

## Idaho, the State of "Tomorrow" and Its Resources.

In 1800 Idaho was not on the map of the United States. On March 3rd, 1863, Congress organized her into a Territory of the United States and gave her a "local habitation and a name" with control over her present territory, Montana and Wyoming.

On May 26th, 1864, Congress organized the Territory where it now is, and on the 25th of July, 1865, created the Territory of Wyoming, fixing the western boundary line of that territory as it stands today.

In 1870, on the 13th of December, Congress re-bounded the Territory of Idaho in conformity with the western boundaries of Montana and Wyoming, and since that time there has been no change in these boundary lines and there will be none in the future.

The state now embraces all the land and water lying between the British possessions on the north, Montana and Wyoming on the east, Utah and Nevada on the south and Oregon and Washington on the west, containing 84,000 square miles, or 54,144,000 acres, which, from a careful estimate of the facts at hand as gathered from the office of the surveyor general of the State, the five United States land offices, and from the records of the County recorders and assessors, will readily segregate into the following classification: 20,000,000 acres of timber land, 29,000,000 acres of pasture land, 11,000,000 acres agricultural land and the remainder mineral land. Much of that which is now classed as timber land will, when the timber disappears, merge into agricultural land, and much of that now classed as pasture will, as improved methods in cultivation and irrigation progresses, also merge into agricultural land.

## State's Great Watershed.

The high crests of the Cabinet: The Coeur d'Alene, The Bitter Root and the Rocky Mountains, all parts of the same great chain, form the western boundary of the State; and right here not only lies the source of her great rivers and infinite water power, but acting in conjunction with the Japan current, is the source of her mild and unrivalled climate. A spur of this great chain of mountains crosses the state from east to west, tending south, and cuts the state in two, so to speak. All south of this uplift is arid, all north, humid.

## The Mighty Snake River.

The Snake River has three great groups, known as the North, Middle and South Forks. The North Fork rises in the north-west corner of Fremont County, the Middle Fork in the north-east and the South Fork in Wyoming, under the very nose of the Tetons, but as if dissatisfied with its surroundings, hastens into the state near the south-east corner of Bingham County, crosses that county into Fremont and joins the parent stream near Idaho Falls, forming the Snake River proper. Whence the majestic stream proceeds south and west to a point near the town of Parma, in Canyon County, where it turns almost directly north and flows in that direction to the city of Lewiston, in Nez Perce County.

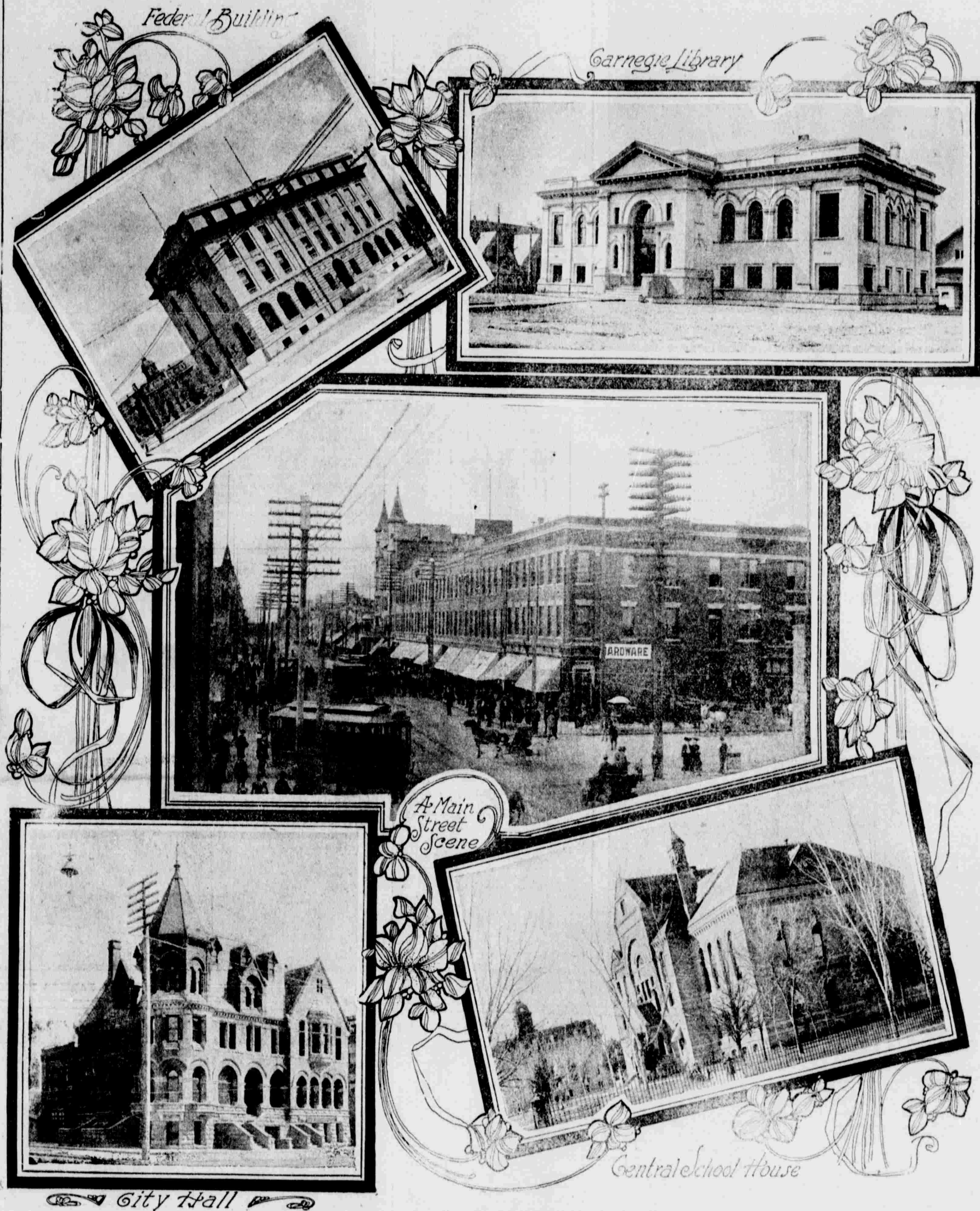
## Tributary Streams.

The tributaries of this stream in the arid part of the state are so numerous that it would consume too much space to even mention their names. Suffice it to say that the arid portion of the state contains from 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 acres capable of being put under irrigation, with a soil largely composed of lava ash and the erosion from lava rock, the most fertile and industrially suitable soil in the world—and that there is water enough in this river and its tributaries to make every acre of it as green with verdure and joyous with bloom as the poetic vale of Cashmere. The prongs and tributaries of this great river traverse the state in almost every direction, creeping up the hill sides, up the mountain sides, until their heads sleep on pillows of eternal snow; awakened perennially into life and energy by the genial sun in his vernal return from his southern journey; now gathering their waters into placid streams forming meadow land here, bench land there and depositing auriferous gravel yonder; then leaping over precipice after precipice, sometimes at short intervals, sometimes at long, as if nature in her prescience and forethought for her darling creation—MAN—made the stream ready for an irrigation ditch or a turbine wheel.

## Extensive Timber Lands.

The timber land of Idaho is generally on the head waters of the streams. There are very extensive tracts of yellow pine, fir, hemlock and cedar on the head waters of the Boise, the Payette, the Weiser, the Little Salmon and the Salmon rivers. The great body of the timber, however, is within the humid belt, on Priest, the Kootenai, the Palouse, the Potlatch and the North and Middle Forks of the Clear Water river. Here is the most extensive body of white pine timber, mingled with fir, tamarack, cedar and hemlock, in the United States, and some say in the world, embracing in the neighborhood of 16,000 square miles. Its commercial value, under the present demand for lumber, staggers the imagination. The industry, however, is only in its infancy.

While there are in the state in the neighborhood of 250 saw mills, yet not to exceed 25 are manufacturing for export, and practically all of these are located in Kootenai county, the remainder, which are scattered over the entire state, being operated to supply the local trade. Harrison, situated at the head of the Coeur d'Alene lake, has six mills in active operation, Coeur



SCENES IN BOISE, THE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL OF THE GEM STATE.

d'Alene City, at the foot of the lake, has two mills in operation, and two others in course of construction. On the Spokane river, between Coeur d'Alene City and Post Falls, are two, and at Post Falls is one and one other now being erected. A number of others are located along the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads, and at Sandpoint, on the Pend d'Oreille lake, the Humboldt Lumber company has perhaps the finest saw mill in the United States, with a capacity of 500,000 feet per day.

## Finds Ready Market.

The output of these mills finds a ready market in the states of the upper Mississippi valley. The demand there for lumber far exceeds the supply, and is increasing annually. The commercial value for Kootenai county's lumber product for 1905 will approach the \$2,000,000 mark. The Barber Lumber company is now erecting a fine mill near Boise City, with a capacity of 250,000 feet per day. The Weyerhaeuser syndicate has in process of erection on the Palouse river in Latah county, a gigantic plant, which, when finished, will be the largest saw mill in the world. But Lewiston, on account of its natural advantages, situated as it is at the junction of the Clear Water and Snake rivers, will be the center of the lumber industry of the state. The north fork of that river, with its numerous branches penetrates into the very heart of this great white pine belt, thus affording a natural and free highway for transporting the logs to the mills. With an open river to the sea and the Northern Pacific cut off built over the Lolo pass, there will not only be a market in the transmountain re-

gion of the United States; but also no mean one in the Philippine Islands, and the Orient generally.

The lumber industry of Idaho will, in the near future, exceed in value her mineral product, which reached \$23,000,000 in 1904; and this, too without counting her home consumption.

## When Statehood Came.

Idaho was admitted into the Union on July 3, 1890. Congress was exceedingly generous to the young state. It gave her a dowry of two sections of land in every township of the 84,000 square miles for the maintenance of her common schools, fixing the price at which it could be sold, at not less than \$10 per acre, and constituted the proceeds an irrevocable fund, so that the interest only is available for use. This fund has already passed the million mark. In the same act, Congress also granted her in the neighborhood of 800,000 acres to be selected in any part of the state for the erection and maintenance of penal, reformatory, the higher educational institutions and for public buildings; and finally granted her 1,000,000 acres more to encourage irrigation.

## Population of 250,000.

The federal census of 1870 gave the then Territory a population in round numbers of 15,000. That of 1880 made it 32,000, and in 1890, the year of statehood, it rose to 84,000, and in 1900 it reached 162,000. No census of the state has been taken since that time, except that of the children of school age, which gave 73,000 for June, 1905. From this and other data gathered by the bureau of immigration, labor and statistics, the present population of the state is conservatively estimated at 250,000. The immigration into the state during the last year has been unprecedented and

estimated by the bureau to be not less than 19,000, and it will probably double that number next year. The contemplated increase in the lumber industry alone, if only carried to successful completion, will by itself very nearly approach these figures. The new railroad enterprises now actively at work constructing road beds, as well as the extension of the older ones into hitherto undeveloped territory and the great influx of homeseekers and homesteaders will add very materially to the population brought in by the lumber industry.

## No More Pioneer Days.

The day of the American pioneer, how much it may be regretted, has passed for ever from America. They finished their work in Idaho. They invaded the territory now comprising the state in 1800 as gold hunters. They found it, washed it from the sands and gravels, and after injecting over \$200,000 of the yellow metal into the

avenues of trade and commerce, many of them sought other fields of exploitation. The real pioneer, however, remained and instead of staking out placer claims, commenced fencing off farms. The Indian naturally took umbrage at this appropriation of his grazing and hunting grounds, and in 1878, these old rugged and grizzled pioneers on the broad and fertile fields of the Camas prairie, fought their last battle with the red man and dung the American frontier out into the islands of the Pacific.

## Placer Mining.

A little over a generation has elapsed since the pioneers ceased to stake out placer claims and commenced to stake out an empire. What progress have they made? For after all is said and done, this is the inquiry the world will make. They have a goodly heritage. What have they done with it? When the gold hunters separated themselves from the real pioneers—the empire builders—their whole force, men, women and children, numbered less than 15,000 souls; occupying scattered huts along the Boise river, in the Palouse country, in Latah county, on the Clear water around Lewiston, on the Camas prairie and a nucleus of a settlement in Bear Lake county.

## Livestock and Irrigation.

Her great live stock industry did not then exist. She had no railroads, no wagon roads, no tools, no means of transportation and no commerce, except in a small domestic way, after the primitive mode of barter and exchange. In 1890, the year of statehood, her whole property was valued for tax-

ation purposes at \$19,000,000. During that period she has constructed by private enterprise alone 3,700 miles of irrigation canals at a cost of \$10,000,000, and put under irrigation in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 acres of land. Every acre of which is worth \$50, aggregating \$100,000,000. In the humid portion of the state she has cleared and put under cultivation 2,600,000 acres more, worth at a low estimate, \$40 an acre, making \$80,000,000 more.

## Immense Wheat Surplus.

And it is estimated that her surplus wheat crop for 1905 will be 5,000,000 bushels. She will have a large surplus of the other cereals, and her potato and hay crop is something delightful to look at. During that time she has planted to orchard over 40,000 acres, from which she has exported this year in the neighborhood of 500 cars, which will bring her in close on \$600,000. She has built and equipped 1,700 miles of railroad and at the same time constructed state wagon roads, costing over \$20,000. She commenced without a saw mill and has now over 250, and at least seven other immense plants are being erected. In 1870 there was not a smelter or quartz mill in the territory, now there are over 50 big and little in the state, and their output for 1904 was over \$23,000,000.

## The Sugar Industry.

Within the last few years, she has built three great sugar factories and has contracted for the building of two others, and when finished, the whole will cost over \$5,000,000. When she commenced to build this young empire, she had her "thousandth hill," but the traditional cattle were not there. Now she has 400,000 head of cattle, 200,000 head of horses, 120,000 head of swine and 3,000,000 head of sheep with a wool clip of 25,000,000 pounds. During that time she has built and equipped over 1,000 schoolhouses, costing over \$2,000,000, and expended for the school year 1904-5 for the education of her 73,000 school children, a little over \$1,000,000, and at the same time, has built fitted out and equipped a model reform school, an academy of applied science, two good normal schools and a state university, equal to any in the Union. To maintain which, she pays annually in the neighborhood of \$50,000.

## Matchless Resources.

Idaho has not gone forward in population and wealth as rapidly as her sister states, Oregon and Washington; and yet her undeveloped resources are perhaps greater than those of either state. Her mineral resources are far superior. Her white pine forests have no parallel in the Union. Her rivers in number and capacity to furnish water for irrigation and power for manufacturing have an excellence and superiority far beyond any of the arid states, and, indeed, so far as the generation of power is concerned, is superior to any state in the Union. Her agricultural lands in the humid part of the state for fertility of soil, production of the cereals and thrash, have few, if any, equals anywhere. The fact that until within the last few years immigration has passed through the state and settled in Oregon and Washington, in preference to Idaho, may be readily accounted for.

## Three Trunk Railroads.

Three trunk lines of railroad pass through the state from ocean to ocean. The Oregon Short Line enters the state from the desolate lands of Wyoming and passes through the most uninviting part of it. The traveler or immigrant from the car window, sees nothing save a very few limited green patches, except sage brush, jack rabbits and lava rock, until he reaches Nampa. The two other trunk lines pass through the extreme northern part of the state, which has a width of only 48 miles and the traveler is out of it before he knows he is in it. If he does happen to make an observation, the view is not at all inviting, as the northern part of the Panhandle, through which these roads run, is the poorest part of the state; and on this account the homeseeker passes out of the state wholly ignorant of the great opportunities he left behind.

In late years, the Short Line has been doing a great work for the state. It has recently built a branch into the rich Malad valley, another into the upper Cache valley, another from Idaho Falls through the fertile bottom lands of Fremont county to St. Anthony and is pushing on to the coal fields in the Teton Basin, and has just finished another track from Minidoka to Twin Falls. The Northern Pacific has also within a short time built a branch from Spokane in Washington to Lewiston, Idaho, going through the Palouse country in Latah county, and extended it up the Clearwater river to Stites, in Idaho county, and is now engaged in extending the Spokane branch from Lewiston to Grangeville, a distance of 100 miles over the fertile Nez Perce and Camas Prairies. There are strong indications that this road will be extended to and up the Salmon river to Meadows, in Washington county, joining at that point the Pacific Idaho Northern.

## Increase of Wealth.

In the decade and a half, since 1890, the tax assessment roll has increased from \$19,000,000 to \$75,000,000, and it is the general consensus of opinion that this is just one-fifth of the real value. An accumulation of \$375,000,000 in one generation, commencing with a population of less than 15,000, is not a bad showing, and accordingly, as one might expect, the people are exceedingly prosperous. Their foreign mortgages, of which they had a plentiful store in 1890, are all paid off. They are mostly out of debt with money in the bank and buoyant with hope for its future.

## Figures That Tell Story of Idaho's Growth

Admitted to the Union	July 3, 1890
Population at That Time	84,000
Population in 1900	162,000
Population in 1905	250,000
Surplus Wheat in Bushels, 1905	5,000,000
Mineral Output for 1905	\$25,000,000
Wool Clip in Pounds for 1905	25,000,000
Assessed Valuation in 1905	\$75,281,087.97