

CALDWELL, IDAHO.

L YING in the center of Boise valley, a region that will in time become famous as one of the garden spots of the world, is the thriving town of Caldwell, in some respects the most progressive town of Idaho. It is but six years of age and has a population of upwards of six hundred. It is not a "hold-over" town, a relic of the business conditions and methods of former days, but is an outgrowth of the changed conditions of the business of the last few years, and its growth has been caused solely by the new status of affairs which followed the introduction of railroads into that region. All its people are workers and producers.

When the Oregon Short Line was constructed through Idaho, Caldwell was laid out on the Boise river to become the chief railroad shipping point of the extensive Boise valley, and its statistics show that such is the position it now occupies. In 1888 there were handled at that point fifteen million two hundred and seventy-eight thousand, two hundred and sixty-two pounds of freight and shipped four hundred and twenty-six cars of stock; yet, great as this is, it will be largely exceeded by the business of the present year. A new depot will be erected this year and increased facilities for handling the freight business offered. The wool shipments alone have reached eight hundred thousand pounds. As this is the showing of a region just beginning to know what it is capable of doing, it is but an indication of the enormous business that will be transacted there in a few years. The town is surrounded for miles with the finest quality of sage brush land, whose wonderful fertility when touched by the vivifying power of water is too well known in the west to require comment. Irrigation canals alone are all that is necessary to change this sombre gray of sage to the brilliant green of grass, alfalfa and grain, and in providing these capital will find one of the most inviting opportunities for investment now offered anywhere in the west. Two ditches have already been constructed, but more are needed and the opportunity to build them is open. The Strahorn ditch is taken out of the river about eight miles above the town and supplies it with water for all purposes. The Sebree canal heads in Boise river some distance above Caldwell, and covers twenty thousand acres of the finest quality of land lying immediately north of the town. Two years ago this was a sage brush desert, dreary and desolate, and now it is a green oasis, covered with great fields of alfalfa and grain. Lands immediately acquire a great value when covered by ditch, and many men of intelligence and means are each improving a section of this sage brush land lying under the Sebree canal. The

country tributary to Caldwell has not fairly begun to show its capabilities, and its agricultural products must in a few years become enormous. The Boise valley is already one of the recognized fruit producing sections of the west, its rich soil and genial climate combining to create a fruit unsurpassed in quality. Large quantities are shipped each year, and as time passes and the country develops this must become a most important and valuable industry. Caldwell is the supply point for the extensive mining districts about Silver City and Wagon town, and for the great stock ranges and farming sections of Jordan valley, Payette valley, Long valley, Sucker creek, Reynolds creek and numerous others. It possesses some of the most extensive business enterprises in the territory. M. B. Gwinn has a store room fifty by one hundred, with large sheds attached for implements and machinery. He has built a fine brick twenty-five by one hundred and twenty this year, also a handsome residence costing \$3,000 00. He carries a stock of general merchandise valued at \$50,000.00 and does an enormous business. Another large establishment is that of Frank R. Coffin & Bro., who keep the most complete stock of hardware in Idaho. Here, also, is located a store of the great firm of Howard Sebree & Co., who have stores in many of the leading towns of Idaho, Utah and Montana. There is a good bank, of which Howard Sebree and B. F. White, ex-governor of Montana, are the chief stockholders. Two other important institutions are an enterprising board of trade and a live newspaper, the *Tribune*, which has built a new office this year and fitted it up in first class style, thus enabling it to take its place as one of the leading papers of the territory, a fitting exponent of such a progressive town.

One feature of Caldwell is especially noticeable—its modern and substantial appearance. All its business buildings are solid and commodious, and its residences are of modern styles of architecture and extremely tasteful and attractive. C. H. Sebree, H. D. Blachley, Howard Sebree, M. B. Gwinn and the Methodist congregation have all erected new buildings this year, and a number of others will be built before the season closes, among them a fine brick block to be erected by the Masons in conjunction with other parties. There are a fine brick school house, in which a well equipped and graded school is maintained, and three good church edifices, belonging to the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations. A building and loan association is doing good work in aiding the people to acquire homes. The advantageous position it occupies, the extent and fertility of the adjacent country, the excellent railroad facilities and the push and vim of its business men, all render Caldwell a safe place for the investment of capital.