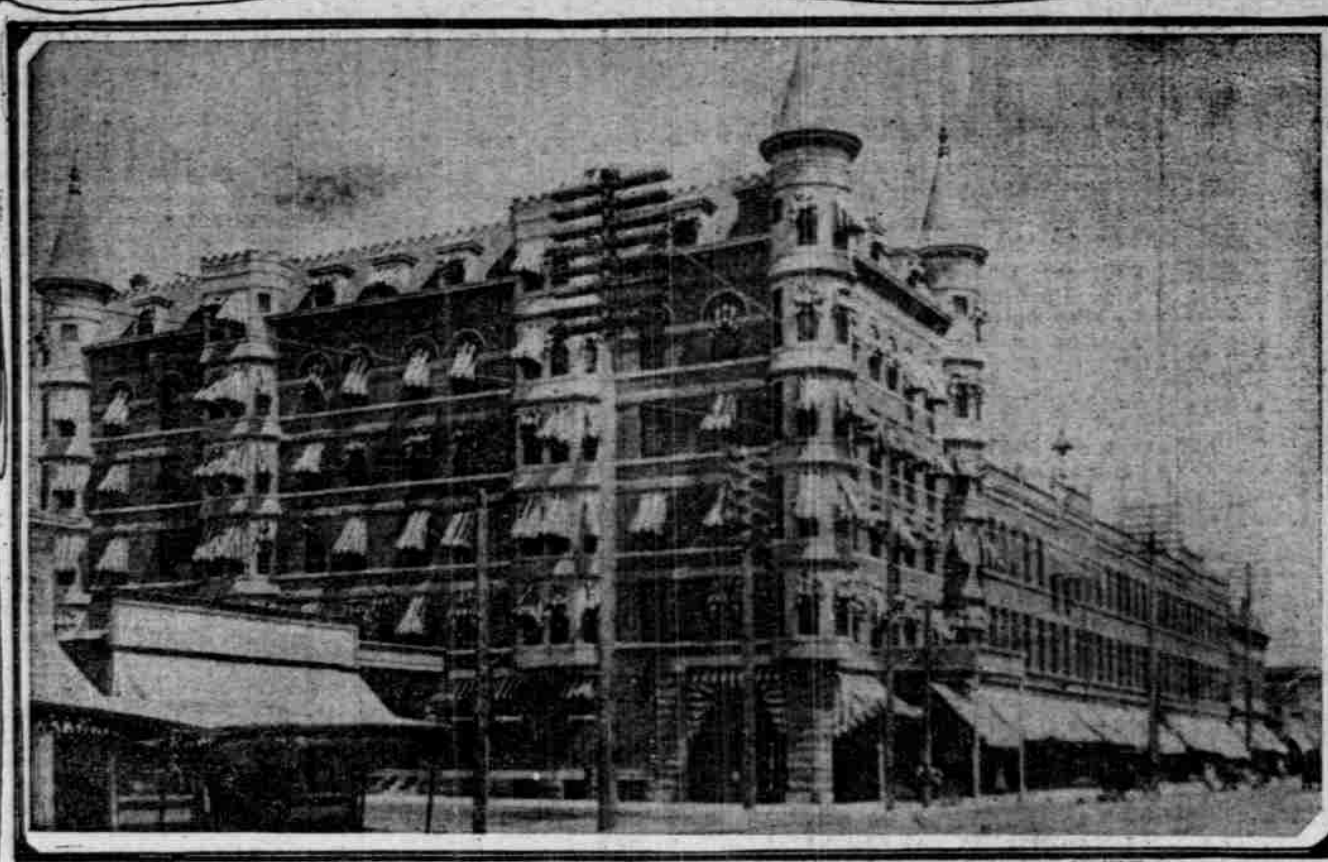


SCENES AND BUILDINGS IN BOISE, THE CAPITAL OF THE PROSPEROUS STATE OF IDAHO



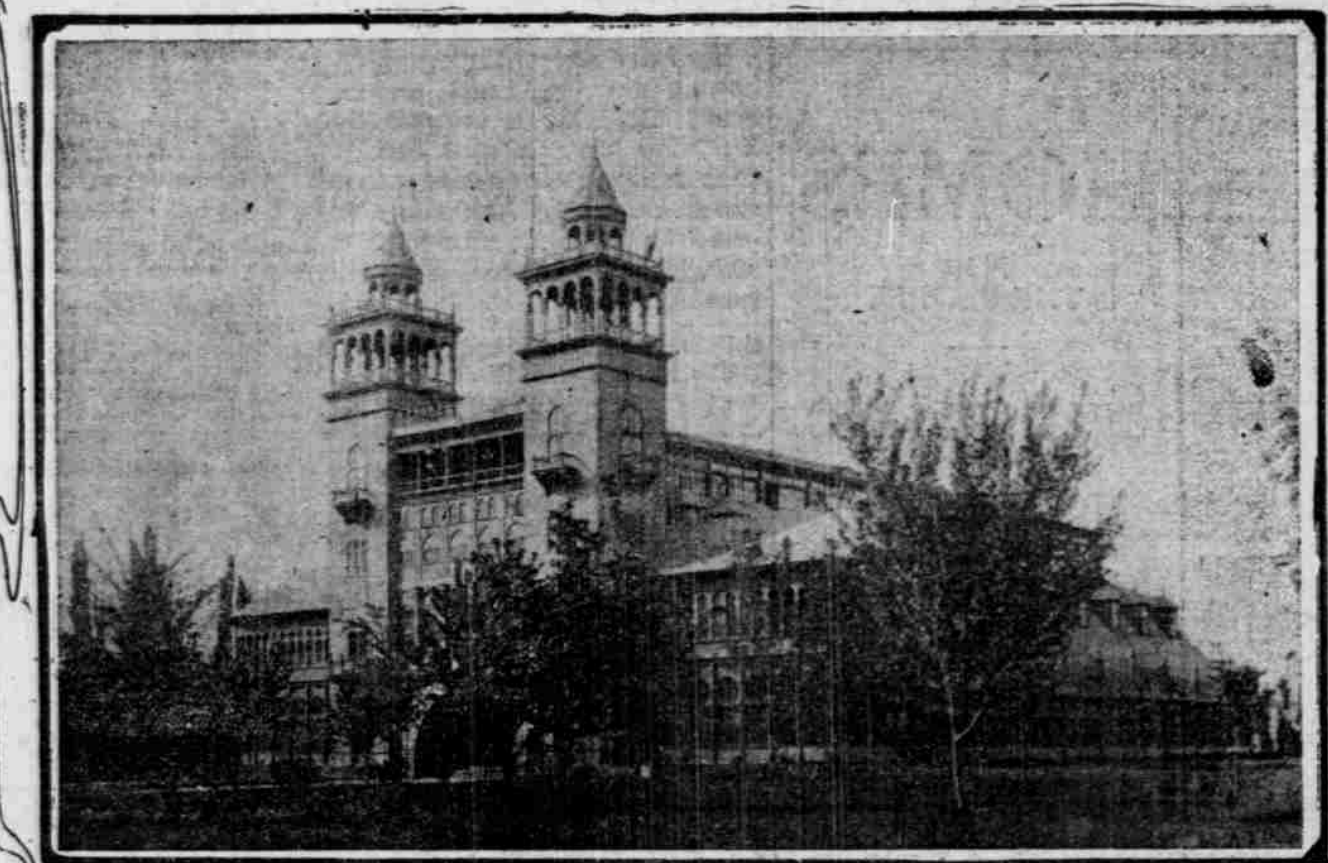
IDANAH HOTEL



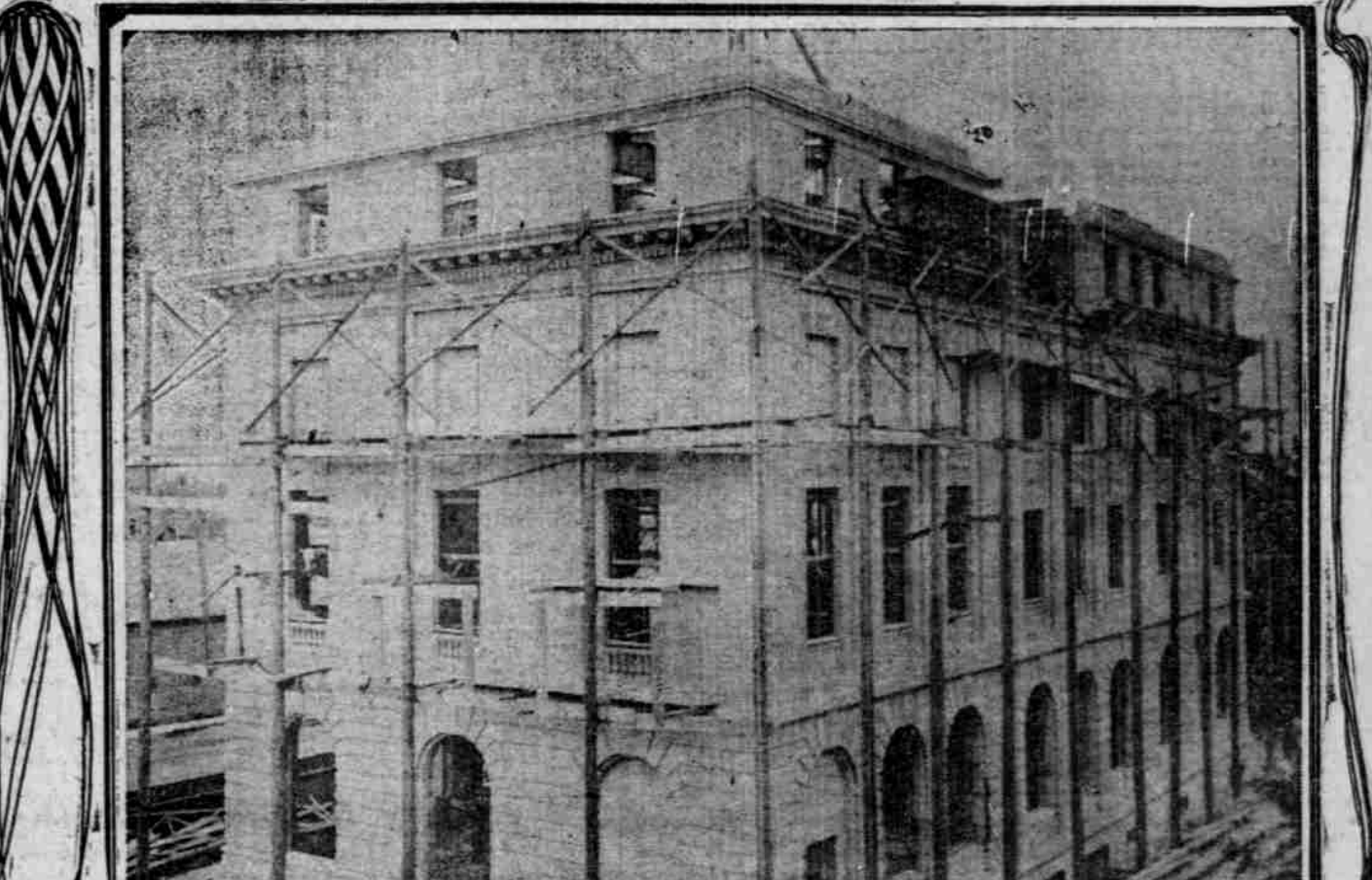
"THE GOOSE CREEK HOUSE"



THE STATE CAPITOL



THE NATATORIUM



FEDERAL BUILDING

BOISE, Idaho, June 23.—(Special Correspondence.)—When President Roosevelt arrived at Boise on Thursday, May 23, and was driven through her principal streets and noted the many business blocks of stone and brick, the extent of broad cement sidewalks and the shade trees which lined the residence streets, the green lawns surrounding the elegant homes of Boise's wealthy citizens, his first remark upon rising to address the people here was, "You have a beautiful city," and nothing that he could have said would have pleased the people more, for the citizens of this town are proud, and justly so, of its attractions. The aggregate amount of wealth and of trade centered here may be known to a few, but the beauty of the town is known and commented upon by every one.

To Whom Credit is Due.

Some things in this world might seem to have come by chance, but not everything. It may be chance that has given the City of Boise a population estimated by the directory publishers at over 15,000 (now estimated at 15,000) and made it the center of a wholesale and retail trade of large proportions, and accumulated here millions of dollars of local capital, but it was not chance which gave Boise her miles and miles of cement sidewalks, her shade trees and well-kept streets. It was the pride of her citizens which brought about such conditions, and I feel safe in saying that these conditions are largely due to the spirit manifested by such citizens and business men or firms here as Mayor M. Alexander, Hon. Edgar Wilson, C. W. Hesse, C. E. Sturges, W. E. Pierce, M. Liddell, J. F. Dolan, J. M. Wise, Ellsworth & Newcomb, J. Maloney, Frank Nelson, B. H. Coleman, Dudley Holland, Charles Norwood, Charles E. Joy, F. R. Coffin, J. E. Clinton, C. W. Moore, Harry Watkins, James A. Finney, Dr. George Collier, Herbert E. Quigley, Grigsby & Allen, E. J. Phillips, A. E. Kohay, Charles M. Kahn, V. C. Kerr, D. W. Johnson, George E. Atwater & Co., H. W. Dunton, A. E. A. C. Thompson, Bishop A. J. Gloroux, John W. Daniels, Bishop J. B. Fumston, Al. C. Dwyer, C. O. Mitchell, Charles McKinnell, Nathan Falk, Albert Lemp, H. B. Eastman, B. S. Howe, J. K. Loree, Leo Spiegel, H. N. Coffin, W. R. Hyatt, Dr. C. A. Southwell, W. E. Davidson, Samuel Parrott, J. M. Neil, S. B. Coulter, The Wheeler-Motter Co., James E. Dunbar, D. G. Caswell, Good & Roberts, Judge R. P. Quarles, C. R. Shaw, Gibbons & Knights, J. L. Laughlin, W. Cate, S. S. Horner, Golden Rule Store, F. A. Nourse, D. M. Steen, E. H. Plowhead, T. C. Brownell, Leo P. Grunbaum, Conrad & Gasky, McLeod & Johnson, J. P. Fulford, J. M. Hanley, W. P. Richards, Payette Lumber & Manufacturing Company, J. F. Koelsch, H. E. Neal, E. H. Began, E. H. Feasler, McCrum & Deary, Ballou-Lattimer Co., Booth Furniture Co., Roberts Bros., H. M. Garrett & Co., James Wright, Charles F. Neal, J. E. Neal, George W. Smith, W. S. Campbell, J. H. Hawley, G. A. Latham & Co., State Auditor T. Turner, Governor J. P. Morrison, Judge J. W. Brown, People's Co-operative Merchandise Company, R. E. Russell, Idaho Building & Loan Association, the O. K. Commercial Company, Messersmith & Kanagy, J. S. Bogart, J. E. Fortueller, A. E. Werner, John L. Day, the Capital Commercial Company, Swift & Co., J. F. Cook, General Vickers, W. E. Borah, Joseph Spiegl, Began & Blackinger, J. M. McMillen, William Hahn, William Northrop, S. Heller, J. Hagenbaugh, Thomas Davis, Joseph Perault and others.

Some Statistical Facts.

The present estimated population of Boise is 15,000. When the census was taken in 1900 the corporate limits were much smaller than at present. Boise is located 56 miles from Portland and 45 miles from Salt Lake City. Its altitude

is 2800 feet; its average temperature is 51 degrees, while that of Portland is 52, and San Francisco 54. The death rate is only 33 per 1000, or less than any other state in the Union. It is the capital of Idaho and county seat of Ada County. It is the terminus of a branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, and is the headquarters and distributing point for a number of rich mining districts, including the famous Thunder Mountain. There are 335 business houses here, employing 800 clerks, with annual salaries aggregating \$500,000; 400 carpenters, masons, etc., earning annually \$135,000; 80 printers and newspaper employees, earning \$25,000 annually; 150 employees at hotels and restaurants; 70 painters, 56 railroad employees, 40 teachers, \$7,270; salaries of city officials, \$15,000; salaries of county officials, \$17,000; salaries of state officials, \$25,000. Total estimated number of wage-earners, 210, with an annual pay roll of \$1,317,888. Ada County, of which Boise is the county seat (by the way, "Boise" is pronounced as though spelled "Boisey"), has a brick courthouse and a county hospital and poor farm. In the Boise school district are six brick schoolhouses, including a high school, and a school census for 1903 of 2587 children. A contract has been let for another \$35,000 school building and a \$40,000 addition to the Washington School.

The City of Boise has a fine city hall, a city library of 2000 volumes, a very efficient paid fire department, M. Liddell being chief, with two steamers, five hook-carts, one aerial hook and ladder truck, one horse chemical engine and one hand chemical engine; also a system of electric fire alarms. The main street is paved with wood, which is to be supplanted this year with asphalt pavement, and another street is to be vitrified brick. The cost of these improvements will be over \$70,000. All sidewalks are of cement and even in the outskirts of the town are these walks, lined with shade trees. Over three miles of new cement walks will be built this year. Viewing the town from the rising grounds, the houses are hidden beneath a forest of trees, planted along the streets or in the yards.

More Hot Springs.

A few miles from the city are other hot-water springs, which have been only partially improved, but it is probable very soon to extend the street railway here, and many thousands of dollars be expended in beautifying grounds, erecting hotels and bath houses, thus adding another attraction to those already so numerous here.

The Country Surrounding.

It is manifest that Boise has had a very substantial growth in the past year or two, and is now rapidly forging ahead. This is decidedly encouraging to residents here. The question naturally arises: What resources has Boise which will support the present town and also keep pace with its anticipated growth during the next few years? If a town increases in population it must be through development of the resources which are tributary. There are four resources which contribute to Boise's prosperity, viz.: Agriculture, mining, stockraising and manufacturing. I think consideration of one of these resources may be dropped out, viz. stockraising. Fortunes have been made, and are now being made, in stockraising, but the industry has a limit of expansion which has about been reached, when conducted on a large scale. In the future the aggregate number of

stock raised in Ada County will be increased in number, but the number of owners will increase much faster, the flocks and herds being smaller. In agriculture, mining and manufacturing there is practically just a beginning, and it is the development of these that is to give Boise its future gain in population.

Is Vast in Extent.

As I stood on the bridge which crosses Boise River and noticed the torrent of water swollen by the melting snows in the distant mountains and looked up the stream at the bare hills, with no sign of either snow or timber, I said to myself, "Where does it all come from?" And when I looked at the crowded streets of Boise, and saw the heavy stocks of goods carried by the business firms and the brisk trade, I asked myself the same question: "Where does it come from?" But when I look at the map of Idaho, and see that the Boise River heads away off almost in Montana, I begin to realize how a stream draining that extent of country can become quite a river and yet have no near-by source of supply. The same conditions exist about Boise. It has a position which receives the trade of a large area of country. As a water ditch is built in this valley or that, opening up to settlement more arid land, or a new discovery or more development is done in this or that mining section, each one does its part in increasing the commercial importance of Boise.

What Is Needed.

Now that Boise has the advantage of the development of the water power at Horseshoe Bend, 25 miles away, which has already been brought to the town and supplies the electric lights, the next thing should be an electric or else steam railroad out to the Pearl mining district. The present amount of business would make it a paying investment, in addition to which the railroad would materially help in the development of that and adjacent mining districts, which are attracting so much attention. This project has been repeatedly discussed by some of Boise's business men and financiers, but it seems the time has now come for action. The road will probably be extended either to Emmett or Horseshoe Bend. I understand there are no engineering difficulties in the way of this railroad.

Business Well Represented.

Every line of business seems to be well represented, and complete stocks, both wholesale and retail, are carried. To go into detail in enumerating the various lines would be tedious. There are four banks, with \$4,000,000 deposits; six newspapers, three daily; 6 hotels; 14 churches, 9 clubs, societies and associations; 22 secret and fraternal organizations, 6 public and 2 private schools, 2 business colleges, 2 hospitals, 1 sanitarium, 2 opera-houses, 1 ice factory, 1 creamery, 2 breweries, 3 commission merchants, 1 foundry and machine shop, 6 saw mills, 1 planing mill, 1 flouring mill, 8 exclusive wholesale houses, 2 meat packing establishments, 8 fruit packing houses, 1 superb and well-appointed natatorium or public bathing pavilion, water being furnished from two enormous springs, one hot and one cold; 4 building and loan associations, 25 manufacturing plants, 16 wholesale and jobbing houses, 2 waterworks, 2 electric light plants, 3 telephone systems with over 3000 subscribers, 25 miles of water mains, 17 miles of cement sidewalks; 250 houses were erected in 1902, and building operations are now very brisk. The United States Government is erecting a Postoffice and Federal office building costing \$250,000, which is nearing completion. At the United States assay office here over \$2,000,000 in gold was received last year. The Chamber of Commerce here is offered as follows: President, Edgar Wilson; vice-

president, E. W. Johnson; treasurer, B. F. Olden; secretary, C. E. Sturges. The object of this letter is not so much to show what has been accomplished by the people of Boise in building here a beautiful city, and developing the agricultural, mining and stockraising interests of the surrounding country, but rather to show the intending settler what openings exist here for securing just as favorable opportunities for making money as were taken advantage of by the present residents. I shall attempt to point out to men of energy and men of capital why they are needed in this section of Idaho for its complete development. Before doing this, however, I wish to give more in detail the attractive features of the City of Boise.

Springs of Boiling Water.

Only a dozen years ago hot water was found seeping from the hillsides just on

VIEWS OF BOISE.

Idanah Hotel—This street scene shows the style of architecture in the business district of the city. Natatorium—This building is one of the principal attractions of the city. Postoffice—This view shows the new postoffice and Federal building now in course of construction, at a cost of \$250,000. State Capitol and "Goose Creek House"—"Goose Creek House" was the seat of the first territorial convention of Idaho, held in the Spring of 1863. The building is situated at the crossing of Goose Creek, on the old Pioneer John trail, leading from Lewiston to Boise. The present State Capitol, built 20 years later, shows the growth of Idaho from a comparative wilderness, which it was only about 40 years ago.

the outskirts of the town, and when borings had been made to a depth of 400 feet the boiling water rushed to the surface. Other wells were sunk to a similar depth, and these furnish water, not only for the natatorium, one of the finest and most elegantly equipped bathing establishments in the West, but also to supply hot water for the city, where many buildings are heated, and baths in residences furnished with hot water. These wells are located at such an elevation as to carry the water by natural force to every portion of the largest buildings. The flow of these wells is 80,000 gallons daily, and the temperature of the water is 174 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition to their cleansing properties, these waters have medicinal qualities. In eczema, the most difficult of skin diseases to reach by ordinary medical treatment, these waters are a specific, and have worked many cures. They are of great value in all kinds of skin diseases, digestive and liver troubles, rheumatism, dyspepsia, gout and ulcers of the stomach. In fact, their value as a medicinal agent is gaining them a far-reaching reputation. When the healing virtues of the water become better known, Boise will be one of the chief health re-

sorts of the country. In addition to using these hot waters for bathing and medicinal purposes, they are piped into many of the business blocks, private dwellings and public buildings of the city, and used for sprinkling the streets. From the standpoint of health and cleanliness, aside from the economy, the advantages of this method of heating may readily be seen.

Clear, Cold Artesian Water.

While the production of such an abundance of boiling hot water is wonderful, yet when, within a few feet of these same wells, there boils forth clear, cold, sparkling water, which supplies the city for domestic use, and an ample protection against fire, one cannot refrain from marveling at the mysteries of nature. At one point a stream of water, fed by the snow-covered mountains in the distance, clear, pure and cold, rushing to the surface through holes drilled in the strata of rocks, and only a few feet away, almost touching, the water bursts forth boiling hot, and containing many minerals of medicinal value. While it is not our intention to advertise any individual or business, yet the erection in Boise of so magnificent a bathing building as the Natatorium is worthy of mention, and shows the enterprise and public spirit of some of the wealthy citizens here.

Government, State and County Institutions.

The United States Government is here represented by a military post where are quartered 150 soldiers and their officers, an assay office which has all the local advantages of a mint, and now handles a greater part of the mineral product of this section (there being produced last year in Idaho \$2,000,000 in gold, \$5,000,000 in silver, \$5,000,000 in lead, \$150,000 in copper, a total of \$14,500,000); there is also a weather bureau, United States Land office, and now in course of erection a frame building and postoffice, costing \$250,000. H. E. Quigley being superintendent of construction. The State of Idaho is here represented by its capital building, amply large when built in 1885, but which must give place to a larger one in a few years to keep pace with the rapid growth of the state; also a penitentiary with 118 inmates, and a Soldiers' Home.

A Great Sawmill.

About five miles from Boise on the Boise River, near what is known as Kelly Hot Springs, is shortly to be installed one of the largest lumbering plants in Idaho, the projectors being the Barber Lumber Company, of Wisconsin, which will erect a plant costing in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, and will give employment to from 500 to 700 men in the mills, and as many more on the river and in the logging camps. The purchase of several hundred acres of river bottom lands and the proposed erection of a dam 25 feet high, which will alone cost over \$100,000, shows that the work of this syndicate is to be done on a large scale. For the present the logs will be floated to the mill, but later it is possible a logging railroad will be built about 60 miles up the Boise River to tap the timber belt. The Oregon Short Line will run a spur from here to the mills, so that the lumber at the rate of 20 carloads a day, can be put directly on a transcontinental rail-

road. This milling company has been buying timber lands for the past two years on the head waters of Boise River, and now has many thousands of acres. In addition to the Oregon Short Line Railroad extension, it is probable the electric car line here will be extended to the sawmill site, and thus the large payroll there will become directly tributary to Boise.

Some More Manufactures Wanted.

Boise has a country surrounding it which has a vast extent of land adapted to agriculture and horticulture; also mining districts, which have produced millions of dollars in the past, and are now producing more wealth than ever. Boise now wants more manufacturing. There are several excellent water powers available right in the town, coming from the water ditches on the high bench lands, with a fall of 70 feet. There is just as good an opening here for a beet-sugar factory as any other point. More fruit evaporators are said to be wanted; also a tannery, a smelter, woolen mill and wool-scouring house, a large foundry and machine shop.

A new wagon road is projected from Boise to the Atlanta mining district, 125 miles, the travel now going from Mountain Home, through Calamus Prairie. Another projected wagon road is from Boise to Horseshoe Bend, cutting out the grade on Sugar Loaf Hill, and connecting with the new state wagon road to the Thunder Mountain district.

Land Well Irrigated.

The level lands of the Boise Valley are supplied with water from 12 ditches, one of which alone costs over half a million dollars, and yet more ditches are projected and being built. It is among the farms of the Boise Valley a revelation, showing the merits of irrigation. It is a succession of gardens, fields and orchards. I visited a farmer about three miles from Boise and made inquiries regarding his methods of farming. He has 100 acres of land, but only 75 is under a ditch. His gross cash income last year was \$2500, besides a living for himself, wife and four children. He has 25 acres in orchard and 50 acres in clover, alfalfa, etc. His residence is nicely painted, the green lawn kept well trimmed and flowers are blooming in profusion. I asked the farmer what he could get for his farm, and he said: "I was offered \$22,500 for the one hundred acres, but I concluded not to sell. It looks like lots of money, but I am doing very well on the farm, and can make good interest on that sum, and I guess we will stay here."

I inquired of a real estate man what were the prices of unimproved farm lands, which had a supply of water available, and he said: "The farm lands here under water ditches are all owned, but not nearly all in cultivation. Unimproved lands can be bought under easy terms, too. For from \$10 to \$25 an acre. A water right will cost on an average \$10 an acre, or water can be rented annually for about \$150 an acre. It only requires one season to get a crop off the land, even from the rough, and an income is assured at once. An orchard can be started and gradually enlarged, and any 40 acres of our bunch land, well farmed, is plenty for one man and his family. I know of one man who is making a good living off of less than

ten acres. Our soils are valueless without water, but on account of our long periods of sunshine, when water is applied, the productiveness of the soil is wonderful. There is a market right here for everything the farmer can raise, and at good prices."

Mining Districts Surrounding.

Twelve miles from Boise is the Black Hornet mining district; 22 miles away the Peace mining district; 25 miles away the Neal district; 30 to 50 miles away the Boise Basin, including Idaho City, Centerville, Quartzburg and Placerville districts; 65 miles away are the mines of the Pine Grove district; to the south, 80 miles, are the mines at Silver City; 85 miles from Boise is the Rocky Bar district, and also the Atlanta district; 125 miles away is the Stanley Basin mining district; 140 miles away the Sea Foam and Sheep Mountain districts; 180 miles, the Pacific district, and 185 miles, the famous Thunder Mountain district. In some of these districts mills are crushing rock, and there is a steady payroll and production. In some of the districts are a few mines only, while others have them by the score. These mines, however, are all tributary, either absolutely or indirectly, to Boise. The first move being made by the enterprising business men here is to get good roads to all these districts, and later railroads will follow, as the mines are developed.

Improvements in Boise.

In addition to the contemplated street improvements, which will aggregate \$70,000, and cement sidewalks, \$30,000 more, there are in course of erection a number of business houses and residences. A partial list of these was obtained from the architects here. Judge R. P. Quarles is erecting a \$5000 brick residence; G. W. Mutch a \$4000 brick residence; J. A. Poter a \$3000 frame residence; Mrs. Iona January a \$3000 frame residence; Dr. Patterson a \$3000 brick residence; a fire station for the city, \$15,000; an addition to St. Alphonsus's Hospital, \$30,000; J. W. Perker, \$2000 residence; Dr. Noble, hospital and residence, \$3000; soda-water factory of brick and stone, \$4000; Robert Noble, brick store, \$20,000; Robert Noble, brick store, \$25,000; H. Z. Johnson, frame residence, \$2500; J. T. Laughlin, double frame residence, \$4500; St. Teresa Academy, brick and stone, \$25,000; new Methodist Church, \$40,000; S. L. Tipton, residence, \$4000; Mrs. E. Wacklin, residence, \$2000; H. E. Neal, residence, \$2000; M. Curran, residence, \$2000; Joseph Kinney, residence, \$2000; A. O. Gallup, double house, \$2800; Methodist Episcopal parsonage, \$4000; F. L. Randall, residence, \$4000; F. Granholm, brick residence, \$2500; A. B. Kohay, residence, \$2500; Samuel Myer, residence, \$2000; M. J. Abbott, residence, \$1700; A. G. Lons, three brick residences, \$4000; J. M. Wal-lace, residence, \$2000; Robert Allen, residence, \$2000; L. Keildsen, double residence, \$2000; an addition to the brewery, \$15,000; A. Nixon, residence, \$2500; addition to St. Luke's Hospital, \$12,000; improvements to State Capitol, \$15,000; improvements to Natatorium, \$5000. It is estimated that 250 persons arrive and depart daily from Boise by rail, and the local freight and passenger business of the railroad is said to amount to \$1,400,000 a year.

E. C. P.