

Wonderful Growth Of Ashton, Idaho's Youngest City

ASHTON, the Gem state's youngest city was laid out less than a year ago and today it has a population in excess of 500. It is really difficult to realize that only last January saw a brushy wilderness where Ashton stands when one steps off the train before the handsome little depot which the Oregon Short Line has built in this progressive town.

That the future of Ashton is assured is evidenced by the fact that in less than a year's time, between 16 and 17 business houses of the substantial kind have been erected and as many concerns are doing business. Add to this the fact that every leading lumber and hardware concern in the great Snake River valley maintains a branch establishment in the thriving city, and it is not at all difficult to understand that Ashton's future is bright.

FOUNDED LAST FEBRUARY.

Actually speaking, the birth of Ashton was January 1, this year. The settlement was incorporated July 19, last, as a village with a town government. The present officers are:

H. L. Cannon, chairman of the board, or as he is known throughout the Snake River valley, "Mayor of Ashton;" H. G. Fuller, secretary of the Townsite company, trustee; Jonas Yonson, manager of the Miller Bros. Lumber company, trustee; Joseph Murphy, resident manager of Murphy & Bartlett, trustee; B. C. Hicks, manager of another large lumber company, trustee; R. Marquardt, treasurer; P. X. Dolenty, cashier of the Ashton state bank, city clerk and police magistrate; Joseph S. Johnson and Peter Wilson, police officers.

SPLENDIDLY LAID OFF.

Ashton as a town is splendidly laid off from the cardinal points of the compass, north, south, east and west. The principal thoroughfare, Main street, is 100 feet wide and every side street is 50 feet in width. The laying out of the townsite provides for 40 or more streets and the dimensions of the location of the town provide for half a mile in width by three-quarters of a mile in length.

Some 20 residents of Ashton and St.

sea level and enjoys an average temperature the year around of 50 degrees.

FINE CROP SOIL.

The soil about Ashton is rated as among the best crop producing in the upper Snake River valley. It is of a rich black loam, varying from five to 15 feet in depth, making it almost inexhaustible. This valley has been settled for about 15 years and a crop failure has never been recorded.

The average yield per acre for wheat, dry farming, is about 30 bushels to the acre and the aerial seldom goes less than 65 pounds to the bushel. Irrigated farms are producing from 50 to 65 bushels to the acre. The general average is seldom under 65 pounds to the bushel, as against a legal weight of 60 pounds to the bushel.

The yield of oats is almost phenomenal, one field adjoining Ashton on the north, owned by J. T. Dorcheus, producing this year 164 bushels and 25 pounds to the acre on a calculated weight of 35 pounds to the bushel; the actual weight of the grain in question tallied 45 pounds to the bushel.

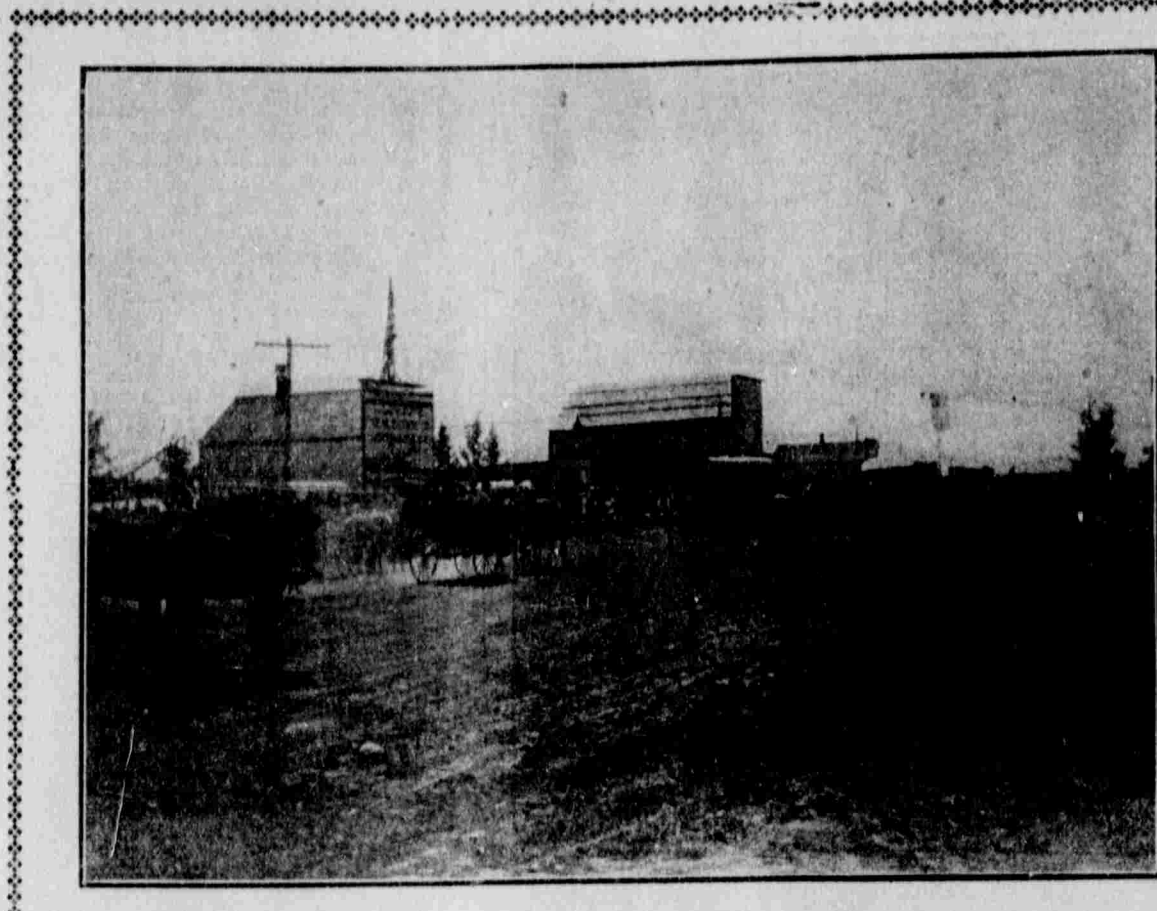
OTHER GRAINS THRIVE.

Other grains such as rye, barley, flax and speltz grow in profitable quantities, while the yield of hay, especially alfalfa and timothy grow in enormous crops.

Ashton is surrounded by an agricultural country of the highest order, extending north about six miles to the foothills of the Snake river range, and east for a distance of 15 miles to the United States timber reserve, which is the gateway to the famous Yellowstone National Park. And it is from this point that stages are taken into that wonderland of the American continent.

Ashton is the outfitting station for all tourists traveling by their own conveyances for this mesa of sightseers.

On the south the Ashton district includes the great horsehoe flats consisting of about 250,000 acres, of which 112,000 acres was recently selected by the state of Idaho under the acts of Congress granting to the various edu-



MAIN STREET, ASHTON, SIX MONTHS AFTER THE CITY WAS LAID OUT.

when settled will, as the Twin Falls tract, be capable of sustaining a population of between 3,000 and 4,000 people, which will add to Ashton's population, that city being the shipping and trading point for the surrounding country.

To the west and southwest there is a gently sloping plain, ranging from seven to nine miles, all under irrigation and cultivation and producing enormous crops of hay and grain. Ashton lies directly between the forks of the Snake and Fall rivers and it is expected that not less than 2,000,000 bushels of grain will be produced in this district which the canal now under construction are completed, bringing large acreages of the finest grain lands under cultivation which are now covered with sage brush.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

The irrigation canal system of this country is being prosecuted on a very extensive scale. Clinton, Hurt & Co., have two large propositions under way, one the Brady Canal and Improvement company plan about completed, while the second, that of the Yellowstone Irrigation & Power company, has progressed to a point that will make the realization of this vast enterprise a matter of but two or three months time. About \$200,000 will be the money invested for building the canal for irrigating purposes and some of thousands of acres of land will be brought under immediate cultivation.

In the Squirrel Creek district about nine miles distant from Ashton, two large canals are now under construction, the Harrigfield Canal and Improvement company have several miles of a large ditch completed while the Indian Lake Reservoir and Canal company have perfected plans for enlarging their present works four or five times. In addition to the above there are several other smaller propositions out of Fall river, Squirrel and Canon creeks, which are being vigorously pushed, and will bring many sections of acres that is now waste land, under the plow.

RAILROAD MATERIAL YARD.

The Oregon Short Line maintains its material yard at Ashton, covering many acres, which supplies all material for the new Snake River valley railroad. Headquarters of the engineering and construction departments are also maintained at Ashton.

As mentioned above, worked by the railroad company, the payroll each month is very heavy.

The Fremont Independent Telephone company has just been organized with local capital and the rural population radiating from Ashton will have telephones within 60 days. An electric lighting system is to be installed from

country and give the farmer an open market at all seasons of the year.

The Teton pharmacy is an up-to-date and complete drug dispensing place in every sense of the word; it is in charge of Mr. O. A. Brothm, a pharmaceutical graduate of the Northwestern university, Chicago.

Rankin Bros. make up a firm of two enterprising young men engaged in the well known business of shoe repair. They have sunk all the important well in the Ashton district.

R. Marquardt is the leading jeweler and watchmaker of Ashton, and his commissions are many and large from the surrounding country. He is a graduate of a horological and optical institute.

Peter Wilson operates a wholesale meat and provision business and also conducts the Wilson hotel, operated on the European plan.

Dr. L. Hargis, a graduate of Vanderbilt university of Nashville, Tenn., is the leading physician and surgeon of the town, and was one of its pioneers. He is recognized as one of the ablest professional men in the Gem state.

Marlin Elward, is a rancher of comparatively short residence in the community, but he is one of the foremost men of affairs in the Fremont county district. He has other large property interests; when he removed to Idaho he sold all his Minnesota holdings and decided to adopt Idaho as his permanent home for all time to come.

George Harrigfield, whose home is at Squirrel, is one of the captains of agriculture in the Snake River valley. He has developed into the leading hay and grain producing locality in Fremont county. Enterprising, energetic and liberal to a fault, he has spent as much time and money in advertising and developing the natural resources of eastern Idaho as any man in that great community of the vast intermountain region. He was the original owner of the present site of Ashton and contributed largely to the upbuilding and development of this great and thriving center. The Harrigfield canal, which will bring under cultivation thousands of acres of virgin soil, is due to his untiring and energetic spirit, and will stand as a lasting monument to his faith in the future of Fremont county.

INDUCED SETTLERS TO COME IN.

Mr. Harrigfield has been especially interested in inducing settlers to locate in this county, and through his further effort dozens of settlers and tens of thousands of dollars of taxable property has been added to the wealth of the Gem state.

Several years ago Mr. Harrigfield predicted that land values would more than double, and though not a prophet, every prediction has made good.

Dr. T. P. Cranes a graduate of a leading San Francisco dental college, attends to the necessities of the surrounding community in every department of his profession.

The Marysville Lumber company, under the able management of Brigham C. Hicks, maintains at Ashton a large lumber yard and supplies the wants of contractors and builders in Ashton and vicinity. The yard carries one of the largest stocks in the upper Snake River valley.

The Snake River Lumber company at Ashton, in connection with their lumber yard, conduct a general hardware business and carry one of the largest stocks of hardware and lumber in eastern Idaho. The company is managed by J. P. Trick.

A. M. Boylen, the leading clothing and haberdashery store of St. Anthony, maintains an establishment in Ashton which is second to none in Fremont county. His lines are at all times kept up-to-date in every department with the latest eastern styles.

Van Tassel Bros. are retailers of general merchandise and carry one of the largest and best stocks of ladies' harness.

The farming community for miles around commission George D. Hoggan & Sons to make harness.

HOBLEY & BOAM.
Hobley & Boam, blacksmiths, recently started in business in Rigby and have already built up by far the best business in that line in town. Both members of the firm are young and enterprising, and already they have all the work on their hands they can comfortably attend to.

Both men are mechanics in every sense of the word. The business being rapidly built up consists of general blacksmithing, shoeing, wagon work and the dealing in second-hand wagons and buggies.

The firm does not fear competition in any sense of the word and judging from the support received it will soon be necessary for the partners to increase their capacity.

THE PIONEER HOTEL.

The Pioneer hotel at Rigby is one of the prominent temporary abiding places of the town. Under the able management of Mr. J. B. Spracher, the place is being conducted in a thoroughly up-to-date manner. No better accommodations in Rigby can be offered by any hotel proprietor than those held out by Mr. Spracher. Traveling men who have the best accommodations the town can afford should patronize the Pioneer hotel.

The hotel has 24 rooms, is centrally located on the main street of the town, and its rates vary from \$1.25 to \$2 per day, according to room selected. The cuisine is the best in Rigby. The rooms are provided with heat and hot and cold water service.

GEORGE D. HOGGAN & SONS.
George D. Hoggan arrived in Rigby from Cache valley two years ago, and at once established a harness shop. From the start he was crowded with work and about a year ago he was obliged to enlarge the capacity of his establishment, at the same time taking his sons into partnership.

The firm makes a specialty of harness, saddles, collars, bridles, whips, spurs, etc. Repairing is promptly done and all work is warranted.

The firm is doing a lucrative business and its reputation was best established on the making of order of hand-made

and men's furnishings in the upper Snake River valley. Their establishment would do credit to a city many times the population of Ashton. The same rule applies, however, to every establishment in the city.

THE HIGHLAND RANCH.
Sited in the eastern part of Fremont county, some 10 miles from Ashton, and between the Teton river on the south and Fall river on the north, is a scope of country about 12 miles east and west, by 10 miles north and south, of fine rolling land especially adapted to the purpose of stock raising and general farming.

Early in May, 1899, four young men, realizing the advantages of the locality, decided to locate there, and they formed the nucleus of what today is one of the largest and best improved stock and grain ranches in southeastern Idaho, known as the Highland ranch. A beginning was made with 80 acres of raw land, and in January of the following year, one of the young men, W. L. Campbell, built a house and removed his family to the place, that has since been their home.

Three of the original holders sold their interests out at the end of the second year, but Mr. Campbell stuck, and the small beginning now consists of 5,400 acres, all under irrigation with two large water systems owned by the Highland Ranch Improvement company, which is capitalized at \$120,000, with the subscriptions fully paid in.

A splendid canal known as the Boom creek canal system covers the acreage together with the saving of water to 18,000 acres of land for farming and stock raising on the part of the Indian Lake Reservoir Canal company.

Large quantities of alfalfa and timothy are grown for hay, the former producing an average of five tons per acre for two cuttings, the latter from two and one-half to three tons. Bromus inermis has also been introduced with results about the same as tim-

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