



GENERAL James Brisbin, a gentleman well posted on Montana affairs, says that a strange development of recent times is the shipment of cattle westward from the States. In 1883 Eastern Montana sent 24,000 heaves to market and received 34,000 head of cattle, an excess of 10,000 over shipments. These are nearly all young cattle purchased in Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and brought out for dairy and breeding purposes, or to grow to maturity and fatten on the nutritious bunch grass, and then be sent back for beef. He is of the opinion that the experiment will prove entirely successful if care is taken of them the first winter. Cattle quickly become acclimated. A Montana calf is as capable of withstanding the severe winters there as is a buffalo calf. Nature quickly adapts animals to the requirements of food and climate of the country in which they live. Cattle born in that region have longer hair and thicker hides than those in lower latitudes. Stockmen, too, are becoming more careful of their herds. They now put up considerable hay for use during the occasional weeks when cattle cannot reach the grass through the snow. A mowing machine and a little labor have been found to be the cheapest insurance on a herd of cattle. Wind is the stockman's friend. It sweeps the ridges bare of snow so that the cattle, which can always find shelter from the blasts in the numerous ravines and gulches, can reach the bunches of grass. They quickly learn how to "rustle," and it is seldom that hay is required.

The speedy opening to settlement of a large proportion of Northern Montana, now embraced within the limits of enormous Indian reservations, is confidently expected. Fort Benton, which is the chief trade center of that region, is enjoying great prosperity. During the past year many new buildings were erected, and the improvements projected for the present season are very extensive. Real estate is in active demand both for business and residence purposes. The territory to be released is 200 miles long, east and west, and 120 miles wide, containing 15,000,000 acres, and embraces vast tracts of fine agricultural and grazing land.

As a sample of what irrigation does for the dry valleys of Montana, the following case is in point: In Gallatin Valley William Heron entered land under the Desert Land Act, and raised a crop of oats on it in 1881 which only yielded twenty bushels to the acre. In 1882 he irrigated his crop once and realized sixty bushels, and in 1883, with two irrigations, the same land yielded an average of ninety bushels per acre in a field of sixty acres.

The total assessment of the Territory is \$46,560,000, and total county indebtedness, \$956,173. There are 475,000 cattle, valued at \$14,250,000; 700,000 sheep, \$2,100,000; and 90,400 horses, \$6,780,000.



THE valleys of Idaho are generally long, narrow strips, sometimes but a mile in width, and because irrigation is generally necessary it was formerly the impression that the Territory possessed but little agricultural land. Such, however, is not the case, for these fertile valleys aggregate an area of 10,000,000 acres of rich bottom lands or gently undulating plateaus. Nature has provided for the lack of rain by the mountain streams of never-failing water which course through the valleys, and from which they can be irrigated at comparatively slight expense. The valleys of Northern Idaho do not require irrigation. The following list embraces the most prominent valleys, though there are numerous smaller ones not included in it:

Name and Location.	Length, Miles.	Breadth, Miles.
Snake River, South Fork, Eastern Idaho.....	80	2 to 4
Snake River, North Fork, Eastern Idaho.....	60	2 to 10
Salt River Valley, Eastern Idaho.....	20	1 to 2
Bear River Valley, Eastern Idaho.....	40	3 to 5
Blackfoot Valley, Eastern Idaho.....	20	2 to 5
Round Valley, Eastern Idaho.....	80	8 to 12
Wood River Valley, Central Idaho.....	50	1 to 2
Camas Prairie, Central Idaho.....	80	18 to 25
Boise Valley, Western Idaho.....	60	2 to 6
Payette Valley, Western Idaho.....	75	2 to 15
Weiser Valley, Western Idaho.....	40	2 to 5
Lemhi Valley, Northeastern Idaho.....	70	3 to 6
Pah-Simari Valley, Northeastern Idaho.....	25	1 to 5
Camas Prairie, Northern Idaho.....	80	20 to 25
Patlatch Valley, Northern Idaho.....	25	10 to 15
Palouse Valley, Northern Idaho.....	20	5 to 10
St. Joseph Valley, Northern Idaho.....	15	5 to 10

Aside from the thousands that will rush into the Cœur d'Alene mines of Northern Idaho the coming season, the Territory will receive large additions to its permanent population by the settling of immigrants upon the thousands of acres rendered accessible by the Oregon Short Line. The benefit of this road to Southern Idaho cannot be computed. The impulse to trade and the mining industry has already been felt, and this will be still more the case when the people realize the fact that Idaho is no longer "out of the world," but as accessible to the East as any of the Western States or Territories.

The New York Canal Company has located a canal from Boise River, ten miles above Boise City, across the plain to Snake River. This will furnish means to irrigate several hundred thousand acres of choice sage brush land, and will also supply much needed water for working the Snake River placers. The country thus made available to settlement is tributary to Boise City.

Lewiston has two flouring mills, one saw mill, two hotels, six wholesale and retail stores, several retail stores, three banking houses, a brewery, the usual number of saloons, numerous shops of various kinds and two excellent newspapers. It is the county seat of Nez Perce County.

The Banner Mine, in the Banner District, twenty-eight miles northeast of Idaho City, has been sold to a New York company for \$400,000. This property includes the mill and fifteen locations besides the famous Banner.