

# THE GEM STATE RURAL.

VOLUME 1.

CALDWELL, IDAHO, SEPTEMBER 15, 1895.

NUMBER 1.

## FACTS ABOUT IDAHO.

It has an estimated population of 135,000 souls.

The assessed valuation of the property of the State for 1895 is \$29,332,210.38.

There was an increase in assessed valuation in 1895 over that of 1894 of nearly \$345,000.

The State has 717,339 sheep. These are assessed at one dollar per head, and their annual wool product is about five million pounds.

The State has a good public school system, free text books, a State university, two State normal schools, and several other educational institutions.

The total railroad mileage of Idaho is nearly 1000 miles, but this is not one-half of what is urgently needed to properly develop the State's resources.

Since the discovery of gold in 1860, Idaho's mines have annually produced about \$6,000,000 worth of precious metals. In 1890 the mineral output of the State was \$14,000,000.

The word Idaho is of Indian origin, and means The Gem of the Mountains. The State has an area of 84,000 square miles. It has a maximum length of 400 miles, and its greatest width is 250 miles.

The lands of Idaho are classified as follows: Grazing, 25,000,000 acres; agricultural 15,000,000; timber, 7,000,000, lakes and rivers 1,000,000 acres. To these must be added several million acres of mineral and mountainous lands.

The climate of Idaho in all the lower altitudes, is exceptionally mild and health giving. United States army records for many years show the average mortality in the State to have been 3.74 for each thousand soldiers—making the lowest average death rate of any State or Territory in the Union.

Cyclones, blizzards and sun-strokes are unknown in Idaho. The annual rain fall differs in different parts of the State. In Southern Idaho it averages from 10 to 13 inches. North of the 45th parallel the rain fall is greater, and in most localities is

sufficient to mature crops without irrigation.

The largest body of agricultural land in the State or in the arid west, susceptible to cultivation, is in the great Snake river valley, which has an average width of 50 miles and a length of the State of Idaho, of about 800 miles. This also comprises a vast extent of as choice fruit land as can be found on the continent.

## Idaho Fruits at the Columbian Exposition.

The following synopsis of the official report of the Worlds Fair Commissioners on Idaho fruits will serve to illustrate the impression made by our young Commonwealth at the big show:

### APPLES, (CROP OF 1892.)

A large exhibit, representing twenty-three varieties, correctly named. The fruit is meritorious for dessert and cooking purposes, but excels chiefly in color, uniform size, freedom from insects and other blemishes, which render these varieties especially valuable for market purposes.

### APPLES, (CROP OF 1893.)

Forty-three varieties, the especial point of merit being high color, uniform size, freedom from insect and other blemishes and general excellence.

### PEARS.

Fifteen varieties, possessing general excellence in color, size and freedom from insect and other blemishes.

### PRUNES.

German and Hungarian varieties. A few specimen branches shown demonstrate the wonderful productiveness of the Prune in Idaho. The fruit has a rich flavor and is unusually large and perfect in appearance.

### PEACHES.

This fruit is meritorious for its excellent quality and freedom from blemishes.

### APRICOTS.

Of excellent flavor and perfect in appearance.

### GRAPES.

For good specimens of Black Hamburg, Black Peter, Foster, Ross of Peru, Sweetwater and Delaware varieties, possessing general excellence.

### DRIED PRUNES.

Their excellence consists in their color, flavor and general ap-

pearance, the result of skillful evaporation. The fruit is in good condition and neatly packed for exhibition.

## THE HORTICULTURAL EXHIBIT

Consisted of over a hundred boxes of dried fruit, 12x18 inches, covered with glass, tastefully arranged in an elegant pavilion, placed against the wall on the east side of the north wing of the Horticultural Building, and about four hundred jars of various sizes of fruit in solution, with an ample supply of fresh fruit and vegetables shown on plates during the season, from the first of May to the first of November, all arranged in a separate pavilion on the west side, and which formed our chief and most attractive exhibit in Horticulture. It is surprising that Idaho should have made so general and so complete an exhibit on an outlay so small, and that she should have taken so many awards as against older States that have been making a specialty of fruit exhibits for the past quarter of a century is no less remarkable.

## First Semi-Annual Meeting to be Held in Payette.

The first semi-annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society will be held in Payette, Canyon county, one of the best points in the State to observe the practical workings of fruit growing, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 18 and 19, 1896.

The society meets to discuss the condition of the orchards, the best methods of growing them, the causes of failure, if any, the difficulties to be encountered and the best methods of combating the obstacles in the way of success.

Essays and papers on appropriate topics and discussions of the same, as "Apple Orchards," "Prune Culture," "Ornamental Planting," "Insects," "Fungi," and others of general interest, will be leading matters of the meeting.

There will also be addresses by prominent persons interested in the work.

It is intended that the meetings of the society will be productive of good results in eliciting valuable information regarding facts of experience, tests of varieties, successes or failures, and other matters of interest to fruit growers of Idaho.

The good people of Payette

will make ample provision for the proper accommodation of all who may attend.

All persons who are interested in the development of the resources of Idaho, particularly the fruit growing industry, are urgently requested to be present and participate in the meeting. Persons unable to attend, but having questions of general interest they desire to have considered, should forward the questions to the secretary, Robert Milliken, Nampa, prior to the meeting, so that they may receive proper consideration.

Additional information desired cheerfully given.

J. J. TOOLE, President,  
ROBERT MILLIKEN, Payette.  
Secretary, Nampa, Idaho.

## Preserving Fruits for Exhibitions.

Numerous inquiries have recently been made for recipes to preserve fruits for exhibition purposes. The best and absolute preservative is alcohol, though for general use it is too expensive. Good results are obtained where equal parts of alcohol and water are used. Other formulas are as follows:

1.—Salicylic acid 2 drams.

Alcohol 4 oz.

Purified Glycerine 5 oz.

Distilled (or rain) water 5 quarts  
Dissolve the 2 drams of salicylic acid with the 4 ounces of alcohol. Dissolve the glycerine (better with the water boiling hot) adding it to the other ingredients and place the fruit therein and seal tight.

2.—For preserving red fruits use sulphuretted water. Druggist will prepare it.

4.—Salicylic acid ½ dram; dissolve it in 2 ounces alcohol, add one quart of pure soft water or distilled water.

5.—Make salt brine strong enough to carry an egg, add to this one dram of alum, 1½ quart of the brine. Strain and use.

6.—Sulphurous acid or zinc chloride may be used, but sulphurous acid bleaches the color of the fruit.

7.—Corrosive sublimate—a violent poison—may be used in proportion of 1 part to each gallon of water. Western Horticulturist.