

Bird's-Eye View of Idaho Resources

What Inducements the State Offers to the Home Builder.

CLIMATE FINE, RESOURCES RICH

Prosperity Awaits on Industry, Whether Applied to Agriculture, Fruit, Stock Raising or Mining in This Fertile Idaho.

BY J. H. BRADY, GOVERNOR OF IDAHO.

Hardly half a century has elapsed since the pioneers laid the foundations of the empire in the "Gem of the Mountains" and yet the wilderness has blossomed. Cities and villages have sprung into life, as Minerva was said to have sprung full armed from the brow of Imperial Jove, vast areas of sage plains have been transformed into waving fields of grain and billowy sweep of orchard and vineyard. The mountains have yielded their stored treasures, while peace and plenty have folded their white wings over happy homes and a prosperous people.

Climate is Mild. Idaho climate is one of the finest in the world, and notwithstanding its high altitude in some parts of the state and its latitude, the influence of the Japan current greatly modifies the northern part of the state. The average mean temperature is 46 degrees, milder by 5 degrees than Ohio and by 12 degrees than Maine and New Hampshire. Boise, the capital of the state, has an average mean temperature of 51 degrees, the records of the United States signal office showing that for seven consecutive years the lowest temperature in Boise was 12 degrees below zero in the month of January and the highest 108 degrees in the month of July. The prevailing winds are from the southwest, and averaging only twelve miles an hour, and the greatest velocity not exceeding thirty miles. Open air work is performed every day in the year, sun strokes is unknown anywhere in the state, blizzards or cyclones to those who have come from the storm center of other states soon become memories. Idaho is a land of almost perpetual sunshine, the state averaging 290 clear days each year and showing 300 fair days to Boston's 211.

Idaho has no winter storms, rains seldom fall during the harvest time, and crops can be gathered up to the time that snow flies. Neither Italy nor France can compare with Idaho as a health resort. Statistics of mortality collected by the United States census bureau show that Idaho is the healthiest state in the union, its mortality being rated by the bureau at 0.23, while that of Colorado is 0.94, California 1.61, Oregon, 0.69, Utah 1.03 and Florida 1.21. There are many artesian hot springs in various parts of the state that are fine as health resorts. Its area has been classified as follows: Twenty-one million acres agricultural land, 5,000,000 acres mineral land, 20,000,000 acres timber land and 8,000,000 acres grazing land.

Ranks High in Agriculture. The agricultural resources of Idaho rank very high. Its 21,000,000 acres of agricultural lands produces every variety of crops known to the temperate zone. Of wheat all varieties of both spring and fall are produced, with an average yield of thirty bushels to the acre, but yields have been reliably reported as high as eighty bushels to the acre; of barley forty bushels to the acre is an average crop; oats from fifty-five to ninety bushels weighing forty-five pounds to the bushel; rye is produced in large quantities and grows nicely even in the arid belt without irrigation. In the northern part of the state, flax is grown, the yield being some twenty to thirty bushels to the acre. Fine corn is produced all through the irrigated districts. Of grasses all the natural are abundant, while alfalfa, timothy and clover are produced in abundance. In the irrigated districts, especially these grasses grow profusely, alfalfa and clover yielding usually three crops during the season from six to eight tons to the acre.

All kinds of vegetables are profitably cultivated; potatoes, beets, peas, squashes, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, etc. The sugar beet is extensively cultivated and is one of the important industries of the state. The total value of the eight principal farm products for 1910 is \$33,000,000. Fruits of all kinds are grown, with the exception of those of the citrus family, including berries, cantaloupes and melons. The value of the fruit production for 1910 is \$2,000,000.

Stock Raising, Mining, Timber. Idaho ranks high as a stock raising state. Its 6,000,000 acres of grazing lands are covered with grasses highly nutritious and furnish abundant feed for grazing purposes. This immense range makes stock raising very profitable. Herds can be pastured on high ranges in the summer time and moved down to the valleys in the winter time, and only in severe winters must they be fed. During late years much attention has been paid to quality of stock and thoroughbreds of high grade cattle and horses are rapidly taking the place of common stock. The sheep business has mounted rapidly to the first rank of Idaho industry. The wool clip of last year was 12,000,000 pounds, valued at \$2,800,000.

The possibilities of Idaho's mining industry seems unlimited and it furnishes an important factor in the development of the state. One county alone, Shoshone, has produced over \$200,000,000 in precious metals, and the state in general produces over forty per cent of the lead production of the entire United States. The report of the state mining inspector for the year 1910 shows that the total output of the state mines—gold, silver, lead, copper and coal—was \$10,906,862.15. Immense coal and phosphate beds have been discovered and await but the magic touch of capital and industry to work out this enormous wealth.

Idaho's timber resources are almost illimitable, its forest area being estimated at 20,000,000 acres, containing 57,500,000,000 feet of merchantable timber, enough to supply the western slope, if properly conserved, for the next 500 years. The timber belt in Idaho county, on the Salmon and Grays mountains, is from five to ten miles wide, while the forests of Pend Oreille cover an area of 100 square miles. The pineries of Michigan and Minnesota are open parks in comparison. There are 2,343.9 miles of railroads in the state, valued at \$2,792,475.26. The year 1910 will show a vast increase in this industry, as a number of new lines will be built in different parts of the state. There are 4,477.21 miles of telegraph lines valued at \$69,256.72. The mileage of the



GOVERNOR J. H. BRADY OF IDAHO

telephone lines traversing the state is 18,099.81, valued at \$822,274.75.

Educational Advantages. Educationally Idaho takes high rank among the sisterhood of states. Congress donated to the state 2,356,000 acres of land, the proceeds of which go to the support of its public schools. The fund arising from the sale of these lands are, by provision of the state constitution and by statute, so carefully managed that none of the principal but only the interest can be used for educational purposes. Thus, this fund is perpetual and generations yet unborn will receive the benefits of it. Idaho has had free text books in the public schools since 1889. In 1890, when Idaho was admitted into the union, the school population was 25,741. The present school enrollment is 76,168.

Idaho has a state university, located at Moscow; two normal schools for the training of teachers, one at Lewiston and the other at Albion; a state academy at Co-cateo, and besides these public institutions of learning there are many private academies and denominational schools and colleges, so that the educational wants of the people of Idaho are very fully supplied. The religious sentiment of the state is represented by all churches and denominations—Protestant and Catholic. Nearly all denominations have church buildings in every part of the state.

Manufactures Are Heavy. The manufactured products of the state for the present year will reach \$2,000,000, and there has been shipped from the state 15,000,000 pounds of wool. Of the \$4,144,000 acres within its boundaries, the national government has set aside 20,000,000 acres, or over one-third of our entire territory as a forest reserve, and about 1,000,000 acres for Indian reserves. According to the last report of the Agricultural department there are still unappropriated and open to entry, approximately 20,000,000 acres outside of these reservations.

In the humid or northern part of the state there are 1,000,000 acres and the balance, 19,000,000 acres, are in the semi-arid and arid portion. Dry farming is now developing into a great and profitable industry, and it is estimated that 10,000,000 acres of this area is suitable for that purpose. These lands offer splendid opportunities for the poor man seeking a home. Of all the arid states and territories, Idaho will probably reclaim more acres than any other. It is estimated that about 6,000,000 acres can be reclaimed in the state, which is 10 per cent of all the irrigable lands in the United States. As the population grows denser, materials cheaper and labor more efficient, this may be increased to 10,000,000 acres.

No state in the union has a greater number of valuable waterpower sites than has Idaho. Shoshone Falls alone can, if properly utilized, furnish power sufficient to run every railroad, electric line and furnish electricity for light and heating purposes for the entire southeastern part of the state. At many points along the Snake river there are falls that can be similarly utilized. Other rivers and streams in vari-

ous parts of the state furnish opportunities for electric power that are simply incalculable. From these water falls electricity can be transmitted as high as 250 miles with a loss of only 12 per cent. Already electricity furnishes the power for much of the machinery used in the state. There are farms in Idaho where they cook and heat and light by electricity.

ected with the larger cities and towns by electric lines, and thus the advantage of city and town life will be had by those who cultivate the soil. In 1908 the population was 84,289 and the amount of assessable property was \$30,000,000. Today the population is 225,284 and the assessed valuation of all kinds of property is \$127,158,075.6. The actual valuation is, of course, many times larger.

Immigration Heavy. Immigration into Idaho has been very large during the last year. The Union Pacific Railroad company gives out that more people came over their lines between March 1 and April 15, 1910, for Idaho than went to Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada points combined, with a very large percentage to spare. This company states that it delivered more passengers to Idaho than it did in Portland or to other Oregon points. The number ticketed over the Union Pacific Railroad to various western points during the epidemic season of the year 1910 was as follows: Portland, 2248; other Oregon points, 2571; Puget Sound and Washington, 2348; Idaho, 2442; Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming, 1332. The increase of Idaho over the epidemic period of last year was 30; this is an indication of Idaho's rapid growth in population, and this is but a beginning of the great increase that will come during 1911.

According to the United States census books for the last year, the population of the last ten years has been 81.2 per cent, Oregon, 82.7 per cent; California, 90.1 per cent; Nevada, 91 per cent, and Colorado, 85 per cent. This bird's-eye view will give the readers of this report some idea of the vast resources of Idaho and the opportunities here afforded to win a competence.

Boise, December 28, 1910.

Big Horn Basin is Developing Many Fine Orchard Tracts

Orchardists Have Planted Many Trees and Thousands More Are Contracted For.

Possibilities of the Big Horn basin in northern Wyoming as a coming fruit country are clearly demonstrated by the exhibition of fine apples shown in the Big Horn basin booth at the Land Show. The apples exhibited there are from domestic orchards only, but are of such excellent variety and beautiful color as to attract immediate attention.

Some two years ago commercial orchard men from the Grand Junction district of Colorado and the highly developed irrigated fruit districts of Oregon and Washington coming into the basin became convinced that if the domestic orchards of one or two acres could practically, without any care and scientific treatment, produce such wonderful apples, the Big Horn basin was destined to enjoy a great future as an apple country when scientific methods were applied to fruit culture there. The basin not only has a rich soil and an abundant water supply, but enjoys ideal climatic conditions and an entire absence of plant pests.

The Burlington railway has also recently permitted its immigration department to advertise the Big Horn basin as a coming

fruit country doing this after several years' investigation and experimentation. Mr. P. B. Eustis, general traffic manager of the Burlington, has personally investigated the possibilities for raising fruit and especially apples in the Big Horn basin, and has become enthusiastic in his belief that the finest of apples and all varieties of small fruits, plums, grapes and melons can be successfully grown for the commercial market.

Within the last year the commercial orchardist from the higher developed irrigated districts of the Intermountain country have been coming into the Big Horn basin purchasing tracts of land and starting commercial orchards. Last spring some 3,000 apple trees were planted by such men and over 200,000 trees have been contracted for delivery this spring. While heretofore there has been no danger from frosts which are a constant menace to so many of the districts in other states, the natural gas now utilized in the basin can successfully be used in the orchards for prevention of such danger.

Irrigated Lands Attract Settlers at the Land Show

J. W. Fitzgerald Tells of the Work of Irrigation in the Arkansas Valley in Colorado.

The Nepeseta ditch and reservoir lands are represented by a display at the Land Show which places emphasis on the advantage of farming irrigated lands. The booth is in charge of J. W. Fitzgerald of Omaha.

"There is no soil more fertile than those lands in the Arkansas river valley," said Mr. Fitzgerald, "not only because it is its virgin state, but also because the natural chemical salts which nature originally put there for plant food have not been drained and leached out by centuries of heavy rainfall, as is largely true in the case of humid climates. This is not a theory; the heavier yield of crops here as compared with those of wet climates actually proves it."

"The right amount of water applied at the right time is rarely possible in a humid country where rainfall is relied upon. It makes no difference how rich a soil is or how excellent in other respects, unless a crop receives the right amount of moisture at the right stages of its growth, a heavy yield cannot be expected. Too much moisture at the wrong time is just as bad as too little at the right time. It is estimated that even in the most favored humid sections the average yield could be doubled were it not for the uncertainty and the uneven distribution of the rainfall during the growing season. Water is, therefore, wealth in any country, but its highest value depends upon being able to apply it just when it is most needed and to keep it off when it is not needed. A good storage system does this very thing. It corrects the fickleness of the skies by gathering up the rains and the snows in times of plenty and distributing them for use in times of drouth and scarcity. It concentrates the precipitation over a large area for a long period of time, to be applied upon a comparatively very small area

at just the right time. It is water insurance and therefore crop insurance.

"The storage and ditch system under which this land is located, we have no hesitancy in saying, is one of the best to be found in this valley. The drainage area tributary to it is more than 2,000 square miles, composed of territory for the most part high, rough and mountainous, where both the precipitation and the run-off are much greater than on the plains. The two reservoirs, Nos. 1 and 2, are jointly supplied from three streams, namely, the Chisena creek, the Doyle Arroyo and the Huerfano river. Immense feeder ditches have been constructed to convey the water into these storage basins. The combined

carrying capacity of these feeder ditches is about 2,500 cubic feet per second, of time or a sufficient capacity to store 3,000 acre feet of water in twenty-four hours. The available storage capacity of the two reservoirs is 15,000 acre feet. These ditches, running full three days out of the entire year, will store this amount of water, which is sufficient to supply every acre of the 10,000 acres under the system with a quota of one and one-half acre feet of water at one filling; that is, enough water to cover every acre one and one-half feet deep, which, with the natural rainfall, is considered ample, although if more is drawn out as it is needed the reservoir can be partially refilled from time to time."



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TRI-CITY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, 2:30 P. M.
CALIFORNIA DAY PROGRAM, 3:30 P. M.
WYOMING DAY PROGRAM, 4:30 P. M.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NIGHT.

THE OMAHA REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE WILL ATTEND IN A BODY AFTER LUNCH.
MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—MANUAL OF ARMS EXHIBITION, 9 P. M.

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TWO MOVING PICTURE SHOWS—Running all the time.
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MISS LORA NETTIE RIETER—The World's Greatest Cornet Virtuoso—Every Afternoon and Evening.

CONCERTS BY THE LAND SHOW CONCERT BAND—George Green, Director—At 2 to 3 p. m., 4 to 5:30 p. m., 7:30 to 8:30 p. m., 9:30 to 11 p. m. daily.

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