

J. B. Ellert, Pioneer Farmer, Single Tax Advocate, Mourned At Milk River

2-221



—Herald Engraving.

J. B. ELLERT

MILK RIVER.—(HNS) — J. B. Ellert who passed away in hospital at Lethbridge recently was widely mourned in this area. He was one of the early pioneers of Southern Alberta and farmed near Milk River for 45 years.

Ben Ellert was born in Glencoe, Minn., on Nov. 13, 1883, the seventh child in a family of nine children. He attended school in Glencoe and later worked on his father's farm. In 1906 he went to the state of Washington and worked on the Figure 2 Ranch and later carried mail by stage from White Bluffs to Connell, Wash.

In the winter of 1905 he returned to Mankato, Minn., took a business course and later went to an agricultural school in Fargo, N.D., where he studied traction engineering. The lure of the west brought him to Belt, Mont., where he worked on a railroad construction project. In Sept. 1907 he went north but in an early fall blizzard the train hit a cow and was derailed. He planned to go north to Edmonton to investigate land which his father had bought there and is now part of the city. However, north of Lethbridge they ran into another train wreck so he turned back and came to Milk River.

BUYS LAND

Here in 1907 Mr. Ellert bought a section of land, a mile east of Milk River from the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Co. for \$7 an acre. This has been the home place where he built his first home. Though it has been improved and remodelled many times, the original structure still stands. That fall he also filed on a homestead in 2-15, and the following year secured a pre-emption for \$3 per acre. At that time Milk River consisted of a water tank, railway platform and stockyards. Settlers had to go to Warner and Raymond for supplies.

In 1910 he married Mss^{rs} Anna M. Bishop of Glencoe, Minn. They have three children.

SINGLE TAX ADVOCATE

From the late Fred Pease, he learned of the Henry George Plan

of political economy, of which he became a staunch follower and advocate. For many years he conducted classes in Milk River, teaching the philosophy of Henry George. In 1934 he attended the Henry George Single Tax Congress in Chicago and the following year went to the congress in New York.

During the past two decades, Mr. Ellert has increased his holdings and up to the time of his death was actively engaged in wheat farming with his sons.

High Requiem Mass was held in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church for the deceased with the Rev. Father Doiron conducting the services. The interment was in the Milk River cemetery. The pallbearers were six nephews, Ray Ellert, Herbert Ellert, Warren Ellert, John Ellert, Wallace Collins and Gene Cody.

Surviving Mr. Ellert are his widow Anna, one daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Rideout, Madison, Wis.; two sons, Jerome and Leo of Milk River; seven grandchildren; four sisters, Mrs. Frances Rech, Milk River, Mrs. M. Harpel, Mrs. L. Dois and Mrs. A. Mayer of Glencoe, Minn.; and three brothers, Frank, Henry and John of Milk River.