

[4-369a.]

HOMESTEAD, PRE-EMPTION, AND COMMUTATION PROOF.

TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Full and Specific Answers must be given to each Question. Evasive Answers will be Fatal to the Proof.

Gerard J. Rice claimant, being first duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your correct name, age, and occupation? If employed by any person, state by whom.

Answer. Gerard J. Rice, - 52, married, - Farming - not employed by any person.

Question 2.—What is your post-office address?

Ans. Hull Branch, Cass County, Nebraska

Question 3.—Are you the identical person who made pre-emption filing No. _____ (or homestead entry No. 1912) at the

Sidney Neb. land office on the 6 day of September, 1887, and

what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. Sec. - S.E. 4 Section 26 Township 20 N., Range 57 W.

Question 4.—Where did you live before settling upon this land, and what was your occupation?

Ans. Lived in Hamilton Co., Nebraska - Farming.

Question 5.—Are you a native-born citizen of the United States, or have you declared your intention to become such?

Ans. Yes native born citizen U.S.

(In case the party is of foreign birth, a copy of his declaration of intention to become a citizen or full naturalization certificate, officially certified, must be filed with the case. The latter is only required in final homestead entries.)

Question 6.—Are you interested in any other entry or filing than the one upon which you now seek to make proof?

Ans. No.

Question 7.—Have you ever made a pre-emption filing for any other tract of land, or made any other homestead entry or filing or entry of any other kind? (Answer each question separately, describe the land, and state what disposition you made of your claim.)

Ans. No - Yes made P.E. No. 6293, and the N.W. 1/4 Sec. 26 Township 15 N., Range 7 W., containing 136 acres, on the 13th day of November 1875 at Grand Island, Neb. withdrawn on account of sickness.

Question 8.—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans. No - No.

Question 9.—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans. Prairie and agricultural land; Sandy loam soil - most valuable for agricultural purposes.

Question 10.—Is the land valuable for coal, iron, stone, or minerals of any kind? Has any coal or other minerals been discovered thereon, or is any coal or mineral known to be contained therein? Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

Ans. No - No - No - No

Question 11.—If the land is timber land, state the kind, quality, and amount of timber thereon at date of initiating your claim, the amount still standing, how much has been cut and removed, and by whom, and whether the same has been disposed of, and to whom; also whether any other person than yourself has any interest in the timber, and if so, what kind of interest.

Ans. No timber on the land