

BOISE CITY

..... IDAHO

ILLUSTRATED.

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BOISE CITY, IDAHO.

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BOISE CITY, IDAHO, ILLUSTRATED.

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STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.

Boise City, .. Idaho ..

IN a lovely valley, just where the mountains rise to conceal and protect the immense treasures stored by God for the use of future generations, at an altitude of twenty-eight hundred feet, lies Boise City, the capital and the metropolis of the State of Idaho. The Constitutional Convention of July, 1890, fixed the capital at Boise City for the period of twenty years. It is also the shire town of Ada County, the most wealthy, most populous and most fertile county in the State, being situated in the Southwest section of Idaho.

Boise City, very properly termed "The Beautiful," is built on the north bank of the Boise River, a wide and rapid stream having a fall of fifteen feet to the mile.

There is a beauty everywhere: the mountains look down upon the most



ADA COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



CITY HALL.

healthy and the most beautiful city on the Pacific slope, the population of which exceeds six thousand inhabitants; upon a vast amphitheatre, greater in extent than the area contained in the State of Connecticut, which has been fertilized and enriched by their sediments for ages; upon a far-stretching mesa, which waits the tide of civilization, rolling steadily westward to people the same with ten thousand homes, whose silver arteries sparkling in the sunshine, give to it life and vigor, while here and there are builded on its bosom pretty and thrifty villages, with populations of three hundred to one thousand inhabitants each, which serve the metropolis as out-ports, in the supplying of the needs and demands of the very numerous and prosperous mining towns, located in the mountains which surround it.

In the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the Government having established a military post, which has been maintained, the town was founded, and in the year 1864 was incorporated. It then became the natural central point for the mountain stage lines, at which congregated the great resources and industries of a vast territory; and so it has remained to this day; and so



UNITED STATES ASSAY BUILDING.

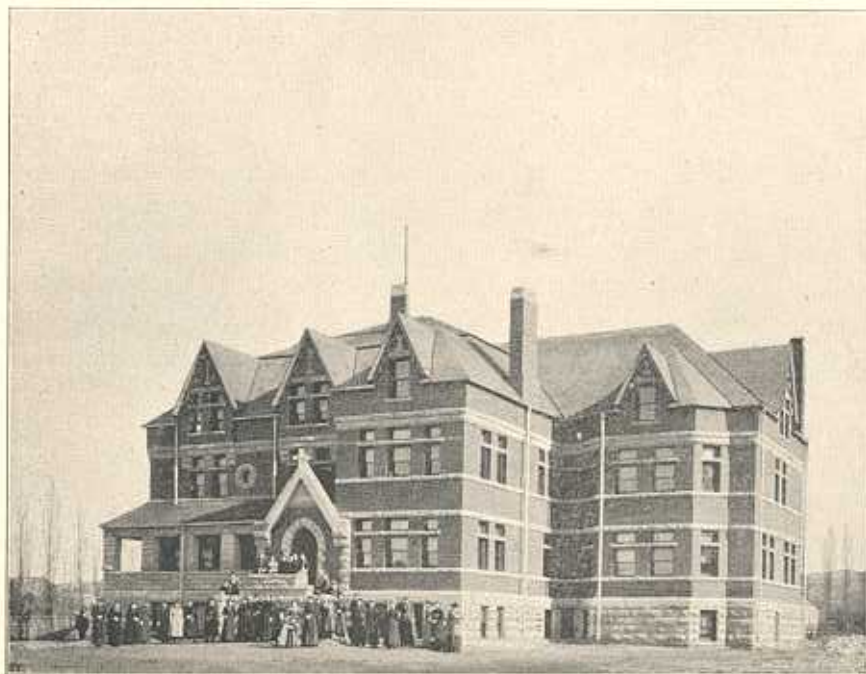
longevity and energy, and there is no city in the world where there is a less percentage of people with bad health, and which has so small a death rate as Boise City. This statement is based on the hospital records which the War

Nature has ordained that it ever remain. Its waterscapes and its landscapes are remarkable for their beauty. The adjacent mountains, from whose "granite safes" millions upon millions of the precious metals have been extracted, with no seeming diminution of their hidden treasure, stand like colossal ramparts, guarding this *Eden spot of the West*. In their keeping you find all that may delight the life of the true sportsman or satisfy the more enthusiastic disciple of Isaac Walton. From their wild crags leap the mountain sheep; through the grand belts of splendid timber wander the black, the cinnamon and the grizzly bear; in the deep and shady ravines lurk the timid deer, and from their dark recesses break the stately elk, to drink unchallenged the sweet waters of the placid lakes. Antelope dwell on the plains, and in the neighboring foot-hills pheasant, grouse and chicken are plentiful, while the lakes and streams teem with most excellent fish and abound with water fowl. Surely, for an outing, no place offers better inducements to those who love hunting and fishing, who enjoy and delight in picturesque scenery, than Boise City with its magnificent surroundings. There is nowhere on the American continent a better climate than that of the Boise Valley for



CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING.

Department causes to be kept at every post; the invigorating and thoroughly healthful climate make it an enjoyable place to live, which should be the desideratum in the selection of a home. There is no excessive heat to sap the energies, the warmest day being followed by a cool night; there is no excessive cold to pinch the human organism, the rigors of a northern climate being unknown, sleighing being as great a luxury as in the balmy south. The thermometer ranges from 100° Fahr. in the summer to zero in the winter, but an exceedingly dry atmosphere tempers both heat and cold. It has good drainage, and its water supply, from artesian wells, is the finest in America. If dryness, mildness and equability

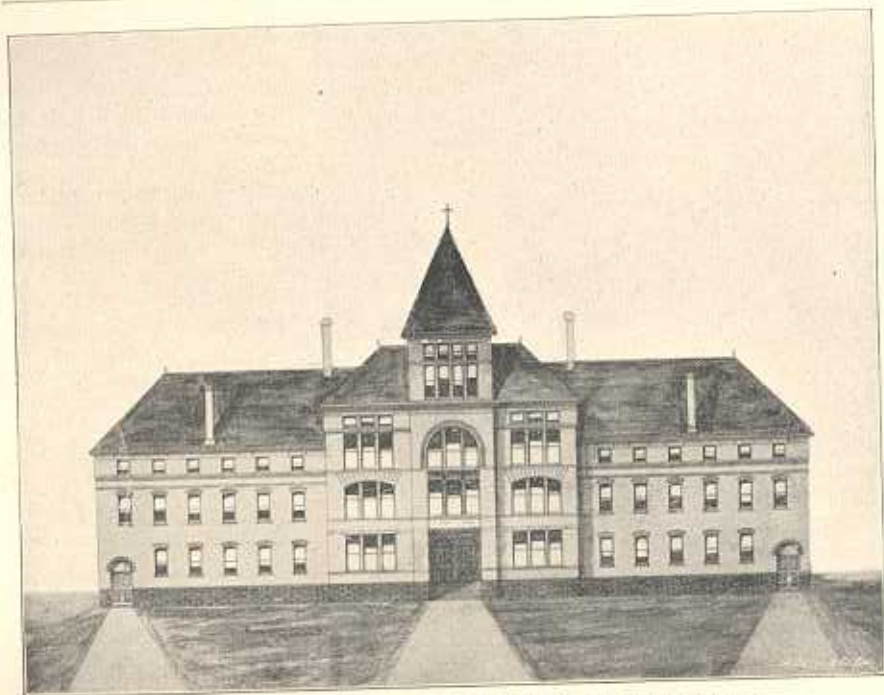


ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

of temperature, with plenty of sunshine, be the essential factors in an ideal climate, then is Boise City indeed the Golden City in the list of all health resorts.

Boise City is the terminus of the Idaho Central Division of the Union Pacific system of railways, and is midway between Salt Lake City and Portland. It is the heart of this great tributary area.

Boise City, from the beginning, has been a jobbing center, and it has every advantage as a distributive point to make itself one of the foremost inland cities of that imperial domain embraced in the great Northwest. It stands in the famous Boise Valley, which is thirty miles in width and fifty miles in length. If you glance at statistics you will



ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY. (CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.)

find no land that yields more bountifully. Independent of rainfall, drought is unknown; through three hundred miles of irrigating canals the golden grain beckons on the melting snows, and the ripening peaches lift their blushes to the snow-capped mountains surrounding.

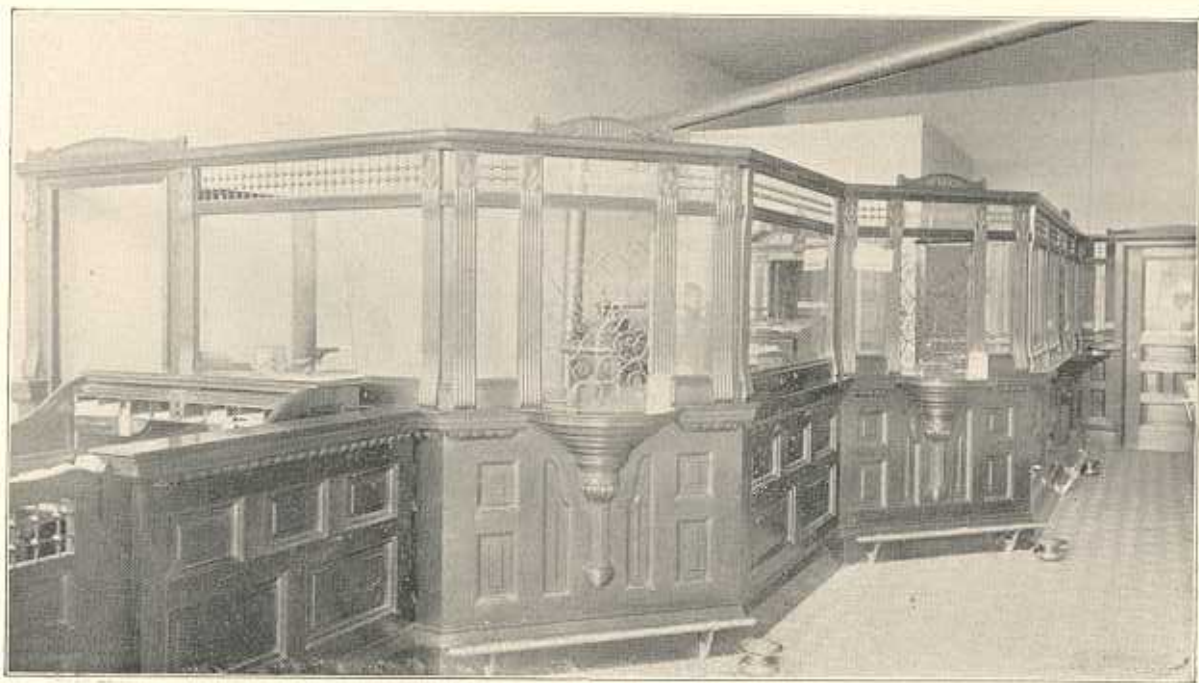
There are many eligible sites for manufacturing establishments. Boise City possesses an immense water power. The canal which furnishes this great power is located along the mesa, which marks the south border of the city. •The head and fall between the canal and the surface of the water in the river opposite the city is seventy feet. The sites seem to have been formed by Nature for the purpose of utilizing this grand water power,



BOISE CITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING.



INTERIOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF IDAHO.



INTERIOR CAPITAL STATE BANK.

and are obtainable at moderate prices. All factories, flouring mills, electric light plants, and electric street car system are run by this magnificent water power.

In raw material, for a wide range of industries, Idaho is peculiarly rich. In the hundreds of mines surrounding Boise City an abundance of the richest ores are found. Inexhaustible forests of pine supply the material for varied lumber manufactures. Leather and wool industries can secure all needed stores from the produce of the herds and flocks of the hills and plains. Almost within the city limits are to be found sandstone quarries of the finest quality. Along the foot-hills are also located clay beds, from which bricks of all kinds can be manufactured. Fire brick clay is also found in abundance.

Boise City, besides being the political capital, is the financial, commercial and industrial metropolis of the State. It is headquarters for stock men and mine owners.

Boise City is the seat of the United States, District and Circuit Courts, and the Supreme Court, as well as that of the U. S. Assay office, Surveyor General's, Land, Revenue, and other U. S. Government departments for the State. The State Penitentiary is also located here; the U. S. Military Post is pleasantly located one mile east of the city, upon a Government reservation. The lay of the land in Boise is such that sewerage is easy. The land



COLUMBIA THEATRE BUILDING.
J. A. Pinney, Proprietor and Manager.

slopes gently towards the river, and all the sewers lead in that direction. All the sewage reach the river a good distance below the town. Building of sewers has kept pace with the growth of the city, and the conditions are such as to allow enlargement of the system to meet the wants of the city.

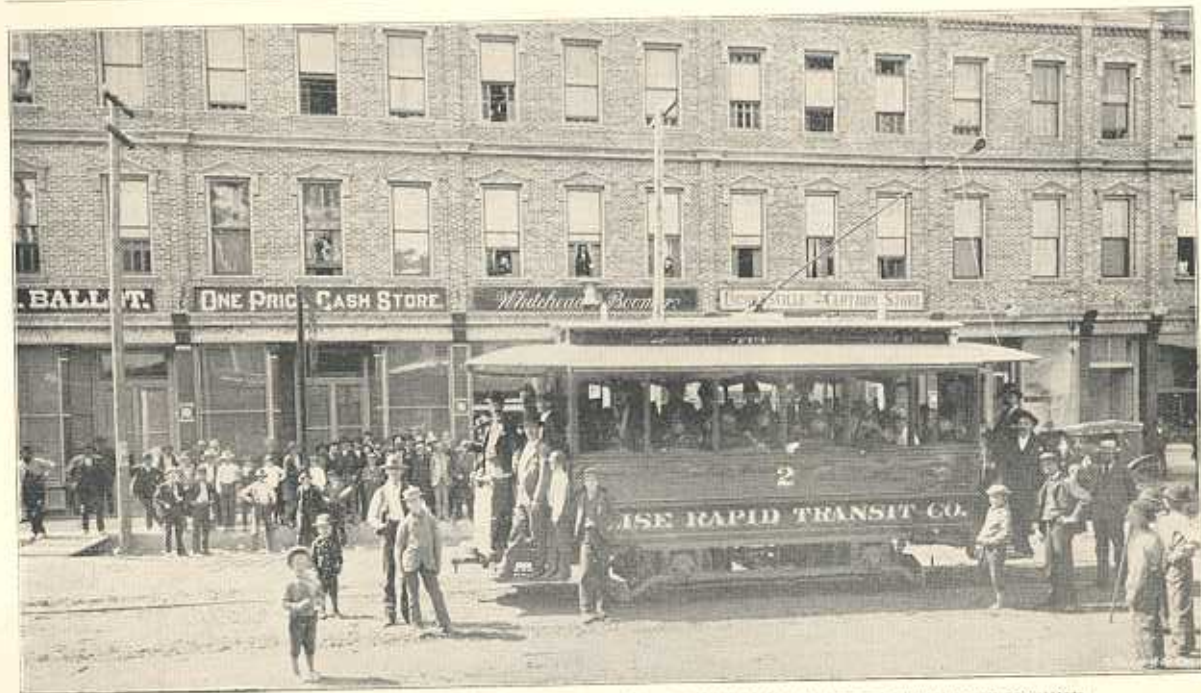
Boise City has six newspapers, one of which is the *Daily Statesman*, the best paper published in any city of 20,000 inhabitants.

The electric car system, adequate to all present needs, penetrates every portion of the city, and runs direct from the beautiful Lemp Addition to the famous Natatorium. This enterprise is known as the Boise City Rapid Transit Company. Their equipment is complete in every particular, their plant embracing the most modern devices and inventions, and their management, under the observation of Hon. George Amslie, President of the Company, and directed by John Hunter, General Manager, is very systematic, amiable, and worthy of the commendation they receive.

The common and public schools of Boise City have a most excellent reputation; the private schools, Saint Margaret's (Episcopal), Saint Teresa's (Catholic), and the Idaho Business College, are not excelled by any institutions of their class.



ODD FELLOWS BLOCK.



FIRST TRIP BOISE RAPID TRANSIT CO., AUGUST, 1891; JOHN LEMP BLOCK IN THE BACKGROUND.



PETER SONNA BLOCK.

Boise City is lighted by electricity, and is one of the best illuminated cities in America. It has also a fine telephone service. The artesian wells, which furnish Boise City with its water supply, flow 2,500,000 gallons a day.

There are eight churches in Boise City. The Episcopal church has in contemplation a stone edifice to cost \$25,000, while the Catholic church has in contemplation the building of a magnificent \$35,000 Cathedral, and have begun the foundation for a \$25,000 hospital, and the Methodist church a \$20,000 building. The Presbyterians are erecting a fine church building of stone and brick.

... THE ... NATATORIUM.

One mile up Warm Springs Avenue, connected with all parts of the city by the electric railroad, in an extremely attractive spot at the base of the foot-hills, surrounded by spacious grounds, stands the Natatorium. When Nature cast this valley and made its formation such as to cause it to be fanned by the gentle trade winds of the Pacific, she destined it to be one of the great, if not the greatest, Spas on the American Continent. To this purpose she planted an immense reservoir at the head of the valley, and stored the same with chemical and healing waters. Nature never wastes her energies; therefore, it would seem, that when she breathed upon this valley such an attractive climate during all the seasons, and in her great laboratory combined the driest of atmospheres with her medicinal waters for the healing of man, God intended Boise City to become the center of a great population. These thermal waters were first discovered in the year 1891. By deep boring the reservoir was struck at the depth of 394 feet. The water rushed with great force to the surface of the earth, rising to the height of 40 feet above the same. Afterwards another artesian well was sunk to the depth of 404 feet; the temperature of the first well is 165° Fahr., and that of the second is 170° Fahr. These two artesian wells flow 1,500,000 gallons daily. In the year 1891 local capitalists formed a company, with a paid up capital stock of \$250,000, for the purpose of utilizing these waters, not alone for medicinal purposes, but also for heating business blocks and residences. The City Hall, Boise City National Bank building, Central Public School, Saint Margaret's, Sonna Block, and numerous other business houses and private residences are now successfully heated by the flow of the hot water—the imposing and beautiful Natatorium was built, and on the 25th day of May, 1892, was duly opened to the public. A glance at the cut shows it to be of Turkish architecture. It is a finely appointed building; its apartments are nicely furnished, and its baths are luxurious. It contains spacious drawing rooms for both ladies and gentlemen; elegant private apartments for the ladies and nicely furnished retiring rooms for gentlemen; pleasant reading and smoking rooms; a large billiard apartment and a grand music hall; a well appointed dining hall and an excellent *cuisine* occupy the fourth story of the building. It is perfectly equipped with all modern improvements. It contains a large swimming and diving "plunge" for bathers, 122 feet in length, 61 feet in width, with a gradual slope from 3 to 14 feet in depth. At a height of 25 feet a grand balcony overlooks the bathers in the "plunge;" while on the first floor it is surrounded with 60 retiring rooms for the bathers. It contains



THE NATATORIUM. THE GREAT PLEASURE AND HEALTH RESORT

many private apartments where all the different kinds of baths are given. Well conducted, it is fast gaining a desirable reputation. The constituents of the water as here given by Professors Chandler and Pellew, whose reputations as chemists are above question, tell their own story. Compare it with an analysis of the thermal waters of Carlsbad, "The Queen of European Spas," as given by any cyclopædia, and you will find their chief and main constituent to be the same, namely: sulphate and the carbonates of soda. The cyclopædia, in speaking of these waters, say "They are taken internally and externally in many kinds of baths. The treatment is very effective in the cure of digestive and liver troubles of nearly every kind. Dyspepsia, gout, gravel, ulcers of the stomach, and the abdominal obesity that is common in Germany, yield to the effect of these invaluable waters."

ANALYSIS OF THE ARTESIAN HOT WATER AT THE NATATORIUM, BOISE CITY, IDAHO.
IN ONE UNITED STATES GALLON, 231 INCHES.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Chloride of Sodium, | 0.9567 grains |
| Sulphate of Potassa, | 8.5938 " |
| " Soda, | 1.5071 " |
| Bicarbonate of Ammonia, | Traces |
| " Lithia, | 0.0793 " |
| " Soda, | 10.4109 " |
| " Lime, | 0.4606 " |
| " Magnesia, | 0.0383 " |
| Phosphate of Soda, | Traces |
| Oxide of Iron and Alumina, | 0.0916 " |
| Silica, | 3.9248 " |
| Organic and Volatile Matter, | 1.6328 " |
| | <u>19.6959</u> |



ARID CLUB BUILDING, HON. J. R. DE LAMAR, OWNER.



F. R. COFFIN RESIDENCE.



H. B. EASTMAN RESIDENCE.



J. H. BUSH RESIDENCE.

Boise City is the old and firmly established financial center of a great section of country. The Boise City banks have a reputation throughout the country for solidity and conservatism. They earn large dividends for their stockholders, and the stock is so valuable that it is not for sale. The Boise City National Bank was established in 1886, is the United States Depository, and their magnificent stone building, as shown in the cut, is one of the handsomest bank buildings in the Northwest. The capital stock is \$100,000.00; surplus, \$28,000.00; undivided profits, \$7,500.00; deposits, \$400,598.00; total resources and liabilities, \$626,053.00. The officers are H. Wadsworth, President, H. B. Eastman, Vice President, Alfred Eoff, Cashier, and W. S. Bruce, Assistant Cashier.

The First National Bank of Idaho was established in 1867, being the second National Bank established on the Pacific Coast, and No. 1668. This bank contemplates the erection of a substantial and handsome bank building in the near future, that will cost not less than \$50,000.00. Their capital stock is \$100,000.00; surplus, \$35,000.00; undivided profits, \$13,000.00; deposits, \$518,312.00; total resources and liabilities, \$683,577.00. The officers are C. W. Moore, President, Peter Souma, Vice President, A. G. Redway, Cashier, and H. N. Coffin, Assistant Cashier.

The Capital State Bank was established in November, 1891. This is a new banking institution, and has already



WILLIAM JONES RESIDENCE.



W. H. RIDENBAUGH RESIDENCE.



C. W. MOORE RESIDENCE.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Taken from Drawing.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

built up a very nice and profitable business, and their stockholders include a number of our best and responsible citizens. Their capital is \$50,000.00. The officers are George D. Ellis, President, James H. Bush, Vice President, W. E. Mitchell, Cashier, and H. E. Neal, Assistant Cashier.

The queenly Columbia Theatre has cost Mayor J. A. Pinney, its owner, \$33,000, and it is the peer of any playhouse in the Northwest. All the appointments are as chaste and elegant as they are convenient and complete. The stage in many particulars is a marvel. 70 feet in width, 38 feet in depth, with a stretch of 44 feet between floor and grid-iron, it is large enough to accommodate any attraction that plays within doors. The drop curtain is a solid sheet of asbestos. With this fire proof shield "down," closing the proscenium opening, the whole stage end of the theatre, which is separated from the auditorium by a narrow brick partition, might be consumed by fire without the least danger to the audience.

The new and elegant City Hall, just completed, cost upwards of \$50,000.00, and would be a credit to a city of 100,000 inhabitants. The Union Pacific Railroad Co. are now expending \$95,000 for their new depot, freight houses, and grading within the city limits. The Congress of the United States has reported favorably on a bill which calls for the erection of a \$200,000 building at Boise City.

A CITY OF HOMES.

As a place of residence Boise City has distinct attractions. Its streets are wide and well shaded; the architecture of its residences is of a high class character. In area it is large enough to admit of a garden with every home, and its suburbs are rich in fertile farms and nurseries. No city can claim a more prosperous and thrifty class of working people; a large majority of the working men own their homes. For picturesque scenery, climate, health and comfort, no place can excel Boise City. But the past history of the city, its present condition, prosperity of its inhabitants, and its natural advantages, all go to prove that, all things considered, no better place can be found for the reasonable enjoyment of life, nor one where better prospects for success in business are presented.

All that has been said or written in respect to fruit culture in the United States, California not excepted, excepting the propagation of figs and oranges, may be said with truth concerning the lovely arena surrounding Boise City. There are no less than 400,000 acres of land adjacent to Boise City which cannot be excelled for the purpose of



OFFICE OF W. E. PIERCE & CO.

Plat of Boise City, with illustrations, free to any address.

raising pears, peaches, prunes, apples, apricots, plums, and the smaller fruits. Such land can be purchased at a nominal cost, and near to the non-producing states of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, which states are heavy buyers of the famous Boise Valley fruit. In this industry a man with limited means is bound to make money and acquire a competency.

Let us glance at the prune industry, which is a sure crop and easily harvested. Each year there is imported into the United States 70,000,000 pounds of plums and prunes, every ounce of which can and should be raised at home.

Two year old prune trees of the best quality can be purchased for 12½ cents each. 150 to 160 trees are grown to the acre. There is no prune tree in the Boise Valley six years of age that is not worth to the owner six dollars each and every year. It is a fact that a six year old prune orchard will pay for the care of the land, the trees,

the cost of irrigation, and the taxes, and leave a net profit of \$250.00 to the acre. Take the peach, the pear and the apple, and while it takes more care in the harvesting of the same, large dividends are acquired from investments in their culture.

The production of all kinds of berries is also very profitable, and of the best quality and flavor known. Grain, hay and vegetables grow abundantly. In the vegetable line the yield is prolific; the potato crop averages 250 bushels to the acre. Many cars of fruit, hay and vegetables are exported from this valley.

We assert that our agricultural lands will produce better crops of wheat and oats, take one year with another, than the best farms of Iowa and Illinois, while the average hay crop is eight tons of alfalfa per acre, or five tons of clover and timothy per acre. Three crops of hay are harvested each and every season. It is irrigation that does this. Irrigation is just as much ahead of the "watch the clouds" system as the locomotive is ahead of the stage coach, and the electric light is ahead of the tallow candle.

A CITY FOR INVESTMENTS.

It is generally acknowledged that no investment is more safe and profitable than real estate, if a proper choice be made of location. Boise City has never been afflicted with a "boom." It has had no past. Its growth has been steady and well sustained from its tents and log cabins to the stately business blocks and fine residences which have displaced them. Isolated and shut out from the rest of the world except by stage line communication, its natural advantages kept it full of life, vigor, push and energy, so that when pierced by steam and electricity, it was in fit condition to enter upon the struggle for the great future that awaits it. Already at the gates of her Grand Valley from the east and from the west are wafted the sounds of railroad construction. From the east comes the Burlington, seeking an outlet to the Pacific Ocean; while from the west the Oregon Pacific pushes its way to make its terminus at Boise City.

If you wish to make an investment, you can find no place that holds forth richer promises for good profit than Boise City.

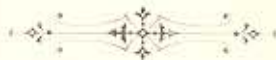
Do you desire wealth in conjunction with health? Then, it is around, above and beneath you, for here it is that nations come to gather from the earth's deposits the gold and silver for their treasure vaults. If you have pluck and

energy, do as many a man has done before you—stretch forth your hand and possess it. Here you will find culture refinement and pleasure. Study Boise City and you will reach the inevitable conclusion that for health, wealth and pleasure, there is no place in America that equals "Boise the Beautiful."

Very respectfully,

W. E. PIERCE & CO.,
GENERAL REAL ESTATE DEALERS,
BOISE CITY, IDAHO.

MAY 1, 1893.



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