

Idaho's Metal Product for 1905 Will be Over \$25,000,000

It has been said that Idaho has more mineral land than any other state in the union. It has all the minerals known to the Rocky Mountain states, and territories in more or less quantities, except coal, and within the past two years, veins of this mineral have been discovered and developed in the Teton Basin, Fremont county. The coal there is said to be of an excellent quality, containing from 20 to 25 per cent of fixed carbon, and sufficiently large in extent to induce the Oregon Short Line company to extend its branch line from St. Anthony, a distance of 24 miles, to reach this new coal field. At least, it is confidently expected that this line will be constructed next spring.

Will Show an Increase.

The metal product of the state for 1904 amounted in round numbers to \$22,000,000, and the industry is steadily progressing. While the statistics for 1905 are not yet complete, enough is

giving an open road the year round from Boise City to Atlanta. The Big Creek road opens up the northern part of the state to the Big Creek and Thunder Mountain districts and contiguous camps. So that with the wagon road built from the south last year, the whole Thunder Mountain region is accessible from both ends of the state. This will give new hope to the miner and prospector, make his labor more easy and profitable and will contribute largely to the development of the mining industry of the state by giving reasonably easy access to regions heretofore inaccessible. It is to be hoped that the next legislature will continue this commission and place it in a position to go on with just such work, until the whole mineral region of the state is made easy of access for exploration and mining.

Hornet District Active.

Active development is reported from the Hornet district in Ada county, with

Idaho Produces More Than Half of the Lead of the U. S.

Idaho leads in the production of lead. For several years it has maintained first place through the operations of the great mines of the Coeur d'Alene district and, in this connection, it may be surprising to some to learn that during this year and last the lead mines of the Coeur d'Alene state have produced more than one-half the output of that metal of the United States. In 1904, the production reached the immense total of 296,539,000 pounds. This year's totals are yet incomplete; but the mines have been operated with greater energy than ever before, so there is not the slightest doubt but that when the figures are made up a healthy increase will be shown.

Time was when Missouri claimed the proud distinction now enjoyed by Idaho, but the miners of the latter state have outdone their brothers to the east. Last year the silver produced from Idaho's mines and which comes largely associated with the lead ores, amounted to a total of 7,819,200 ounces.

One of the biggest mining transactions in the history of Idaho was the purchase of four of the principal producing mines of the Coeur d'Alene district by the Federal Mining & Smelting company at a cost of \$13,000,000, since which time the latter has adopted more modern methods, resulting in the increased production. The mines of Shoshone county have produced nearly \$90,000,000 worth of lead and silver since early in the eighties. The mines of Owyhee county are next in importance in the production of lead and silver. The Wood River district in Blaine county has come to the fore rapidly during the year and there has been a decided revival of interest in this noted district. Custer, Lemhi and Boise counties are also contributing to the state's output of lead.

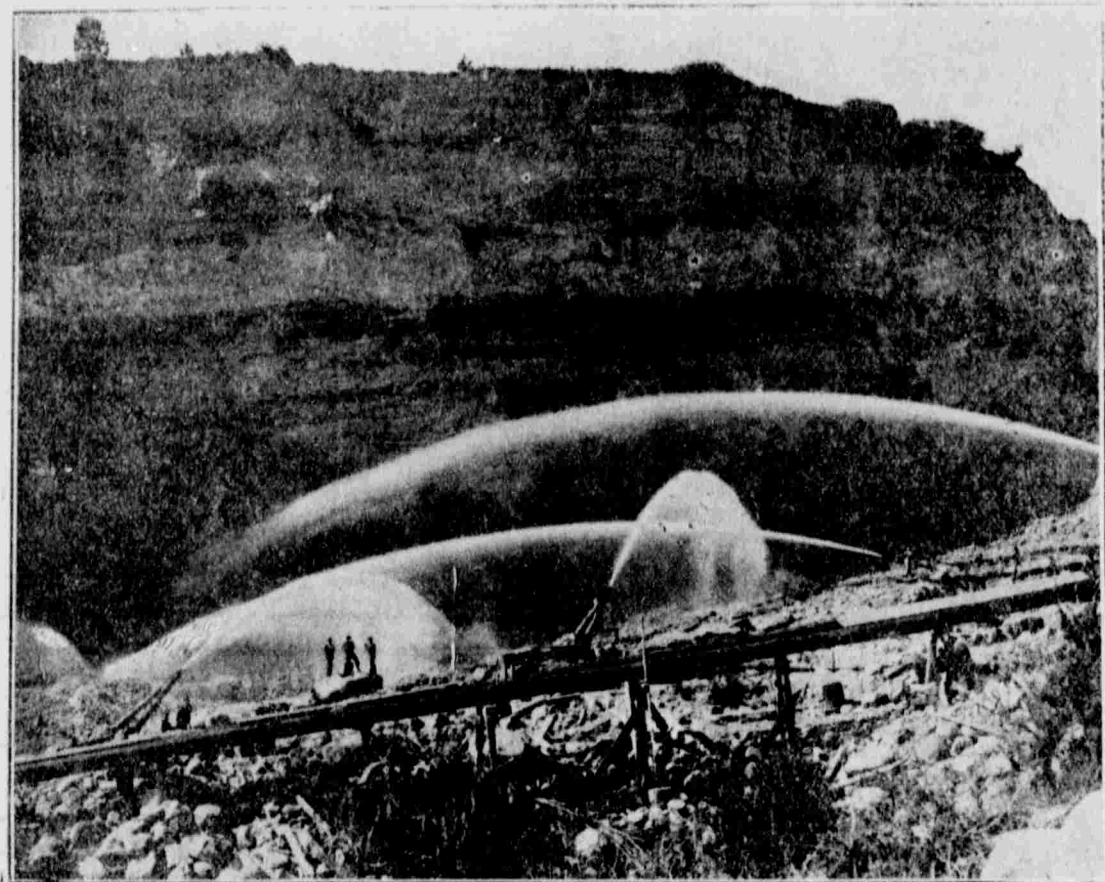
lack of transportation is being sorely felt. However, the Oregon Railway & Navigation company and the Northern Pacific Railway company are now jointly building a road from Rapapa in Washington up the Snake river to Lewiston, Idaho, and from thence to Grangeville. It is also currently reported that the Short Line will, in the near future, extend this line to Meadows in Washington county. When this system is completed and the Big Creek wagon road is built, the great drawback to Idaho county will disappear.

Grangeville, the county seat of Idaho county, located at the southeast end of Camas prairie, a plateau 2,000 feet above sea level, 35 miles in length and 20 in width, of as fertile land as the sun ever shone upon, will be the distributing point for all the mining camps in that region. With these facilities in hand, the immense ore bodies of Idaho county will soon forge to the

the United States and over one-third the product of the world. To attempt a description of them would be "like painting the lily or adding a new color to the rainbow." We may rather get a slight idea of their value from the fact that a few days ago the Federal company paid \$3,000,000 for the Morning group of claims.

Outlook Never as Bright.

The mining prospects of the state of Idaho were never so bright as they are today. Her mineral exhibit at the Lewis & Clark exposition attracted great attention. Indeed, the Idaho building during the whole fair season, without intending to detract from the salient features of others, may justly be said to have been the center of attraction. Great praise is due the commission which managed this piece of work. Its head, R. W. McBride of Salmon City, was the right man in the right place. Mr. Wessels, assisted by



WASHING OUT GOLD FROM MOUNTAIN SANDS.

known to insure an increase production over 1904. All the mines which were in operation that year have so far been working to their full capacity, and some, notably in the Coeur d'Alene district have been increasing their output over 1904, so that it may be safely set down that this year's product will reach \$25,000,000. During this summer the mountains have been literally full of prospectors, many of whom are now returning from the winter with stories of rich discoveries. Quite a large amount of development work has been done on older locations, and not a few are preparing to put in small mills on their claims in the spring.

Aid From the Legislature.

The state legislature, at its last session, appropriated \$70,000 for the opening of new roads and trails into the mining regions of the state and provided for the appointment of a commission of two persons with the governor as ex-officio member and chairman. State Senator M. E. Lewis of Moscow and Joseph Wheeler of Shoshone were appointed on this commission. The governor took hold of the proposition with the intelligence and vim he exercises in all the business of the state. His intimate knowledge of the state, its people and their needs qualifies him in an eminent way for the work to be done. The commission was authorized by the act creating it to make rules and regulations for its government, and it made one rule which justly debited the amount appropriated by the legislature, viz., that each community interested in the building of a new road or trail in a mining district, must put up dollar for dollar with the state. The commission has been very successful so far. Two much needed roads besides some minor ones, are now nearing completion. These are the Atlanta and Big Creek roads. The Atlanta road leads up the main and middle Boise canyon to the town of Middle

very promising prospects. Considerable development work was done in 1904 in the Fort Hall mining district in Banock county, which has been continued throughout this season. The owners of prospects there have sufficient confidence in their properties to expend large sums of money to find out just what they have. Active work has been going on in Boise county, both in placer and quartz. Here some new discoveries have been made during the last summer and specimens of ore are shown carrying very high values. The Wood River county, in Blaine county, is keeping up its high record with more men at work than for some years past.

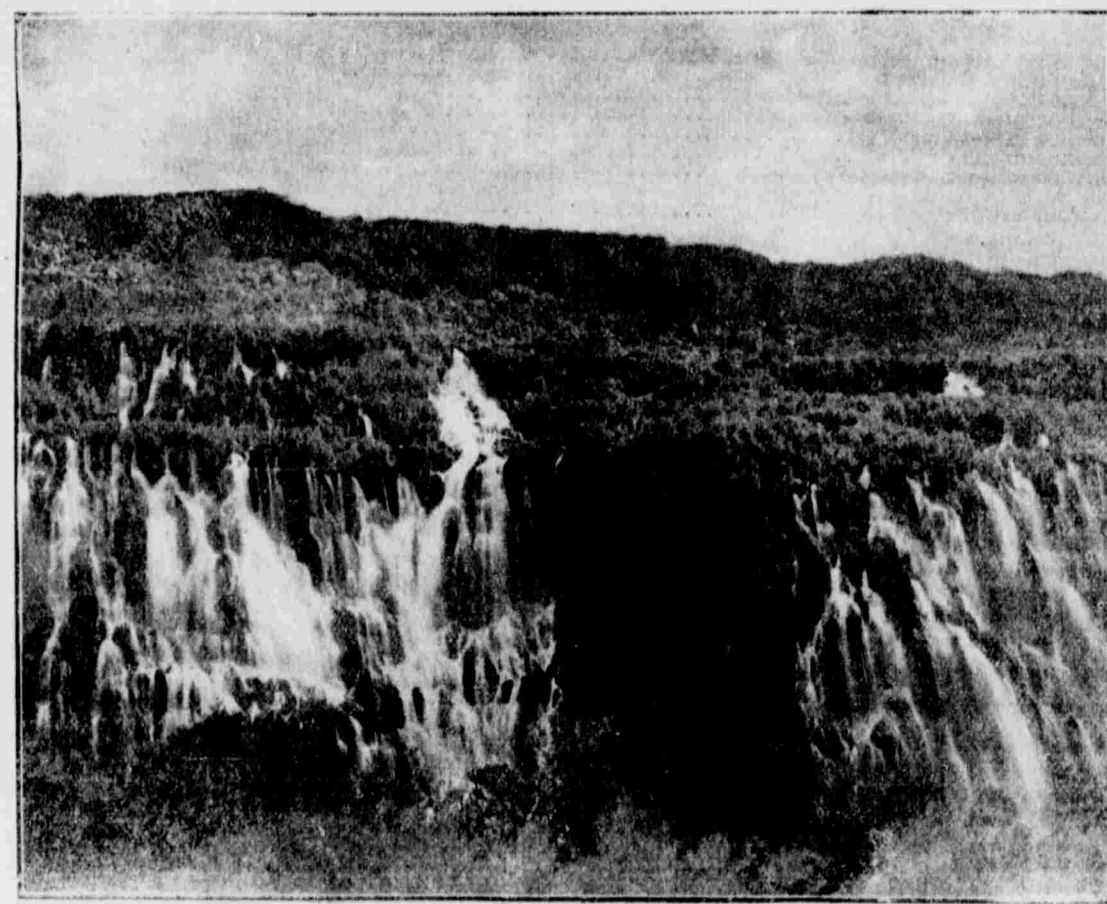
Custer Moving Again.

There is a renewal in Custer county. The back-set, arising from the closing down of the White Knob Copper company in October, 1904, has been practically overcome by the reorganization of the company, and the introduction of better methods of reducing the ores. Besides, some new companies with capital behind them have invaded that field. The Atlanta and Rocky Bar districts of Elmore county, which were practically closed to the outside world for seven months in the year, will certainly have a big boom when the Atlanta road is finished, which will give their camps an open road from Boise City the whole year through. This will be profitable for Boise as well as the camps.

Phosphates of Bear Lake.

In Bear Lake county, near Montpelier, there has lately been discovered a very large deposit of blue phosphate, covering a territory 25 miles long and from two to three miles wide. This is a well known commercial fertilizer, it is easy of access to the railroad and ought to make a profitable business.

The Owyhee mines, in and around Silver City, in Owyhee county, are sustaining their old-time reputation, as



ONE THOUSAND SPRINGS ON THE SNAKE RIVER.

dividend payers, without halt or break.

Transportation Facilities Needed.

Lemhi county ranks perhaps second of the counties of the state in the extent of her mineral lands. It is blessed with great abundance and cursed with

the state, practically extending from the mouth of the Salmon river to the Seven devils; then sweeping across the state, through the Salmon river uplift, into Lemhi county, including the Imhaha county and both sides of the Snake river. The Whitebird and the

Blue Jacket regions, the Lucile, the Rapid River, Big Creek, Thunder Mountain, Warren, Marshall Lake, Florence, Buffalo Hump, Concord, Elk City, Dixie, Nessome and the Clearwater Dewey mines, all report great activity, but as in Lemhi county, the

PLACER MINING AT IDAHO CITY.

front as a producer of gold, silver and copper.

Kootenai's Big Producers.

Great activity is also reported from the mineral regions of Kootenai county, especially from the Coeur d'Alene lead-bearing region. The Panhandle Smelting and Refining company has just completed the erection of a fine smelter at Sandpoint, on Lake Pond d'Oreville, which has given great impetus to the mining industry of Kootenai county. The Coeur d'Alene mines of Shoshone county speak for themselves. Everybody knows what they are, that they are producing over half the lead of

his genial and intelligent wife, displaying artistic taste of no mean quality in the arrangement of the agricultural department; and the mining exhibit, gathered and arranged by Fred C. Bradley of Halley, could not have been improved upon. The other members of the commission, Mrs. Mansfield of Nampa, Mr. Steele of Iona and Mr. Reed of Wallace labored heartily and harmoniously to make the exhibit of the state the success it has attained.

For her mining exhibit, Idaho was awarded 31 prizes; among them, four gold and six silver medals. This showing, with a mineral product of \$25,000,000 for 1905, certainly pushes Idaho to the front as a mining state.

TOMMY ATKINS' CHRISTMAS.

No matter where he may be or in what circumstances he may be placed, Tommy Atkins never fails to make a special effort to celebrate Christmas day in a befitting manner. Four years ago saw thousands of British soldier lads spending the festive 25th camp fires on the South African veldt, but they enjoyed themselves, nevertheless, in spite of their surroundings and the difficulties under which the Christmas dinner was prepared. It is Christmas in barracks, however, which Tommy enjoys best of all next, of course, to spending it with those who are dear to him. Comrades unite with comrades, and each contributes his share of help toward making the occasion one of joyous festivity.

Early Christmas morning sees the soldiers busily engaged in turning their respective barracks rooms into dining places. Bed cots, which at ordinary times would be standing at right angles to the walls, are ranged lengthwise, and with the aid of spare palliasses and gay bunting borrowed from the stores for the occasion are transformed into luxurious looking divans. The companies vie with one another to make their rooms as attractive as possible.

The homely custom of spreading festoons of pink, blue and green paper

from wall to wall is duly carried out, while mottoes, usually of a military character, abound. These mottoes, by the way, are often dedicated to popular officers, the following being examples of the favorite forms: "Long live Colonel and Mrs. —," "God bless the general," "Good luck to Lieutenant —," etc.

In some regiments it is the custom to usher in Christmas morning with fifes and drums immediately after the sounding of reveille, and after breakfast Tommy has to prepare for church parade. This duty finished, he is at liberty to make a grand attack on the Christmas dinner. The soldiers are first of all marshaled and arranged in their places at the table in the company's dining room, which the captain then visits in order to make a brief inspection and see that "all's well" with the boys.

After that there is still another matter which Thomas has to attend to before he can start feeding, but it is a matter which is very agreeable to him. A few minutes after the captain has made his inspection the soldiers of the company are again called to their feet and to order by the sergeant major's "Shun!" and immediately afterward the colonel, followed by the adjutant and other officers, enters. Needless to say, they are received with rousing cheers. The colonel will drink the health of — company, a toast answered with will cheering and the time honored refrain, "He's a jolly good fellow."



ROOSEVELT AS IT APPEARS IN DECEMBER, 1905.

At the Spanish Court.

Christmas in Spain begins with the midnight mass, when the king and queen mother, accompanied by the members of the court, magnificently attired, go in state procession to the chapel royal of the palace in Madrid. On Christmas morning the king and court again attend mass in state, after which the day is spent in merry-making. In the afternoon the adoration of the manger takes place, when a representation of the scene at Bethlehem is unveiled in the great hall of the palace. There is also a Christmas tree, from which almonds are distributed after. Throughout the ensuing 12 days the court is all benevolence and gaiety, and every great institution in Madrid shares in the royal merrymaking. The festival closes Jan. 6.



IDAHO TWINS.



SILVER-LEAD MILL, WALLACE, IDAHO.