

progressive young place. Its inhabitants now number about 700. For a place that has hitherto enjoyed rather limited advantages in the way of contact with the outside world, it surprises one with its neat, bright and enterprising appearance.

The townsite could not have been better chosen. The streets are broad and kept in good condition. It has good schools and church privileges. A lumber and shingle mill and the smelter are located in the eastern edge of the town. The only larking house in the county is located there and also the only newspaper. A hotel to cost \$35,000 is being constructed. A water works system and an electric light and power plant are to be constructed, both to be finished early in the summer. A number of brick business blocks are under contract for building. The town is in every way improving its opportunity for advancement. Not the least of its advantages are its attractions as a summer resort. The climate is healthful and invigorating, game and fish are plentiful near at hand and the scenery is charming. Six miles down the Colville river that stream tumbles over a very picturesque fall of 130 feet known as Meyer's falls. That is also a valuable water power. The Spokane Falls & Northern is pushing on to tap the country beyond, and the Canadian Pacific announces its intention of constructing a branch through the valley. The whole region is pregnant with progress.

Seattle is preparing to go into the grain shipping business in earnest, now that she has been placed upon an equality with other ports in the matter of railroad rates on wheat. The Seattle Warehouse & Elevator Co. has been reorganized as the Seattle Terminal Railway & Elevator Co., and the capital stock has been increased to \$1,000,000. The new company will build a wheat warehouse in West Seattle and a standard gauge track from the foot of Weller street in Seattle, on Railroad avenue, connecting with the warehouses at West Seattle. The road will be built for the purpose of carrying different railroad cars to the warehouses. The warehouse will be the largest of the kind in the northwest, the plans being almost an exact counterpart of Balfour, Guthrie & Co.'s great wheat warehouse at Port Costa, Cal. A franchise has been granted by the council for the railway, and it will be completed inside of ninety days. Work on the warehouses will begin as soon as the architect's plans are completed, and it is expected to have the entire system in running order by August. The people of Seattle feel much elation over the prospect of that city becoming the great shipping point its location eminently qualifies it for, but which has hitherto been prevented by hostile railroad management. No doubt other enterprises of a like nature will be started.

EARLY DAYS IN BOISE BASIN.

GOLD was first discovered in Boise county near the head of Grimes creek by a party of twenty-six prospectors, headed by a man named Grimes, in whose honor the creek was named, in September, 1862. A day or two after the discovery, while the men were in camp, a bullet whistled among them, striking a few inches from the face of Joseph Branstetter, who was lying near the camp fire. He, with Grimes and several others, knowing that the shot had been fired by an Indian, immediately started for the divide between the head of the creek and Payette river. Grimes was ahead, and, when near the summit, an Indian fired from his place of concealment, killing him instantly. The country was thoroughly searched during the afternoon, but no signs of Indians could be found other than the moccasin tracks of the murderer, who had escaped down the Payette side of the mountain. The party, after constructing a barricade five miles below, which they called "Fort Hog'em," came across the low range of mountains that passes through the center of Boise basin from north to south, and discovered gold on Elk creek, half a mile above its junction with More creek.

After doing a sufficient amount of prospecting to satisfy themselves that the places were enormously rich, and making locations of ground and water rights, the party went to Auburn, Oregon, to spend the winter, pledging their words to each other to keep faithfully within their own breasts the secret of the discoveries. According to agreement, all were to return as early as possible the following spring to extract the great wealth of the golden sands of Boise basin, where, apparently, white men had never preceded them.

Boise basin is about eighteen miles in diameter, surrounded by high mountains, and contains every evidence of once having been covered by a lake hundreds of feet in depth. No geologist would for a moment doubt the correctness of this theory.

Shortly after the party arrived at Auburn the secret leaked out, as such secrets always do, and wild rumors of the fabulous wealth of the new diggings seemed to pass through the country with the winds. Everybody talked of gold, and all who could secure pack animals, with many who were courageous enough to carry their "grub" and blankets on their backs, were soon off in search of the new El Dorado. The discoverers hastened back and made their locations of ground and water rights secure. Of that party only two are now known to be alive—Colonel Fogus and Joseph Branstetter. The latter resides at Idaho City, where he is still successfully engaged in placer mining.

When the fall snows began to forbode a hard winter many of the fortune seekers departed for more