

has been left unsettled because of the expense of bringing water upon it being too great for individual settlers. Three months ago, the Nampa Improvement Company laid out the town of Nampa and began the construction of irrigating ditches, consisting of a main canal, from Boise river, and a number of distributing ditches. When completed, these will furnish a never-failing supply of water, sufficient to supply the entire tract, which can be had by contract with the company at small annual cost. Logs and wood can be floated down Boise river, through the canal, to Nampa, where they can be converted into lumber and fuel. Already forty thousand acres have been entered in the land office at Boise City, and upwards of one hundred town lots have been sold by the company. The town is so situated that it will become the shipping point for quite a number of outlying districts, and is the point on the Oregon Short Line nearest to Boise City, and, consequently, the probable point of junction with a branch line to that city. The soil of that region is fertile, and will produce all the fruits, cereals and vegetables of the northern and middle states. Irrigation will render the crop a sure one, since all danger from drouths is thus avoided, and the dry weather of summer insures the harvesting of the crop in good condition. With water supplied, as in this instance, there are no better locations to be had in the West, than these fertile plains and valleys of Idaho.

MONTANA MINES.—The twelve leading incorporated mines of Montana have paid the following dividends to date:

Alice,	\$ 775,000.00
Amy and Silversmith,	235,000.00
Boston and Montana,	520,000.00
Elkhorn,	150,000.00
Granite Mountain,	1,700,000.00
Hope,	158,241.00
Lexington,	565,000.00
Drum Lummon,	795,000.00
Hecla Con.,	1,047,500.00
Helena Mg. and R. Co.,	192,000.00
Moulton,	320,000.00
Original,	117,000.00
Total	\$4,758,741.00

Four-fifths of the above dividends have been earned and declared within the past eighteen months, but still the sum represents but a fractional part of the profit made from the development of Montana mining properties, and but a tithe of the gross output. Some of the mines of the territory are owned by private individuals,

and many others which are incorporated are not listed on the stock boards and their earnings are, therefore, not made public. Among them are the Cable and Pyrenees gold mines, the Anaconda, Parrot and many other copper mines, and the Bluebird, Colorado and Silver Bow companies' silver mines.

STOCK SHIPMENTS.—During the year 1886, the Northern Pacific handled the following quantity of live stock freight:

Cattle from Montana,	-	-	61,430
“ “ Washington,	-	-	2,280
“ “ Dakota,	-	-	22,140
“ “ Or. and W. T. to Montana,	-	-	21,210
Total,	-	-	107,060
Sheep from Washington,	-	-	16,340
“ “ Oregon,	-	-	17,850
“ “ Montana,	-	-	76,335
“ local shipments,	-	-	34,900
Total,	-	-	145,485
Horses from Washington,	-	-	5,900
“ “ Idaho,	-	-	60
“ “ Montana,	-	-	2,520
“ “ Dakota,	-	-	280
Total,	-	-	8,820
Total live stock shipments,	-	-	261,365

There is a marked increase in the number of horses shipped, and indications point to a time, not far distant, when Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington will be the breeding ground for all classes of horses required in the Eastern markets. The climatic conditions are highly favorable, and experience has shown that the business of breeding and rearing horses for market on a large scale can be made highly profitable in this region.

SUN RIVER CANAL.—One of the greatest irrigating enterprises in Montana is that of the Sun River Canal Company, composed of Helena capitalists, who are constructing an elaborate system of ditches to irrigate an immense tract of land lying between Sun river and the town of Great Falls. More than seven hundred thousand acres of fertile land will be covered by the ditches of this company. During the past summer, the Sun River Canal Company has built and completed about twenty-six miles of canal and one mile of flume. This has been done on what will hereafter be called the Teton canal and flume, a part of the Sun river canal system. It carries, at the head, seventeen thousand miner's inches of water, and about half this