

Nite letter Govt rate

June 29th 1922

Biological Survey
Agriculture,
Washington D.C.

For Niobrara bison total forty one head which embraces five calves
Elk total fifty four head Deer one. Grouse and chicken within
borders approx six hundred they scatter out for summer and congest
in autumn, Quail increasing in this region, Fence line is completed
and posts all set ready for wire, Stump For Sully Hill Bison total
eleven head elk fifty head deer five pheasants inside twenty four
twelve ducks in captivity,

Dille

R-Niobrara
Reports,

Niobrara Reservation
In Nebraska

P.O. Valentine, Nebr.,
January 17¹ 1923.

Bureau of Biological Survey
E.W. Nelson Chief
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir:-

In response to the Riley letter January 5¹ asking for above Report I enclose the same, Touching on the points that have been asked for particularly, and others also of interest,

In said letter I quote as follows, " We have not received a report from you as to the work completed under the Kizer contract, " Is it meant that I have never reported that the Kizer contract work was completed ?

Under date of November 18¹ I sent in the voucher for payment to Mr Kizer in completion of his contract, and in my Weekly report for the week of Nov 12 to 18 under date of Nov 17 I state " The Kizer work is completed and I have taken over the work this A.M. " Nov 18¹ " Kizer departed for home and settled with me at office this A.M. " The Voucher stated that the Kizer work was completed,

Most Truly Yours

If it will be of interest to you in figuring, I believe that Mr, Kizer made a clear profit of approx Six hundred dollars on his work, I Had a rather close line up on his expenses,

Progress Report, Niobrara Reservation, Nebraska
For Calendar Year 1922.

Fence Work. With the opening of Spring weather and the leaving of frost from the ground, fence construction work was resumed, and instigated up to the last day of June, 1922. This was in detail as follows:- The selection and establishment of the line for the fence, the staking for the post hole digger and the hauling and proper placing of posts and wire. The setting of the posts in readiness for the placing of the wire at a later time, The posts were set complete for the whole line and tie up of the line made at the point of beginning. The woven wire rolls were also placed to advantage over most of the line in readiness for the wire gangs that will follow. One expensive detail was the clearing and chopping of the right of way for the wire, through considerable timber patches.

Cook Shack, In addition One cooking kitchen on wheels was constructed for use on the work work and one permanent cabin for camp was built at an advantageous point to center the working gangs that will be necessary on this fence. The location of the latter was chosen with a view for its future use in operations of the new pastures.

Woven wire and Completed Fence, Placing of woven wire by Chas Kizer, who had contract for placing the same over a certain distance was terminated November 18' 1922. The distance his contract was to cover, was two and fifty six one hundredths miles (2.56 miles) and the cost was \$ 1298.76. This took the fence from the starting point marked A. on the sketch map to a point close to the Runyan north east corner marked B on sketch.

On November 18' a small additional gang of workmen continued the wire placing to a point midway of the Simmons place boundary and marked C. The time of this additional work was November 18' to December 7' The distance covered approx 1 5/8 miles, The additional cost of this extended operations was

For Labor	\$ 406.
For Operations Ford Car, Grain for team, rental camp house Blacksmithy	49. 455.

An additional item that occurred in this period of \$72.60 covering purchase of tools, working equipment and wire materials do not apply to this particular section, but are general over the whole

This puts the woven wire in place from the starting point A to C. 4.21 miles out of a possible twelve, (But not wholly completed as to expense for these is ground work and gulch fillings and snow reinforcements and creek crossings to come at the last on the whole line, See letter Oct. 2 1922)

Hay Harvest, During midsummer and early autumn, the men left in charge operations Reserve attended to the putting up of considerable hay in stacks over the southern portions and probably our share of the hay in stack will be eighty tons, The winter is so mild that not all of this can be fed to the bison and elk and there will no doubt be 30 tons for disposal in the early spring as in former years

Grazing Stock . Fees to the amount of \$140.65 were turned into the Treasury for grazing stock on the North Side of River

Game Birds. The hatchings of prairie chicken and grouse were reported from all this vicinity as being extra heavy. in numbers, This is the second season that such a report has been agreed upon, The Reserve receives these birds in refuge during the flights and the reserve provides breeding area in the spring for birds that later leave the reserve, In mid winter it is difficult to estimate the numbers of birds on the Reserve as they shift from week to week and are divided up into such small flocks But with both north and south side I believe there are from ten to twelve hundred grouse and chicken, habitat of the Reserve and nearby lands,

There are also more quail in evidence this winter than usual, It has been a rarity to flush a bunch from several miles, but there was considerable hatchings last spring and if no snow drifts kill them off this winter there is going to large numbers with another autumn, There are probably thirty covers or broods of quail along the river course of the Reserve,

Sedge Grass. Is too numerous to wholly pass notice, especially as large areas of it is coming into the new pasture and neither horses or cattle will graze upon it in mid d season Your inspector was over the north side ground more closely this season than heretofore on account of the close application given the fence work and as this grass is more conspicuous in the autumn, it was easy to see the large areas that had been taken over by this grass, Since the proposed pasture would have to be heavily stocked to remove it by close grazing, It might be worth consideration to put out stakes and make notes on this grass to observe to what extent it is spreading or else place the mowing machine on some of the heaviest patches, before seeding time, to observe the effect,

Respectfully Submitted

January 17' 1923.