

## MOSCOW, IDAHO.

**O**NE of the richest agricultural sections in the great Inland Empire is that generally spoken of as the Palouse country in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. This, in general terms, comprises the farming region between the Snake river on the south and the Spokane on the north. That farming region, however, does not extend entirely to the Spokane river. The spurs of the *Coeur d'Alene* mountains, that traverse the country very irregularly, interrupt the rolling plain and render cultivation of the soil less easy in the rocky ridge south of the Spokane, where the timber is also viewed as a drawback by those familiar with the treeless stretch of fertile land to the southward.

The whole Palouse country is a more or less heavily rolling and elevated plain. The surface is drained to the Snake by the Palouse river, the two forks of which receive a vast number of creeks. Many of these are dry channels during a considerable portion of the year. Whatever moisture they would naturally carry is absorbed by the soil through which they flow and the atmosphere during the dry season.

One of these tributaries to the Palouse is known as Paradise creek. It begins east of the Idaho boundary and leads to the South Palouse. Paradise valley is only a local name for a corner of the Palouse country that is not at all sharply defined. "Hog Heaven" is the appellation once given to that locality by reason of the large herds of swine that at one time fattened there.

At the head of Paradise valley, and less than two miles from the Washington boundary, is the town of Moscow, Idaho. Less than three years ago it was incorporated. Now it has a population of about 2,000, though not that many people live within the corporate limits, which include but a single section of land. It is the eastern terminus of a branch of the Union Pacific running from a junction with its Spokane Falls main line at Colfax. The Northern Pacific's Palouse branch passes within nine miles of Moscow on its way southward to Genesee, and the details are now being determined by that company for building a line to Moscow and to Lewiston, on Snake river, this year. The business activity which is thus drawing the railway companies is also attracting the attention of people in quest of pleasant homes or safe investments.

Moscow is the seat of justice of the new county of Latah. It was made such in 1888, since which time its growth has been very rapid and substantial. The unfailing agricultural wealth of the country provides a safe basis on which to build prosperous industries, while the mines, forests and stock ranges afford ample fields for progress in different lines of business. The

energetic way in which the people of the city of Moscow are improving their numerous advantages can but awaken the admiration of enterprising people everywhere. The first grain was sown in that country in 1872, and the annual production marketed in Moscow is about 500,000 bushels. The grain yield of the country tributary to Moscow, it is estimated, will reach 1,500,000 bushels this season, the acreage being larger than ever before and all the conditions favoring an unusually large yield per acre. The capacity of the two flouring mills and two elevators will be taxed to the utmost this year; indeed, preparations are already being made to provide additional facilities for handling the enormous grain crop. There is now one brewery in the town, and steps are being taken for constructing another, at a cost of \$15,000. An experienced brewer from St. Paul, who has been searching through the northwest for location, is most pleased with Moscow, and will push the new enterprise. A water works plant is in course of construction, to cost \$25,000. Before the end of the summer Moscow will have a water supply second to none. Its electric light plant runs 230 incandescent lamps, and an arc circuit is to be added. The public school building cost \$16,000, and six teachers are employed in it. The University of Idaho, now being erected, will make Moscow the leading educational center of the new state. The Latah county court house cost \$25,000. The city has two weekly newspapers, two banks, eight churches and three hotels, one of which is probably the best in Idaho. Building materials, such as bricks and lumber, are manufactured at home, and strong inducements are offered for increasing the capacity and adding to the number of the mills now in operation. The business men have an organization to promote the advancement of the city, and they are alive to all material interests.

There is probably no town in the west of the size of Moscow that has so large a volume of trade. The mercantile houses would be creditable to a city five times its size, both for the quality and quantity of stocks carried. It is the distributing point for a large section of country that is rapidly settling up and increasing in importance proportionately. Moscow is the only Idaho town of importance between the *Coeur d'Alene* mountains and the Clearwater river, and as it has railway communication the products and supplies of the larger part of Northern Idaho pass through that city and make a great deal of business there. Even before the railway reached Moscow it was a trade center of no mean proportions. Local capitalists have taken up the matter of developing the mines in the hills but a few miles to the northeast. A recently organized company has eleven quartz claims, two placers and two mill sites in Howard gulch, about