

**Goose Creek Coal Fields.**

Written by Pres. W. T. Jack for the Christmas News.

Oakley, Ida., Dec. 9.—Very little is known outside of the immediate vicinity, of the immense coal fields of southern Idaho. But to those who have become acquainted with the vast deposits of carbon in the Goose Creek district it is only a matter of time until a large part of the coal consumed west of here will be furnished from mines in this neighborhood. Although the beds of coal in this locality appear to be of a more recent formation than those of Utah and Wyoming still sufficient time has elapsed since this deposit to indicate that the heat from the molten beds of lava, as they flowed from the north to a proximity adjoining these coal beds, had its effect on the coal for a considerable depth, so that on the surface and for some distance down the coal is dry, shaly and almost lifeless in some instances, but as the depth is increased this condition is lessened, and it is believed by experts and others who have made the matter a study, that, as reasonable depth is attained, the coal will become fully carbonized, suitable for mechanical works and locomotive uses. While the coal at this writing presents the appearance of ordinary lignite, there is every reason to believe that depth and pressure will develop a very fine quality of marketable fuel.

**GROWING BETTER EACH SEASON.**

This belief has been strengthened by reason of the fact that the coal becomes better each season, less ashes and more carbon being the result. Coal recently brought to Oakley from the Worthington Company's mine, 25 miles south of Oakley, is pronounced by consumers to be as good as the imported coal. This company has run a tunnel 150 feet and in this distance has attained a depth of about 50 feet. During this distance they followed a six-foot vein, with a gradual improvement in the quality of coal, until 10 days ago the tunnel, which had followed a gradual incline, took a sudden dip of five feet which an improvement to the coal of nearly 100 per cent. And of this Prof. E. T. Barber editor of the Burley Bulletin, in his issue of Dec 8, has this to say:

"Mr. P. H. Bell of Basin, and Mr. S. R. Worthington of Oakley called on the Bulletin Tuesday with samples of coal from Mr. Worthington's Goose Creek mine. We gave the coal a trial in our office stove; its burnitng and heating qualities are equal to that of the Kemmerer coal we are using. At no distant day we expect to see a railroad and a large mining population up there eating Burley grown truck. Allah, hasten the day."

This mine is developed to a greater extent than any of the other claims in this region, and gives splendid promise of a fortune of wealth. Within a few miles of the Worthington claim Messrs. Lang & Jones have a valuable claim, fairly well developed from which a large amount of good coal was hauled to Oakley and Milner last winter. On account of the protracted illness of Mr. Lang, who is at present in Salt Lake City, getting medical aid this claim has been worked this season.

Also adjacent to these claims is that of C. G. Parkinson & Co. This property has produced some fairly good fuel and possesses the same encouraging features as does the former mine. Situated half the distance between Oakley and the coal beds just mentioned in Trapper Creek is the claim of J. J. Mabey & Co., which gave considerable promise two years ago, but, owing to the death of Mr. Mabey the claim has not been worked to speak of lately. We mention there several claims has to show

that Cassia county coal proposition is not an isolated coloring of the soil, or not single view, but the coal croppings with white sandstone formation, extends from a few miles south of Oakley in Cassia county, to Grouse Creek, Utah a distance of 40 miles. Standing at the base of some of the hills in this coal belt, a person can count as many as four distinct stratas of coal along the side hill, and it is urged that below the surface, in the valleys, a similar condition exists, viz., that one layer of coal underlies another to a considerable depth, and that the beds will become thicker and the coal harder and better with increased depth. Strong indications of coal oil have also been found in this same district, in which the Messrs Carpenter of Pittsburg, Pa., have become interested, and on which boring will begin in the spring. Strong traces of natural gas have also been found in this location.

**CAUSES OF SLOW DEVELOPMENT.**

That these vast coal fields have not been developed more fully in the past, and are not receiving more attention at present is due to the fact that they have been far from railroad facilities; the market has been limited to the few loads consumed by a small number of the local residents; good cedar and mahogany wood has been so plentiful that people could procure a load a day with small effort,

would be worth a thousand dollars. If he sold it and got the money he would have a thousand dollars to do business on. If, however, he dribbled it out to a thousand different people and waited a year for his pay he would not be able to do any business, but would be compelled to go out of business, and join the grand army of tramps.

A newspaper does business on the latter plan. It has, however, to pay for stock and material every thirty days. The situation is easily figured and we leave our subscribers to draw their own conclusion.—Ex.

**Cassia County Schools.**

By Supt. Chas. R. Lowe.

At the close of each year every thoughtful person is prone to reflect with some degree of seriousness upon his past, to view his present and to speculate upon his future. It might be well for us to follow very much the same course with reference to our public conditions, and give some little attention to our schools.

The past is dead and gone and can be of value to us only as we heed the lessons taught and profit by its experience. The present is alike the key to the past and the future. What the past has been is told by what the present is and what the future will be depends upon the manner in which the present is cared for.

At the present time there are

is not just as we would wish it to be. However, I think the schools have been very liberal with their money in this respect, I realize that to say whether an article is of value is largely a matter of individual judgement in which there is a difference of opinion, but I believe that I am safe in saying, that all who have given the matter any thought, will agree with me when I say that those \$75.00 charts that were placed in so many of the schools some years ago were comparatively speaking, valueless. The same conclusion will apply to the high priced globes and many of the other charts. I have not thought but that the only motive which prompted the purchase of those things was to do the best for the school but I consider that the purchasers made a mistake. We who have the matter in charge at the present time will have to be very careful or we will make the very same mistake. To determine whether an article is of value to a school or not it must be judged from at least two stand points. 1st. 1st As to whether it contains informatin that we would desire the children; 2nd as to whether its information is of such a nature as can be handled by the children.

It is generally admitted that our schools form one of the corner stones of the foundation on which our nation is builded, yet the elements of our educational system are such as will permit of the greatest show with the least desired results of almost any of our departmets. However, if I am not mistaken in my judgement, the people of Cassia County are this year fortunate in that they have an efficient corps of teachers. Ladies and gentlemen who are willing to give a full return for value received; who are conscientious in their work, and who are desirous of bringing the character of the work done up to the standard of the grade they represent. If they were given longer terms I feel that the result would be shown in some way than by grades on a piece of paper.

The trustees are equally zealous in the performance of their duties. They desire to spend their money judiciously, to provide their schools with better buildings, where needed, and to take better care of the school grounds and school property.

The patron's intrest is measured in two ways. 1st. By the way his children attend school. 2nd. By the amount he is willing to give for the support of the school. By applying these principles each one can test his own fidelity.

There is another class to whom I feel is due great credit. They have our welfare at heart and aid us in many ways and they do it with out direct pecuniary compensation. I refer to the editors of our county papers.

In conclusion I wish to say that it is not my intention to lament our condition or infer that we are so much worse than other places but it is my desire to bring before the people the conditions in the exact light in which they present themselves that the people may say for themselves whether they are satisfied with them.

**Good Mother.**

While out strolling last evening" says a reporter, "we passed a house from which emanated the inspiring strains of music from a piano and the throat of a charming young lady." The only words the reporter caught from the song were something about "dear mother" passing on and turning down the side street the reporter saw thru the kitchen window the dear mother with her arms buried almost to the elbow in a pan of dough, the sweat streaming down her wrinkled face and the hot range enveloping her. She was singing: "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes,—Killen (Texas) Herald.

**Idaho**

**The Gem of the Mountains.**

The following poem was written by Mr. Clarence E. Eddy,—and was read by him at a banquet of the Idaho Press Association in Boise last winter. It has recently been set to music by Prof. J. J. McClelland of Salt Lake City and is destined to become one of our most popular songs:

*Hail to thee, Idaho, Gem of the Mountains;  
Won from the wastes and the wilderness far;  
Land of the forest and silvery fountains,  
Fondly we hail thee, our flag's fairest star.*

**Chorus.**

*Idaho, Idaho, onward forever,  
Dear mountain home for the millions to be,  
One with the Union that never shall sever,  
Beautiful star in the Flag of the Free.*

*Fair though the skies where our fancies may wander;  
Fair though the land where our footsteps may roam,  
Idaho, still to our hearts ever fonder,  
Fairer thy hills and the scenes of our home.*

*Mystical lights on the mists of the morning,  
Gemmaed as a rainbow of jewels aflame,  
(Seen by the red men) thy mountains adorning,  
Gave thee, O Gem of the Mountains, thy name.*

*Stainless and fair as that sunburst of glory,  
Stanch as the star—above swerving or bright:  
Land that we love, be thus ever thy story;  
God of all greatness, still guide us aright.*

while the coal cost from \$1 to \$2 per ton at the mine, and usually consumed two days to get each load, so that until recently, owners of coal mines have had little inducement of means to prosecute the development work with. This is a new country with many avenues of enterprise—sheep, cattle, horse raising, farming and many other business pursuits, in which men have been able to gather wealth moderately well, so that they have not had time to devote to extensive development of coal or other mines in the few years of our settlements. But that the not distant future will see these fields opened up with several competitive lines of railroad carrying this article of fuel to western consumers by the thousands of carloads, there is not a shadow of doubt in my mind. And who may not live to see Goose Creek coal doing service from Cassia to Vancouver?

**When Farming Pays.**

If a farmer raised a thousand bushels of wheat, and wheat was worth a dollar a bushel, his crop

in the county thirty-seven school districts the area of which varies from about seventeen sections to several townships. The least number of children, of school age, in any one district is 12 and the greatest number is 406. There are but two schools that are attempting to teach anything above the eighth grade and those two go only to the ninth. The age of pupils who are now attending school range from six to twenty-two years, and it is not uncommon to see pupils fifteen or sixteen years of age who are not able to do more than fifth and sixth grade work.

We have nearly all grades of building from the poorly kept log room with a dirt roof to neatly kept brick building. The inside appearance of the room depends largely upon the teacher and the pupils but it is much easier to take care of good building than a poor one.

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The equipment of the schools

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