

## BILLINGS MEN BUY 8,000 ACRES FARM LANDS NEAR TOLUCA, MONT.

What is believed to be the biggest sale of Montana farm lands this year was consummated yesterday when four Billings men, O. King Grimstad, Rockwood Brown, C. W. Bowen and Theodore Dugger purchased from C. M. Dow, and Sanford P. Starks, capitalists and farm land investors of Madison, Wis., 7,868 acres of land near Toluca. It touches within 19 miles of Billings. The consideration was not made public, but it was authoritatively learned that it closely approximated \$100,000. The transaction was closed through C. M. Dow.

The land involved is practically all tillable, it is said, and about 3,000 acres will be broken for fall crops. All that, it is learned, will be planted to wheat.

Originally a part of the Crow Indian reservation, the tract was purchased at a sale of Indian lands in 1910. It is all under fence.

**Believe in Montana.**

The Madison men are firm believers in the future of Montana as a farming state. Mr. Dow himself was the first man to buy land in any appreciable quantity in the Judith Basin country. The firm at present has large tracts of land all over the state.

"The land lying in the vicinity of Billings ranks with the best in the United States as grain-producing soil," said Mr. Dow yesterday. "Soil analysis shows that it excels the famous black loam of Wisconsin."

"Values, too, are comparatively low when taking into consideration the quality of the soil. Nowhere else in Montana is land of the quality of that adjacent to Billings selling so cheaply. It is only a question of time until Billings, with her immense tributary resources, becomes another Spokane."

Mr. Dow expects an unprecedented influx of settlers into Montana during the coming year. People all through the east, he said, have their eyes turned westward.

**Empire Builders.**

"These settlers will be empire builders. They will be a class who will not require help once they get here. Most of those of whom I speak are successful farmers and will bring sufficient money into the state to do their own work of development."

J. W. Olson, formerly state superintendent of public instruction of Minneapolis, and later dean of the Minnesota Agricultural college, at present is making a thorough investigation of Montana farming lands, Mr. Dow said. The result of his investigation will be placed before the farmers of the country in a series of written articles.

The land sold yesterday is adjacent to the developed farms of D. C. Hervery and Thomas Haley.

## Four Billings Men Make Big Farmland Purchase

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