

## WEISER AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, IDAHO.

IDAHO is just beginning to attract the attention its great resources should have drawn to it years ago. It is enjoying an era of great material prosperity, caused by the development of its mines and agricultural areas and the steady increase in its population. Its growth is the most noticeable along the lines of railroad running through it, where the towns are advancing rapidly and the surrounding country is filling up with immigrants. One of the most favorably situated towns is Weiser, the county seat of Washington county, which adjoins the state of Oregon on the east. Through the county and town runs the road of the Oregon Short Line, the through route of the Union Pacific between Omaha and Portland. It is twenty-three miles southeast of Huntington, the point where the Oregon Short Line and the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's lines connect, and is surrounded by a large area of splendid agricultural land and mineral deposits. Along the Weiser river, between the town and Snake river, are fifteen thousand acres of good arable land, which can be rendered highly productive by a suitable system of irrigation, while a large area of land between the Weiser and Payette is susceptible of the highest degree of cultivation. At present the irrigation facilities are entirely inadequate, and here is an opening for the investment of capital that will yield large returns. An investment of \$50,000.00 in ditch property would yield twenty per cent. to the owners, as the land is settled upon and ready for the water. The sale of water for irrigation, manufacturing and domestic purposes would yield a steady and permanent income. Acre property near Weiser is now worth from \$10.00 to \$40.00 per acre, while town lots are valued at from \$50.00 to \$125.00 each. Business property in the heart of town is valued at \$500.00 per lot fifty by one hundred and fifty-eight feet, without improvements.

For a distance of seventy-five miles north of Weiser there is a grain producing region which even in its present partially developed state yields annually a large quantity of wheat. This grain is shipped away, because there is no modern flouring mill there to consume it. About sixty car loads of flour are imported every year. Here is certainly an admirable location for a large roller mill to manufacture for the local and general markets. The stock industry has been an extensive one for many years. It has extensive bunch grass ranges, is watered by numerous running streams, and has a winter climate that enables stock to graze out the entire season. The snowfall is light, except in the mountains, and cold periods are few and of but short duration. Large bands of stock are being driven upon the ranges, and the cattle shipments

by rail to market are considerable. A special feature is the raising of horses, for which that section is rapidly acquiring a great reputation. Four hundred head of horses were shipped from Weiser during the month of June. The sheep industry is also a large one, and three hundred thousand pounds of wool were shipped from that station this year. The county has a population of eight thousand, and its assessed valuation of property will exceed \$1,000,000.00 this year, an increase of twenty per cent. in one year.

Weiser is the natural seat of an extensive lumbering industry. The river runs through a region containing hundreds of square miles of the finest quality of timber, which could be logged into the river and driven down to the railroad at Weiser, where it could be manufactured into lumber, sash, doors, blinds, etc., for shipment. In the mountains north of Weiser are a number of mining camps of great promise undergoing development, and this is the general supply and outfitting point. The best known of these are Warrens, Seven Devils and Ruthberg, but there are extensive quartz districts constantly being discovered. The development of these resources is slowly progressing, capital having recently been interested in several of them, but their undoubted merit will soon create for them a reputation that will draw capital in abundance.

Weiser is the railroad point for the country extending to Salmon river, a hundred miles to the northeast, and enjoys a large trade as far as Salmon meadows and Long valley. It has four large stores carrying extensive stocks of general merchandise, a hardware store, a machinery warehouse and grain and flour dealer, two drug stores, hotel, three restaurants, blacksmith shop, two livery stables and a number of other establishments. It possesses a bank with a capital of \$50,000.00 in connection with the Idaho Commercial Company. This company and Sommer Bros., dealers in general merchandise, are the most extensive business enterprises in the county. A brick school house capable of accommodating two hundred scholars is in process of erection and will cost about \$6,000.00. That the climate of that portion of Idaho is most pleasant is certified to by everyone whose good fortune it has been to enjoy it, and that it is salubrious is certain, not only from official statistics, but from the significant fact that there are only two physicians in the county, one of whom resides in Weiser. Being thus situated in the midst of great resources, which capital is already beginning to develop, being the railroad and commercial point for a wide scope of country, and having a most charming and healthful climate, Weiser must grow rapidly in size and prosperity as the country becomes more populous and productive and property increases in value.