

is under cultivation and human habitation. The entire canyon to Estes Park is populated with summer homes and the prairie land is almost completely under cultivation. This condition, however, is not as critical as if the area were under grazing because cattle will almost destroy the grasses, at least to completely as to eliminate overhead protection of *Microtus ochrogaster*. As it is there are abandoned homes and fields which are allowed to grow to the wild conditions. It is in these areas that the small mammal populations are perpetuated. This condition is in contrast to Wyoming where in most places the country is completely grazed and where one might look for days before finding grasses sufficiently high to support *Microtus ochrogaster*. Overgrazing is indeed disgusting. The plan at Loveland is first to test the contact between the Great Plains and the Rocky mountains at the point where plains meet mountains and then work progressively west up canyon valley floors until *Microtus ochrogaster* disappears and *Microtus montanus* takes over. The first set ^{was July 21, 1948 in} this ~~evening~~ ⁱⁿ research area A-7-25-48 at base camp. The field ⁱⁿ was an old river valley of the Big Thompson and was periodically inundated in the lower part of the field nearer the river. It comprised approx 1 acre and had been under cultivation approx. 10 years ago but now was an abandoned field untouched except for occasional grazing.

