

Boise, Idaho, a Hustling Young Giant of the West

A City of Great Opportunities The Capital of a Great State

Great Resources and Advantages for Homeseekers and Investors.

Governor John I. Morrison of Idaho has a message to the nation and to peoples beyond the seas. He says:

"Idaho invites attention. There is much of interest to the world within her borders. Her people are active, intelligent Americans for whom no excuse is needed and with whom one finds pleasure and profit in living. Her rich and diversified resources challenge comparison. They are quickly developed and yield ready profits. It may well be doubted if there is a state in the Union which to-day offers as inviting a field for the profitable investment of energy and industry. This fact is having wide announcement. The world is learning of the beauties and bounties of 'The Gem of the Mountains.' The home-seeker and investor are attracted hither. Twenty-five thousand settlers have come to the state since Jan. 1, 1903, and capital knocks for admission to our mines, forests and fields. The next ten years will witness marvelous development in Idaho."

From a Staff Correspondent.

Boise, Idaho, March 21.—Progressive Idaho—the half has not been told. One writer has said with truth. "It is a land of gold." One of the latest states in the union to develop its resources, this development is now well under way.

The copper deposits of Idaho are known to be extensive.

Remarkable Mineral Production. Idaho is fifth in the sisterhood of states in the production of precious metals. More than half the lead that is mined in the entire United States

The copper deposits of Idaho are known to be extensive.

CHANCES FOR HOME MAKERS IN ADA COUNTY.

Ada county is the banner county of Idaho in point of wealth and population. It has the lowest tax levy and the most liberal valuation of property of any county in the state. Its area is 1,500 square miles, and its population is, approximately, 35,000. There are in the county 111,526 acres of land subject to cultivation and 30,000 acres under cultivation.

The principal industries are fruit culture, stock raising, dairying and farming. There are some very valuable gold mines now operating near Boise, the county seat.

The fame of Ada county fruit is almost world-wide. Its soil is especially adapted to fruit culture. It is like that of the valley of the Nile, very fertile when water is applied and most enduring of any. It produces under irrigation, in large quantities and of large size and favor, apples, peaches, apricots, pears, cherries and all kinds of small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc. Fine straw-

of Silver City, DeLamar, Boise Basin, Pearl and Neal are first-class markets for all kinds of produce. Dairying and bee culture are assuming large proportions.

Competence in a Few Acres.

Five to ten acres of land under any irrigating canal will make a good living and a fair competence for any family.

Irrigation is necessary, but there are twelve large canals, over 200 miles in length in operation in the county furnishing—abundance of water at a reasonable rate.

Canal companies charge from \$1.25 to \$1.50 an acre for the season for water. When perpetual water-rights go with land, which is very frequently the case, these charges are much less, from 50 cents to 75 cents an acre.

Good improved lands can be had within ten miles of Boise for from \$40 to \$75 an acre; unimproved at from \$20 to \$40 an acre. The cost of clearing land from sagebrush and digging the necessary ditches for irrigating varies from \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre.

Careful estimates show that an acre of Ada county land set out in fruit will yield as follows: Apples, \$315 an acre; prunes, \$275; pears, \$400; peaches, \$240; cherries, \$1,200; strawberries, \$312.

The climate of the Boise valley is delightful. There are no extremes of heat or cold, no blizzards or tornadoes, no severe winds or storms.

Schools and Churches.

Ada county's public schools are of the best. There are in the county, outside of Boise, thirty-four schools, fifty teachers and 2,000 pupils. The value of the school property of the county outside of Boise is \$228,400. The teachers receive on an average \$81 a month. The text books are free.

All religious denominations are well represented thruout the county, both in numbers and church buildings.

The roads thruout the county are good. The mail facilities are abundant, five rural deliveries operating in Ada county.

The county has a courthouse valued at \$140,000 and a poor farm worth \$25,000.

BOISE IN BRIEF.

Capital of Idaho; county seat of Ada county.

Located on the Oregon Short Line railroad, 505 miles from Portland and 435 miles from Salt Lake City. Population, 15,000; altitude, 2,800 feet.

Ten passenger trains daily, arrivals and departures.

The healthiest city in the United States.

Three hundred and twenty-three days of sunshine last year out of 365.

No extremes of heat or cold, no severe storms, no blizzards, no sun-strokes, no tornadoes.

Lowest wind velocity in the United States except one.

Five papers, three daily, one magazine.

All denominations religiously.

Public library, 3,000 volumes; one law library.

Six large public school buildings, worth \$200,000; 52 teachers, 2,000 pupils.

Two young ladies' boarding schools; two business colleges.

Two hospitals.

Natorium, the finest in the west; a sanitarium.

Paid fire department.

Streets paved with asphalt and vitrified brick.

Fifteen miles of cement sidewalks; 15 miles of sprinkled streets.

Two electric light plants, one motor line.

Four banks, deposits, \$4,000,000.

Twenty-eight miles water mains; eight miles of sewerage.

Two telephone systems, long distance, connecting with all leading cities of the west.

Two water systems.

Four building and loan associations.

Sixteen wholesale jobbing houses.

Twenty-eight manufacturing establishments.

One military post, two companies.

Yearly pay roll, estimated, \$1,500,000.

Total assessed valuation of city property, \$4,700,000; real value in excess of \$10,000,000.

Bonded indebtedness of the city, \$220,000.

Tax levy, 1903, city, \$1.20 on each \$100 assessed valuation.

Six hotels, one foundry, six saw-mills, two planing mills, two flour mills, one packing house, two breweries.

Nine clubs, societies and associations, 34 secret and fraternal orders, two opera houses.

A chamber of commerce composed of the leading business and professional men of Boise.

BOISE, CAPITAL OF THE "GEM OF THE MOUNTAINS"

And what of Boise, the capital of Idaho and the county seat of Ada county?

Situated in the upper section of the valley of the Boise river, at an elevation above sea level of 2,800 feet, blessed with all glories of scene, all charms of climate, and all riches of soil and stream, Boise presents a scene of quiet loveliness that charms the beholder.

The city, with its outlying suburbs, has a population of 15,000. It is well built and metropolitan in appearance. Its streets are generally better paved and kept than those of any other city of like population, and are lighted by electricity. It has electric street-car systems, good sewerage, cement sidewalks, shaded thoroughfares and running water, and beautiful trees on every street. It has three daily papers, with Associated Press reports, three weeklies, and four banking institutions. Many of its public and private buildings—its city hall, hotel, schools, churches, theaters, hospitals, mercantile blocks and residences—would be creditable in any eastern place of 100,000 inhabitants.

Most Healthful of Cities.

Boise has the lowest death rate of any city in the United States.

Specialists say that Boise, and in fact the entire Boise valley, is a natural sanitarium for those afflicted with pulmonary diseases. The air, sunshine, altitude and environment of Boise are deadly enemies of the tuberculosis microbe.

Boise is a city of beautiful homes. The leading mining, stock, horticultural and agricultural men of the state have built here elegant homes where they can live and educate their

000, are devoted to the education of Boise's children. The public schools have fifty-two teachers and 2,000 pupils are enrolled. This year, 1903, it cost \$65,000 to run the public schools of the city.

In addition to the public schools Boise has two boarding schools for young ladies—St. Margaret's and St. Teresa's—two business colleges and one private school for boys.

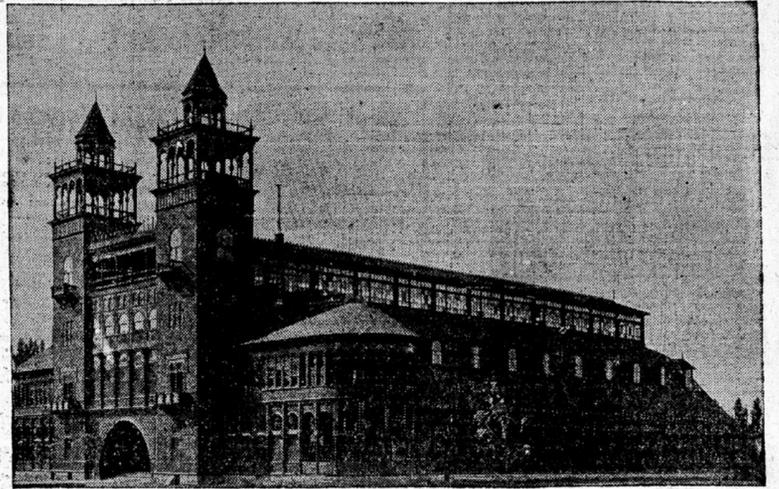
Boise has one public library of 3,000 volumes that will be housed soon in a building of its own to cost, when completed, \$30,000. In addition to

performances are given, with baseball grounds, etc., has proved a great success. The Natorium is the Taj Mahal of Idaho's capital. For indoor bathing it has no superior on the Pacific coast. Its plunge and private baths are supplied by artesian wells, which wells also supply hot water to many of the public buildings and private residences of Boise, and also for sprinkling the streets.

Boise has two up-to-date hospitals, the St. Alphonsus' and St. Luke's.

Municipal Improvements.

Boise's streets are paved with asphalt and vitrified brick. The city has over fifteen miles of cement side-



THE NATATORIUM, THE GREAT PLEASURE AND HEALTH RESORT, WHERE THE HUSTLING BOISE BUSINESS MAN TAKES HIS PLAY AND REST HOUR, A CREDIT TO ANY CITY.

children in Boise's public and private schools that are not excelled anywhere on the Pacific coast.

Here to the music of the water-wheel, fruit trees display their wealth of loveliest fruit, and flowers of every hue fling their aroma upon the rapturous air. Wandering thru Boise's wide, shaded streets and listening to the waters rippling thru the irrigating streams whose touch is life and beauty, the tourist is reminded of those sylvan cities of India and of the Nile, the gift to the world of a system

this law library in the capitol building is one of the largest and best on the Pacific coast.

Boise has three daily newspapers, the Idaho Daily Statesman, the Evening Bulletin and the Evening Capital News. The Clipper and the Unionist are weeklies.

Boise is the seat of the United States court, the county court and the sessions of the Masonic grand lodge of the state are held here annually.

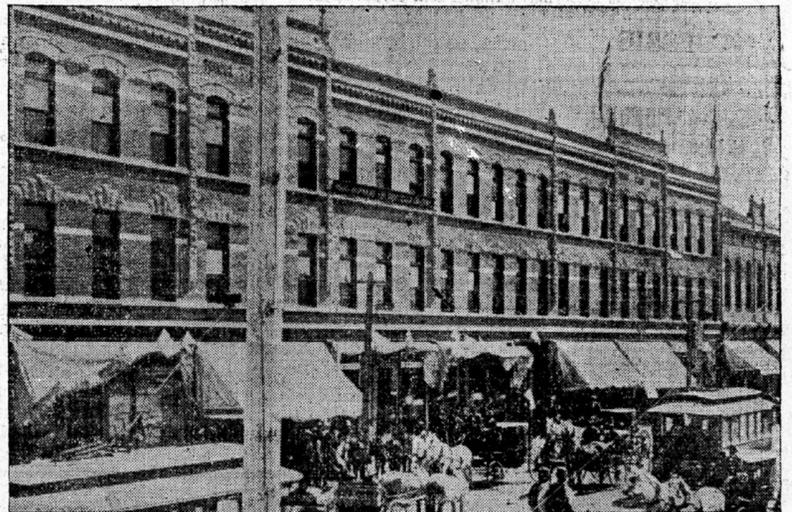
Many Public Buildings.

Its public buildings are architect-

walks, and fifteen miles of sprinkled streets. It has twenty-eight miles of water mains and eight miles of sewerage. Two excellent water systems supply the city with pure water, while two large canals furnish plenty of water for irrigating purposes.

Boise has a paid fire department, up-to-date and efficient. A new central fire building, equipped with the latest apparatus for fighting fire, has just been completed at a cost of \$16,000.

The municipal improvements of Boise for 1903 aggregated \$300,000. Boise has four banks, all of them on a sound basis and all doing a thriving business, the First National, the Boise



STREET SCENE IN HUSTLING, BUSTLING, BUSY BOISE, IDAHO.

of irrigation almost as old as civilization itself.

Schools, Churches and Libraries.

Boise is a city of schools and churches. Sixteen churches, representing all denominations—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Christian Scientists and Mormon, offer to the religious a sheltering fold.

Boise takes a pardonable pride in her public schools. Six large buildings equipped with the latest and most approved modern appliances and comforts and costing, with grounds, \$200-

City National, the Capital State and the Bank of Commerce, with deposits aggregating nearly \$4,000,000 and a capital of \$500,000.

Power for Manufacturing.

Two electric light plants furnish light and power for the city and for the electric motor line. The Boise and Payette River Electric Power company has a plant on the Payette river at Horseshoe Bend, about twenty-five miles from Boise, with a capacity of 2,000 horse-power. It supplies power for the mines of Pearl and also for Boise, running the motor line and supplying 1,000 commercial arc lights and 10,000 incandescents for the city. The Electric Power company is also operating in this city. At Swan Falls, about forty-five miles from Boise, another large plant is located that furnishes power to the mines and mills of Silver City and De Lamar.

This power can easily be brought into Boise, so that the city has practically unlimited power for all kinds of manufacturing purposes.

The assessed valuation of Boise property is \$4,700,000, tho the real value of the property is in excess of \$10,000,000. The tax levy is \$1.20 on each \$100 of assessed valuation.

Building Record of Two Years.

The total tonnage of the Oregon Short Line railroad, in and out, handled last year, was 1,316,500 pounds. The revenue produced by Boise freight, in and out, last year, was \$1,255,000.

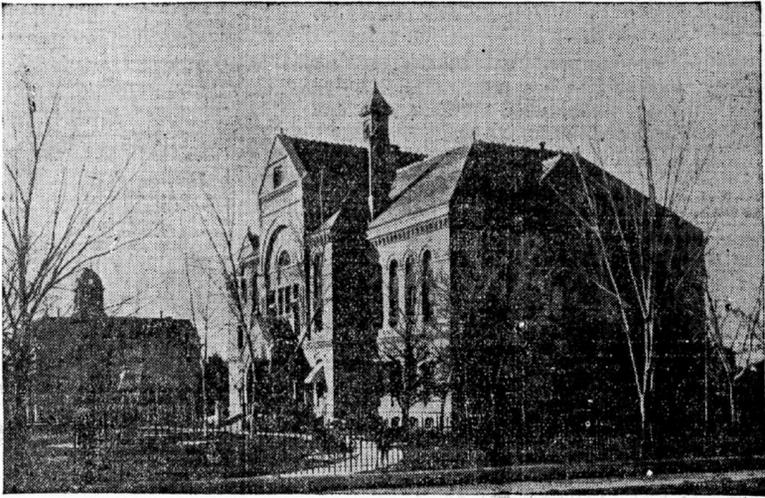
Receipts of the Boise postoffice for 1903 were \$25,456.93.

The grand total expended for public improvements in the city of Boise in 1902 was \$1,316,500. During 1903 there were expended over a million dollars in new residences, business buildings and public improvements. The prospects for 1904 indicate the same remarkable activity.

The Chamber of Commerce is an important factor in the upbuilding of Boise and its tributary country, the leading professional and business men uniting in every movement for the public weal. The homeseeker and investor can obtain data of the fullest and most reliable character by writing the secretary of this organization.



THE FALK MERCANTILE COMPANY'S STORE, CORNER EIGHTH AND MAIN STREETS, BOISE, IDAHO, ONE OF THE STRONG INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE.



STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, BOISE.

Millions of capital have come and are coming into this state from the other states, increasing the output of many mines, building lumber mills in the vast forests of timber, bringing into productive fertility thru irrigation thousands of acres of arid lands, increasing the immense flocks and herds fields and orchards and gardens, and fields and orchards and gardens, and growing cities and towns.

Progress of Irrigation.

Agriculture, stock raising, mining, and lumbering are the four great industries of Idaho. The area of the state is 84,790 square miles. Of this land 15,000,000 acres are suitable for agriculture, and 12,000,000 acres are capable of irrigation.

In the northern part of the state are large areas where the rainfall is sufficient to fertilize the soil. There are in Idaho, according to the report of the state engineer, 700,000 acres of land under cultivation by irrigation. This area is soon to be greatly increased by private enterprise co-operating with the state in canal building, and by the United States government, which has withdrawn a million acres of arid land from settlement. To supply this land with water the government has planned to build huge reservoirs to hold the floods that come from the mountains in the spring; and from these reservoirs this water is to be distributed later in the season to lands which will be sold with the water right at from \$15 to \$20 an acre, the purchaser of lands receiving proportionate share or interest in the irrigation plant.

Aside from this plan of the United States government, ten private companies and corporations are building irrigation systems in the different parts of the arid regions. These systems will furnish water to about half a million acres of land.

Colossal Timber Wealth.

The timber area of the state contains ten million acres. Eight million acres are available for manufacture into lumber. There is an average of 10,000 feet of timber on every acre, as shown by United States government surveys. This would make a total for the state of eighty billion feet.

For manufacturing purposes this lumber is worth \$14 a thousand feet. So that the total value of the timber is, according to authoritative estimate, the enormous sum of \$1,120,000,000.

Idaho has the largest white-pine forests in the United States, perhaps in the whole world.

Mighty Flocks and Herds.

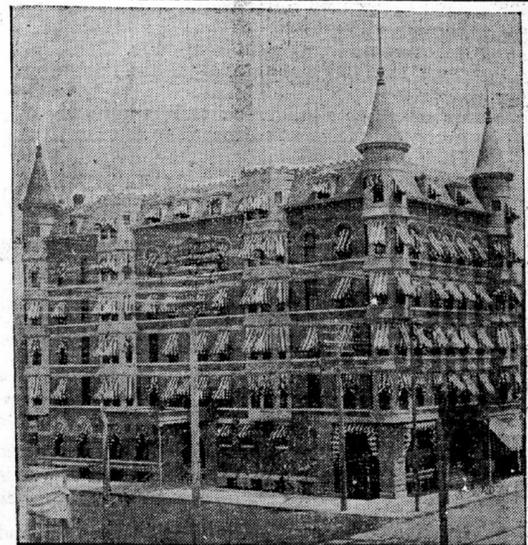
Many fortunes have been made in wool and mutton in the state, and according to the estimate of J. C. Dressler, state sheep inspector, Idaho will probably rank second in the United States this year in the aggregate number of its fleecy herds. There are now about 3,500,000 sheep in Idaho. On

comes from Idaho. Combined with the lead is silver. Idaho has produced more than \$100,000,000 worth of this metal.

There are immense deposits of iron, coal and copper that have not yet been opened. The total product of

berries, a second crop, were grown here as late as October. Some semitropical fruits are cultivated in different parts of the county.

Hay is a staple crop of farmers in this county. They raise alfalfa, timothy, and clover in large quantities.



THE IDAN-HA, BOISE'S METROPOLITAN HOTEL.

Idaho's placer gold mines is estimated at more than \$500,000,000, but deep gold mining in the state is still in its infancy. The greatest ore bodies of Idaho have just been opened—those of the new Thunder Mountain district—and remain to be mined.

Two crops of clover and timothy a season and three of alfalfa are grown, averaging from six to eight tons to the acre and selling for from \$5 to \$10 per ton. The large number of sheep in the county furnish a paying and ready market for hay. The adjacent mines



THE WHEELER-MOTTER COMPANY'S BIG STORE AT BOISE, IDAHO.