

AIRPLANE LANDING FIELD IS SECURED FOR BILLINGS

80-Acre Tract Leased for Three Years.

A permanent airplane landing field for Billings is now assured as the result of the action taken yesterday by the special committee of the Billings Commercial club to which it signed a lease for a period of three years on an acre of land directly north of the city and belonging to B. D. Fowler. The committee was composed of O. King Grimstad and Dr. P. J. Bell.

The location, according to Mr. Grimstad, can be made into a first-class landing field with but little expense practically the only work to be done being in clearing the land of a few clumps of sagebrush and setting it with a fence.

The new field, which is at the top of the hill, is the northeast one-half of the southeast one-half of section 24. In addition to grading the ground so that it is also planned to mark the field with a large white marker in order that it may easily be identified by pilots flying at a high altitude and familiar with the country. An indicator will also be erected to tell the aviator in determining the direction of the wind, thus enabling them to make successful landings.

Included in the lease for the site is also a clause in which the lessee is given the privilege of purchasing the field at any time during the three years of the contract and at a price to be determined by three appraisers. The cost on this location is \$10.

The fact that the country for miles around is practically free from bush obstructions is one of the most desirable locations near Billings. Mr. Grimstad declared, "With little work" he estimated, "it can be turned into one of the finest landing fields in the state, thus making Billings a future competing place for airplane flying over the territory."

"There is, however," Mr. Grimstad said, "nothing single in the situation with the airport unless land is taken away, establishing a transportation air line it will be only a short time such planes carrying 100 and 200 passengers will be making regular trips from east to west."

"Naturally in establishing a route of this kind on the government's part, you can't see how the best facilities for flying for the military and members of the crew. One of the big ones now being heard all over the country is a line of bus lines, and the other establishing a good field, providing that you in a desirable general location, such as Billings, may not consider they will no longer be needed."

The urgent need of providing a place as a landing field for the new air line over Billings was demonstrated last summer when several planes visiting here were often compelled to circle over the city time and again before they could decide upon a place to land.

Behind the necessity of providing the situation the matter was taken up and discussed by members of the Billings Commercial club with the result that a special committee consisting of Dr. Bell and Mr. Grimstad were appointed to select a site.

It is planned to begin the work of putting the field in shape as soon as weather conditions permit the use of a disc and a roller.

Airport Secured For Billings

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