

# Boise, The City of Enterprise and Beautiful Homes.



ONE OF THE BUSINESS CENTERS OF BOISE, IDAHO.

Boise is the county seat of Ada County and the Capital of Idaho, population 22,000, electric lighted, has asphalt pavement, cement sidewalks, telephone and telegraph wires all under ground, adequate fire protection, altitude 2,900 feet, lowest temperature this year 13 degrees above zero, has the largest natatorium operating the year round in the world. It is a city of beautiful homes and hospitable people.

IN 1803 was established the territory of Idaho, comprising that vast stretch of the inland empire now included within the states of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. When President Jefferson shortly after the Louisiana purchase requested Congress to appropriate \$2,500 for the exploration of the country west of the Mississippi river the appropriation was refused on the ground that the value of the territory in question did not warrant such an expenditure. The sagebrush then grew as thick and as tall as it does now and to the early fathers gave the same monotonous dreary feeling which it imparts to the tourist who enters the Gem state one morning and without getting off the train passes Idaho's borders the next morning.

The sagebrush is there, large and strong, proclaiming to the world that land which would produce such a crop will, with the guiding, aiding hand of man, produce crops whose market values run into millions and make rich men of those who have the courage and the hardihood to break the ground and cultivate it.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES.

Is it requiring much of a man that he shall settle down on 160 acres of rich tillable soil in such a locality? The land and water are cheap too, cheaper by far than they should be, not half what they will cost in a few years. Fifty cents per acre pays for the land and the water costs from \$20 per acre up. The payments are on easy terms and in many cases extend over a period of 10 years. Are you a busy toiler in the grasp of a great city? If so, why not come out here, out into God's country, to a country where every one is glad to see you and every man is his neighbor's friend. Here is the great glorious atmosphere of the west, a hospitable people, a country which is but yet in its infancy, where wealth abounds and opportunity cries out for a helping hand. Have you the average human intelligence? Are you willing to work? If you can answer yes to these questions then there is a chance for you in Idaho, not a chance to grub along on a few dollars, not a chance to make a living but a chance to do something, to be somebody—you can get there in this state. And the spirit is different here, each is not fighting for what the other has, on the contrary, there is more than enough for all. Idahoans are boosters, each for himself, each for the other man. They have helped one another. They will help you if so be that you are fortunate enough to pack your trunk and come to Idaho.

## HORTICULTURE

Owing to its splendid davor and the perfect coloring given to it by cloudless skies, the Idaho apple is a prime favorite in all the eastern markets. A carload of pears grown within three miles of the Boise postoffice brought the highest price ever known on the New York market.

The Idaho prune is establishing an enviable reputation in the great markets of the world. The soil seems to possess some quality that gives to the flesh of the prune a firmness not possessed by those of California, Oregon or Washington, and makes it much the best shipper on the market. Four hundred and fifty cars of the luscious purple fruit were shipped from the Boise valley this year in addition state, 50 cars going to Liverpool and London. Strawberries return a net profit to the grower of from \$200 to \$300 per acre, and the other fruits, both small and large, bear lavishly and find a ready market. There are two crops of strawberries a year.

## LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY.

Idaho contains thousands of cattle and sheep. If the season's wool output were shipped at one time, it would require a train 15 miles long to carry it. Ten carloads of fine imported French and Belgian draft stallions have been sold in the Boise market in the past three years, and the Idaho draft horse will be much sought after in the near future. With mild winters and the splendid quality of hay, this is an ideal country for raising fine stock of all kinds. Many prominent citizens began their career on a stock ranch in a very humble way, and have amassed fortunes in the business.

## POULTRY.

The Idaho climate is ideal for raising poultry of all kinds and the product

of the poultry yard always finds ready sale at extremely remunerative prices. Fresh eggs in the winter season usually go as high as fifty cents a dozen.

## DAIRYING.

The Boise valley, and in fact, all of southern Idaho, abounds in potential wealth for the dairyman. This section consumes annually about 7,000,000 pounds of butter, and manufactures only about 2,000,000, or not quite 31 per cent of the home demand. There is money to be made in the dairy business in Idaho. The total output of dairy and creamery products this year will be worth about \$1,400,000.

## CEREALS.

In the cereals as in everything else Idaho is rapidly advancing and is today famous for its cereal crop. This state raised for the market, this year, about 18,000,000 bushels of barley. Forty bushels of wheat to the acre is not uncommon and usually 100 bushels of oats go to the acre. Bear in mind that land which produces such crops may be had now for \$25.50 per acre, \$35 for a perpetual water right and 50 cents for the land. Idaho's surplus yield of wheat last year was 6,000,000 bushels, and for the state of Idaho this year 15,000,000 bushels.

## SCHOOLS.

The Boise public school system will compare favorably with that of any city in the land, large or small. To accommodate the growth of the city, two handsome 14-room buildings, modern and convenient in every particular were erected in 1906. The Episcopalians and the Catholics both have splendid institutions for the education of girls. Three business colleges equip the business men of the future and are well patronized.

## CHURCHES.

The religious denominations are well presented and well supported in Boise. The Catholics are erecting a \$100,000 cathedral, the Methodists and the Episcopalians already have handsome edifices, and the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Mormons, Baptists, Hebrews, Christian Science and the Salvation Army all worship in their own churches.

## THEATERS.

A regular theater and three vaudeville theaters entertain the people of Boise with the best talent to be had in their respective lines. Boise's summer theater at Riverside Park has a seating capacity of 2,500 people.

## HOME.

All the advantages, educational, religious and theatrical coupled with the high class of its citizens, its perfect climate and the beauty of its streets and lawns, make Boise an ideal home city in which to rear a family or pass one's declining years. And in this, Boise takes special pride. One can ride by black after black of comfortable and attractive homes, each with well kept lawns, roses blooming from June to November, other flowers in season, and all the little conveniences that indicate a prosperous, intelligent and contented community.

## FARM PRODUCTS.

The principal crops of the Snake river valley are timothy, clover and alfalfa. The average annual yield per acre of timothy and clover is four tons, of alfalfa, six tons. Clover is cut twice, alfalfa three times, and in addition both yield rich pasture during the fall and winter. The quality of the hay is probably better than that of almost any other in the country for the reason that there are no showers to cause damage while it is being put up, and it comes out of the stack as fresh and sweet as the day it was cut. Oats are also popular, yielding from 40 to 100 bushels per acre, and bringing the farmers an average price of about \$1.25 per hundred.

## NATURAL HOT WATER.

Boise enjoys the unique distinction of having some of its business blocks and many of its residences heated by natural hot water. Artesian wells drill-

ed to a depth of something less than 500 feet furnish a supply of a million and a quarter gallons a day at a temperature of 170 degrees. This is used in the Natatorium in heating buildings in winter and sprinkling the streets in summer. Five miles above Boise, situated in a picturesque canyon, are the Kelly Hot Springs, which give a strong flow of hot water containing many medicinal virtues which will be used in a Natatorium in the near future.

## THE NATATORIUM.

One of the institutions of which Boise is especially proud is her splendid Natatorium, one of the finest in the world. Strangers are long in its palaces and many people stop off in their trip across the continent for the purpose of enjoying a bath in its limpid waters. The great pool is kept pure by a stream from the hot wells already mentioned. Beautiful grounds surround the Natatorium, and the swimming pool is a favorite resort of the city. The building is a masterpiece of architecture and is a credit to the city.

## WHOLESALE CENTER.

Boise is the wholesale center of southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. There are 14 exclusively wholesale houses in the city representing almost every line. Groceries, hardware, implements, shoes, laundry, lumber, building materials, seeds, flour and grain, crockery and glassware; all the usual lines are represented.

Boise's wholesale business has a diameter of about 200 miles and the distributing freight rates are the very best. From Huntington to Vancouver, from Shoshone and St. Michaels the territory belongs to Boise. So universally successful have business been in this city that there is yet to be recorded the failure of a wholesale house.

There are opportunities here for new lines and those interested are invited to correspond with Boise Commercial Club. A wholesale paper house in Boise could do an ab-

nant business of \$100,000 very easily and would find the business an unusually profitable one, the field for such a house is exceptionally good and the opportunity is the very best. A wholesale drug house would also find an excellent location, there being no jobbers of either article closer than Ogden, Utah.

The total capital invested in the jobbing business in the capital city is \$2,339,000, the annual business done \$4,766,000, and the payroll \$262,450.

## BUILDING.

There are more new buildings planned for Boise and to be constructed next year than at any other time in its history. A company composed of local capitalists has purchased the entire block on a portion of which now stands the Columbia theater and will erect thereon several store buildings in addition to a magnificent new hotel which will cost \$300,000. The purchase price of the property was \$100,000. The Park estate plans to build store buildings to cover an entire half block on north Main street. F. R. Coffin will build an automobile garage for a local dealer which will be one of the finest and best equipped in the northwest. Joseph Parrish has the plans and specifications for a four-story apartment house to cover one quarter of a block, this will be equipped with two elevators, a dumb waiter will be found in each apartment and the entire building will be erected according to the most up-to-date ideas. The Natatorium company has arranged for the construction of several buildings, including the enlargement of its dance hall. Early in the season the Boise and Interurban will commence operations at

Pierce Park. This will be located about four miles from the city on the line of the Interurban. It will be built on lines similar to those of Coney Island, New York's famous resort, and will cost, in general improvements, in the neighborhood of \$50,000. This company's depot and carhouse will cost to exceed \$25,000. W. E. Pierce & Co. will build an office building easting in the neighborhood of \$75,000, and to be situated across the street from the postoffice. The Bank of Commerce will also add two stories to its present building on the corner of Tenth and Main. The number of residences planned is one might almost say, infinite, especially of the middle class house. These spring up almost in a day and there are numbers of them in construction at all times. Boise's total building will exceed \$1,000,000 for 1907, and the figures for 1908 bid fair at this time to exceed \$2,000,000.

## MANUFACTURES.

At present lumber and sugar are the principal articles of manufacture in Idaho, in Boise the factories are somewhat more varied. Its payroll in the manufacture of cigars alone will exceed \$25,000 annually and the city has become a home for the candy manufacturer. They have three flourishing candy factories. The lumber business is also carried to a greater extent in the city, the manufacturers there turning out sashes and doors which find a ready sale throughout the country. There is a prosperous glue factory, a type foundry and many other such, most of them small but in the aggregate producing a payroll which exceeds \$1,200 per day, for every day in the year. There are opportunities in Boise in a manufacturing way for some of which local capital can be interested. It is believed that a cereal factory can go well and the Commercial club would be in a position to help the proper party in its establishment. Many train loads of ore are shipped out of Boise and Idaho each year, ore which could well be smelted in this state and on which a greater profit could well be realized if it were smelted here. The conditions in the Boise valley are ideal for such a plant, there is plenty of water, good shipping facilities, an excellent tonnage of smelting ore and a steady production. Perhaps the most lamentable situation is found in the woolen industry. In 1905 Idaho shipped east 25,000,000 pounds of raw wool, about the same in 1906 and a trifle less in 1907. The percentage of dirt runs very high in raw wool and the freight required to ship this dirt to Boston is enormous. There is an opening here for a wool scouring plant, a wool spinning plant and a knitting works, such an opening as is rarely found in this staid old world and one which will pour wealth into the lap of him who shall develop it.

There is an excellent opportunity for a foundry at Boise, as there are mines on two sides of the city, a steam road and three electric roads which will send enough business out of town each year to support a first class foundry.

## THE WEATHER.

The mean summer temperature at Boise is 70 degrees and the average minimum temperature in the summer 54 degrees, being seven degrees lower than the temperature of the corresponding latitudes in the east. There are

few clouds to shut in the heat during the day, the result being that after sundown the temperature falls rapidly and the nights are always cool. The average minimum temperature in winter is 23 degrees below zero, and the average maximum temperature in winter is 40 degrees below zero. The average temperature in the spring is 45 degrees, in the summer 70 degrees, in the fall 55 degrees, and in the winter 23 degrees. The average rainfall is 13.3 inches; spring, 2.7 inches; summer, 1.3 inches; fall, 2.7 inches.

## RAILROAD OUTLOOK IN SOUTHERN IDAHO.

Idaho's transportation facilities are increasing every day, and it is rapidly becoming a railroad center. The Oregon Short Line, for many years the only road, has been practically superseded on local business by the electric lines, and is building its main line into Boise. Such is the volume of traffic that it has been found necessary to put on through Pullman cars every day between Boise and Salt Lake City. It is the best that there are more miles of electric lines radiating from Boise as headquarters than from any other city of the same size in the country. The Boise valley road is at present just getting into Nampa, and its cars will probably not be in operation to that city until some time after Christmas. Every country, a country where a rich farming alone is rich but where the population is wealthy, prosperous and happy. Along this line will be found orchards of Idaho's famous apples and pears, and many acres of sugar beets, and the proud boast of Boise is that it is not only the result of the place but is being built almost entirely by Boise money. The Boise Valley road crosses the river at this point and its entire line is thereafter on the right side of the Boise. On the other hand the Boise & Interurban does not cross the river until it reaches its present terminus, Caldwell. Both have established depots along their routes throughout their territory. They have brought the farmer just one step nearer the city and tended in various other ways to increase the business of Boise.

Boat sugar dumps have been established at regular intervals and the cars of the steam road are being sent right into the farmer's front yard. He makes his fruit himself and ships it to New York or Chicago. These roads, however, are still young and it is hard to predict the volume of business which they will ultimately bring. Caldwell and Nampa will soon be connected, a line will be run to Emmet from Middleton and from Caldwell to Weiler, where it will make direct connection with the P. & L. N., opening through the rich valley country. The investment at present represented by these two roads is about \$1,500,000, and both are building every day.

## CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN.

Several months ago the Chicago & Northwestern railroad purchased property in Boise adjoining the Short Line right of way to be used for terminal facilities. This company has already built its line west of Lander, Wyoming, and its next move will be to build through Boise. Considerable of the right of way has been purchased; surveys have been made, and property suitable for depots and warehouses bought in some of the cities along Boise and Lander.

## SHORT LINE TO FRISCO.

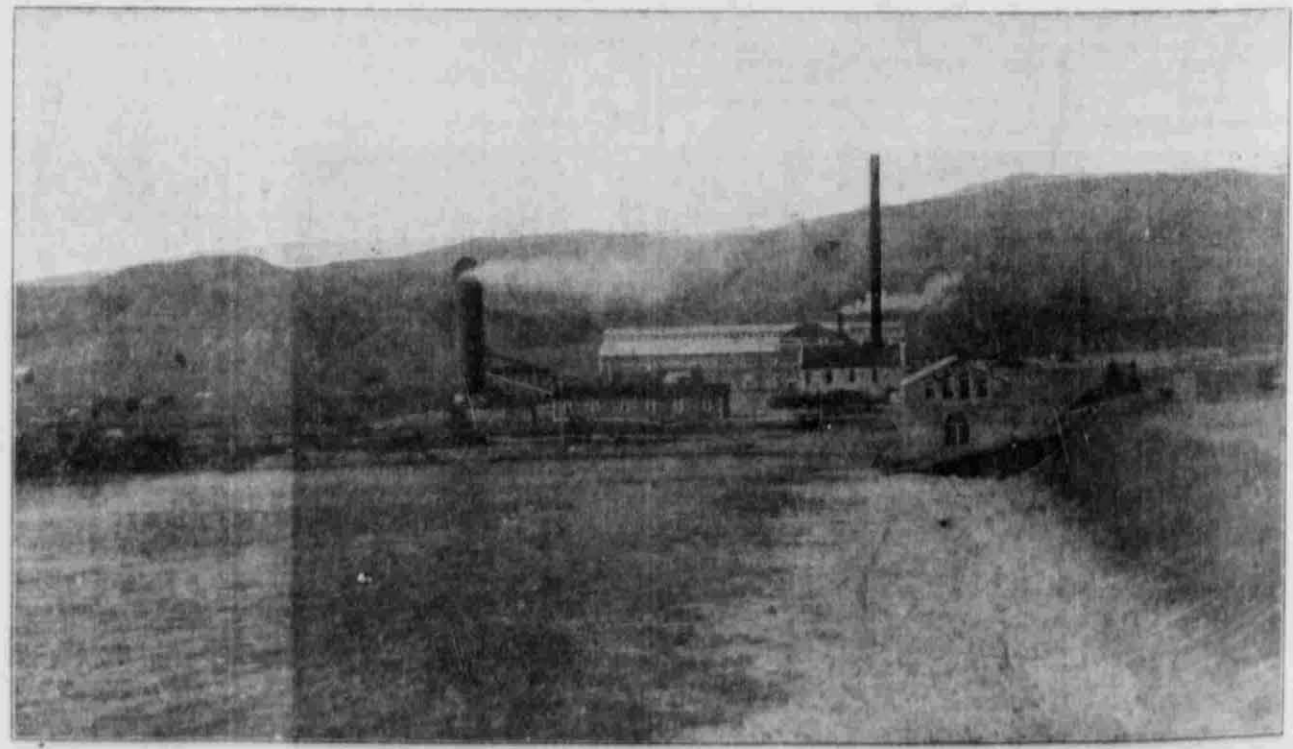
The San Francisco-Idaho and Montana railroad will ultimately connect Butte with San Francisco via Boise, thus reducing the distance by about 100 miles. This road has already commenced operations at Caldwell, Idaho, its line as far as the Snake river, and is accepting bids for material to be used in bridging the stream. For the present this line will run only from Boise to Washington, Nevada, where it will connect with the Western Pacific and give southern Idaho a transcontinental outlet over the Gould system.

## VIA TWIN FALLS.

Another connection which will undoubtedly be made with the Gould system will be via Twin Falls, Idaho. The plans and surveys are complete for the building of an electric line from that city to a junction with the Western Pacific in Nevada, from Twin Falls the line will be run to Gooding and from Gooding to Boise. The project is backed by the same company which has so successfully financed the South Side and North Side Twin Falls irrigation tracts, a syndicate with plenty of funds, and which are building the line. Considerable work has even been done at Gooding and the first step will be to connect with the city with Jerome. It is further predicted that Boise will be able to have three transcontinental systems of one. Will there be 20,000 people of every nation in the world who will there be 10,000 people who will one-fifth of the Ford automobile population and one transcontinental road line in eight years grown from a dirt of \$257 to one of \$2,000.



ONE OF THE MANY HANDSOME BOISE HOMES.



BOISE LUMBER INDUSTRY PLANT.

## MINERAL RESOURCES.

No section of the known world offers as great inducements to the prospector as does Idaho. In the rugged mountains of the interior there

lies a mineralized district larger than the state of Massachusetts unexplored and unprospected. Within six miles of Boise there runs a mineralized belt that can be traced east and west for 200 miles. Lead, coal and other prospects camps have been opened on it. In Colorado this belt

would be honeycombed with prospect holes from end to end. Yet you can ride for miles upon it without seeing a sign of pick or shovel. Silver City and Delamar, in the Grizzly Mountains, at miles south, have added millions to the world's circulation medium, and their mines are

now heavy producers. The lead mines of the north furnish more than half the lead produced by the whole United States. Experts estimate that some of the processes in the world's history the flour gold in the bars of the river and its tributaries, will pay off the national debt.