

FACTS ABOUT HEART MOUNTAIN

Buffalo Bill Cody may never have seen a Japanese, but unwittingly he played no little part in the development of this land which is to be our home for the duration. The hills of northwestern Wyoming lie sear and barren in the sun, but along the valleys the fields are lush and green.

Water is the difference, and Colonel William F. Cody, better known as "Buffalo Bill", the plainsman, helped to promote the Shoshone irrigation project in this Bighorn Basin after the covered wagon had given way to the "iron horse".

By next spring thousands of acres now abandoned to sagebrush and cottontail rabbits will also be green and productive through the efforts of the 10,000 and more colonists from the Pacific coast who have come to play this pioneering role as their part in the nation's war effort.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Project, as this center is named, is in Park County, about mid-way between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, not distant from world-famed Yellowstone National Park. The project takes in roughly 46,000 acres of which 27,000 are considered irrigable. Much of the work to be done this winter will be in preparation of irrigation canals so that water will be available in the spring.

The elevation of this part of the country is around 4600 feet above sea level. The temperature ranges from approximately 100 degrees maximum to 35 degrees below zero. While the temperature usually drops below zero at least once during the winter months, it does not ordinarily stay that cold for more than a few days at a time. The growing season averages 115 days between killing frosts. Outside work will be somewhat restricted during about 100 days in the winter, but storms can be expected to stop work only about an average of 10 to 14 days per year. Rainfall ranges from six to eight inches per year.

Principle crops to be raised are alfalfa, small grains, sugar beets, beans, potatoes and seed peas. Good average yields of these crops in this area are:

Alfalfa	2 tons per acre
Wheat	30 bushels per acre
Oats	45 " " "
Barley	50 " " "
Sugar Beets	12 to 15 tons per acre
Beans	1500 lbs. per acre
Potatoes	300 bushels per acre

Truck crops have not been raised in this vicinity on a commercial scale, but experience indicates that they are well adapted to this area and there is no reason to believe that they cannot be raised in large quantities.

This great barracks-city, which will be the fourth or fifth largest city in Wyoming when it is filled, is the result of an intensive works program begun last May when extensive surveys were made to explore the feasibility of the location for a project of this sort. The camp is not yet completed. Much of the finishing work will be done by the colonists themselves.

For instance, insulating material will be provided for the interiors of apartments and ceilings. Screen doors and windows will be put up, and an ambitious gardening program is contemplated whereby grass and shade trees will eventually be planted to beautify the camp.

The Heart Mountain camp is directed by Mr. C. E. Rachford, for many years with the National Forestry Service. Under him is a staff of experts, all of them specialists in their particular field. A great measure of self-government will be practiced and the Caucasian staff will act primarily in an advisory capacity.

Two primary schools and one high school are to be operated, and extensive plans are being made for adult education as well as vocational guidance. One of the projects will be a ceramics plant where fine pottery will be manufactured.

So far, the attitude of the resident Wyomingites has been encouraging. Splendid editorials regarding this project have appeared in both Cheyenne and Cody newspapers, the first city being the state capital and the second the largest in the immediate vicinity.

The immediate task for those of us here now is to prepare the way for those who are to arrive. A great deal of work remains to be done in preparing barracks and opening mess halls. Everyone's co-operation will be necessary.

After that comes a long preparatory period before our labors begin to bear fruit. The entire nation will be looking on these camps as mighty experiments. The records that we establish here will, no doubt, play a great part in determining the manner in which we will return to civilian life after we have won this war.

We are starting a new chapter in our lives here in the free, clean air of the West under fortunate and favorable circumstances. An able, sympathetic and co-operative Caucasian staff is here to help us. The rest lies in our hands.