NAMPA, *The* JUNCTION CITY *of* IDAHO.

Photo by C. E. Harvey, Boise.

BUSINESS SECTION OF PROGRESSIVE AND RAPIDLY GROWING NAMPA.

NAMPA is located on a plateau about 25 miles wide, lying between the great Snake and the Boise rivers, at an elevation of about 2,500 feet, and is one of the most important cities on the main line of the Oregon Short Line railroad in that part of Idaho. It is sometimes called the "Junction City" on account of its being a railroad center, as will be noted from the following railroads: Oregon Short Line (Union Pacific main line), Boise, Nampa & Owyhee railroad, Idaho Central railroad and the Idaho Northern, and also its electric roads, now under construction, that will centre here. This situation clearly reveals to the thinking man how completely this territory can be dominated by the business energy of the people of our city and make here the commercial center of southwestern Idaho. Nampa has been handicapped by the fact that it is the youngest city in this part of the state, and must overcome the trade relations and rates that have heretofore existed, but which are gradually being changed by her railroad situation, and she will be further assisted by the operation of the Interstate Commerce law, as recently defined in the Spokane case, which will permit of Nampa's obtaining proper freight rates and doing away with the discriminations that have been made against her.

HISTORICAL DATA.

Nampa sprang into existence at the beginning of the hard times of 1890, and the early settlers rallied around a water tank of the Oregon Short Line railroad. The struggle was a hard one for the next decade, as in 1900 the population numbered only 500. For the next three years railroad agitation kept the town from making much progress, but from that time to the present it has blossomed into a city, and a census taken in March, 1907, gave a population of 4,426, which growth has been the marvel of sister cities, yet it can truthfully be said that Nampa is like a seed that has just burst, pushing its young sprout into the sunlight, attracting the attention of its neighbors, and soon to become a vigorous tree and spread its limb branches not over southwestern Idaho, but the entire intermountain section. Nampa's fame will not be based only upon the fact of its being the commercial metropolis, but upon the further fact that it is the center of a great area of magnificent fruit, vegetable, grain, hay and grazing territory, with countless herds of sheep, cattle and horses feeding during the summer months upon the natural grasses covering the foothills and mountains on either side and coming down to this valley for food and protection during the winter months.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

It is a fact cities grow, to a certain extent, regardless of the kind of climate, but how much more satisfactory it is to locate in a place where you can not complain of the climate. While no particular climate will satisfy all natures, there are places where the vast majority can be contented. That place where nature can have a rest for a few months in the year and thus be invigorated for the efforts of the coming season will produce the most abundant crops and the finest flavors, and so where the human system can have variety is the most beneficial for it and the most satisfactory. It is claimed that the place where life is the most agreeable and health is the best is southwestern Idaho.

The climate of this section of the state which may be called the "Nampa Region" is designated as "mild," for there are no extremes in winter or summer. Owing, probably, to the high altitude, the heat of summer is not oppressive. That there is no heat of a nature to make human life uncomfortable is shown by the fact that there are no cases of sunstroke. The long, warm summers are necessary for the best maturing of the crops. The spring and fall are very pleasant seasons. There is no rain from about June 1 to September or October. Occasional rains occur during the late fall, winter and early spring, but there is no "rainy spell." Snow falls from time to time, but it does not gather enough for sleighing, and if five inches of ice can be obtained the inhabitants deem themselves lucky. The ground freezes from six to eight inches only.

Statistics compiled by the United States government show that this part of Idaho has the lowest death rate of any section of the United States. The climate is especially good for pulmonary and asthmatic troubles.

FARMING LANDS.

A glance at the map would show Nampa the center of thousands of acres of farm lands. It would also show which is true, that these lands are among the richest in the world. In the area covered by the map there are probably 75,000 acres of land under cultivation and 300,000 yet to be turned into orchard, alfalfa field and garden. It is to water this land that the government is installing this great system. Every acre of this land is claimed by someone, either under homestead or desert entry, or by those who have held it long enough to obtain patents. That which is for sale ranges in price from $30 to $60 for raw land and $75 to $125 for improved. The prices asked depend largely upon the state of cultivation and the improvements. Occasionally a relinquishment of a homestead or the assignment of a desert entry can be obtained at from $500 to $1,000 for 80 acres.

All this land will have sufficient water for cultivation when the government project is completed. Crops may be grown on some of it next year. The soil is worked without difficulty, being light and easily plowed. It is of a mineral nature and lacks humus, so the more it is cropped and cultivated the better it becomes. To show its fertility, attention may be called to the stand of sagebrush with which it is covered. These shrubs grow so large that the farmers use them for fuel and actually sell wood from them in town. It costs only $2.50 an acre, as a rule, to clear land of this brush. Eighty acres can be put in condition for farming in a very reasonable time. This is a large tract for general farming where the soil is so productive.

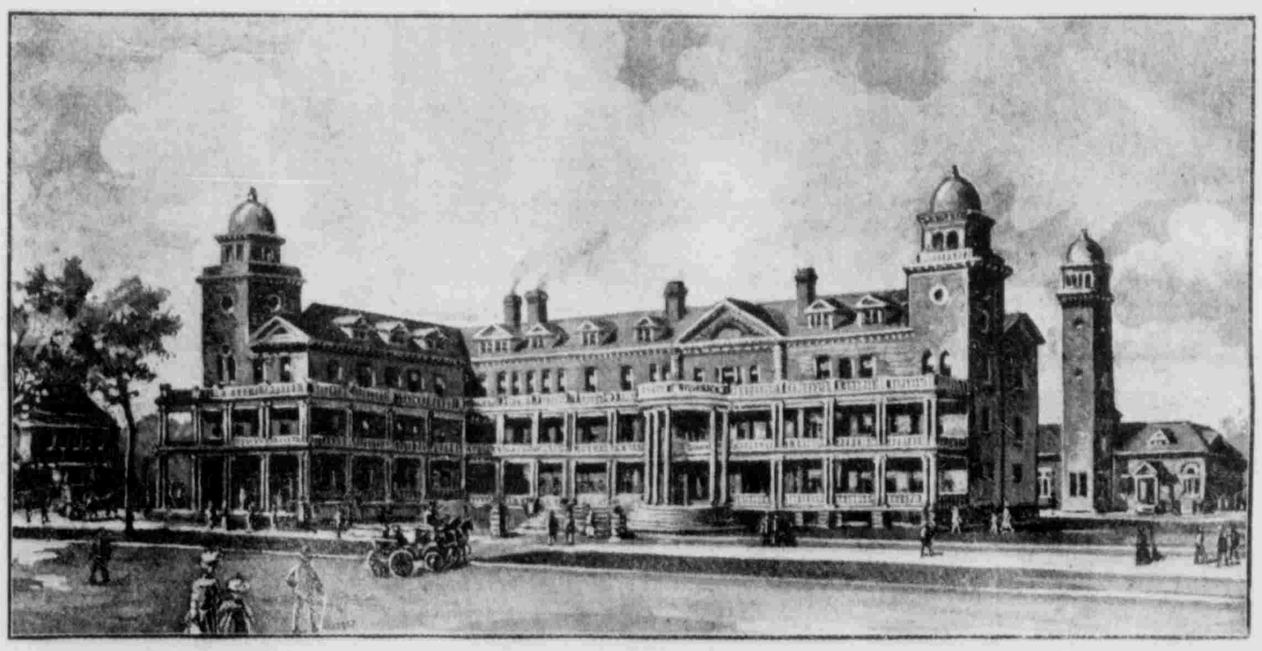
IRRIGATION PROPOSITION.

Do you know what irrigation means? It is practically an insurance certificate, for the seed that you plant is going to come to maturity and the crops be harvested if you do your part; that is, you see that the land is properly prepared, good seed put in, the crop cared for and irrigated when it needs water and harvested when mature. As Nampa has no rainfall during the growing season, it can readily be seen better results can be obtained by supplying moisture at the proper time than by depending upon a rainfall that may be too little or too much. The crop yield in an irrigated country is from two to four times as much as that obtained under other conditions. The method of irrigation depends upon the kind of crop. Grains and grasses are flooded; trees, corn, potatoes, sugar beets and other vegetables are wet by a stream of water running between the rows. By putting the water just at the time the crop needs it there is a continuous growth, no retardation by too much rain or a drouth, consequently the best results are obtained. Nampa and vicinity has no crop failures.

DIVERSIFIED CROPS.

The soil and climate of Nampa and vicinity being adapted for diversified farming, a man can raise the crop that there seems to be the most money in. This country will produce any crop that can be raised in the middle west. As high as eight tons of alfalfa per acre, or five tons of timothy and clover; from 45 to 55 bushels of wheat, from 80 to 100 bushels of oats, 400 bushels of potatoes, and 500 to 600 bushels of onions. Yields of other products are in proportion. There is a ready market for all products. Fruits are also grown. Idaho is noted for and has won many first prizes at the big fairs for its fruits. Apples, pears, prunes, plums, quinces and practically all small fruits and melons are grown successfully in the Nampa region. Occasional crops of apricots, peaches, nectarines and cherries can be raised.

Farmers and fruit growers are perfecting associations for their protection and will establish canneries and a manufacturing plant to make cider, vinegar, wines and marmalades from the products that are defective and not suitable to ship, thus enabling them to sell only first quality products and obtain the best prices for them, while also making money out of inferior qualities that usually go to waste. The farmer can readily appreciate the value of these associations and conditions.



DEWEY PALACE HOTEL, IDAHO'S BEST KNOWN HOSTELRY.

DAIRYING AND POULTRY.

Nampa and vicinity is an ideal spot for the dairy industry, for the reason that it is a natural grass country and all food required by the cows can be produced very cheaply. There is one of the best home markets for creamery butter and cheese that can be found. The demand is greater than the supply, and the products are actually shipped into Nampa now. There are within a radius of 10 miles of Nampa four cooperative creameries in successful operation that each year pay out to the farmers $200,000.

It would be hard to find a country better adapted to the raising of turkeys and chickens. Turkeys especially need a dry climate, and they thrive wonderfully. Nampa poultry is comparatively free from diseases and insects, and the demand for these fowls is far greater than the supply. Anyone making a specialty of either of these can make a great deal of money.

TIMBER ABOUT NAMPA.

It hardly seems as if the people realized the far-reaching effect of President Roosevelt's action in creating forest reserves in this western country where large tracts of land, such as surround Nampa must be irrigated to be made habitable. It is a well known fact that the removing of the timber from large areas has caused a change in general conditions. Without the timber the winter snows and spring rains cause freshets and floods that do immense damage to property in their paths and rob the surrounding country of moisture that should be given to it gradually during the summer. Such reserves have been made in the country which supplies southwestern Idaho with water, and, while the timber in them is of immense value from an agricultural standpoint, the reserve rules permit of its use in such a way that Nampa will receive direct benefit from its manufacture into lumber for many years to come. Being milled conservatively, this product will be used locally and not be saved on a large scale in a few years and shipped out, as has been the case in other states. There is a very fine body of pine, tamarac and red fir timber tributary to Nampa that is accessible to the farmer and small manufacturer, and it is these people that the government is endeavoring to benefit.

MINING GOES ON.

In the early sixties miners came from California to this territory looking for placer gold, and in one place, known as the Boise Basin, according to Wells-Fargo Express reports, over $200,000,000 in gold has been taken out. The territory is still being mined with dredge and hydraulic systems. Surrounding this valley are mountains containing many mines producing much gold and silver and some lead and copper. Millions of dollars in gold and silver have been taken from the mines in the vicinity of Silver City, Dewey and DeLamar, about 50 miles to the south, and it is to these mining camps and those of central Idaho, eastern Oregon, western Wyoming and Montana that the products of Nampa are distributed by means of the railroads and stage lines.

The mining possibilities of this portion of Idaho are just being ascertained, and in the near future these hills will be swarming with busy miners taking out the now hidden wealth, creating a greater demand for the products of this valley.

STOCK RAISING.

Nampa, situated as it is in a valley surrounded by hills and mountains, is the winter home of sheep and cattle. In the summer, as already stated, thousands of sheep, cattle and horses graze in the highlands on the natural grass, and as fall approaches they are gradually worked down to the valley, where they are fed for a few weeks in the winter around a home ranch.

SUGAR BEET CULTURE.

In 1906 the Western Idaho Sugar company erected a sugar factory at Nampa at a cost of $1,250,000. It has a capacity of 750 tons a day. The season of 1906 being the first, only about 40,000 tons were handled, but the farmer was so much pleased with the result that this year the acreage was very largely increased, and the yield was 75,000 tons. The farmer received $4.50 per ton, delivered at the factory or at any loading station on any of the numerous railroads running to Nampa. This crop has been exceedingly profitable, and in the near future another factory will have to be constructed. It is reported on good authority that the percentage of saccharine matter obtained from the beets at the Nampa factory is higher than any other factory in the state. It is also anticipated that the tonnage per acre will equal, if not exceed, that of any other point in the West. The hard labor in connection with the crop is contracted. Any farmer who has lived in the vicinity of one of these factories knows that land values increase soon after the location of a factory, and as the Nampa lands are still obtainable at from $15 to $100 per acre, now is the time for any one wanting to make a change of location to go there and get the benefit of the rise in values that are sure to come.

In connection with the factory, feeding yards are always established, as the beet pulp, when fed to stock is very fattening. Thousands of sheep and cattle were fed in the vicinity of the factory all last winter. It can truthfully be said that there is hardly another industry adaptable to a small community that brings a benefit to the farmers and to the city near which it may be located as great as that resulting from a beet sugar plant. It not only employs a large number of operatives, who, with their families, add the city population in potential way, but its greatest work is in putting money into the hands of the producers. It opens to them a market for a staple product for which it will always pay good prices. It gives a certainty to the growers and the hundreds of thousands of dollars that it pays them goes to increase their bank accounts and enliven the business of the merchants with whom they must trade.

Neither must a sugar factory located in a country where irrigation insures a regular production of beets be compared to one in the rain belt, where it is possible not only for the farmers' crops to fail but for the factory itself to become unprofitable.

INDUSTRIES OF NAMPA.

During the year 1906 the Crescent Brewing company established a brewery plant at a cost of $150,000, which is now supplying western Idaho with beer that is preferred to all others. It is of a very superior quality, owing largely to the very pure water from which it is made.

Nampa has a factory for the manufacture of soft drinks, called the Crystal Bottling Works. It manufacturers various kinds of ciders and sodas, ginger ale and mineral waters. This is an old institution and its goods are well known throughout this part of Idaho.

Nampa has a saw mill of which it is justly proud. The buildings are exceptionally well constructed and the machinery is of the latest pattern. In addition to its sawing capacity, which is 75,000 feet per day, it has lathe and moulding equipments and a box factory. It will employ from 50 to 75 hands. The lumber is obtained from the timber forests of southern Idaho and is sent down the river to Emmett, where it is transferred to cars and taken to the mill. A large force of men was employed all last winter getting a supply of timber for the season's run.

Nampa also has two up-to-date planing mills that are kept busy with the contract work far ahead of their capacity, and it is only a matter of a few years when this city will be considered a lumber manufacturing center.

Also along the line of building material Nampa boasts of two artificial stone works, turning out concrete blocks of every kind and description, as well as cement bricks, of which many of the buildings have been constructed. These, in connection with the brick yards, saw mill and planing mills, amply supply the city with its building material.

As Nampa is located in a warm country ice is a necessity and there are two good artificial ice plants that supply an excellent product and make the city independent of winter freezes, which are very uncertain.

Among the industries that will have a large payroll and distribute considerable money in that vicinity is the Nampa-Payette Tie and Lumber company, which is furnishing hundreds of thousands of ties to the Oregon Short Line railroad and other roads, as well as timber for nearby mines.

Nampa is furnished with an unlimited supply of electric power that is obtained from the power plant at Swan Falls on the Snake river, 31 miles away. The local power plant that supplies the city with light boasts of having the finest sub-station of any place west of Chicago.

Nampa has a steam laundry. This is modern in every respect, having a large and expensive mangle and a dryroom, the equipment costing $70,000. It employs 15 people and does work for the surrounding towns within a radius of one hundred miles.

NAMPA'S HOTELS.

It is hardly probable that there exists an agricultural city of the size of Nampa that can boast of such good hotel and rooming house facilities. This condition has probably been brought about by the fact that the city is unable to build houses fast enough to take care of the people who come to make their homes there, and are of necessity compelled to occupy temporary quarters. Nampa is supplied with three hotels and some eight or 10 good apartment and roominghouses. One of the former is practically known from coast to coast as being the finest, best equipped and best managed hostelry in the northwest, the Dewey Palace hotel. This property occupies a block of ground in the business center of the city. It is surrounded by ample lawns, shade trees and shrubbery; its magnificent and spacious porches on three stories, with an area of 25,000 square feet, are the rendezvous for the socially inclined during the summer months. The building itself is of four stories, containing 92 rooms, of which 81 are sleeping rooms. It also has 17 bathrooms.

The hotel has its own water supply, the purity and softness of which is unsurpassed. This building, with its accesories, cost $250,000. From its tall towers a magnificent view of the surrounding country can be obtained.

SPLENDID SCHOOLS.

The matter of education is a very important one in the development and growth of a city, and Nampa has endeavored to keep up educationally with its phenomenal growth. It has three large and commodious school buildings, one having been constructed this summer. The value of these properties, including equipments, exceeds $100,000. There are complete high school facilities, 22 teachers and 1,252 pupils.

Along the educational line there is a city library which is a credit to the city. It will soon blossom into a Carnegie library, as the millionaire steel king has given $10,000 for a building, which is now under construction and which will not only be an ornament but very complete in its appointments.

PLENTY OF CHURCHES.

Nampa is well supplied with houses of worship and is justly proud of them. It boasts of eight congregations having church buildings and two that are contemplating the erection of suitable quarters with the year. Those having buildings at this time are the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, German Baptist (Dunkard), Menites, Catholic and Christian. It would seem that this array would be sufficient to permit any man to worship God if so disposed.

RECAPITULATION.

There is no questioning the fact that Nampa is surrounded by a large body of magnificent agricultural, fruit and grazing land. These thousands of acres will support a city of ten times its present population, to say nothing of the various manufacturing enterprises and jobbing houses that help to make a city. So the chamber of commerce says it is very modest in making the claim that in the not far distant future there will be located at this point a population of 100,000.

There is no doubt of the business enterprise and push of people that has done what the ambitious and ever striving people of this Idaho city have done; that have cleared the sagebrush from around a water tank and in a few years established a city with numerous churches and elegant schools, a water system belonging to the municipality and furnishing a supply of the purest water and at the same time a good net revenue to the city; adequate sewers, a capable volunteer fire department with its own gymnasium and clubrooms that reduces the risk of loss by fire to a minimum, and consequently the rate of insurance; two telephone systems with lines extending all through the country, giving the farmer city privileges, and of which one, the Bell, has recently spent $100,000 in improvements and the other, the Independent, is placing all its cables in underground conduits; a street car line that will connect the important sections of the city; three banks, a theater, numerous lumber yards, artificial stone works, many retail stores of all kinds, large wholesale houses, among which rises the large and commodious building of the Tuttle Mercantile company; sugar factory, brewery, sawmill, box factory, planing mills, creameries, dyeing and cleaning houses, wide streets, miles of sidewalks, beautiful homes, public parks and two lakes. All of this forms a nucleus for a large city soon to be built—one in which people can live in health and happiness with all the comforts of life while laying up bank accounts.

One of the lakes refered to in the foregoing paragraph is the government reservoir with 28 miles of shore line and submerging 11,000 acres of land. This will always be a beautiful sight for Nampa.

The Nampa chamber of commerce has this to say of the spirit of the people and the press that did so much to work the magic that has created this city of the Mesa:

PEOPLE HAD FAITH.

When you consider that practically all of these institutions and conditions have been brought about in the past five or six years, you will realize that the people who have done this have had faith in their city and country, and among the valuable aids to this class of work is the newspaper, of which Nampa can boast of having two, one of whose heading bears the inscription, "Always Boosting, Never Knocking." It has been a power in the up-building of the city, for there are few cities of the population of Nampa that can boast of having real live newspapers.

GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION.

The United States government is assisting in the reclamation of over 300,000 acres of magnificent fruit and farming lands in an undertaking known as the Boise-Payette project and the first section of this great work will be completed next year.

The acreage to be so reclaimed is part of a magnificent tract of more than 370,000 acres lying along the Payette, Boise and Snake rivers in the immediate vicinity to Nampa, Caldwell, Emmett and Boise. As a matter of record, Nampa is the geological center of the entire acreage. Already in the vast tract some 70,000 acres is under cultivation, leaving the balance or about 300,000 acres to be reclaimed.

In order to obtain water for this fertile land a large dam is to be constructed on the Payette river together with another of similar size on the Boise river. The latter dam will be completed next month sometime. This particular dam is for the purpose of delivering the water of that river through a large canal to the big reservoir which is located just four miles south of Nampa. This mammoth reservoir will also be completed next year, it alone covers some 10,000 acres of territory.

PAVED STREETS.

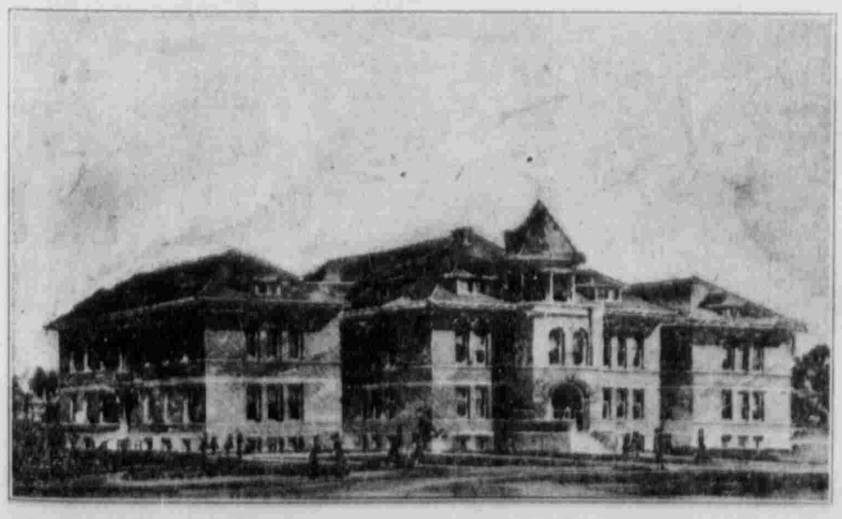
Determined not to be outdone by any other Idaho city, Nampa issued bonds for street paving on a large scale this year. The result is that during October last contracts were awarded for the paving of 24 blocks with bitulithic pavement. In this same connection the city fathers made it obligatory on the part of the telegraph company to place its overhead wires in conduits underground.

Still some better idea can be had of the wonderful growth of Nampa when the statement is made that the increase on taxable property in the city proper and surrounding country was $500,000 during the past 12 months. This is a general increase of 66 per cent in a given space of time and an actual increase of 50 per cent since the year 1905.

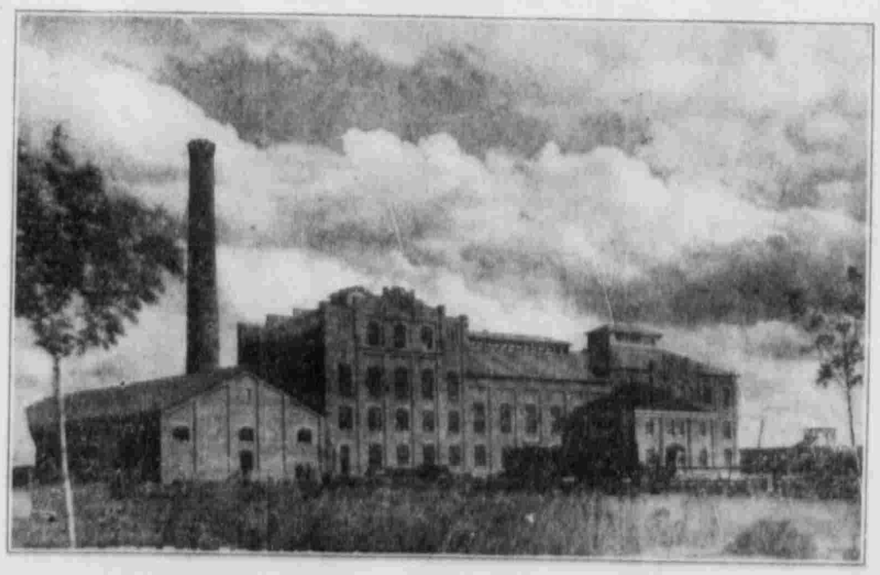
WILL RUSH THINGS.

The Boise Valley railroad broke ground in Nampa last month, teams being put to work north of the Oregon Short Line tracks. It is the intention to construct a new 50-foot bridge across Indian creek. Nampa and the railroad company divide the expense of this project.

Work of construction on the other end of this important project has been accomplished to a point about six miles from Nampa. It is the intention to work from Nampa and meet workmen on the other end.



ONE OF NAMPA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



NAMPA'S MAMMOTH SUGAR FACTORY.