

Club Hears Data On Irrigation

Rockwood Brown Is
Speaker at Meet

More than 406,000 acres of Montana land have been irrigated in the last four years at a cost of approximately \$11,000,000. Rockwood Brown of Billings, member of the Montana water conservation board, said Friday noon in addressing a membership meeting of the Billings Commercial club.

Before the state water board was created there had been less than 200,000 acres irrigated in a period extending back for more than half a century, Mr. Brown pointed out. As a result of this improved land it is estimated that about \$20 per acre is added each year in new wealth to the state, the speaker pointed out.

Mr. Brown was one of two speakers on a club program devoted to a consideration of irrigation, problems and developments in Montana.

Val Kuska, colonization agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, discussed some of his experiences in working with irrigation problems and experiments in the railroad territory over the last 18 years.

"Surveys show that industrial prosperity of the nation is always in direct proportion to that of the farmer, and irrigated lands, particularly in the west, mean the difference between success and failure of many crops," Mr. Kuska pointed out.

Principal problems at the present time are the amounts of water being wasted, and water conservations in districts where irrigation was not yet practicable or possible, he said.

The railroad man quoted statistics taken from official records in the Scotchbluff area of Nebraska to show how production and prosperity increased with the development of irrigation.

Mr. Brown said the state water board in cooperation with the PWA had constructed 18 major and many minor irrigation projects in Montana in the last four years. Costs of bringing this water to the farmers amounted to only \$12.50 per acre he said, as against a much higher cost on many projects sponsored by the bureau of reclamation itself. Added wealth to the state is estimated to be between seven and eight millions of dollars each year, he added.

"Every community owes its existence to agriculture. And in the Yellowstone valley area we should remember we have about 400,000

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Brown Details Irrigation Data For Commercial Club

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