

Great Resources of An Inland Empire

THE material wealth of a country we measure by its resources and productions; the strength of a country we measure by its power to do and its accomplishments; the standard of a country we measure by its citizenship. The intrinsic value of any country cannot be calculated without the careful consideration of these three factors. Natural resources may abound—mountains may be filled with precious metals, hills may be covered with the finest timber, farm lands may stretch their pregnant bosoms for miles in extent, plains and valleys may yield their luxurious verdure for the hungry mouths of millions of kine, yet these all amount to naught where the power of man's will does not operate over and through them; and even when this is the case and the standard of citizenship is low, the supreme worth of that country is by no means superlative.

But with a high standard of citizenship to begin with great worth is at once predicable, for such wealth is enus of life itself—it is both resourceful and productive; and were the natural endowments of the country meager, its thrift and ingenuity would forge at the anvil of destiny the implements of triumph and success. Show us a land rich in its natural endowments in which bear sway a thrifty and industrious people, and we will predict—all things being equal—the highest standard of wealth. Just such a country is Idaho, the "Gem of the Mountains."

IDAHO HOMES.

It would seem that the desire is now greater than ever before among the people generally to get a home—to secure a tract of land. This is evidenced by the thousands who are coming west every year. The man of moderate means in order to acquire a foothold must move on toward the frontier. He finds himself in a congested population and values are too high for him.

It not infrequently happens that certain of these home-seekers, in their desire to find the "frontier," journey onward and westward to the coast and then wander back to Idaho to find a home.

Strictly speaking the "Inland Empire," of which so much is now being spoken and written, measures within its scope the great inland basin of the northwest, in the center of which is situated the state of Idaho. Around this "Gem of the Mountains" about two-thirds of Oregon and Washington, fractions of Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and a strip of British Columbia, form a kind of setting or frame work. The area thus enclosed is approximately 200,000 square miles, of which Idaho occupies 14,800 square miles, or 53,262,685.14 acres. From north to south it measures 487 miles, its width varies from 45 miles on the northern border to 209 miles on the southern border.

CLASSIFICATIONS.

The total area of the state could be classified as follows:

	Acres.
Lakes	208,365
Forest reserves	20,336,427
Indian reservations	990,558
Military reservations	439
Patented lands	4,941,895
Unappropriated and unsurveyed	26,785,092
Total	53,262,685

Considering resource and utility the state's land area has been classified in round numbers as:

	Acres.
Timber lands	20,000,000
Pasture lands	17,000,000
Agricultural lands	12,000,000
Mineral lands	4,000,000

Much of the land classified as timbered can be used for grazing purposes and also converted to agriculture, and much of the pasture land can be utilized for farming, and a considerable portion of the mineralized area can be patented.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The topography of the state is mountainous, with a gradual slope toward the west from the main range of the Rocky mountains, which form the eastern boundary of the state.

This great inland empire is practically all drained by the Columbia river and its numerous tributaries fed by the never-fading snows of the Rocky mountain chain. The state is divided into two parts: the northern portion is drained by the Salmon, Clearwater, Spokane and Kootenai rivers; the southern part by the great Snake river, the waters of all of which find their way into the Columbia, which carries them on westward and pours them into the Pacific ocean. The only exception to this drainage system is in the southeastern corner of the state, drained by the Bear river, which flows into Salt Lake, in Utah.

Between the two natural geographical divisions of the state, above noted, a great difference is observed in the natural resources, which are marked principally in the fact that the northern portion comes within the humid belt and receives sufficient rainfall for the development of crops without the aid of artificial application of water; while the southern part of the state depends almost entirely upon irrigation.

TIMBER LANDS.

In the former division the land generally is quite heavily timbered, and here are found the great forests of the state. In fact, the greatest white pine belt of the world is in this district. Conservative and competent timber cruisers have estimated that this portion of the state alone has 57,500,000,000 feet of standing and available timber, found in the following basins:

	Number feet.
Pend d'Oreille basin, including Priest river	5,000,000,000
St. Joseph basin, including St. Maries	10,000,000,000

Coeur d'Alene basin	1,000,000,000
Palouse basin	500,000,000
Clearwater basin	30,000,000,000
Weiser basin	1,000,000,000
Payette basin	5,000,000,000
Boise basin	5,000,000,000
Total	57,500,000,000

The saw mills of the state produced last year a merchantable product valued at nearly \$7,500,000, consisting of nearly 400,000,000 feet of lumber. The saw and planing mills of the state number 225, and employ during the year 4,368 persons, with a payroll of \$2,616,429.

FOREST RESERVES.

Practically the entire mountainous and timbered area of the state is embraced within national forest reserves, which now cover approximately 20,000,000 acres. The great watersheds and the sources of all the important streams upon which the state is dependent for irrigation, are thus protected, making possible the general, even and steady flow of the numerous mountain streams. In the withdrawal of this land it was impossible to make the boundaries of the forests conform to the timber-covered lands and the watersheds only; as a consequence there is often found included lands which are suitable for agricultural purposes. But provision for this condition is provided in the act of June 11, 1906, making it possible for such land to be located and a patent obtained therefor under the homestead law. Upon application the forest service will survey such land free of charge and issue a special-use permit for the occupancy and cultivation of the land pending its listing by the secretary of the interior.

The forests of the state under the management of the national forestry service are sought to be made serviceable to man by the sale of their timber, the sale of grazing permits for cattle and sheep, and by allowing lands to be taken for special use. Settlers in and around the forests are allowed free use of timber for their own purposes, but where large amounts are desired, the timber is sold in the open market by competitive bidding. It is the object of the government to allow only the number of sheep on the range which it will support without injury to the forage. Last season approximately 3,000,000 sheep were grazed within the national forests of Idaho.

MINERAL LANDS.

The mineral lands of the state are not located in any one place, but are well distributed, though the northern portion of the state seems to have received the "lion's share." Shoshone county alone, productive of practically nothing except products of the mine, turned out last year precious metals to the amount of \$19,064,435.09. Out of the 23 counties of the state, 19 have a mineral pro-



TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE IRRIGATION STATISTICS OF IDAHO AND SISTER STATES

STATES.	Gov. Reclamation Projects			Carey Act Projects.			Irrigated Lands all Classes.	
	No.	Total Acreage	Av. Cost Water Per Acre	No.	Total Acreage	Av. Cost Water Per Acre	Total Acreage Open to Entry	Total Irrigated Area of State
IDAHO	2	480,000	\$23.50	35	2,272,246	\$39.00	442,444.72	2,000,000
UTAH	1	50,000		2	92,000	45.00	90,000	2,000,000
NEVADA	1	350,000	26.00	1	150,000	26.00	100,000	500,000
WYOMING	2	100,000	45.00	50	1,000,000	40.00	560,000	3,000,000
MONTANA	8	1,063,171	32.50	7	381,000	36.00	619,000	2,000,000
OREGON	2	90,000		19	338,565	30.00	250,000	1,500,000
COLORADO	2	200,000	60.00	3	420,000	40.00	400,000	3,000,000
WASHINGTON	3	144,000	55.00			55.00	4,000	450,000
NEW MEXICO	5	220,000		1	10,000	60.00		400,000
TOTALS	26	2,697,171		118	4,663,811		2,537,444.72	14,850,000

ducting record. The 1908 product of the state was as follows:

Lead, 234,404,920 pounds	\$12,470,340.74
Silver, 8,491,356 fine ounces	5,546,533.82
Copper, 10,947,965 pounds	2,241,177.17
Gold, 66,426 fine ounces	1,373,031.40
Zinc, 3,192,551 pounds	534,087.24
Total value	\$22,165,191.34

MANUFACTURE.

Idaho is not yet a state of factories. This condition is not the fault of her scanty resources, but comes rather from the abundance of things generally. Idaho offers some of the best opportunities to be found anywhere in the country, in the line of manufactures. To quote from the report of the state statistician:

"Idaho is importing most of the canned goods her people consume, part of the flour, part of the butter and eggs, part of the meat, part of the fowls, all of the crackers, all of the clothing, all of the coal, all of the paper, and all of the cement, and yet she has within her borders the resources, the raw material for the production of these commodities sufficient, not alone to supply the demand of her people, but in most of the cases named, a thousand fold more; and the potency of her rivers for the generation of power is unlimited." The same authority adds that there is yearly imported into the state 10,000 barrels of flour and 9,000,000 bushels of wheat. Says he: "We imported in round numbers 900,000 cases of canned goods, including tomatoes, corn, fruits, beans and peas. We have only one cannery in the state."

"We imported over 1,000,000 pounds of butter, 400,000 pounds of cheese, 750,000 dozen eggs, and nearly 1,000,000 pounds of beans. We need more creameries, more bean growers and more hens."

"Of packing-house products, we imported over 10,000,000 pounds, and sent from the southern part of the state to Kansas City and Chicago 1,886 carloads of cattle, 3,554 carloads of sheep and

133 carloads of hogs. At the same time we sent from the northern part of the state 311 carloads of cattle, 1,145 carloads of sheep and 1,023 carloads of hogs to the coast markets, as good a quality of beef, pork and mutton as could be found anywhere."

IMPORTATIONS.

"We consumed nearly 1,000,000 pounds of breakfast foods, chiefly oatmeal, and at the same time exported nearly 500,000 bushels of oats, some of which weighed 46½ pounds to the bushel, and there is not an oatmeal mill in the state. Our consumption of crackers is greater in proportion, and there is not a cracker factory in the state."

Notwithstanding the facts set forth in the foregoing statements, Idaho has 1,303 of what the government statisticians are pleased to class as manufacturing establishments, with invested capital amounting to \$21,433,794. These employ during the year 7,463 men and women, on an annual payroll of \$5,395,746, and turn out finished products to the amount of \$22,072,705. These figures are exclusive of the miners and trades-unions, which include a membership of 2,240. The manufacture of sugar alone in this state last year amounted to nearly \$2,500,000. The record for the four factories:

Total acres beets planted, 20,080; total tonnage of beets grown, 221,375; average yield per acre, in tons, 11½; total capital invested, \$4,850,000; total money paid farmers for beets, \$985,487; freight paid on beets, \$52,000; total paid employees, \$297,970; output of sugar in pounds, 52,423,500; value of refined sugar at 4½ cents per pound, \$2,359,107.50.

LIVE STOCK.

The live stock industry has played a great part in the history of this state. At one time it followed mining as the second industry; but it is fast receding and giving place to agriculture; in fact, it is now at least one step behind the last-named industry. Farms are spreading over the low lands—the once

fruitful ranges, and the forest reserves are encircling the hills and mountains, until "500,000 sheep have been banished from the state." There are yet, however, owned in the state nearly 2,000,000 sheep, about 250,000 head of cattle, 100,000 head of horses, 1,000 mules, 1,500 goats and 50,000 swine.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture taken in connection with irrigation, is attracting more attention to Idaho than any other one thing; and it, more than any other factor, is responsible for the phenomenal influx of "new blood" into the state during the last four years. In a notable address delivered by ex-Governor Frank R. Gooding before the conference of governors in the city of Washington in May of last year, this significant statement is to be noted:

"Within the last four years Idaho has turned water on more than 200,000 acres of what was then a barren waste

and transformed it into fields of beautiful waving grain. She made possible the building of homes for more than 60,000 people, and has created a new wealth for the state of more than \$50,000,000. Within the next five years Idaho will have completed all the irrigation works for the first million of acres of Carey act lands, thus giving an opportunity for homes for more than 250,000 people, and creating wealth in excess of \$50,000,000. When the story can be written of Idaho's development by irrigation it will tell of the reclamation of more than 5,000,000 acres of as rich land as can be found anywhere in the world. It will be land that will equal in productivity 20,000,000 acres in the eastern states."

EARLY HISTORY.

Idaho did not begin with a community of farmers; her first citizens were gold-diggers; the cattlemen followed and then came the farmer. The agricultural industry in this state, therefore, did not advance to a position worthy of particular notice until 1870, when the entire population of Idaho numbered 14,998. And even then the attempt was merely to produce bread sufficient to feed their own mouths. As conditions improved, the earth had responded bountifully with all that was entrusted to it, railroads were built and soon agriculture was advanced and it has been pushed steadily onward until it now ranks as the first industry of the state.

Idaho has about 12,000,000 acres of agricultural land, over half of which lies within the arid belt, where irrigation is required for the production of crops, except where scientific farming is employed and grain is grown by the "dry" method.

According to the report of the state statistician, Col. Allen Miller, Idaho's total products of farm, garden and orchard for last year amounted to over \$68,000,000, of which \$12,500,000 was

Era of Development And Opportunities

wheat, over \$13,500,000 oats, \$6,500,000 fruits, \$2,353,000 sugar beets, \$18,000,000 hay, \$1,239,000 garden products, butter and eggs amounting to \$1,500,000 each and fowls \$252,000. The same authority gives 16,000,000 as the total number of bushels of wheat raised, which figure is even exceeded in the production of oats, while barley, rye and corn come respectively, 10,000,000 and 137,000 and 155,000 bushels.

DRY FARMING.

The success attendant upon experiments in dry farming has opened another great possibility in this state; but this class of agriculture has really passed the experimental stage, it has become an established industry. In the southern portion of the state about 200,000 acres were this year farmed and good results obtained. Add to this amount a possible 1,500,000 acres cultivated in like manner in the northern part of the state, there is a total of 1,800,000 acres of land producing crops in this state without irrigation. An addition of 1,825,550, the acreage actually now being irrigated, we have a grand total of 3,625,550 acres, which represent approximately the total cultivated acreage of the state.

There are embraced in lakes and special reserves in the state 21,535,957 acres, which, deducted from the total area, leaves 31,726,598 acres for general agricultural, grazing and mining purposes, 12,000,000 acres of which is classified as agricultural land. The fact that only a fourth of this vast area has been patented and that only about one-tenth of it has been placed under cultivation, reveals the very pertinent agricultural possibilities and opportunities in this state.

HORTICULTURE.

Idaho has about 32,000 acres of orchards, over half of which could be classed as commercial. During the year over 2,000 carloads of fruit have been shipped from the state. The commercial orchards of the state, so far, are all clustered in the Weiser, the Payette and the Boise River valleys, reaching up the Snake river as far as Shoshone Falls, and in the region in and around Lewiston, and in the Palouse country, in Latah county, including Potlatch valley. All fruits, except the citrus family, are grown successfully in this state.

IRRIGATION.

By special acts of Congress there have been granted to Idaho 2,600,000 acres of government land for reclamation from its aridity under the provisions of the Carey act. Up to the present time applications have been filed with the state board of land commissioners for more than 2,300,000 acres, and from present indications it appears that the entire allotment will be consumed before the close of the coming year. One

this area will call for the expenditure of nearly \$25,000,000."

GREAT CANALS.

Following Mr. Buhl came the Kuhn brothers of Pittsburgh, who entered into their first contract with the state, under the Carey act, Aug. 21, 1907, and whose "operations in Idaho during the past two and a half years," quoting Major Fred R. Reed, "have no parallel in the west." In that brief time they have built and have under construction irrigation canals that aggregate the distance between San Francisco and Pittsburg, supplied water for 576,000 acres, and through the heart of them constructed and put in operation a broad-gauge railroad, magnificent hotels, built one great power plant and have another one well under way, and have established modern systems of waterworks, electric lights and power, and telephone systems in all the towns on the land they have been the means of reclaiming."

The government has also played an important part in the work of reclamation in this state. By its aid and under its supervision nearly 500,000 acres of desert land have been transformed into fruitful fields and happy homes. This work is represented in the Minidoka (132,025 acres) and the Boise-Payette (345,000 acres) projects. The former is located near and receives its water supply from the Snake river, adjacent to the great Twin Falls tract, on the east; the latter is situated in Ada and Canyon counties and receives its water supply from the Boise and Payette rivers, by means of great storage reservoirs on the headwaters of each stream.

In connection with the former project a gigantic pumping plant is to be installed to hoist water from the Snake river for the irrigation of 50,000 acres on the south side of the river. This is an adjunct to the Minidoka project proper, situated on the north side of the river, which is now receiving water by natural gravity, diverted from the river by means of a huge dam.

LAND TAKEN.

The land under both these great projects is practically all taken, except the school lands belonging to the state, which aggregate about 25,000 acres, one-fifth of which are under the Minidoka and the remainder under the Boise-Payette project.

With but two exceptions, every county in the state boasts of its irrigation record. The exceptions are Bonner and Shoshone. The latter is wholly a mining county; the former is, by virtue of its natural endowments, devoted to lumbering and mining. Both are within the rain belt.

According to the figures collected by the state statistician, Bingham county leads all others in irrigated acreage. It reports 755,940 acres in irrigated area, of which amount 412,230 acres are actually being irrigated. Fremont county follows with 552,864 acres under canal systems and 236,395 acres under actual cultivation. Then comes Lincoln, Twin Falls, Blaine, Canyon, Ada, Cassia, Oneida, Bannock, Washington, Owyhee, Boise, Elmore, Custer, Bear Lake, Lemhi, Latah, Kootenai, Idaho and Nez Perce counties, graduating from the figures above given down to 7,189 acres.

Those counties in which Carey act projects are located are as follows: Twin Falls, Lincoln, Blaine, Bingham, Owyhee, Canyon, Fremont, Bannock, Oneida, Cassia, Ada, Elmore, Custer and Lemhi. The six northern counties, Bonner, Kootenai, Latah, Shoshone, Idaho and Nez Perce, are situated within the rain belt and receive practically sufficient precipitation for the development of crops.

STATE LANDS.

Under the constitution the following elective officers are constituted a continuing board of land commissioners: the governor, secretary of state, attorney-general and superintendent of public instruction. The duty of this board is to select, sell and control all the lands donated to the state by the general government. The common school lands embrace sections 16 and 36 in each and every township in the state. Aside from these lands the government has made special grants for the benefit of the state university, school of science, agricultural college, penitentiary, insane asylum, public buildings and charitable institutions. Considering all these grants, excepting what has been sold, the state now holds a fee simple title to about 3,700,000 acres.

Sales are made during the year, in various localities of the state, of lands under these different grants. Under the law not an acre can be sold for less than \$10, or the appraised valuation, whatever may be in excess of this amount. Where lands are sold for \$25 per acre or less, 15 years are given in which to make payments, which are made in equal annual installments with 6 per cent interest on deferred payments; where the price per acre is over \$25, 16 years are given.

During the last fiscal year just closed, the state has received for the benefit of the institutions above enumerated from the sale of lands \$319,177.20; from interest on deferred payments \$121,477.92; and from rental \$52,333.55, total, \$493,988.67. The \$45,272.97 received from sale of Carey act lands and the interest on loans, etc., make a grand total of \$539,261.59, which represents the land receipts of the state land department for the last fiscal year.

SOIL OF THE STATE.

The nature and composition of the soil of this inland basin is essentially different from that found elsewhere in the world. "It is manifestly nature's



Heber Q. Hale