

seven miles from Moscow. A small mill is now in operation there, and its capacity is to be greatly increased this season. The claims are rich, and their development is not a difficult matter. There are numerous other locations that will pay well for working and which are likely soon to be improved. About thirty-five miles northeast of Moscow is one of the richest mica mines in the country—as rich as any in North Carolina. It is owned by the Pecks, of Chicago, who have done very little toward its development, but annually take from it quite a snug sum. However, a disposition to more fully develop this mine is manifested, and it is likely to become the leading mica producer in the United States.

Of first importance in the Moscow country are the grain interests. The average yield per acre of wheat, which is the most valuable crop, is twenty-five bushels. The soil is of that peculiar, deep, ashy nature that characterizes nearly all of the Inland Empire. It is of volcanic origin, and its fertility and lasting qualities are truly wonderful. No artificial fertilizers are used there. The complaint in some places is that the land is too rich for ordinary crops. Year after year crops that usually sap the productiveness of the best of soils are harvested in the Paradise valley and on Potlatch prairie in such quantities as are amazing to the conservative husbandmen of the east, and yet the land does not become lean. Wheat, oats and barley are sure crops and yield in abundance. Corn is grown to a limited extent. Second only to the grain comes the flax of the country about Moscow. There is opportunity for building up vast manufacturing interests based on the flax production of that region, and it is not likely that the opportunity will long be neglected. Mills for utilizing both flax seed and fiber would find a profitable field for operation at Moscow, and cause the development on a large scale of what is now truly an infant industry, though important in its infancy. Flax culture can be made very profitable business in the Eastern Palouse country. It is also excellent fruit and vegetable land, though the fruit raising has been neither thoroughly nor extensively prosecuted. Fruit is seldom produced in any considerable quantities until a country is well settled and its orchards have some age. Enough has been done to demonstrate the adaptability of the soil and climate to all the common fruits, and in some places peaches, apricots, grapes and other tender varieties flourish. All the ordinary vegetables grow and yield well. The surface of the country is rolling. It drains itself, but still absorbs enough moisture during the winter and spring to feed the growing crops during the dry season. It is surprising to any one not familiar with that country to look over an area of apparently parched soil and find vegetation flourishing. But, though the surface may be hot and

dusty, beneath there is always moisture within reach of the roots of plants. The soil is loose. It never bakes. Being thus porous and deep, it absorbs a great deal of moisture and yields it up again to the demands of growing crops when the air is dry and the sun hot. Snow falls in winter, but grazing animals generally get a good living for themselves all the year. The summers have warm days and cool nights. The atmosphere is clear and healthful at all seasons.

Latah county has an agricultural fair association that has improved a tract of 160 acres adjoining Moscow for the purpose of holding annual fairs. It has the usual race track adjunct. More than \$8,000 have been expended in these improvements. The city has a park comprising an area of nearly four acres which is centrally located and is being improved at the public expense.

The Moscow site is on a slight incline toward Paradise creek. The ground rises to the east and is gently undulating. The business streets are in the valley and the residences occupy the higher ground, from which there is an unobstructed view of a wide range of country. To the east and north spurs of the Coeur d'Alene mountains relieve the rolling prairie. These mountains are rich in minerals and bear an abundant supply of timber. The snow that lingers on their summits most of the year freshens the breezes and supplies moisture for keeping green the hillside pastures where thousands of grazing animals from the Snake river country revel in succulent feed when the ranges below are brown and dry. Moscow's location is attractive. Besides being so related to the adjacent country that it commands an immense volume of business, it is a beautiful residence town. The number of pleasant homes, illustrated with this issue of *WEST SHORE*, testifies to the fact that it is a city of homes as well as of business. The people are enterprising but in no way imbued with a reckless spirit. Their prosperity is perennial, so there is no disposition to abnormally push matters for fear that the prospects of to-day will be blasted by the developments of to-morrow.

Building operations in Moscow will be lively this year. Last year eighty new residences were constructed in the town and about \$100,000 expended in the erection of business houses. This record will be greatly improved upon the present season. Pressed bricks are manufactured in the city, so there is no lack of material for ornamental and substantial structures. The real estate market—that very safe and sensitive index of public prosperity—shows a steady increase of values and a healthy condition all around. Moscow rests upon a solid foundation for growth of a kind that is permanent. It arrests the attention of the most casual observer, by reason of its progressive spirit and its manifest strength.