

# Agricultural Developments in the Gem State During 1908

By Heber Q. Hale, Assistant Commissioner of Immigration, Labor and Statistics of the State of Idaho.

WHEN the placer miner came with his pack mule, his pick and shovel and gold-ran to Idaho, in the early sixties of the nineteenth century, there followed soon the tiller of the soil to grow vegetables and grain for him; thus, agriculture in Idaho had its birth. If mining was the father-industry in this intermountain country, farming was certainly the mother-industry, which took the part of the good housewife in preparing the victuals for the assiduous gold hunters. And like a good housewife—industrious, attentive and productive—this industry has grown and increased until it—the offspring of want and necessity—now stands at the head of the industrial family of Idaho. It sits as the hostess at every table and 350,000 people pay homage to it.

**IDAHO'S FIRST CITIZENS.**  
Idaho's climatic and other general natural phenomena seemed not to breathe in upon her earliest settlers the fact that she was pregnant with soil productivity, and that she inclined toward agricultural favoritism. On the contrary, her first citizens were allured here by the goddess of gold and this was solely the object of their pursuit. But later another goddess went forth and waved her wand over the restless brow of the easterner, and he packed his goods and struck the trail for the great west. This second goddess was that of spring, and her enchanted patron found the hills, the valleys, the plains of Idaho mantled in perfect green; the inarticulate language of

readier hand thrust their plows into the ground and turned the black, crumbling soil face to the sun; they cast their seeds into it, the rains fell and their grain germinated and began to shoot itself through the surface of the ground; but, lo, the rains ceased and the sun increased its intensity of heat, until the young crop was threatened with destruction. What could be done? An idea flashed into their minds. The streams from which they obtained the fresh, cool water to quench the thirst of their stock and their own, they would make do still further service: that of quenching the thirst of their drying crops. The plan worked magically. New life came into the growing grain and the warm sun seemed to literally draw the stalks toward itself. The result was a bounteous crop was harvested and the faith of the trusting and industrious farmers came back to them bearing fruit 1,900 fold.

Henceforth there was no more faltering faith or doubting fear. Mother earth was trusted and she proved true to her trust. The agricultural industry, planted from the minutest seed, took root and grew and has become a mighty tree whose roots permeate the soil of all the land and whose branches reach out to every inhabited spot of earth bearing the fruits of life and the reward of industry.

**IDAHO A BREAD PRODUCER.**  
The world will some day look to Idaho as one of the principal sources from which come the bread to feed

## Unappropriated and Unreserved Lands.

Following is a table showing the acreage of the unappropriated and unreserved lands of the state by counties, with notes on the class or condition of the land, whether agricultural, grazing, timbered, mineral or sagebrush and lava covered:

Counties.	Acreage.	Nature of the Land.
Ada	557,283	Arid.....mountainous, timbered.
Bannock	629,926	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural.
Bear Lake	216,233	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural.
Bingham	845,958	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural, lava plains.
Blaine	2,679,272	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural, grain, sage.
Boise	421,401	Arid.....mountainous, timbered, graz., mineral.
Bonner	56,209	Humid.....agricultural, timbered.
Canyon	363,498	Arid.....agricultural, grazing.
Cassia	1,739,222	Arid.....agricultural, grazing, sagebrush, plains.
Custer	2,701,929	Arid.....mountainous, mineral, grazing.
Elmore	796,520	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural, grazing.
Fremont	601,746	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural, sagebrush.
Idaho	4,108,453	Humid mount., arid, mineral, timber, grazing.
Kootenai	89,629	Humid.....agricultural, timbered.
Latah	19,066	Humid.....agricultural, timbered.
Lemhi	2,649,263	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural, grazing.
Lincoln	1,369,544	Arid.....agricultural, lava and sagebrush.
Nev. Perce	426,597	Humid.....mountainous, timbered, agricultural.
Oneida	426,533	Arid.....mountainous, agricultural.
Owyhee	1,369,544	Humid mount., arid, mineral, grazing, lava.
Shoshone	111,400	Humid.....timbered, mineral, agricultural.
Twin Falls	567,378	Arid.....mount., timbered, mineral, graz., agr.

which conveyed to his mind this unmistakable message: Here is the paradise of the stock man. This was the only message to his mind. He saw nothing he cared for nothing—above the earth nor below it—merely its outer garment—its cloak of green attracted him—He set to immediately and soon his own herds of sleek, fat line covered the hills and commenced devouring the juicy, green blades, which were soon to make their master "king."

Years passed ere the third goddess went forth. Her magic was not so enchanting as that of her two predecessors. It carried with it neither the glitter of gold nor the luxury of bounteous verbage. She was the goddess of summer; her days were hot and dry and her message carried with it the burden of toil; consequently, many were loath to obey her call, and the few who did, moved slowly and half-heartedly forward. Some considered it all a delusion; others had better faith. Decades passed and the world remained yet in ignorance of the result of the venture to entrust seeds in the soil of these "desolate" mountains.

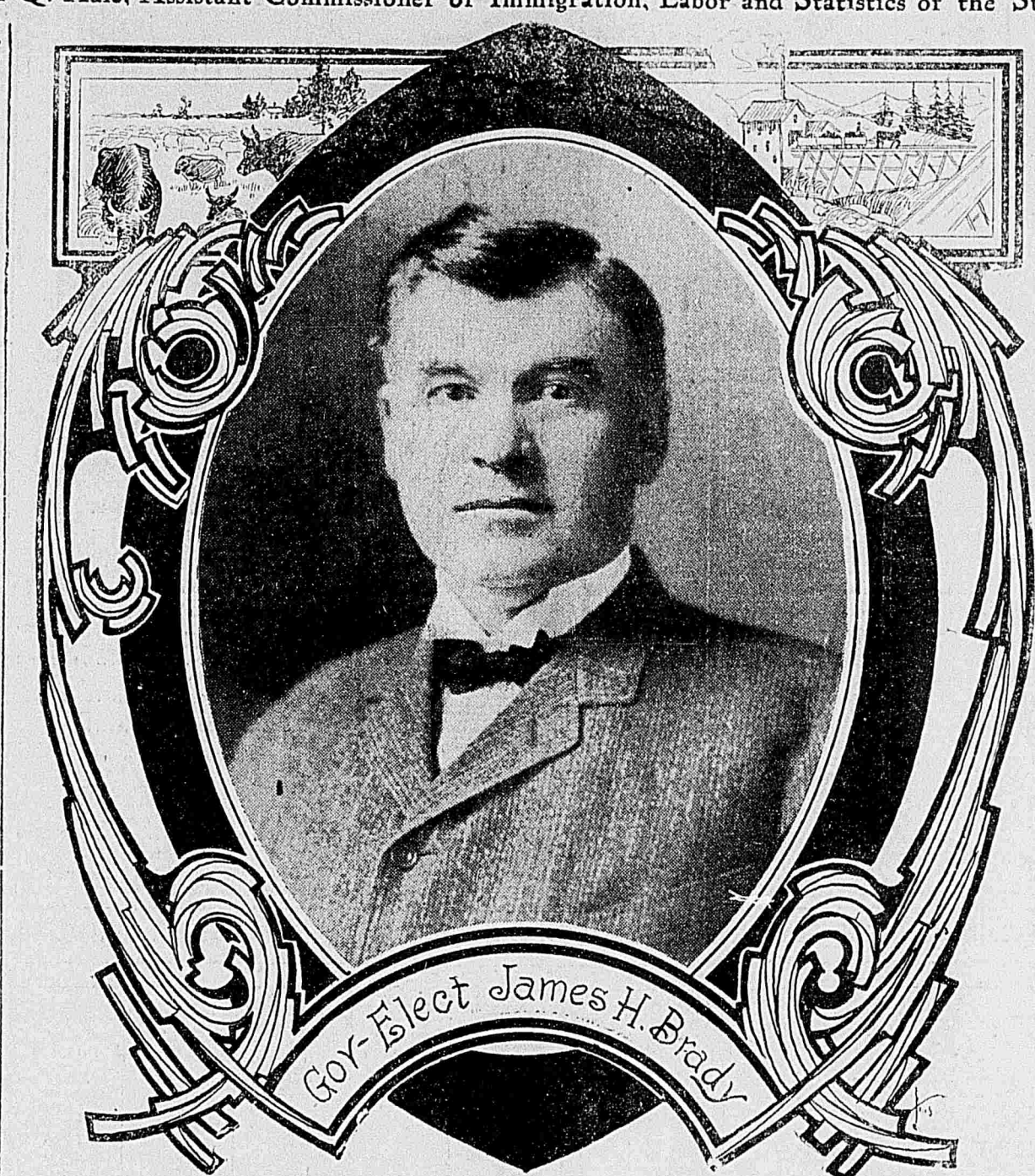
**MOTHER EARTH MADE GOOD.**  
But soon those of harder faith and

the nations. Her present vast irrigated areas form the most productive spots for grain production to be found in the world; and the success which is being attained in the production of grain by the "dry farming" method will also set Idaho to the front; for it has millions of acres susceptible to the application of this method, upon which water cannot be conducted by natural gravity; many thousands acres of which are already being converted to this use, yielding from 15 to 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, according to the kind of wheat used and the attention given to the soil in preparing it for planting.

**DRY FARMING.**  
Oneida county alone, situated in the southeastern part of the state, produced on dry farms (65,000 acres) this year about 1,495,000 bushels of wheat together with a considerable acreage of rye and alfalfa.

Bingham county, wholly within the arid belt, farmed without irrigation last year about 22,000 acres with very good results.

Bannock county has under cultivation and is producing good crops from 60,000 acres of dry farm land.



**IDAHO'S GOVERNOR-ELECT.** Hon. James H. Brady, when called upon by a "News" representative for a forecast of his policies, cheerfully dictated the following:

"The Republican party, after a very full consideration of every plank, adopted a platform making positive promises that if the party was successful in the November election the legislature would enact into laws every plank in that platform. The public speakers that the party sent out during the campaign made very positive statements as to what the party would do in case it was successful at the polls. The people of this state, believing in the principles of the Republican party, and believing that the platform we adopted would be carried out to the letter, gave us a vote of confidence on Nov. 3.

"We have a substantial majority in both the senate and the house, and there is but one honorable course for the party to pursue, and that is to place every plank in our platform in effective laws upon the statute books. This is especially true of the plank relative to local option, and I feel that I would be untrue to the trust imposed upon me if I did not in my message recommend the passage of such a law.

"In addition to the planks in our platform, I am heartily in favor of the direct primary law. I believe that every citizen of our state who is a legal voter has a right to go into the booth alone and uninfluenced and cast his, or her, ballot for whoever they believe is best qualified to be entrusted with the duties of the different offices within the gift of the people. I shall strongly recommend in my message a direct primary law which will give the people of this state that right and that privilege.

"The United States government has given to the state of Idaho 3,000,000 acres of land for the purpose of hav-

ing the same placed under proper irrigation under what is known as the Carey act. The amount of money represented in the present investment in Carey act projects that must necessarily come before the land board amounts to over \$15,000,000 dollars. I believe that the duties of the state officials who are members of the present land board are sufficient to require all their time and attention outside of the great amount of work necessary to be done in connection with Carey act work, and for that reason I shall recommend that a board of three competent and experienced men be named as a Carey act land board to handle all of the matters which may come up relative to the reclamation of lands in this state over which the state will have control.

"Our state has never provided any home, nor has it provided any manner of caring for the feeble minded. I believe it is a duty which the state owes to these unfortunate to provide ways and means for caring for them, protect their health, and educate them, so far as they are capable of receiving instruction, and I hope to be able during my administration to provide for the care of these people in this manner in our state.

"I am heartily in favor of encouraging and assisting all of our state educational and other institutions in all ways which will tend to uphold them and make them stronger and better and more beneficial to those who occupy the homes as well as those who attend the educational institutions.

"I believe that one of the great needs of this state is good roads, and especially is this true of the remote parts of the state where no railroads are able to be constructed in the near future.

"I have spent twenty years of my life in the irrigation business and believe that I understand the trials and tribulations the average settler has to endure in building a home in a new and

irrigated country. Our irrigation laws in many respects are primitive and need revising, especially is this true as to the manner of determining what the irrigation rights of the individual are under the laws, and I hope that our next legislature will frame such a law as will enable the farmer and water-user to feel secure after he has once improved his farm and used the water and proved up on his water right.

"At the same time I realize that the rate of taxation in this state is very high owing to the fact that we are in the early stages of development and require more from our citizenship in that way than we will in future years. I shall, therefore, favor only such appropriations as I feel are absolutely necessary for the welfare of our different institutions and needs, and shall, at all times, bear in mind the fact that the taxpayer is entitled to full consideration and fair treatment, and the people of this state can rest assured that I will at all times use my best efforts to keep the expenses of the administration at the lowest possible point consistent with good business principles.

"I shall in all things work for the moral as well as material welfare of our splendid young commonwealth, and I believe that the people will hold up my hands in all the good things I undertake to do.

"My aim during my administration shall be at all times to give equal treatment and fair treatment to all. I believe that the capitalist, and laborer, and the producer are necessary for the success of any undertaking for the prosperity of any state, and I hope to see all of these interests work in entire harmony and for the best interest of all concerned."

Fremont county is farming, probably, 150,000 acres by the "dry" method, with wonderful success, producing as high as 50 bushels of wheat to the acre and other grains in proportion. Even oats, barley and alfalfa are successfully grown without water.

Bear Lake county is producing crops without irrigation from about 10,000 acres; Cassia county from 3,000; Elmore county, 2,000; Ada county, 2,000; Canyon county, 8,000; Washington county, 15,000; Lemhi county, 5,000; and Custer county, 2,000. These will aggregate a quick total of 275,500 acres of land farmed in the arid portion of the state without irrigation.

In the five northern counties of the state (excluding Shoshone county, which is wholly devoted to mining), located within the humid belt, fully 1,200,000 acres are being farmed without the application of water artificially, which, added to the sum above given, would make a grand total of 1,475,500 acres of land producing crops in this state without irrigation. Add thereto 1,626,123 acres of irrigated land and we have the sum of 3,101,623 acres, which represent, approximately, the total cultivated acreage of the state.

## STATE ACREAGE.

The total area of the state is 53,262,585 acres. Of this amount there are:

In lakes ..... 208,363 acres

## Soil Products of the State.

The agricultural statistics of the state are not yet compiled by the state statistical bureau; but from a careful calculation of the figures now available, I present the following table showing the use to which the 4,941,596 acres of patented lands in this state are put:

Product.	Bushels.	Acres.
Wheat	12,768,000	456,000
Oats	7,532,300	130,000
Barley	2,874,652	65,333
Rye	94,388	3,332
Corn	150,000	5,000
Potatoes	2,706,570	18,666
Sugar beets	254,340	26,015
Hay	1,403,332	561,332
Garden	.....	5,727
Orchard	.....	50,000
Pasture	.....	380,995
Uncultivated	.....	1,512,929
Total	.....	4,941,596

In forest reserves ..... 20,336,457 acres  
In Indian reservations ..... 990,558 acres  
In military reservations ..... 639 acres

Total ..... 21,535,987 acres

which amount, deducted from the total acreage leaves 31,726,598 acres for general agricultural, grazing and mining purposes. It will be observed at a glance that less than one-tenth of this area is now reduced to cultivation; which fact reveals the pertinent agricultural possibilities and opportunities in this state.

Yet, it would be practically impossible at the present time to state definitely just what percentage of this area is susceptible to cultivation; not half of the lands of the state are yet surveyed; in fact, 29,335,839 acres are still unsurveyed by the surveyor's transit. The records of the five government land offices in the state show that there are 26,785,002 acres of unappropriated and unreserved lands now in Idaho. This sum deducted from 31,726,598, the total acreage in the state, minus the lake and special reserved areas, gives 4,941,596 acres, which represents the lands now in private ownership.

## CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS.

Classified, the lands of the state could be represented thus:

Lake area ..... 208,363 acres  
Forest reserve area ..... 20,336,457 acres  
Indian reservation ..... 990,558 acres

Military reservations ..... 639 acres  
Patented area ..... 4,941,596 acres  
Unappropriated and unreserved area ..... 26,785,002 acres

Total acreage in state 53,262,585 acres

## FIRST INDUSTRY OF STATE.

Idaho is not a state of a single industry—a man from nearly any walk of life can here find a home and recourse to his particular kind of work—though, the industrial rank might be justly put thus: agriculture, first; mining, second; stock-raising, third; lumbering, fourth; horticulture, fifth; manufacturing, sixth. Idaho offers glowing opportunities in each of these industries, all of which are practically in their infancy; and it affords splendid possibilities for numerous other industries not here mentioned.

Idaho's orchards will some day attract the attention of the world. Her delicious apples are sold at the fruit stands in New York today. Thousands of acres of young fruit trees have been planted this year, which will tell a wonderful story about five years hence.

Our four great beet sugar factories form another very important item on the credit side of Idaho's industrial ledger. Their output last year was 63,700,000 pounds of sugar, valued at \$2,911,500.

For a young man starting out in life there is no state offering better opportunities than Idaho.

## USE OF ACETYLENE GAS.

In the early part of this year a report was printed from Consul L. Edwin Dudley of Vancouver, British Columbia, in which it was stated:

"The Dominion railway commission some time ago issued an order that railways must discontinue the use of acetylene gas and requiring the use of Pintsch gas."

It is claimed by the Commercial Acetylene company that this statement is misleading, and that the order referred to by the consul did not discontinue the use of the commercial system of acetylene lighting which then obtained. Mr. A. D. Cartwright, secretary of the Canadian railway commission, in reply to a communication from the Commercial Acetylene company, states that an official communication to the Grand Trunk railway company, in which it was stated that the use of free acetylene for lighting should be prohibited, declares that railway companies should be allowed to choose between the commercial system of acetylene and the use of the Pintsch gas. The secretary of the commission further states:

"It appears, therefore, as far as the records of the board go, to show that the board has made no ruling against the commercial system of acetylene, and that it is a lighting system that may be used under the proposed order of the board."

## A POST CARD PANIC.

The post card business is seriously depressed at present, while some of the great foreign markets are bordering on a panic. Overproduction and wild speculation in the commodity are the causes. The public has watched the gradual encroachment of the souvenir post card with surprise, perhaps, but without realizing the enormous proportions of the industry. In order to supply the little stands in every store at every cross roads the country over an immense industry has been developed in practically all civilized lands. Incidentally the United States imported from Germany in a single year, more than \$5,000,000 worth of the bits of cardboard.

The post card panic is most acute at present in Germany. A year ago the great post card firms there, anticipating a great boom in the business, especially in England and America, used every facility to increase their stock in those countries, but speculation and overproduction have brought the situation to a crisis. The dealers could not afford to hold these supplies and were forced to get rid of them at any price. The card industry of 1908 is a sad case, much as \$25,000 on a single customer.

# PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF IDAHO'S POPULATION

BY HEBER Q. HALE.

IN 1870, when the first census was taken in this state by the Federal Census bureau, Idaho was given a total population of 15,000 souls. The second census figures, made in 1880, gave 32,000, an increase of 17,000, or 113 1-3 per cent. In 1890, the year of statehood, the general total was raised to 84,000, showing an advance in the population for that decade of 52,000, or 162 per cent. From 1890 to 1900, population for that decade of 52,000, or 162 per cent. From 1890 to 1900, when the last federal census was taken, which gave the state 162,000 population, the increase was 78,000, or 108 per cent. Estimating that Idaho has now a population of 350,000, the increase since 1900 would be 188,000, or 161 per cent. The total increase, therefore, in the population of the state since 1870, is 335,000, which would average about 8,116 a year, or 12 1-2 per cent.

## INCREASE IS PHENOMENAL.

Immigration to the state during the last three years has been almost phenomenal. The opening of settlement of the great irrigation tracts is the principal cause. It is estimated that fully 65,000 people have come to the state and made homes during the past two years. The average increase in population in the last eight years, has been 23,500 per annum. Of course, this includes the natural increase as well as the immigration to the state.

## WHERE THEY LOCATE.

The new-comers are scattered over the entire state, but have congregated most thickly upon the irrigated tracks of southern Idaho. The lumber-

ing camps of the north have also received some in excess of a proportionate share. A feature which is agreeably noticeable in this influx of "new blood" is the fact that it is liberally sprinkled throughout the country districts; which is indicative of the class of citizens Idaho is getting—a class, by the way, which forms the most sturdy factor in the citizenship of any great commonwealth—empire builders.

## WHERE THEY COME FROM.

They come principally of Anglo-Saxon extraction, from the west central states, mainly from Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas and the two Dakotas; and when they come, they come to stay. Idaho is receiving very little of the immigration from foreign lands, though it heartily welcomes the citizens of the European countries. The negro, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Russian and Italian population of the state is very small.

The last federal census statistics gave Idaho a total foreign born population of 24,004, which were principally from the European countries, with England (3,334), Germany (2,974), Sweden (2,822), and Canada (2,528), in the lead, in the order given. However, gave: Russians, 124; Greeks, 9; Africans, 20; Australians, 24; Chinese, 1,111; Japanese, 1,305; and 779 Italians. Of course, these figures, especially as to the Europeans, should be considerably increased to bring them up to date.

## WHERE FOREIGNERS SETTLE.

The Japanese are located principally in the beet fields, on the railroads and in restaurants; the Chinese, in restaur-

ants, laundries and city vegetable gardens; the Italians and Greeks, on the railroads and a few in mines; the negroes are confined wholly to the larger cities where they engage in service in hotels, etc.; the Russians and Australians take to railroading and street work. The great lumbering of the Swedes, where thousands are now employed. The Germans take principally to farming, and the English are doing a little of everything.

Figuring from two years back, attention is called to the immigration to this state; firstly, as affecting the country, and secondly, as affecting the towns and cities.

Idaho has 275 days of sunshine in every year. Its average mean temperature is 46.2 degrees. The average annual precipitation is 20.47 inches. It is the greatest lead producer in the world; produces over half the lead mined in the United States. Has over 1,600,000 acres of land actually cultivated by irrigation.

Has over 3,400,000 acres of farm lands under canal systems.

Has nearly 10,000 miles of canals, built at a cost of over \$28,300,000.

Has more land open to settlement than any other state in the Union.

Has the greatest contiguous irrigated area in the world, embracing over 2,000,000 acres; an empire in itself.

Has redeemed more land by virtue of the "Carey Act" than any other state in the Union.

The great Snake River Valley is in the same latitude as Spain and Italy.

It grows 20,000,000 bushels of wheat annually.

It has over 2,000,000 sheep, which produce an annual clip of over 17,000,000 pounds of wool.

It has 380,000 head of cattle, 150,000 horses, and 50,000 hogs.

Its mines produce yearly over \$22,000,000 in the ores and precious metals.

It has 1,918 miles of railroads, which are assessed at \$19,059,784.80.

Its total assessed valuation is \$115,580,656.30 (less than half its actual value), not including mines and timber.

Its increase in valuation in the last five years is \$49,705,348.81.

It has more than doubled its population in the last seven years, and more than quadrupled it since statehood—1890.

It has 84,000 square miles—over 40% times larger than the state of Delaware, and nearly 8,000 square miles larger than the state of Minnesota.

Produces annually 246,000 tons of sugar beets, from which farmers reap a reward of \$909,000. The output in sugar is 62,700,000 pounds, representing a value of \$2,911,500.

It puts on the market each year lumber to the value of \$7,243,100.

Its rivers furnish power possibilities sufficient to drive every wheel in the Pacific States.

It has about 50,000 acres in orchard, which produce an annual crop of fruit in the value of over \$2,900,000.

It has an unexcelled public school system and offers equal suffrage to all.

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