tionately high. Flour ranged from $10 to $50 per sack of fifty pounds; eggs, from $3.00 to $6.00 per dozen; apples, 25 cents each; onions, 40 cents per pound; chickens, $36 per dozen; sugar, 60 and 70 cents per pound; coffee, 60 and 65 cents; candles, $1.00 per pound; women's kip shoes, $36 per pair; butter, 96 cents and $1.00; potatoes, 30 cents; dried apples, 40 cents; peaches, 75 cents; side bacon, 50 cents per pound; syrup, $6.00 per gallon; imported tea, $2.00 per pound; nails, 40 cents; and rice, 40 cents per pound. These prices, which were published on October 6, 1863, fluctuated enormously with the changes in the supply and demand. Groceries were brought from Portland, Oregon, and the freight by teams and pack-trains from Umatilla, on the Columbia, was 25 cents per pound. Whisky retailed at 50 cents per drink, and one would almost be safe in warranting it to kill on sight. Money was weighed on scales, or balances, paper or coin not being in use then in the placer camps of the basin, and the weights were so inexcusably heavy that a man starting out with $50 to make several purchases could not account for over $35 or $40 spent when he would find that his purse was empty. This means of fleecing the hard working miner was headed off, however, by the Idaho legislature, which passed a law requiring every weight to be adjusted by an officer appointed for that purpose, and "I. T." stamped on it. Many of the old weights are still in existence, although they have gone out of use, and nearly every one has a hole in the under side, which was drilled by the officer to lighten it. I have never seen one to which metal had been added. Edward Angle, who was the officer of weights and measures of Boise county, told me that some of the weights were twenty-five or thirty per cent. too heavy, and that to obtain their production he often found it necessary to threaten business men with the penalties of the law.

On September 29, 1863, the *Boise News*, the first Southern Idaho newspaper, made its appearance, with T. J. and J. S. Butler publishers. The former left Idaho in 1870, immediately after being defeated for delegate to congress by Samuel A. Merritt, the democratic candidate. He afterwards became territorial treasurer of Arizona. Mr. Merritt is now of the law firm of Rossborough & Merritt, of Salt Lake City, Utah, where he stands at the head of his profession. The *Boise News* was a five-column weekly, and the name afterwards discarded for *Idaho World*, when Henry C. Street, now of Hailey, Idaho, became editor. The politics then changed from republican to democratic.

In the spring of 1863, simultaneous with the great growth of Bannock, sprang up the thriving towns of Pioneer (better known as "Hog'em"), Centerville and Boston on Grimes creek, Granite Creek on a creek of the same name, Morestown, Buena Vista Bar and Last Chance on More creek. Placerville, on Boyle's gulch, west side of the basin, commenced building up in 1862 with the first stampede.

In this it will not be out of place to give a short description of Bannock, the principal town of Boise basin and county seat of the county of Boise, then embracing all of the area of the present counties of Logan, Elmore, Alturas, Ada and Boise. The town, which has twice since been destroyed by fire, is at the confluence of More and Elk creeks. Along these creeks was the richest placer ground. During the first four years of mining thousands of men worked on these creeks, and on East hill, the point from which the accompanying view was taken, it was possible in the night to read ordinary print by the light of the hundreds of pitch pine fires scattered up and down the creeks and along the bars to the southwest. On the northwest side of More creek, half a mile below the town, was Buena Vista bar. Nothing now remains to mark the site of a town which, in 1865, cast over 3,000 votes, but three or four residences of families and half a dozen old shanties occupied by Chinese.

Mining in the creeks was carried on in the most primitive manner. The top dirt, or loam and sand, which would not pay for working, was removed by wheelbarrows, and day and night could be seen strings of men wheeling it along planks and dumping it in great piles. The pay dirt (gravel on and near the bedrock) was shoveled up seven or eight feet onto a platform, thence shoveled still higher into the sluice boxes, about one foot wide by one deep, through which ran a very small head of water. Just below where the dirt was thrown in stood a man on the box "forking" out the gravel. Below the lower end of the last box stood a man in the tail race shoveling out the tailings. This man was indispensable, because, owing to the flatness of the ground, there was nowhere to "dump."

On the bars hundreds of men could be seen, with long, heavy crowbars in their hands, standing on the very edges of the high banks. With these instruments, which were then considered a necessity in bar mining, they would prize off the dirt, which fell in the ground sluices below. From the ground sluices the dirt and debris passed through boxes containing riffles the same as the sluices in the creek claims. The top dirt of bar claims was not stripped off, because it could be sent down the ground sluice at less expense. Day and night, week after week, and month after month, the whole country was a constant scene of activity. It presented the appearance of an ant bed disturbed—not a moment of quietude. The strings of men on the wheeling planks, carpenters at work, hundreds of men swinging picks and shovels, which glittered like the