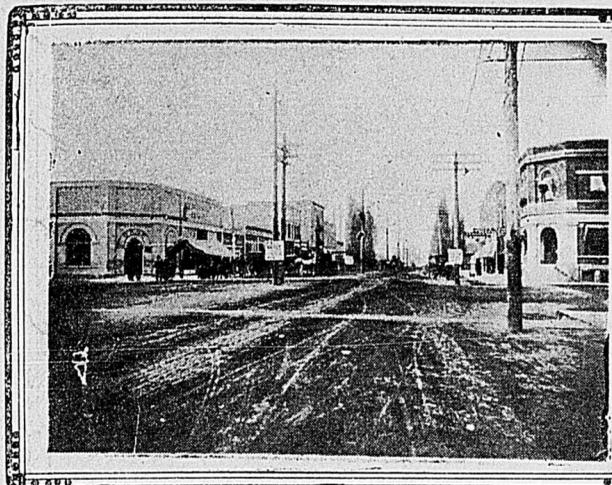
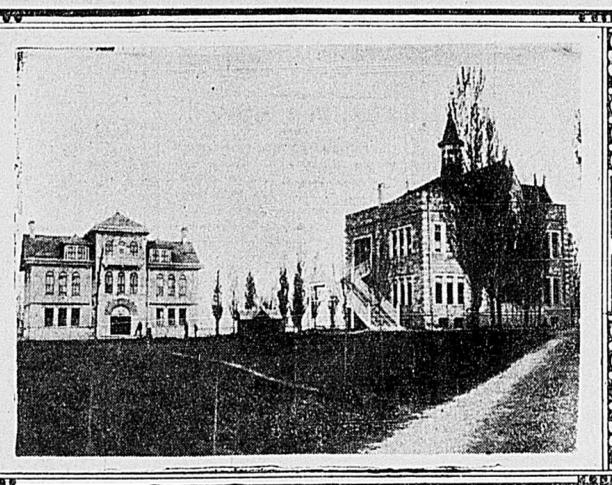


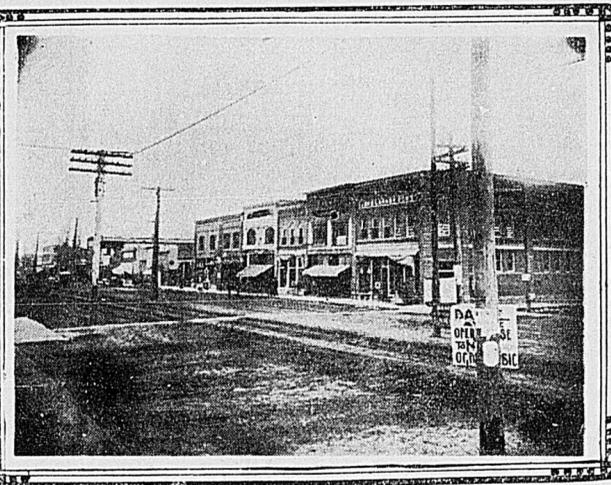
# PRESTON, Metropolis of Northern Cache Valley



Jones, Preston. MAIN STREET, PRESTON, IDAHO, LOOKING NORTH.



BUILDINGS OF THE ONEIDA STAKE ACADEMY, PRESTON, IDAHO.



MAIN STREET, PRESTON, LOOKING SOUTH FROM BANK CORNER.

**T**OO little is known of Preston, and of Northern Cache Valley in general. The location of the city has made it difficult of discovery. It is tucked away in a corner, rather apart from its sister cities in Idaho, and is more readily reached from Ntah than Idaho points. Travelers seldom see the place, unless they make a special business of visiting it. Being the terminus of the Cache Valley branch of the Oregon Short Line railway, it is not affected by the through service. Consequently, as its outside business interests are limited, few people know of Preston as it should be known. It is located 25 miles northwest of Logan, Utah, four hours from Salt Lake City, has an elevation of 3,721 feet, and a population of about three thousand. It boasts of two splendid schools, sixteen mercantile institutions, two drug stores, a candy factory, knitting factory, three furniture stores, six implement houses, two lumber companies, two livery stables, one machine shop, three blacksmith shops, three hotels, five produce dealers, four coal dealers, and a flour mill.

**100,000 ACRES UNDER WATER.**  
In this "kingdom of opportunity"—the west, it is not an uncommon circumstance for a town to spring up in a night, but such has not been the case with Preston. What she is she has earned by hard labor—by an unrelenting contest with nature in an arid section. And it has been an heroic battle. From the date of Preston's foundation in 1872, the hardy pioneers at once took up their fight with the problems of irrigation, and today there are in the neighborhood of a hundred thousand acres in land in the different irrigation systems here.

Naturally these early settlers turned their attention first to the production of those things which would bring in the best returns with the least amount of labor. So stockraising was their principal pursuit. But as the canals were completed, the fertility of the soil was discovered, and it was soon learned that this was one of the choicest agricultural sections in the west. By a process of elimination these products to which the soil is naturally adapted were scientifically ascertained, and beet raising and dry land farming became the leading industries. Beets are planted in the low irrigated lands, which yield from fifteen to twenty tons per acre, and along the border of the valley on the higher lands skirting the foot hills, dry land wheat is raised. These dry land farms range in size from one hundred to one thousand two hundred acres, and yield from fifteen to forty bushels of wheat per acre. One of the largest is the farm owned by the Nelson-Geddes company. This fall there were farms 2, 1, 845. Of these were steam plows busily occupied preparing these farms for next season's planting. The history of this development in agriculture covers many rigorous years, all filled with unrelenting toil. But, now that success has crowned his efforts, and this city is about to emerge from its long and dreary slumber to the more sedate garb of maturity, the Preston farmer looks back over the years of tribulation with just pride. The horizon is clear, the future looks bright. Preston must be-

come a city of magnitude and importance, one to be reckoned with in the future development of the Gem state.

**TWENTY TRIBUTARY TOWNS.**  
Within a radius of 15 miles, there are 20 towns, all tributary to Preston. This fact alone makes it the metropolis of northern Cache valley. By act of nature, Preston is featured, and like a prima donna, holds the center of the stage. As all roads lead to Rome, so all trading from the surrounding country flows into Preston. She must grow, and is growing. No town similarly located, surrounded by such an extensive and fertile agricultural section, can long remain in the back-ground. These, too, Preston has the right kind of people to make her what her environment demands—a city of the first magnitude. Such men as the enterprising firm of Larsen & Geddes, real estate men, assures the town a steady growth. These men do not believe in inflated land values. They are not spectacular land agents, but a boost and a smile of contentment, every citizen is doing what he can for the uplift and growth of his home town. Realizing that in the growth of a city, men are of more importance than geographical location, the Preston business men are a unit when it comes to advancing the interest of the city. Says Mr. Johnson, Larsen & Geddes, member of the village board, and village patriarch: "We are a harmonious community, and have here a very healthy community spirit. When men leave our town they always return, for the home feeling draws them back. Some have gone to Canada, others to different parts, but invariably they have returned, some better and some worse for the experience. Whatever promotes the general interests of Preston, we can rely upon our citizens to act in unity."

**ENERGETIC BOARD.**  
The work of the village board is to be commended most highly. Under the wise supervision of these men, Preston is fast assuming "real city airs." The ambition of the board is to make of the village an ideal home town. Says Mr. J. W. Condie, president of the board: "We have here some exceptional advantages to offer good people. Our town is clean; we have no rough element; our schools are good; we have no saloons, and our citizens are patriotic and united." The question of a city water system has been a source of much concern for the past few years. While the surface well water is most excellent, as the town grows, this water is sure to suffer pollution, and as the expense of piping a mountain stream to the city would be enormous, this question has assumed grave proportions. Recently, however, the city has conducted a series of experiments for artesian water, which bids fair to prove successful. With the co-operation of the railroad a well was driven to a depth of 500 feet, and a splendid flow of water was found. Another well, in the center of the town is now being drilled, which, if it proves successful, will undoubtedly solve the question of the water supply for Preston. Broad cement walks line both sides of Main street, and extend to the public school building and church. This work has been very successfully done by the cement contractor, Mr. T. W. Harding. Electric lights for the town are furnished by the High Creek Light and Power company of Richmond.

**LEADING INDUSTRIES.**  
It may be some time before Preston

is known as a manufacturing center, but if encouragement and support from the people, and push and energy on the part of progressive citizens will help, it must certainly become such. Already a considerable start along this line has been made. The Preston Lumber company manufactures all kinds of lath, shingles, and building materials. P. E. Neilson & Son do work in repairing all kinds of heavy farm machinery. The Preston Knitting Works is the only institution of its kind in the state. The Preston Flour Mill has created a great demand for its product, and Paul & Jensen Company have a real life-sized candy factory.

**ONEIDA STAKE ACADEMY.**  
Preston is a center of culture and refinement. Seldom does one see a town of more beautiful homes, of better kept yards, lawns, and flower gardens. The people on the street reflect in their smiling faces the peace and happiness of their home lives. The chief cultural factor of the city is the Oneida Stake academy. This school is now in its twenty-third academic year. It has an enrollment of over 30 students, and employs a faculty of 11 professors and instructors. Under the skillful supervision of Prof. John Johnson, principal, the academy enjoys a splendid reputation throughout the states of Idaho and Utah, and exerts a profound influence for morality and temperance in the city. Among the courses offered are four-year high school and normal courses, a course in carpentry, domestic science, domestic art and music.

At present Preston is not in any particular need, but rather holds out an inviting hand to good citizens, and is willing to share her advantages with any man who wishes to rear a family in an ideal location and a cultured environment. To the man of enterprise she offers every inducement, health, wealth, and happiness. The wild-cat speculator, with a "get-rich-quick" game, will here meet no encouragement, but the substantial citizen, the home seeker, wishing to place his money where there will be the least chance of losing it, and where it will not aim its greatest profits for just labor expended, will here find his mecca, and be welcomed with wide open arms.

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