BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST

Transfer Case.

448-A1

Send to Reclamation Service for report, same to be ready for Secy on his return to office. AAA

Chandler.

Utica N.Y. July 27th, 1908.

Honorable James R. Garfield,

Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D.C.

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for report, same to be ready for Secy on his return to office

Dear Mr. Secretary;

I am glad that you have visited North Western Wyoming, and seen the Big Horn Basin. I hope you noticed my work in the opening up of that country, which cost me years of labor and a fortune. Before I commenced my work there, I had several talks with the late Mr. C. E. Perkins, then President of the Burlington Railroad Co., I told him of the richness of the country and begged him to build a railroad into the Basin. He told me that his stock holders had pioneered so far into new countries, that they would not listen to the opening up of any new country, where there was no settlement or prospects of return to support the said railroad. I asked him if I should go ahead and open up that country with farmers, merchants, etc., and show the stock holders that there was business in the Big Horn Basin for a railroad; would be build in there? He told me that he would, and I went ahead and built the first irrigating canal in that part of the basin. I was discouraged in many ways, as the original ranchman who lived in the Basin at the time, did not care for a railroad or farmers; they wished to keep that entire country for a few head of cattle and sheep, game etc., and while I was trying to induce settlement into that country, and after I had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in building a canal, these same men discouraged my settlers in every possible manner; telling them that the soil would produce nothing and that should they succeed in raising oats, or, grains of any description, they would have no one to sell them to; that they could not sell one hundred bush. of oats there in 10 years, etc.,

As the railroad did not commence building the second year that I started up that country, and the gentleman who I had interested with me financially in the under-taking gave up the project, so I had to finance it myself personally.

Mr. Perkins, seeing what I had done and was doing, which was then about the time he was going to resign from the Presidency of the Burlington Railroad Co., he remembering his promise to me, decided to build the railroad from Toluca to the town of Cody, Wyo., Before doing so, the town of Cody was laid out. I started a news paper there, which I ran for the first five years at a big loss, so as to have a paper to advertise the country and town. I built the Irma Hotel, which you have seen, and ran that at a loss for the first five years. I did not build the hotel, because I wanted to be a hotel proprietor; but as a hotel to advertise the town and country.

I was instrumental in getting the Government to build the

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BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST

#2 Honorable James R. Garfield.

Wagon Road from the Yellow Stone Park through the timber reserve, the road which you have lately passed over. When this was completed, the President informed me that there was no place for people to stop on the road, so it was up to me and I built the Pahaska Tepee and the Wapti Inn These I have run at a loss, ever since they were built.

Originally, the water rights under the Cary Act, ~~Free~~ sold at $10.00 per acre for perpetual water. This was before the days of the railroad, and what the pioneer had to contend against. As you know, now, the Reclaimation Service are charging $45.00 per acre for water, and private individuals are charging from $30.00 to $45.00 per acre for water

I had a concession from the State of Wyoming of 160 acres of land, which I was going to water under the Cary Act, and had organized an English syndicate to furnish the money to build a canal, for which I was to have for my concession, $75,000.00 cash, besides quite a block of the stock of said company.

I brought these gentlemen, rather the experts of the financial men, from England at my own expense, for them to see the proposition. They looked it over, and were satisfied that I had not exaggerated the proposition in any way, and that their people, on their return to England would takehold of the enterprise.

About this time, the Reclaimation Service had been formed and they proposed to furnish water to irrigate that country. The Burlington Railroad Co., officials came to me and begged me to let the Government have the 160,000 acres of land laying opposite and east of Cody, Wyo. and when I arrived at the town of Cody, the citizens called a meeting and I was invited, and they also petitioned me to turn my concession over to the United States Government, as they stated that the Government would spend millions of dollars there, and that they would build so much larger a canal than I was going to build, and also would spend so much money in that country, and that it would be a great loss to that part of the State; if I did not turn my concession over to the Reclaimation Service. I told them that in doing this I was ~~giving~~ losing about $75,000 in cash, and also a large portion of the stock of the company. However, to please the railroad officials and my neighbors, I consented to release my concession from the State of Wyoming and turn it over to the Reclaimation Service.

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I had a talk with some of the engineers, and told them that I had 960 acres of land and proposed to lay out a town at Ralston and the only recompense for all the money that I spent in the enterprise would be, from the sale of a few lots in that little town, and they said that the Government had no idea of laying out towns and that it would be a splendid location for a town, and they thought in time, I would get back part of

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my loss back by selling town lots. I did not get this in writing, which I should have done, as I had no idea at the time, that the United States Government was ever going to dabble in town lots, consequently, I did not protect myself as I should have done.

Now, I understand, that the Reclaimation Service, is going to start a town at Powell. If this is done, you can readily see that there is no earthly chance of Ralston ever becoming a town.

Pardon me for taking up so much of your valuable time, but I wish to explain the situation to you and ask your generous co-pperation in preventing a town at Powell, and making Ralston, the Headquarters of the Reclaimation Service, instead of Powell. If you will do this, you will have my most grateful thanks. I am, sir,

Your very obedient servant

W. F. Cody

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