

possessing energy tempered with prudence, it is enjoying a steady, progressive prosperity, without the evanescent "boom," which many towns cultivate at the expense of more solid and substantial advantages. It has reached its present advanced position through no forcing process, but by reason of natural causes, which are still at work and will produce greater results in the future. Without "leaping from crag to crag," as it often does in speculative towns, far above its actual value for business or residence purposes, property has been steadily on the ascendant, keeping pace with the growth of the city. Good residence property may still be purchased at from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per lot of fifty by one hundred feet, and business property is held at reasonable figures. These are considerations worthy of note by one looking for a good point to establish himself in business.

The impression Sprague makes upon the stranger who enters it by rail in either direction is a most favorable one. It has an air of business and importance which is generally remarked upon by travelers. Its large depot, numerous side tracks, car shops, warehouses, public buildings and business streets, are evidences of thrift which can not fail to attract attention. The engravings on pages 671, 672 and 673 give a general view of the city, one of its business streets and a number of its special features, which testify to its present condition, but can not speak of its future prospects, which will be set forth in the following pages. The wooden business houses erected early in the town's history are gradually being superseded by substantial brick structures, and a majority of new buildings erected in that portion of the city will undoubtedly be of the better material. An excellent quality of brick is manufactured near by, so that material of that kind is easily ob-

tainable. Besides the extensive car shops, there are already a number of brick buildings, such as the school house, the court house, three stores, a brewery and a bank, and several others are projected and will be erected soon. The age of brick and mortar has fairly set in, and a few years will see a great transformation in the city's appearance.

Last year Sprague shipped five hundred thousand pounds of wool and thirty thousand bushels of wheat, the latter coming from a region just beginning to raise wheat for export, but which is capable of producing millions of bushels annually. A large flouring mill has just been erected by Messrs. Hoffman & Stevens, which is supplied with full roller machinery to the capacity of seventy-five barrels of flour per day. The motive power will be steam. Ten times the quantity of wheat received last year will be brought to Sprague this season, the greater portion of which will be converted into flour at the new mill. Another manufacturing institution is the brewery, a large stone and brick building, erected at a cost of \$50,000.00. Its product is of a superior quality, and finds a market throughout Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Sprague is a splendid location for a foundry and machine shop. The large farming country tributary to it, with the new and extensive quartz mining region, to which it is nearer than any other point on the railroad, render it a desirable place for such an industry. There are a planing mill and lumber yard, a brick yard and a number of other industries, such as a harness shop, blacksmith shops, etc. Nearly every kind of business is well represented, a dozen stores carrying large and well selected stocks of goods, and doing a large trade with sections remote from the railroad, including the new mines on Salmon river. There are two weekly papers, the *Jour-*