

a new country. The mill was erected three years ago, at a cost of \$16,000, and has all the latest and best milling machinery. It has a capacity of 200 barrels of flour per day. Since its erection the production of wheat in this vicinity has increased more than tenfold.

The great Wood river mineral belt, which has always been the largest ore-producing section of Southern Idaho, is a vast lead-silver bearing zone, extending north and south on either side of the river a distance of seventy miles, and varying in width from two to twelve miles. The center of this great mineral region is Galena gulch, near the town of Broadford, across the river one mile from Bellevue. Here are located that most famous of all Idaho silver mines, the "Minnie Moore," and her scarcely less celebrated sister, the "Queen of the Hills," which are the best developed mines in Southern Idaho. The former of these has produced no less than \$6,600,000 in the past seven years, and the latter \$1,800,000; and both still have large reserves. Aside from these are many other mines that have not yet been worked on such an extensive scale, but which have made large and valuable shipments of ore without concentration, and now possess big bodies that, by means of adequate milling facilities, will render the mines of great value. Prominent among these may be mentioned the "Relief," "Gate City," "Michigan," "Big Bonanza," "Pacific Tunnel," "San Jose," "Monday," and many others situated on either side of the river within five miles of the city. The mining industry of Wood river is in its infancy, and the country has as yet scarcely been prospected.

But it is not alone upon the great mining resources of the country that Bellevue depends. It is now, and will always be, the business center of a fine agricultural and stock country. As in every other section of Southern Idaho, with one or two exceptions, the question of irrigation is of paramount importance, and the whole, grand, agricultural development of the country depends upon water. Wherever this can be obtained the soil yields amazingly large crops. The farming inhabitants of Wood river are happily situated in this respect. The river in itself carries water sufficient to irrigate its entire valley, and it is obtained with comparative ease and trifling cost. Beginning at Bellevue the valley suddenly widens to the southward for twenty miles into a sort of basin, containing many thousand acres of land remarkable for its richness and fertility. This large scope of country is especially adapted to fruits and berries of all sorts, and also to wheat and the other cereals. Fall wheat requires no irrigation, as the snows of winter, slowly melting, furnish sufficient moisture. This basin, which is traversed its entire length by the railroad, will, in a few years, become one of the most productive agricultural regions of Southern Idaho.

Fifteen miles to the west lies that wonderful stretch of country known as Camas prairie, where no longer ago than 1878 the Bannock and Shoshone Indians began their murderous raid through Idaho and Eastern Oregon clear up to the banks of the Columbia. Then it was a wilderness; now it is a garden. Then it was the home of the restless Indian; now there is not an Indian within 150 miles. It stretches along the banks of the Malad river a distance of 100 miles, and the tillable area is, perhaps, eighty miles long by eighteen to twenty in width. Every foot of this extensive tract, which is unquestionably the bed of an ancient lake, is susceptible of a high state of cultivation, irrigation not being required, owing to a peculiar natural condition. During the driest time in midsummer the moisture rises to within a foot or two of the surface of the ground. The average altitude of the prairie is about 5,300 feet, but the climate is mild and fine. The soil, owing to the peculiar, natural "sub-irrigation," yields immensely, small grains doing especially well. Much of the land is still open for settlement, and the immigration this season is very large.

Ten or twelve miles down the valley from Bellevue is the most famous trout stream of Idaho, and probably the best in the west. This is Silver creek, from the head waters of which thousands of pounds of mountain trout, some of them weighing three and four pounds, are taken every spring and summer without apparently diminishing the numbers. It is essentially the fisherman's paradise, and sportsmen flock thither from all quarters. From 100 to 175 magnificent trout are but an ordinary catch for a good fisherman in a few hours.

Like every other section of Idaho the great Wood river mining region is anxiously awaiting the dawn of statehood. With its advent a new era will be inaugurated in mining, business and agriculture.

The Victoria, Port Crescent & Chehalis R. R. Co. has been incorporated by Northern Pacific officials and others, for the purpose of building a road from Port Crescent, on the Straits of Fuca, southward on the western slope of the Olympic mountains to Gray's harbor, a distance of 150 miles, where it will connect with the Tacoma, Olympia & Gray's Harbor, the Northern Pacific's branch line now under construction. Port Crescent will be connected by ferry with Beechey bay, on Vancouver island, from which place a road will be built to Victoria, thus giving the chief city of British Columbia direct connection with the Northern Pacific. The region to be traversed in Western Washington is one rich in timber and agricultural land, and is especially adapted to dairying. Surveying parties are now in the field and more will soon be known about that somewhat mysterious region.