

UINTAH RESERVATION WILL OPEN IN MARCH, 1905

CONSIDERABLE interest attaches just now, to the Uintah Indian reservation, because of the provision in the last Indian appropriation bill, providing for the opening of the reservation to the public, and which carried an appropriation of \$5,000 to complete the surveys, begun some time ago.

The original bill fixed Oct. 1, 1904, as the date of the opening, but because of the amount of work to be done, in allocating lands, and making the surveys, it was found necessary to postpone the opening until March 10, 1905, which was done by action of Congress.

The Uintah reservation lies in Utah and Washington counties, Utah, in the northeastern portion of the state. It consists of 2,334,000 acres of mountain and valley. There are several fine streams of water that rise in the Uintah range on the north, and traverse the lower valleys, finally emptying themselves into Green river. The principal streams are the Duchesne, all of which can be easily diverted for purposes of irrigation, making it one of the best watered sections of the state. From the foot of the Uintah mountains, to the south line of the reservation, are a continuous series of benches of soil that is admirably adapted to all kinds of crops that can be grown anywhere in this latitude.

In altitude, the reservation ranges from 4,000 feet in the lower valleys to 13,000 feet on the summit of the loftiest peaks of the Uintah range, the highest in the state.

In selecting lands for the Indians, the allotments have been made principally along the river bottoms, while the bench lands which are usually the most fertile, are practically untouched, and will provide homes for many thousands of people.

VERITABLE GARDEN SPOT.

In climate, soil and crops, the reservation is identical with the Ashley valley, 30 miles to the east, which is, without question one of the garden spots of the west. In this valley are grown magnificent crops of grains of all kinds and alfalfa hay yields three crops a year. The whole of the Uintah basin, which comprises all the territory lying south of the Uintah range, draining into Green river, and embracing all of the Uintah and Uncompaghe reservations, and practically all of Utah county, is adapted to the growth of small fruits, especially, and the apples produced in the Ashley valley are the finest in the world. This crop is unusually fine this year, the orchards, in many instances, breaking down under the burden of fruit that is without a blemish. In some parts of the Ashley valley, the finest of peaches are also grown.

The Ashley valley is the leading honey producing section of Utah, both in quality and quantity. Taken altogether, it may safely be said, that the Ashley valley, as an agricultural section, is unsurpassed in the west, and it gives a fair idea of what the Uintah reservation will be when thrown open. This valley, which is twenty miles long and six miles in width, is watered by the Ashley creek, which is insignificant when compared with the streams of the reservation.

RAILROAD FACILITIES.

The Denver, Northwestern and Pacific railway, better known as the "Mograt" line, crosses Uintah county with its survey, and follows the Duchesne river and Strawberry creek across the reservation, and will thus open up this virgin section, at once, and make every acre of tillable land valuable.

The Uintah railway, which is being constructed across the Book cliffs, from Mack Colo, a station on the Rio Grande road, to tap the extensive gilsonite deposits of the White river country, western Utah county, will have for its terminus, at present, a station, called Dragon, on the head of Evaporation creek. Dragon is 55 miles southeast of Vernal, and a first class wagon road will be constructed between the two points. All of the freight from the Ashley valley, Fort Duchesne, and the Indian agencies, will come over this road when completed. Dragon is considered only a temporary terminus for the Uintah railway, however, as it will be a comparatively easy grade on to the reservation, so that immediately following the opening there will be two railroads competing for the extensive traffic that is bound to develop.

Vernal, the county seat of Uintah county, which is by far the most convenient outfitting point for the reservation, is only twenty miles to the east of the line, with several roads leading to a surprise to all visitors. It is located in the center of the rich Ashley valley and has the best courthouses in the state, outside of Salt Lake City. It has one school building that cost \$14,000 and three churches, one of which, now in course of construction, will cost \$20,000, when completed. It has between 30 and 40 business houses representing every branch of trade, which makes it a close and convenient point from which to outfit for the reservation. Vernal has miles of asphaltum pavements that are not excelled in any city of the west.

The Ashley valley, in which it is located, has miles and miles of land that are bordered with shade trees, and on either side are farm lands that produce the heaviest of crops. Hay, grain, potatoes, etc., were splendid crops this year, and the hundreds of people who will go in to the country for the winter, will find living quite inexpensive. Wheat is 75 cents per bushel, oats \$1 per 100, apples 75 cents per bushel, loose hay \$2.50 per ton and other things in proportion.

The climate of the whole Uintah basin is an ideal one. The Uintah range on the north, with its towering peaks, tempers the hot winds of mid-summer, and the nights are delightfully cool, even in July and August. It is doubtful if there is any place in the world where vegetation grows as luxuriantly, and yet the heat is not oppressive, as is the case in the Uintah country.

That Uintah county and the territory now embraced in the Uintah reservation is destined to become a rich and prosperous section, is beyond question. With its marvelous production of crops of all kinds, and a great transcontinental line passing through it, opening the markets of the west to its produce, it is bound to become the great distributing point, from which will be drawn the food supply for hundreds of miles around.

The immense deposits of gilsonite and other kindred minerals, to tap which the Uintah railway is being constructed, will form the basis for a great industry, and will create a good home market for the farmers of the Uintah basin.

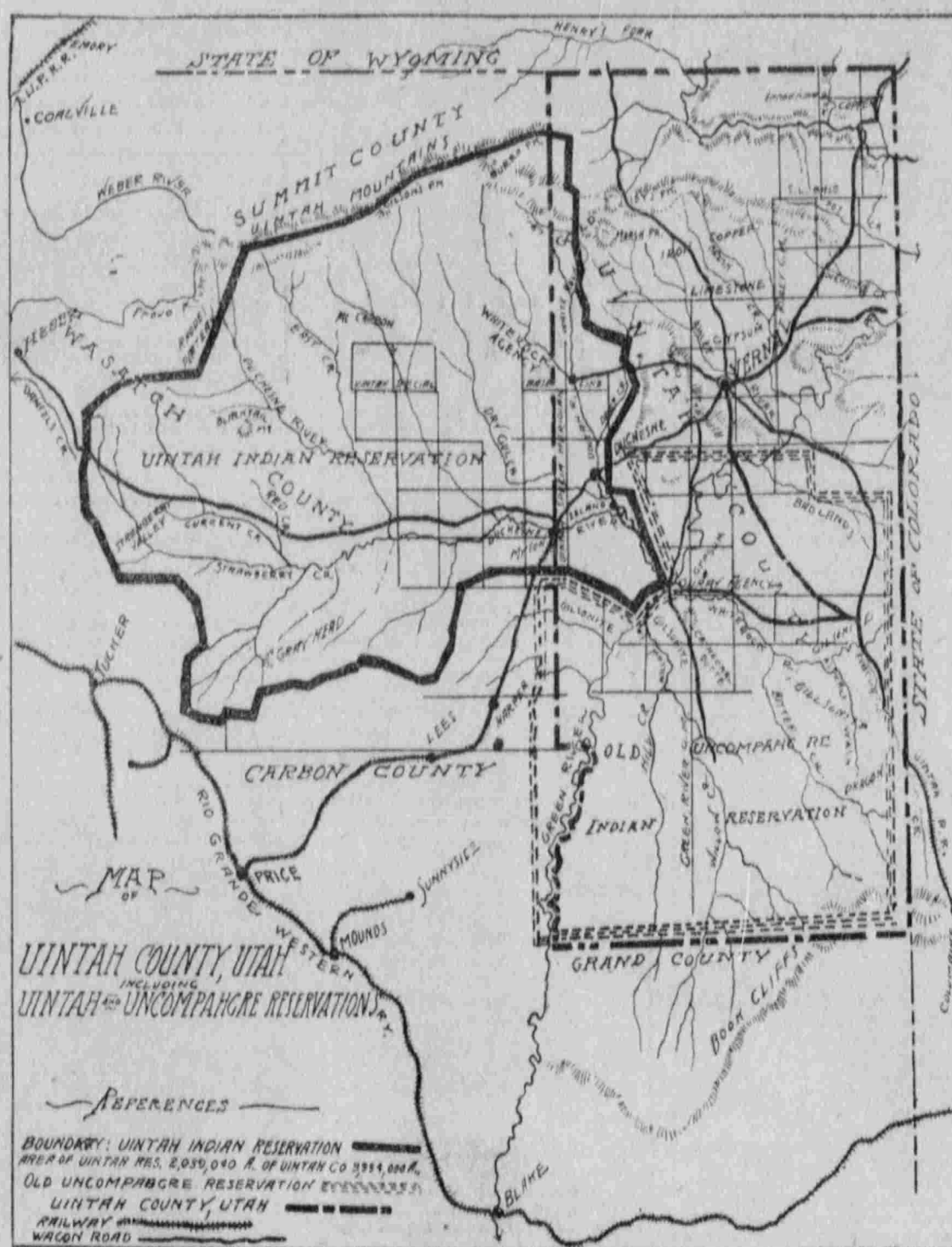
All around the Ashley valley, and on some parts of the reservation, are deposits of coal that furnish cheap and convenient fuel and the foot-hills of the Uintah range are covered with a dense growth of cedar and pine, which is easily accessible.

The soil and climate of the Uintah reservation and the Uintah basin in general, is especially adapted to the culture of the sugar beet. Tests made on beets produced in the Ashley valley, show them to be above the average in saccharine, and the yield immense. It is estimated that the Uintah basin is capable of supporting a population of 100,000 people. Its population, at the present time is about 8,000, exclusive of Indians.

The fact that the Uintah reservation is accessible at all seasons of the year, from the south and east, and from the west during eight months of the year, will make its settlement rapid, when opened. It has also the three requisites for the foundation of a prosperous settlement in the west, viz: a good supply of water, a goodly quantity of fertile soil, and a good climate.

GREAT FORESTS OF PINE.

Of all the western reservations that have been recently opened for settlement, there are none that will furnish the homes that will be built up on the



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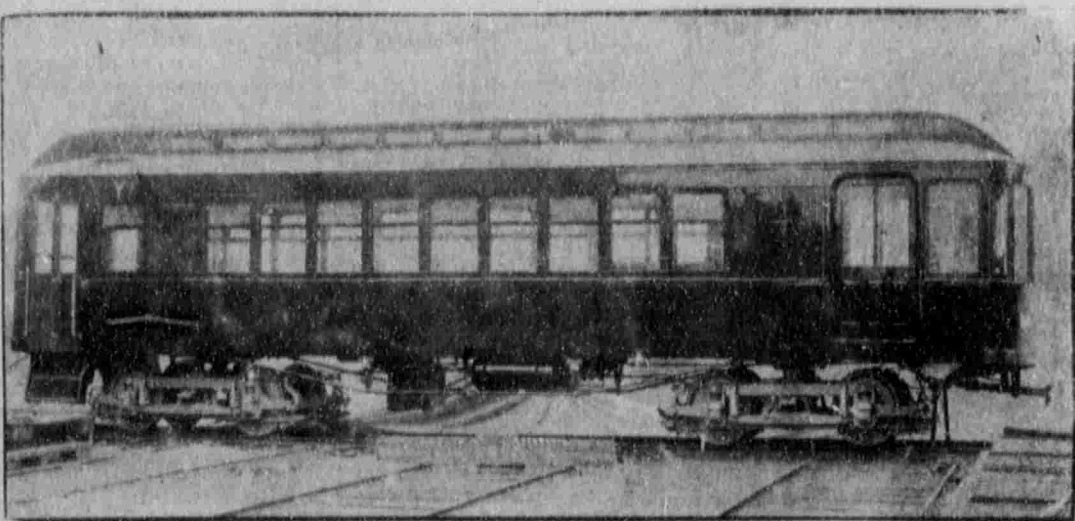
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