

nal and the *Sentinel*, three hotels, two livery stables, two drug stores, a book and stationery store, a furniture store, two hardware stores and a national bank. Three religious denominations—Congregational, Episcopal and Catholic—have neat church edifices, and the Methodists have a strong organization and hold services in a hall. The public school building was erected in 1885, at a cost of \$7,000.00, and is a substantial frame structure of two stories, excellently adapted to the use for which it was built. The school has an attendance of one hundred and fifty scholars, is well graded, and under the charge of three teachers. The sisters of St. Joseph have a large, two-story, frame building, in which a parochial school is maintained. A hospital is contemplated by them, to be erected as soon as arrangements can be completed. There are lodges of Masons, who own a hall, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Knights of Labor.

Sprague was incorporated by the legislature in December, 1883, and during the four years of its existence as a city, has spent much money on its streets and for other improvements. It has not, however, burdened itself with debt, and consequently it does not repel strangers who seek investment there, by a heavy rate of taxation. The city council has recently granted franchises to the Sprague Water Co. and the Sprague Electric Light Co. The former has a capital stock of \$25,000.00, and the latter \$50,000.00. These companies propose to put in complete systems of water works and electric lights, and are making arrangements to that end. Both companies were incorporated by George S. Brooke, D. K. McPherson, John J. Burns, J. H. Shields and W. B. Lottman, who are among the most enterprising and substantial business men of the city. The progressive spirit displayed by these gentlemen, and others, is doing

much for the advancement of the city. An evidence of this is the flouring mill. Mr. J. G. Stevens, the projector of the enterprise, was induced to locate here in preference to Spokane Falls, by a pledge of \$25,000.00, which was raised in a single afternoon. Similar efforts are being made to secure a woolen mill, and they will probably be successful, as about a million pounds of wool are sheared near Sprague annually. There are a number of improvements in contemplation, both public and private, among which is a system of sewerage for the city. A board of trade was organized by the business men last spring, and is looking closely after the city's welfare.

The largest industry of Sprague is that of the railroad. The company employs about three hundred men about the shops, yards and headquarters buildings. This is the division headquarters of the Idaho division, and here is located the company's land office for Eastern Washington. Fully half a million dollars have been expended in shops and improvements, the former being the largest on this end of the line. The monthly pay roll is \$30,000.00. These shops are permanent, and form a good foundation upon which to build a town, even without the other advantages of location found at this point.

Lincoln county, of which Sprague is the county seat, embraces much of the finest portion of the Big Bend country, now becoming famous as the largest area of good agricultural land in Washington. The county contains sixty-three townships. These embrace, on an average, twenty thousand acres of arable land, from one to two thousand of grazing land, and from one to two thousand of "scab," as those tracts are called where the soil is thin and the rocks crop out on the surface. The greater portion of the scab land is in the southern portion of the county, in the vicinity of