

feet square and forty-five high, and cost the Government \$81,000. It is of great convenience to the mining interests, as the assayer in charge is supplied with funds from the United States Treasury for the purchase of bullion. A rival structure is now going up, being the new capitol building, which is being constructed under an act passed by the last Territorial Legislature appropriating \$80,000 for that purpose. This is being erected in the centre of what is known as "Capitol Square," having the school house and court house on either hand. The square presents a most imposing appearance, as shown in an engraving on another page. The commissioners who have the work in charge are four of the leading citizens of the Territory—Messrs. R. Z. Johnson, C. W. Moore, Peter Sonna and W. H. Ridenbaugh, who have managed the trust so judiciously that the splendid and architecturally beautiful structure shown in the engraving is now partially completed and all under contract for a total of \$77,000, leaving a balance of \$3,000 in the building fund. The court house, which stands on the right of the capitol, is a three-story brick structure, excellently adapted in its interior arrangements for the accommodation of county offices and courts. It cost \$68,000. On the other end of the square stands a handsome school building, 82x100 feet, and four stories high with mansard roof. It is a brick structure, and was erected at an expense of \$50,000. It has few rivals as a school building on the Pacific Coast. The school system is the pride of the city. It is thoroughly graded, has a principal and six assistant teachers, and is in such high favor and does its work so satisfactorily that no private schools are maintained, though there are more than 700 children of school age in the district. Many families from a distance reside in the city for the purpose of giving their children these excellent educational advantages. A United States Signal Office has been located in the city since 1877. At the military post, which is situated on a beautiful site overlooking the city, are stationed two companies of troops under command of a field officer.

The social, benevolent and religious instincts have strong hold upon the people. The Methodist and Presbyterian denominations have each a fine brick edifice, and the Episcopalians, Roman Catholics and Baptists have substantial frame buildings. There are two lodges, a chapter and a commandery of the Masonic Order, a lodge and encampment of Odd Fellows, a lodge of Workmen, of Good Templars and of Champions of the Red Cross, and a Turn-Verein. Each is in a prosperous condition and owns valuable real estate. There are also a free library association, a dramatic and literary club, and a Territorial law library of several thousand volumes.

The citizens have taken full advantage of the ample supply of water for irrigating purposes. As a result well kept lawns, beautiful gardens and ornamental shrubbery are to be seen on every side, and the city is embowered in a mass of thrifty and beautiful shade trees. So hidden are the numerous handsome residences by this green mass of shade that our artist was compelled to abandon

the idea of sketching them. With the trees in, the houses would be obscured from view, and with the trees omitted, to give a fair view of the residences, the sketch would present anything but the natural appearance of these beautiful homes. A glance at the engraving of Grove street will give a fair idea of the beauty and density of shade in this "Wooded City."

Boisé City has felt the effects of the hard times in common with every commercial point in the Union. There are, however, elements of prosperity present here that are lacking in many other places. As the metropolis of a region developing with great rapidity, it occupies a position that must continually bring increased business to its door, the more so that the citizens are enterprising and awake to all the needs of the hour. Six stage lines centre in the city, while freight wagons loaded with merchandise are constantly leaving for towns and mining camps many miles distant in all directions. The main line of the Oregon Short Line passes fifteen miles to the south, the city being connected with it by two daily stages to Kuna. At an expense of \$45,000 the citizens have secured the right of way for a branch road to tap the main line at Caldwell, about twenty miles distant, and this will be completed by the Oregon Short Line early in the spring of 1886. Boisé will then have full railroad facilities, and being the natural terminal point will continue to be the base of supplies for the large area which is undergoing such rapid development. This is the natural outlet for the famous Atlanta mineral district (with which it will no doubt be ere long connected by a narrow gauge road) and the Boisé Basin. The valley and mountain roads are excellent for freighting, and many beautiful drives may be found near the city. By ascending Table Rock, back of the town, the spectator on the hottest day in summer will be welcomed by refreshing mountain breezes, while the view of the valley for miles around spreads out before him in all the beauty of mingled wilderness and cultivation. A favorite drive is to the Hot Springs, a few miles east of town. The springs are highly medicinal, containing iron, sulphur, soda, lime and magnesia. There are vapor, shower, plunge and mud baths. The temperature of the springs varies from 125 to 220 degrees Fahrenheit. They are already a favorite resort, and need only to be known to become as celebrated as the Hot Springs of Arkansas. Socially Boisé is much similar to larger towns in the East. The lawlessness supposed to characterize so many frontier towns is unknown here. The culture, refinement and hospitality of the people of Boisé are proverbial.

There is land enough in the neighborhood for all who choose to come. The history of the past twenty years of this valley shows what energy and determination can accomplish in the face of almost insuperable obstacles. With these obstacles now removed, and with the valley easily accessible by rail to the immigrant seeking a home and the capitalist an investment for his money, the growth of the next few years must be far greater and more marked than at any period in the past. Boisé Valley proper is about sixty miles long and from two to