

Ashton, the Delightful City Near the Yellowstone

ONE of the most substantial as well as one of the most promising of the new towns of Idaho is Ashton, situated in the east central part of Fremont county, 15 miles northwest of St. Anthony, about 25 miles from the Wyoming state line and but a few miles from the southwest corner of the Yellowstone National park. It is on the Yellowstone branch of the O. S. L. railroad, which was extended from St. Anthony to this point in the latter part of 1905, the first train being run to the present site of Ashton Jan. 1, 1906. The railroad now extends 56 miles beyond Ashton to the western entrance to the park at Yellowstone, Mont. A few miles beyond Ashton, however, the railroad enters the mountains through the canyon of the North fork of the Snake, and as the only traffic there is on that section of the road is the tourist travel no trains are run beyond Ashton, except the park special daily and a freight train up and back once a week to carry supplies to the park. Even these trains are run only during the park season, from June to September. As this park end of the road is not operated in winter no effort is made to keep it clear of snow, and the result is that about 40 miles of it lies for half the year buried under a blanket of white from eight to 20 feet in thickness. This condition of affairs makes Ashton practically the terminus of the road so far as business is concerned, and gives it all the attendant advantages.

If Ashton is to keep abreast of the vast extent of magnificent country with which it is surrounded, it will within a few years become an important little city. Its tributary valley, of cultivable land extends six miles north, more than 30 east, south to the territory of St. Anthony and west nearly as far as 10 miles. It includes more than 200,000 acres of tillable and irrigable land, only about 25 per cent of which is as yet under cultivation. The average yield of wheat is 25 bushels to the acre, and oats average 50 to 75 bushels, weighing over 40 pounds to the measured bushel. Barley produces from 40 to 60 bushels to the acre, and numerous instances are cited of wheat going 65 to 70 bushels per acre, and oats 100 to 120 bushels per acre. Ashton has the unusual advantage of having enormous areas of both irrigated and non-irrigated farming land within her tributary area, and the non-irrigated farm is a much more pronounced feature here than in the lower altitudes and more southern latitudes of the intermountain country on account of the much greater annual precipitation here. The snowfall and rainfall are both perceptibly heavier here than even but 20 or 30 miles down the valley, due to its location near the foothills.

RICH SOIL.
The soil of the Ashton country is a dark, rich loam of the usual volcanic ash basis, but containing more valuable matter than the soils of the central and lower Snake River valley. It does not sub-irrigate, but is easily watered, does not bake as a result of gooding and does not wash, as is shown by many ditches that have been constructed in the country for years and which retain their original width and depth.

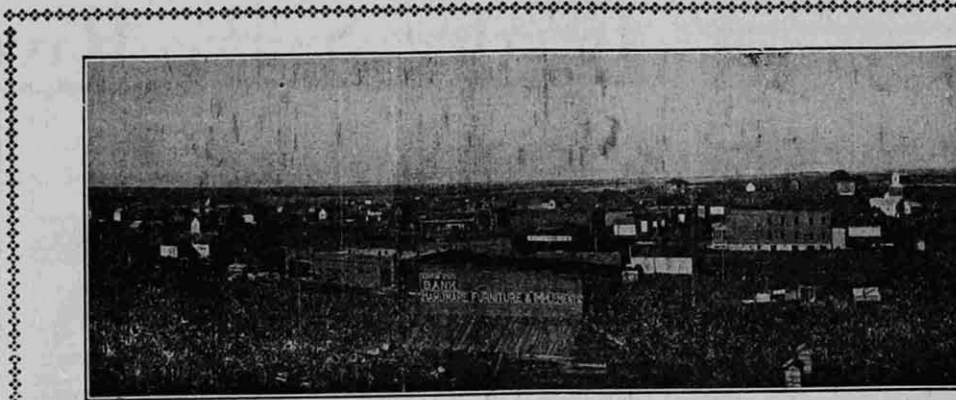
ADAPTED TO APPLES.
The country surrounding Ashton is especially adapted to apples and small fruits. Blackberries, raspberries and dewberries of the finest quality are produced in large quantities as well as late strawberries, all of which bring the highest market prices owing to Ashton's proximity to Yellowstone park, so crowded with tourists. Strawberry patches in the vicinity of Ashton yielded wonderfully last year and were great revenue producers, the price in the local market being 12 1/2 to 25 cents a quart. In favorable soils and locations, peaches are grown. Ashton, the hub of this wonderful region, this peak of the great Snake River valley, is but three years old, having been born in 1906. It is a healthy, vigorous youngster, and already has a population of about 800 wide-awake, energetic and enterprising people. The town is more substantially built than most new towns, a majority of the business houses and a large portion of the residences being built of brick, with solid foundations and trimmings. No brick has been imported for the purpose, every brick structure in the town having been built from brick made in Ashton. This brick presents a good appearance and is of excellent

quality. For foundations the black basaltic rock which underlies the whole region is used, while for sills, caps and trimmings generally the rock most used is a gray or slightly pinkish lava rock, found in various places in the upper Snake River valley.

MODERN BUILDINGS.
The town has a good three-story brick and stone modern hotel of 25 rooms and a fine brick schoolhouse three stories in height, and attended by 200 pupils. Ashton has had two big fires, the buildings consumed in both cases being some of the lightly built frame buildings erected shortly after the townsite was first opened. There are two banks, two churches, two livery stables, one of them having recently been built. The two that were in operation in 1908 bought from the farmers of the surrounding country more than 1,000,000 bushels of grain.

Of the three the Ashton Milling and Elevator company probably does the largest business. The town has a municipal water plant costing something over \$10,000. The water is obtained from an eight-inch well drilled in lava rock to a depth of 115 feet and is pumped to a

large elevated tank by a 35 horsepower gas engine.



VISTA VIEW, ASHTON.

large elevated tank by a 35 horsepower gas engine.

TIMBER LANDS.

Sawmills in the hills 10 miles north of Ashton put a good quality of lumber on the local market at a lower price than the Oregon and Washington lumber in general use throughout the west. There are large areas of fine saw timber yet untouched on the mountain slopes bordering the upper course of the north fork above Ashton, and the extensive foothills, slopes and canyons of the great Teton range which rises as a mighty barrier on the east of this region are similarly clothed.

The climate is fine, healthful and bracing. The summers are ideal. The air is clear, cool and free from dust. There is no malaria in the country, and general conditions are such that a low death rate prevails. Owing to its proximity to the Park its cool and delightful climate, its hunting and fine trout fishing, Ashton is destined to become a great summer resort for tourists.

MINING PROSPECTS.
Prospecting for mineral in eastern

Fremont county has done little except to determine the presence of gold, silver, copper and lead ores in the mountains. Flour gold is present in the sands and soils along the Snake river, and in many places it has been extracted profitably. There is every indication that practical, scientific prospectors would find eastern Fremont county a rich field.

Prospecting for silver and lead in the Birch creek and Lost river sections of western Fremont county has developed some rich mines which have attracted the attention of outside capital. Many citizens of the county are interesting themselves in the mining development there and in adjacent camps with every prospect of a rich reward. The building of a couple of smelters in that section is assisting development work, and the prospect of railroad connection with Fremont's coal fields this year gives the situation a very encouraging outlook.

Water power for the development of electrical energy is almost as common as sunshine in Fremont county. But small amounts of it are as yet utilized.

COAL DEPOSITS.
Within 35 miles of Ashton, wholly

within the boundaries of Fremont county, there is located the only body of commercial coal in the state, equal in value for domestic and steam purposes to best Wyoming coal. A thick vein of this coal covers a vast area. It is used extensively by people who live in the Basin towns and others within easy hauling distance. With the advent of the railroad, coal mine development will follow as a matter of course, and the mining industry will rank high as a wealth producer in Fremont county.

Boring tests indicate that the Teton Basin is underlain with vast coal measures. Veins outcrop at many widely separated places in the neighboring mountains, indicating the presence of coal under a wide area of country. Robt. N. Bell, former state mining inspector, who has made an exhaustive investigation of the Basin coal fields, speaks very enthusiastically of what the presence of these deposits means industrially not only for Fremont county, but for the state of Idaho.

Fremont county's water supply is as pure as Mother Nature can make it. Mountain streams fed by gigantic springs of clearest crystal, or supplied from snowfields renewed each season, the water from which is filtered by nature's own process, furnish a fluid indicated by man's chemical tests to be "excellent." The waters of the underground courses in the gravel beds or of the channels in the lava, is of the same pristine purity. Wells of pure water are found at depths varying from 50 to 125 feet, according to the local contour of the country.

Ashton is already prosperous and growing and her future is bright with the bow of promise. There are good opportunities here for the safe investment of money, and several fine openings for business and professional men.

There is a fine opening for the following: One or more brick plants, general merchandise, steam laundry, tailor, attorney, undertaker, contractors, restaurant, millinery, and veterinary surgeon.

H. D. BAKER LIVERY CO.

TWENTY-ONE years ago, lured by the wondrous opportunities of the west, H. D. Baker left Colorado and came to Ashton, where he built the first house between Fall River and the north fork of the Snake. For some time he ran a ranch, though four years ago he built the first and largest livery stable in Ashton. His place of business is well known and exceedingly popular with drummers, local business men and

sportsmen. Mr. Baker has 22 horses and 12 vehicles, and employs an average of three men the year round. Mr. Baker has a ranch not quite a mile from town which is noted especially for the fine qualities of the onions it produces. The ranch consists of 80 acres, planted usually in wheat, oats and garden stuff.

Mr. Baker is a most energetic citizen and one of the most competent of men in the promotion of the city's interests.

ASHTON TOWNSITE COMPANY.

THIS company, organized in January, 1906, surveyed and platted Ashton, placing the town lots on sale. It owns the hotel—a \$20,000 structure, and one of the most complete in the valley. This company owns, as well, practically all of the land within the corporate limits of the town, the values of which are about as follows: Good farm land with full water right, from \$5 to \$50 an acre.

and near town, \$100 to \$200 per acre. Business lots that sold for \$150 at the opening of the townsite are now going at \$2,000, and even more. In fact, good business sites are changing hands at prices varying from \$500 to \$2,000! Residence lots 50x140 feet, are selling for from \$20 to \$140.

The officers include George N. Swartz, president; H. G. Fuller, secretary, and G. E. Bowerman, C. C. Moore, W. L. Campbell, George Harfield and George N. Swartz directors.

Ashton has grown from a population of nothing in 1906 to almost 1,000 in 1910. Many new buildings have recently gone up, including the Teton pharmacy, a two-story for Richard Humphrey, the Security State bank, and an elevator for Merrill Bros.

At any time in the autumn a string of 20 or 40 teams can be seen going to the elevators with grain.

Ashton Milling and Elevator Company

IN 1907 was constructed Ashton's largest milling and elevator company, known as the Ashton Milling and Elevator company and one of a chain of such establishments under the management of T. L. Hubbell. In September of last year Mr. S. D. Farnsworth was put in charge of the local company, having been with the St. Anthony Milling and Elevator company for a year and a half before coming here and having acquired a most competent store of milling experience and knowledge.

This company locally handles mostly oats, paying the farmers cash. Duration of the fiscal year ending August, 1909, this company shipped over 200 cars of oats and wheat, amounting to over 8,000,000 pounds. The average paid for oats was \$1.25 per cwt., and wheat averaged about the same. The aggregate paid for grain amounted to \$100,000.

Most of the grain goes to the east and to the intermountain region. Four men are employed at the mill in the autumn and its business is all that they can handle. Situated on the railroad track, the mill presents at all times a busy appearance, as sometimes as high as 10 cars a week are loaded there. The mill is a big credit to Ashton.



ASHTON MILLING AND ELEVATOR COMPANY'S PLANT.

Idaho Falls, the Center of Marvelous Irrigation Projects

GENERALLY speaking a city is great because, by reason of its location, it is the natural market and distributing point for a region of great productivity. As this tributary region develops, so the city will develop. Other facts may enter in, as railroad, harbor, etc., but in nine cases out of ten a city grows as the country behind it grows.

Idaho Falls occupies a central position not only in eastern Idaho, as a great railroad center, but she is situated in the great "thermal belt" around the world, upon which are located the most populous and enterprising cities of the world. Idaho Falls is the eastern gateway to the state of Idaho. It is a city most happily and commandingly situated in the center of the largest body of irrigated land on the entire continent, with no prospects of a rival that can obtain a like foothold. According to government statistics the Falls is surrounded by 1,232,804 acres of the most productive agricultural land in the United States, all under canals; or almost one-half of the entire agricultural area under irrigation in the state of Idaho. This body of land is almost twice the size of the state of Delaware, and almost as large as Connecticut, and three times the size of Rhode Island. The canals were built at a cost of \$4,447,72. At the present writing the total will fall very little short of \$60,000 acres of land now under canal in Bingham county alone with every possible facility for doubling the present acreage.

No section of the northwest possesses greater resources, more alluring prospects and substantial promise for future development than the great Upper Snake River valley, of which Idaho Falls is the metropolis.

The glorious climate of California has been much vaunted, but the climate of southeastern Idaho has a clearer, better atmosphere than the far-famed Golden state. It is hard to realize that in a region where perpetual snow shines on the mountain-tops the temperature in the valleys will range from 10 degrees above in summer to zero in winter. The winters are mild. Zero weather is the extreme exception and lasts only for a day at a time, while the dry, still, clear atmosphere relieves the intensity of a zero day. The summers are cool and pleasant. Hot winds, destructive storms and cyclones are unknown.

The altitude of Idaho Falls is 4,500 feet above sea level. Sunshine is the exception, and outdoor work is carried on all the year round. The claim is made with absolute justice that the climate of Idaho Falls is unsurpassed.

RAPIDLY GROWING CITY.

Idaho Falls is located in Bingham county, has a population of nearly 8,000 and is growing more rapidly than any town in the state. In commercial importance she stands head and shoulders above any other city in Idaho, and is by long odds the largest agricultural shipping point in the state. It is located in the center of one of the greatest agricultural, grazing and mineral areas in the United States. It is fittingly placed for the famous Birch Creek, Lost River and Salmon City mining districts on the northwest, and the Carbon mining district on the east, and immense coal fields from 2 to 20 feet in thickness are being developed 15 miles from the city, while a few miles east of the city there is an immense volcanic deposit of rock containing over 20 beautiful shades and colors of the finest building rock. These wonderful quarries contain rock enough to build a city as large as Chicago.

METROPOLITAN ADVANTAGES.
Ranchers, stockmen and mining men for 75 and 100 miles around buy their season's supplies at Idaho Falls. The principal streets are graded, and paved with lava rock. Gutters, sidewalks and curbs are built of cement, making

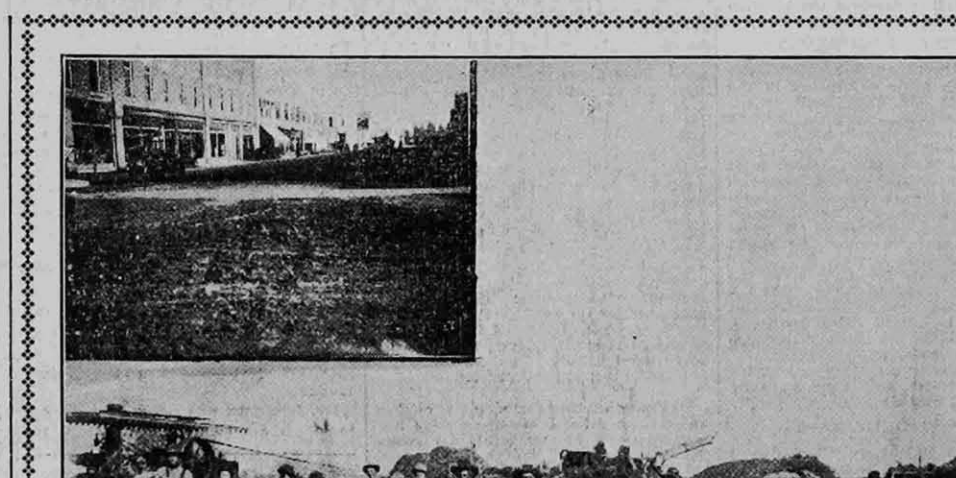


Photo by Anderson & Winderburg, Rexburg.

STREET SCENE, IDAHO FALLS, AND THRESHING ON A FARM, SNAKE RIVER VALLEY.

varying from three to 20 feet deep, and a subsoil of river wash from five to 20 feet deep, which affords an ideal drainage for irrigation, and all underlain by lava. This is a soil that will never wear out. It having the same underlying strata as Italy, and whatever country has this substratum of basalt has top soil which will never wear out, for it is almost immortal. By some curious process of chemistry the soil is born anew again and again, taking its strength from the strong ingredients below. There is no alkali, hard pan, sleuth land or rock outcroppings in this valley, and the water in the river comes direct from the snow and is as soft as velvet.

A. V. SCOTT.
FOR 19 years Mr. A. V. Scott has enjoyed the confidence of the real estate buying or selling public of Idaho. His name has been associated with many of the leading projects of the district and his business has been an ever

increasing one. His specialty is city property, though he does at times handle farms. He has dry farms at from \$20 to \$25 an acre and irrigated lands at from \$40 to \$200. City property of all sorts is on his list, business sites being worth from \$50 to \$200 a foot.

Besides dealing in real estate and insurance, Mr. Scott is president of the Idaho Power & Transportation company and secretary of the Idaho Falls & Interurban Railway company. Concerning the latter Mr. Scott says that the company contemplates the building of an electric railway to connect the different towns of the valley. Work will begin early in the spring as the material will be placed on the ground this winter. The line will connect Goshen and Heise Springs with Idaho Falls.

The power company has put in two more installations, making from 1,600 to 2,000 horse power for the city. Recently this company has taken over all of the St. Anthony Light & Power company, including its interest in the light at St. Anthony, Sugar City, Teton, Rexburg, as well as the water works at

St. Anthony. This gives the Idaho Power & Transportation company a clear field in all the towns from Idaho Falls to St. Anthony.

The officers of the Idaho Falls & Interurban Railway company include the following well known names: J. L. Milner, president; Heber Austin, vice president; A. V. Scott, secretary; Bowen Curley, treasurer; and the above as well as E. P. Colman, G. G. Wright and R. D. Larabee, directors.

WADE BROS.

A YEAR ago W. T. Wade and Q. D. S. Wade came with their families from Oklahoma to Idaho Falls, and set up in business as clothiers in February of this year. They were not only most competent business men but affable, courteous gentlemen as well—two points which from the start contributed largely toward their growing success. The partnership known as Wade Bros. is Idaho Falls' most representative hab-

erdashery, as it is exclusive agent for the famous Hart, Schaffner & Marx clothing, Hannon shoes and Manhattan shirts.

A general line of men's and boys' goods, including trunks and suit cases, is carried, all of the goods being on display in the new "twentieth century cabinets," which are the best in the

world, in that they keep the clothes straight and free from dust. The firm has a patronage which comes from a radius of over 50 miles as the appeal of the firm is towards those who love the elite, the chaste, and the elegant in dress. Exclusiveness is the aim always. The Wade brothers are among Idaho Falls' most energetic boosters.



NEUBER & SCOTT CO., LTD.

IONA.
In writing of the marvelous development which everywhere looms before the eye in the Upper Snake River valley and especially in that neighborhood which surrounds Idaho Falls, a mention of the smaller cities, the villages

of today the centers of population of tomorrow, is especially opportune, as in them opportunity holds greatest rewards and individual effort has broadest effects. On the following page under the head, Iona Mercantile Company, will be found some facts concerning Iona, one of the thriving little cities near Idaho Falls.