding the flood waters, thus insuring an abundant supply for what is commonly called the "dry season."

Possibilities Under Irrigation.

The lands of the valley now under irrigation are capable of wonderful yields. A country where corn can be raised with averages of 50 bushels per acre, wheat with an average of 40 bushels, oats and barley with a yield of 60 bushels, potatoes averaging 250 bushels, which produces onions weighing 2½ pounds, potatoes with a weight of 3 pounds, cabbages which tip the scale at 20 pounds, and sugar beets almost as heavy, certainly deserves the adjective "wonderful." Of course the yields named above are exceptional, but with increased facilities for irrigation they may become common.

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Products of South Platte Valley

Sugar Beets.

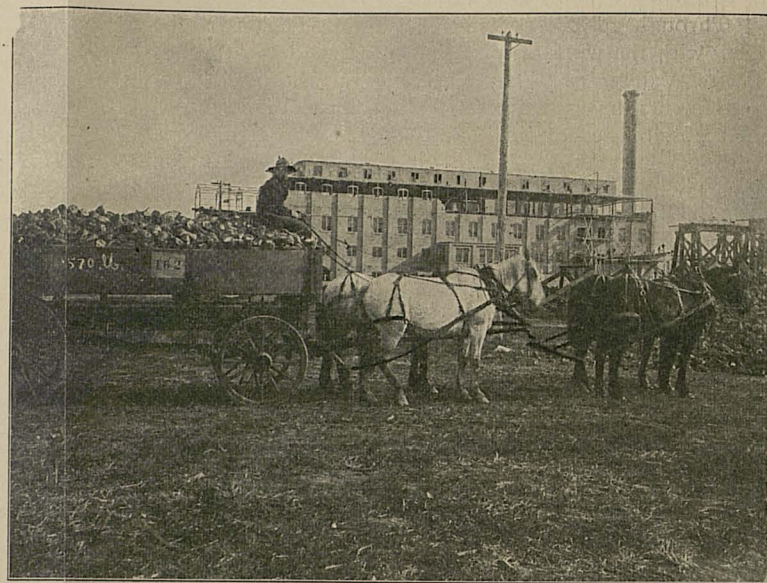
It is the belief of experts that the production of sugar beets will become the leading business among the inhabitants of the valley. Colorado is pre-eminently a country for raising sugar beets. It is a well-known fact that on ripening, the saccharine matter of sugar beet leaves sinks into the root. If rains come and cause the plant to re-commence its growth, the sugar starts for the leaves again and will probably be lost. As South Platte Valley is devoid of summer rains, nothing of this kind can happen. Hence this valley is the ideal sugar beet country because the fact noted above, together with the bright sunshine, both cause a higher percentage of sugar in beets, and also increases its purity. If alfalfa returns profits that may be termed wonderful those from raising sugar beets should be called stupendous. Twenty acres under irrigation, if planted to sugar beets, will grow not less than 320 tons, a crop worth \$1,600. On land costing \$100 per acre this would be a profit of 6. per cent. If, as frequently happens, the average be twenty tons per acre, the profit would be 80 per cent. But land can be had for much less than \$100 per acre, so it may be confidently asserted that much land can be purchased in the South Platte Valley, which, planted to sugar beets, will pay for itself the first year, and also realize a profit fully as large as purchase price.

Although, at the present time, the irrigation facilities cover but a limited portion of Weld, Morgan, Logan and Sedgwick Counties, through which the valley extends, the



UNLOADING BEETS AT SUGAR FACTORY, STERLING, COLO.

aggregate annual production has reached a figure which can but show the fertility of the land, and which will forecast in some small degree what may be expected when



HAULING BEETS TO SUGAR FACTORY AT STERLING, COLO.

the storage reservoirs already projected have been completed.

Mr. E. A. Warren, living three miles north of Sterling, has grown sugar beets on the same ground for the past three years, and the average crop each season has been from twenty to twenty-three tons per acre.

S. C. King, living six miles southwest of Sterling, is now harvesting his first crop of beets and they are running nineteen tons to the acre. This is the general average of his forty-acre field.

W. L. Henderson, living two miles due east of Sterling, has 180 acres of beets in one field this year. His tonnage is heavy. Last season ninety acres of this land produced over forty bushels of wheat to the acre, and ninety acres produced a heavy yield of beets. As wheat brought \$1.45 per 100 pounds at Sterling in 1904, the fact that Mr. Henderson has used the entire tract for beets this year shows conclusively that beets are a paying crop.

Mr. Lee Prewitt, twelve miles from Sterling, has a thirty-acre field of beets, which, it is believed, will run twenty-eight tons to the acre. Mr. Prewitt is said to have refused \$2,000 for his crop two months before harvesting, the party making the offer agreeing to stand all future expense of the crop.

The Sterling Sugar Company makes a three-year contract with the farmers, agreeing to pay them \$5 per ton for all the beets they can raise, either delivered at the factory at Sterling, or at any beet dump along the Union Pacific lines within fifty miles of the factory. Any locality growing 300 acres or more of beets is furnished with a beet dump and scales for weighing, the Sterling Sugar Company paying the expense of a weighmaster.

This company also pays field superintendents to instruct farmers in proper methods of beet culture, the superintendent visiting every field several times a week.

Cost of Raising Sugar Beets.

At the twenty-fourth annual session of the Farmers' Institute, held at Loveland, Colo., on February 18, Mr.



TYPICAL IRRIGATION SCENE IN SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY ON THE UNION PACIFIC.

W. H. Fairbrother read a paper on the "Cost of Raising Sugar Beets." Among other things he said:

1. That any grower, even should he be unfortunate enough to raise but an eight-ton crop, will receive suffi-

cient therefrom to fully cover not only the hand labor, but to allow himself wages and team expenses.

2. That a farmer having land in a good, fair state of cultivation, who will look after his crop properly, can count with a fair degree of certainty on a net profit of \$35 per acre, or 35 per cent interest on his investment, based on a valuation of \$100 per acre.

Potatoes.

The fame of the Colorado potato has been heralded throughout the length and breadth of the land, and this South Platte Valley is peculiarly fitted for its production, the yield in some instances being almost incredible. One forty-acre tract, owned by Hon. W. J. Powell, of Iliff, east of Sterling, last year produced from 400 to 500

bushels to the acre of the very best potatoes, averaging from one to five pounds in weight.

There is a large profit in the potato crop because of the enormous yield and ever-ready market.

Wheat.

While the tendency now is to look more to the "small tract farming" in the production of sugar beets, potatoes, etc., yet Colorado has for years been known as a great wheat-producing State. At the World's Fair in Chicago Colorado wheat gained twenty-five awards. One farm of 800 acres produced an average yield of fifty-two

bushels to the acre. Awards were also received from the Superior Jury of Awards of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. S. F. Lent, living five miles from Sterling, received one of the St. Louis

South Platte Valley



Exposition diplomas and medals for winter wheat grown in Colorado.

Corn.

This is not a corn country, at least it is not advertised as such, and if a farmer wants to raise corn all his life he should settle in Nebraska, where it grows to perfection. The nights are said to be too cool for the growing of corn, especially the larger varieties; however, we wish to call attention to the corn crop grown by Mr. Thomas Sharp, living two miles from Iliff, which produced fifty bushels per acre, and was pronounced by a number of Iowa farmers, who visited the field this fall, as being first-class in every respect.

Onions

Are a success here, especially the "Bermudas." Many crops have averaged over 500 bushels per acre. A crop of



ONION FIELDS IN SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

1,200 bushels was grown on the Schneider ranch, eight miles from Sterling, a few years ago, and sold for \$2.05 per 100 pounds, f. o. b., at Atwood, Colo., which was the nearest shipping station.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Seed.

This is the natural home of the alfalfa plant, which for years has been one of the standard and best-paying crops grown in the South Platte Valley. It can be seeded on plowed land or disked in on sod and produces from three to four crops every year, and does not require re-seeding. Some of our best fields were planted fifteen or twenty years ago, and are still yielding heavily. The roots go down to fifteen or twenty feet, and even deeper in some

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HARVESTING HONEY, SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

cases. As high as eight tons per acre have been harvested in one season, but this is above the average. It is fed to cattle, horses, hogs and poultry.

The Sterling alfalfa meal plant, which was opened for business this year, is grinding and shipping car loads to many of the Eastern States, where it is used for a green winter feed and is in great demand. It is worth from \$3 to \$5 per ton in the stack, and has brought as high as \$7 per ton. When a seed crop is grown only one crop of hay is harvested in addition, but the straw after threshing makes a good rough feed. The seed averages from five to six bushels per acre, although a few crops have been known to make over fifteen bushels. The present



POULTRY FARM, SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

South Platte Valley

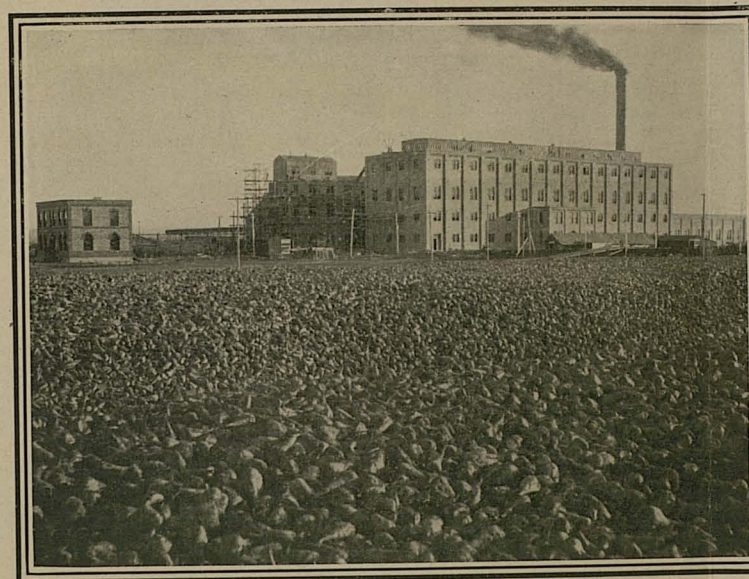


price is \$6 per bushel at the machine, but usually reaches \$9 per bushel in the spring months. One firm in Sterling paid the farmers in this locality over \$40,000 for their seed one year.

Alfalfa Meal.

In the manufacture of alfalfa meal the alfalfa itself, just as it grows in the field, is ground up, 2,100 pounds of alfalfa producing a ton of meal, the meal commanding \$20 per ton as soon as it is sacked.

Alfalfa meal is the final and concentrated production and preparation of the alike feeding, fattening and dietetic properties of alfalfa itself, containing all the essence of the



TEN THOUSAND TONS OF SUGAR BEETS IN FOREGROUND, STERLING, COLO.

high protein elements of this famous forage growth. It is at once medicinal and maturing, and is alike a milk secreter and a pork, beef and poultry market fattener, now practiced hog market fattening, for instance, resolving itself into 75 per cent of alfalfa meal and 25 per cent of corn.

Eastern stock fattening pen and dairy demand are now utilizing the meal in carload lots, while shipments to Europe are well inaugurated, the alfalfa meal plant having habitually 1,000 tons of advance orders.

Upland Hay.

This is an irrigated land product and a most staple and reliable crop; it is not seeded, but comes up naturally

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on land that has been irrigated and, therefore, may be considered as a native of this country. Most of this hay is shipped to Denver and considerable of it forwarded by rail to the numerous mining camps in that region. Between 500 and 600 cars are shipped from Logan County annually, and the price varies from \$11 to \$18 per ton in Denver. It ranks with good, bright timothy in that market, and the buyer can usually have his choice for the same price.

Honey.

Colorado honey brings the top price everywhere; thousands of cases are shipped East every year, one full carload going to Indiana last season. The Sterling Bee Company owns 700 hives, and J. M. Cornelius 400 hives, and nearly all farmers have from one to twenty-five hives. Bees do well in this country and are said to fly about 335 days in the year, which is a gentle reminder of "Sunny Colorado" to people living in cold countries.

One firm shipped 1,200 cases of honey, worth \$3,600. This was the product of 250 stands of bees owned by them, near Sterling, Colo.

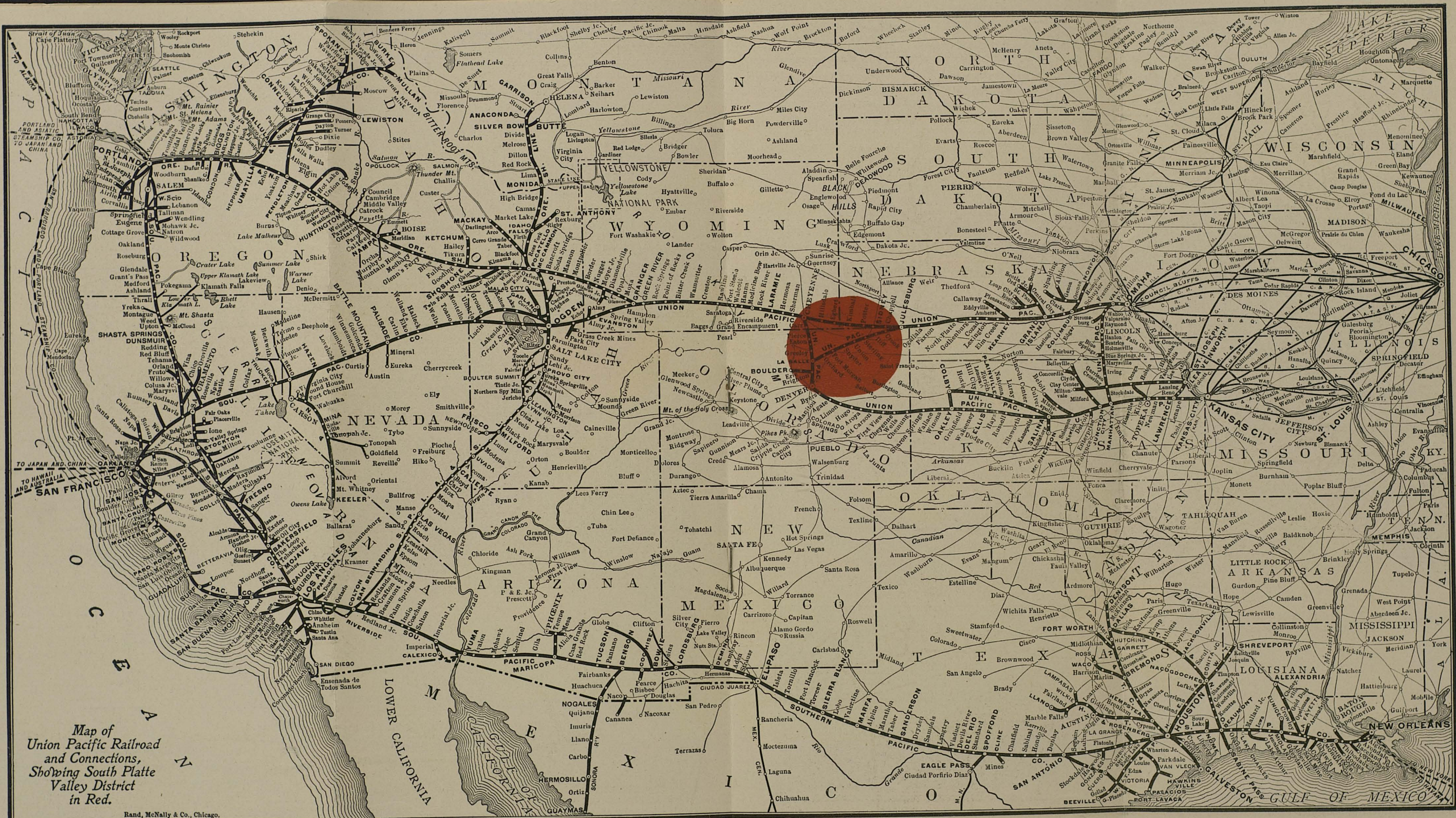
There are several other firms in the valley who do equally well every year.

Any one who understands and likes bees can do fully as well, and at the same time be attending to his other work, while the bees are storing up the honey.

Thousands of cases are sold each year to Eastern buyers, who come direct to the South Platte Valley for their honey and pay good prices for it. One man at Sterling sold \$1,200 worth recently to a Kansas City buyer.

Live Stock.

The live stock industry in the South Platte Valley has been too well advertised to require much mention in this folder. It is well known that cattle, horses and sheep find plenty of feed for at least eight months in the year on the free government range adjoining the valley, and that more than sufficient winter feed is grown in the valley during that time. All domestic animals and poultry thrive on alfalfa, and now sugar beet pulp from the factory will be a great item in cheap feeding. Hogs are especially fond of alfalfa, and one acre of this plant will support twenty head. Thousands of lambs are fed here on alfalfa, with a final finish of corn or barley, which fits them for market. Reference to the Chicago market reports shows that Colorado alfalfa-fed lambs bring the highest prices at all times.



Map of
Union Pacific Railroad
and Connections,
Showing South Platte
Valley District
in Red.

Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago.

South Platte Valley

Poultry.

A ready market for poultry is found at extremely good prices, supplying the Denver people and the miners. This is the ideal place for raising turkeys.

Small Fruits and Vegetables.

Everything of this kind does well on irrigated lands, and here in the South Platte Valley they are of splendid form and delicious flavor, and the yield is astonishing. Everybody can grow plenty for home use and a surplus for Denver and the mining camps, if so inclined.



HARVEST SCENE, SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

Extent of South Platte Valley.

This valley is 275 miles long and from two to six miles wide and all susceptible of irrigation. The land is smooth, rich and fertile and very easily irrigated. There are more than sixty-five thousand acres of choice land already under irrigation in Logan County, and the water supply comes from a number of the oldest ditches on the South Platte.

At one time this was the hunting ground of many Indian tribes and thousands of buffalo fed upon the nutritious native grasses grown on the river bottoms.

Later, the country was settled by ranchers and cattle men who filed on all of the best lands obtainable from the

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United States Government, and these people constructed large irrigating canals to irrigate the land and increase the yield of hay for winter feeding. During the summer season—about eight months of the year—their cattle were turned loose on the millions of acres of government range land, immediately adjoining the valley, a practice which continues at the present time. Then came the Eastern farmer with his ideas of alfalfa, grains, vegetables and, later still, the vision of fields of sugar beets and a sugar factory. The vision has at last been realized.

Sterling, Colorado.

Sterling has a population of 2,000 and is growing rapidly. It is the largest and best town in Northeastern Colorado, is the county seat of Logan County, and within one mile of the South Platte River.

It is an important railroad center, being located on the Union Pacific Short Line, between Omaha and Denver; two other lines cross at this point, and all trains enter and depart from a magnificent union passenger station.

The distance from Omaha to Sterling is 430 miles, time 12 hours; Sterling to Denver, 140 miles, time 3½ hours.

The town has a splendid water works system, owned by the city. The water is said to equal that of Battle Creek, Mich., and comes from springs which fill a reservoir six miles from town, and from there flows through a large pipe line, with a fall of 110 feet.

A first-class electric light plant, with arc lights on principal business and residence corners, illuminates the city.

Sterling is a town of churches, schools and societies. The social features are not excelled by



STREET SCENE, STERLING, COLO.

South Platte Valley

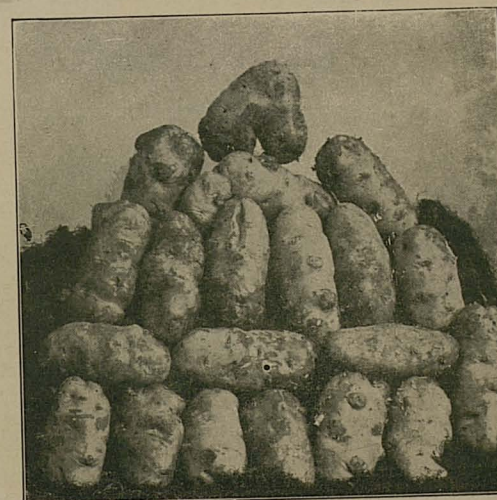
any town of its size in the country. Fine church edifices are owned by the Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, Dunker, German Evangelical and Christian denominations. The Masons, Odd Fellows, Red Men, Woodmen of the World, Woodmen of America, Highland Nobles and the Sterling Club have large memberships.

The County High School is free to scholars residing anywhere in the county, and is supplied with expert teachers. Graduates from this school are prepared to enter universities or colleges.

The Grammar School Building is a modern two-story brick, recently erected at a cost of \$30,000. Eight grades are taught by the best teachers obtainable. All school books are free in both schools.

Large, fine business houses, beautiful residences, miles of cement walks, wide streets and alleys, and a liberal and broad-minded people all help to impress the visitor with Sterling as being a desirable place of residence.

There are two national banks, two up-to-date newspapers, three lumber yards, a steam laundry, planing mill, cement block works, creamery station, alfalfa meal plant, large mercantile institutions, etc., in this little town of Sterling.



TWENTY POTATOES TO THE BUSHEL, GROWN IN SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

Last, but not least, is the beet sugar factory this year built on land adjoining Sterling, at a cost of nearly one

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IRRIGATION DITCH NEAR STERLING, COLO., SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY, COLO.

million dollars. This factory has a capacity of 600 tons of beets per day, which will produce about 85 tons of sugar every twenty-four hours. It gives employment to 250 people, and the monthly pay-roll is about \$25,000.

The country around Sterling is settling up rapidly with practical farmers, mostly from Iowa and adjoining States. The large alfalfa and hay fields are being plowed up for sugar beets and potatoes, and the natural tendency is toward small tracts; this all means a larger population for Sterling in the near future.

The following from a letter from the Colorado Colony Company of October 27, 1905, will be of interest:

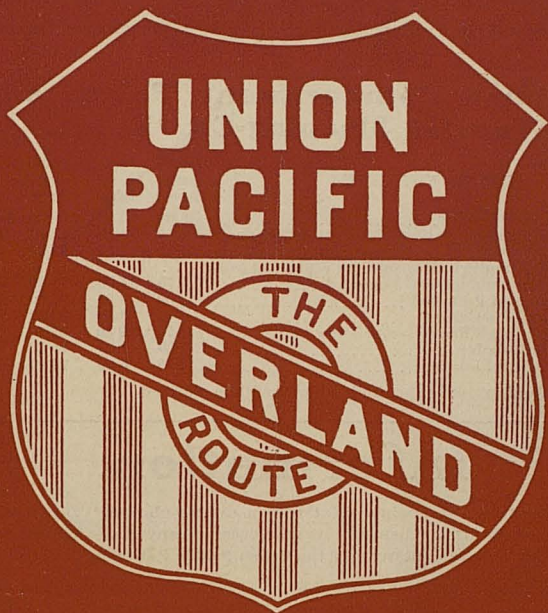
"We have handled 190 home-seekers on our excursions during the past ninety days, and have at times taxed the resources of the liveries in Sterling to furnish carriages to show the people over Sterling and the irrigated districts surrounding. We appreciate the fact that the large amount of advertising furnished by the Union Pacific and the low rate of \$10 for the round trip from Omaha to Sterling and return, has been greatly instrumental in enabling us to secure these results. We would further state that the prospects for a heavy influx of actual settlers to this point were never better than at present, and we are receiving

A. L. MOHLER,
Vice-Pres. & Gen'l Man.

E. L. LOMAX,
Gen'l Pass. Agt.

GERRIT FORT,
Asst. Gen'l Pass. Agt.

OMAHA, NEB.



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