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Report of the Governor of Idaho, 1885

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REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IDAHO TERRITORY,
Boisé City, October 26, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor, in compliance with the request of August 24, to submit the following report of the condition of affairs and of the progress and development, as far as in my power so to do at the present time, of the Territory of Idaho for the year ending June 30, 1885.

Having been but recently appointed to my present position, I find it a very difficult task to accomplish all I could desire, in presenting the true condition, advancement, progress, and development of Idaho Territory; and feel that the lack of correct data and facilities for collecting statistics showing the real growth, settlement, and present prosperous condition of our varied interests, must leave many and important matters pertaining to our vast Territory and quite essential to the interest of our people untouched in this hasty report.

One great obstacle in the way of making a more accurate and satisfactory report, such as your communication calls for, is the fact that we have no law providing for a bureau of statistics, nor for the collection of data, by and through which we can make a proper and reliable showing to the world upon our merits. This sad defect we hope to remedy in the future, by the enactment of laws which will provide us with the means and facilities to present our Territory and its people in their true light.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

Idaho Territory lies to the north of Utah and Nevada, which form its southern boundary, extending to the north something over 400 miles to the British Possessions, which, at the forty-sixth parallel, form its northern boundary. On the east it is bounded by Montana and Wyoming, and on the west by Oregon and Washington, the Snake River forming a boundary and dividing line for more than 50 miles.

We have an area of more than 86,000 square miles, or exceeding 55,000,000 acres. These lands may be defined as agricultural, desert, mineral, and timber lands; but as yet, through the lack of Government surveys, settlement, exploration, and observation, the exact quantity of each kind can only be approximated.

The nearest approximation in the classification of the lands of the Territory thus far is as follows:

That which may be considered suitable for agricultural purposes in their present state, 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 acres; that which is capable

of being reclaimed by irrigation with the available water now flowing in the rivers and streams, from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 of acres; the natural pasturage or grazing lands will reach fully 5,000,000 of acres, though a very considerable area of the land designated and described as agricultural lands is quite well adapted and is at present used for grazing; there are about 10,000,000 acres of timber land, and about 8,000,000 acres of mineral land. It is quite safe to estimate 5,000,000 acres of mountain, desert, and volcanic formation, entirely unfit for any use except that designed by nature, but being utterly destitute of mineral, timber, or vegetation of any nature which can be made tributary to the wants of man or beast.

CLIMATE.

The climate, the beautiful climate of Idaho, is often referred to by our citizens, travelers, and scientists who visit our Territory as being scarcely equaled in any other of the most favored localities on the American continent. Particularly is it noticed, that in the valleys and agricultural portions and settlements of the Territory the climate is remarkable for its equable temperature, the cool nights which follow the warm but not oppressive heat of the summer days, the soft and clear moonlight, and the bright summer skies, excite the love and admiration of our people who have wintered and summered in our midst. In the high mountain altitudes, where the snow falls to a great depth and the winters are the longest, the purity and dryness of the atmosphere renders it possible to endure them without discomfort or risk of suffering from the length and severity of the season. We may go farther, and say that the noble and industrious class of men who generally dwell in those high mineral regions, and who follow the avocation of mining for gold and silver and prospecting for the precious metals, presents the finest specimens of perfect manhood. The greatest number of men who following in this Territory were pioneers, and the result of their long years of toil has enriched the world and increased its commerce and prosperity.

SOIL.

The soil of the more elevated table-lands (which is sometimes called the mountain regions) is generally sandy and a little rocky; but that of the lower hills and slopes, composed chiefly of decomposed granite and sand-stone, produces the finest crops of native bunch grass, considered by cattle-raisers the most nutritious grass in the world. It is in these regions where the best and most extensive ranges are found for grazing purposes. The soil of the table-lands is similar, with here and there rich loam soil intermixed, from which large crops of grain of every variety are produced.

The soil of the valley lands is generally a sandy loam, deep and mellow, and well adapted by its richness and quality to the growth of all kinds of grain, fruit, and every species of vegetables.

RIVERS, LAKES, AND SCENERY.

One of the most characteristic attractions of Idaho is to be found in the noble rivers and streams which abound in our Territory, among which may be mentioned the Snake, Bear, Bois , Clearwater, Kootenai, Payette, Weiser, Malad, Raft, Salmon, and others of less note. All or nearly all of these streams, abound with the finest variety of food fish.

such as trout, salmon, white and numerous other species. The lake regions are the wonder and delight to all who have the time and opportunity to visit them. A visit to the Salmon Meadow Lakes and the lakes of Alturas, will well repay the time and trouble of the tourist and pleasure seeker.

AGRICULTURE AND FRUIT.

Statistics show pretty conclusively that more than one-third of the population of Idaho is engaged in the pursuit of farming and stock-raising. The year 1884 was more prolific in crops than the present one; in fact, it may be said that the crops just harvested will not much exceed a half crop compared with the preceding one, except in a few localities where the product came up to the usual good crops, though in the aggregate the crop of wheat, barley, oats, and rye will exceed that of any former year, by reason of the increased settlement of surveyed agricultural lands.

Notwithstanding the rapidly-increasing population, the products of our soil are amply sufficient to supply the wants of our people, and leaving a small surplus for exportation.

The most noted agricultural settlements in our Territory may be classed as follows: Ada, Cassia, Idaho, Bear Lake, Nez Percé, Oneida, and Washington.

In those counties the average grain crops can be stated at these figures: Wheat, 40 bushels to the acre, and in some seasons the average is as high as 60 bushels; oats will average from 65 to 70 bushels to the acre; barley will average on fairly good land from 45 to 50 bushels to the acre. The results thus far in the raising of corn have not inspired high expectations for large crops in this grain; but we have no reason to doubt that in time, as the climate becomes more seasonable, corn will become a favorite product in very many localities in Idaho. Hay is always a fair crop.

We can say, without fear of truthful contradiction, that fruit of nearly every kind and species matures in a sound and healthy condition.

The crops of past years have been very prolific. Apples, pears, plums, prunes, nectarines, apricots, and every species of berries, and the grape grow to luxurious perfection.

At the Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans, Idaho was awarded the premium for her apples and other variety of fruit.

The unoccupied Government lands still open to settlement within the land districts is very large and the inducements very great to those who want to come to the New West to make homes for themselves and their children.

GOVERNMENT SURVEYS.

The line of Government surveys should be extended more rapidly in the northeastern portion of the Territory—in the Lemhi and Lost River Valleys. There are now a number of settlements in many of the valleys of Idaho on unsurveyed land, with extensive and valuable improvements, and under a good state of cultivation. One of the most retarding obstacles to the settler, and those who desire to settle, is the failure to survey the land by the Government.

More liberal appropriations should be made by Congress. Few will care to settle upon and improve land for which they cannot at once initiate their claims under the pre-emption or homestead laws.

In quite a number of cases settlers have gone on unsurveyed public land in good faith, and made large expenditures in the improvement of the land, erected houses, barns, and built fences, only to find themselves located on fractional parts of school sections. When the surveys are made in these cases, the settler is without remedy; he may take his choice to either abandon the location he has, or take his improvements off, in either case subjecting him to loss and sacrifice of double and sometimes four times the value of the amount necessary to pay for the land at the Government price.

The law should be so amended as to either allow the settler thus situated to pay for the land and place the money or the proceeds of the sale in the Treasury of the United States, to be held in trust for the school fund of the Territory, as the land is now held in contemplation of law, until Idaho becomes a State. The means of perfecting titles to land in a speedy manner is one of vital consequence, and serves as an impetus to rapid and permanent settlement, and the failure to provide against the hardship to which the settler is subject in such cases is of little profit or gain to the Territory. I know of no instance where the settler has gone on and made his settlement knowingly on school lands surveyed by the Government for those purposes.

MINES AND MINING.

The mineral resources of the Territory constitute, if not its chief, one of its greatest interests, and to the extent to which the gold and silver bearing lodes are worked at the present time the mining interests are in a very prosperous condition. New and rich mineral districts are being discovered and explored, prospected, and worked with great success. Prominent among the most noted gold and silver districts may be mentioned the Wood River mineral belt, extending up and down that stream for a distance of more than 60 miles. The ores taken from the mines on Wood River are mostly silver-smelting ores, running in silver from 100 ounces to 350 ounces, and carrying a per cent. in lead from 15 to 76. The great Salmon River basin continues its output in gold and silver as in former years. The new mining district, known as Lava district, is fast coming to front, and will before the end of the present year be noted for permanent dividend-paying mines. The district known as the Sawtooth contains rich and extensive silver mines; but the shortness of the season and the severity of the winters have to a certain degree retarded the working and development of the mines in that camp. However, when the mines of Sawtooth become properly and systematically opened, and ore-reducing plants securely placed for legitimate mining, will beyond doubt become one of the best paying camps on the Pacific coast. From the most reliable data at hand, it may be asserted that there are now over 200 dividend-paying mines in the Territory.

As the work of development and exploration proceeds in the mineral district in Washington County, in this Territory, daily proof of the richness of the mines in that locality becomes more and more manifest.

PLACER MINES.

The rich placer mines are now more extensive than ever before in Idaho. Much has been said and written of the placer mines on Snake River, but not half the truth of their richness and extent has been told or published to the world.

The system of mining the gold bars and the black sands of Snake River lacks much of perfection.

The last five years' mining on that grand stream might more properly be called experimental mining. Thus far it has been found quite difficult to save the gold, or rather to separate it from the black sand by the process of washing, though many companies and private enterprises are making their operations pay largely.

The placer mines in the great Bois  basin are still being worked with profit.

As the placer mines of Bois  basin become worked out or exhausted, new discoveries are being made of gold-bearing quartz lodes, that promise well for the owners. Beyond and to the south of the Snake River, the once famous mines of Owyhee are situated, and though but little has been done there for the last ten years, a new and more practical set of men are now reviving the life and operations of that camp.

The present outlook of Silver City mining district and Flint district bids fair to come up ere long to the manifesto of their former merit and reputation. Idaho has suffered her share of drawbacks in mining, as many other mining countries have, by the tricking stock-jobbers of the Pacific coast.

THE CEUR D'ALENE.

This section of our Territory well deserves the most favorable mention, not only for its rich mineral locations, but for the characteristic enterprise of the people who have overcome every obstacle of climate and season, and infused into this now wonderful camp stalwart life and prosperity. A system of roads has been opened, towns built, communities formed, new mineral discoveries made, and rich and inexhaustible mines and placers opened, which will soon become noted for their gold product.

COPPER AND MICA MINES.

We cannot omit to mention the rich and quite extensive copper mines, known as the Peacock group of mines, which were discovered some time in 1862. But little work was done on those mines until in 1874, when they were relocated and pretty thoroughly prospected. They are situated a few miles from Snake River, and at an altitude of 4,000 feet above the river.

The most noted mines of the group are the Peacock, White Monument, and Helena. Those mines are patented by the Government. The ore runs high in copper and carries also a high per cent. in silver. From the facilities for working those mines, where they are situated, and the nearness to the line of railroad, the owners of those properties, Messrs. Allen & Lewis, must reap fortunes from their valuable possessions.

Twenty miles south of these great mines lies the well known Heath district, which stands now at the head of the dividend-paying camps of that section.

On the Middle Weiser, and within a short distance of the copper mines, lie the famous mica mines, owned by John Hantoon and others. These mines were discovered some years ago, but owing to the great distance from the railroad and the cost of transportation to an Eastern market the owners did little more than work enough to comply with the law in protecting their titles, but since the construction of the Oregon Short Line Railroad they are brought within cheap and easy access, and will soon

be bringing their owners fortunes by shipments to the Eastern markets. The size and clearness, and the metallic fineness and quality of the article will compare favorably with the best article of mica found elsewhere.

COPPER MINES OF LOST RIVER.

Before closing my remarks on the subject of mining it is proper to refer to the vast discoveries of copper on Lost River, in Custer County, Idaho. *Honest* experts (if the term can be applied with propriety to experts in general) say that the Lost River copper mines are marvelously rich. Custer County is where the great Custer mine and the Bay Horse district are situated, in which district the Ramshorn mine is also located.

FINANCIAL.

Those who have watched the material prosperity of the Territory since its organization have cause to be proud of its present financial condition. In 1872 our indebtedness was \$132,217.71 while at the present writing, there is sufficient money in the treasury to meet all our obligations.

The indebtedness of the Territory is as follows:

Bonds due December 1, 1885.....	\$22,553 55
Bonds due December 1, 1891.....	46,715 05
Total	69,268 60

Cash on hand at the end of fiscal year was \$74,814.90, an excess over indebtedness at that date of \$5,546.30.

The last session of the legislature authorized the issuance of \$80,000 in 7 per cent. bonds for the erecting of a capitol building at Boise City; and \$20,000 for an insane asylum at Blackfoot, in Bingham County. The capitol bonds are twenty-year bonds, the Territory, however, reserving the right to pay them any time after ten years. Five thousand dollars of the asylum bonds become due December 1, 1892, and \$5,000 annually thereafter until all are paid. These bonds were eagerly taken by New York capitalists at par. Both these buildings were greatly needed. The Territorial offices are in rented buildings in different parts of the city, making it exceedingly troublesome for the public to go from one to another office on public business. The legislature has heretofore been held in hired halls not at all suitable for legislative work.

We have thirty-five inmates in the Oregon Insane Asylum at Salem, at a cost of \$6 a week for each person, which, with the cost of transportation, will this year reach about the sum of \$11,000. The Territorial asylum will be completed in the early spring, and this money expended in the Territory.

Another burdensome expense is the cost of keeping the Territorial prisoners. They have heretofore been kept in what is called the Territorial prison, but which is entirely under the control of the United States marshal of the Territory. The marshal offers now to contract for their keeping for not to exceed 85 cents for each prisoner, but it is believed the Territory could, if the penitentiary building was turned over to the Territorial authorities, keep the prisoners for much less than the above.

The total receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ending April 1, 1884, were \$32,146.90; for 1885, \$59,859.76, an increase in one year of \$27,712.86.

The following statement by counties gives the assessed valuation of

property for 1884. It is impossible at this writing to give the valuation for 1885, as the returns have not yet been received:

Ada	\$2,409,914 00
Alturas	3,015,336 61
Bear Lake	449,597 00
Boisé	635,000 00
Cassia	602,996 00
Custer	640,598 00
Idaho	636,425 00
Kootenai	544,138 98
Lemhi	518,730 00
Nez Percé	2,050,546 00
Oneida	2,380,862 00
Shoshone	113,555 00
Washington	627,978 75
Total	15,497,598 34

The total valuation for the previous year was \$13,938,412.31. Showing an increase in one year of \$1,509,186.03.

Mining property is not taxable in this Territory; if it were, the above showing would be more than doubled. The policy of the Territory has been to encourage mining by all possible means; and our present bright outlook is due largely to the brave hearts and stalwart arms of the pioneers and prospectors who have unearthed the treasures so long hidden in our mountains.

OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

If there is one subject more than another on which the executive department of Idaho is continually interrogated, it is on the question of our public schools. Letters of inquiry concerning the system of public schools in Idaho are received daily from some source or other, and more particularly from the heads of families who are contemplating settling permanently in Idaho, are directed to this important subject. In order to answer the inquiries addressed to this department on the subject-matter, and to more fully present the educational system under which our public schools are operated, I thought it important to call for as full a report as can be made at this time from the office of the superintendent of public instruction, and gladly avail myself of the opportunity to embody the same in this report, which is as follows:

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Boisé City, Idaho, October 23, 1885.

Hon. E. A. STEVENSON,
Governor of Idaho Territory, Boisé, Idaho:

SIR: In submitting the accompanying report I desire to say that it has been compiled from the reports of the county superintendents, who, in turn, base their reports in a large measure upon those of the trustees of the district. Owing to the failure of the trustees to comply with the requirements of the law in many cases, the information obtained by the superintendents has been of necessity meager and unsatisfactory, and has rendered it impossible for me to obtain proper statistics for the compilation of a satisfactory table.

SUMMARY.

As shown by the files of this office the following facts are presented:

Number of boys of school age in this Territory	8,013
Number of girls of school age in this Territory	7,386
Total number of children of school age in this Territory	15,399
Total number of children of school age previous year	13,140
Number of districts in which schools have been taught three months or more	253
Cash paid for teachers' salaries	\$76,301 78
Average salary per month	61 53

Amounts expended for sites, buildings, repairs and furniture	\$29,374 46
Amounts expended for libraries, school apparatus and interest.....	3,934 56
Amounts expended for rent, fuel, and contingent expenses.....	13,757 26
Amount disbursed for all purposes	123,368 06
Amount received from taxes and miscellaneous sources	133,983 32

NEW DISTRICTS.

In several newly-formed districts, notably in those of the Cœur d'Alene region in Shoshone County, the citizens have contributed liberally toward the erection and equipment of school-houses both by subscription and in labor. Much annoyance has been experienced by the county superintendents by reason of the action of the various boards of county commissioners in the matter of changing the boundaries of old districts and creating new ones after the annual census has been taken. This is a practice that should be discouraged, as it tends to deprive the districts of their just apportionment, and in many instances renders the census report of no avail.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES

have been successfully held in several of the counties, marked by good attendance and lively interest; in a few counties, owing to the remoteness of many of the districts from the county seat, it has been thought impolitic by the superintendents to hold institutes, for the reason that the distance to be traveled, the large expense attendant upon long stage journeys, and the length of time necessary to accomplish the trip would deter many of the teachers from attending; this, to my mind, is a questionable policy at least, and its exercise is to be regretted. The healthful stimulus imparted to the teacher by attendance upon institutes and their beneficial influence among the communities where they are held, in awakening general interest in school affairs, are too well known and universally acknowledged to require comment.

TEACHERS.

By the abrogation of third-grade county certificates a move has been made in the direction of raising the standard of teachers' qualifications. The slight degree of learning requisite to pass a successful examination for that grade admitted to the teachers' ranks many persons wholly unfitted and unqualified for the profession, and the results were unhappily felt in the school-room. Since the last report ten Territorial teachers' licenses have been issued from this office to applicants. Much inconvenience is occasioned by the method now in vogue of paying the teachers, and in some instances they have suffered pecuniary loss, but as the law plainly directs the course to be followed they will be remediless until the legislature is again in session; it is not right or just that their claims for salaries earned are not promptly paid in full when due.

Letters have been received from teachers in nearly every State in the Union seeking for positions in this Territory, the higher salaries prevailing here constituting the chief inducement. The supply of teachers is already greater than the demand, and the only classes, in my opinion, whose immigration should be welcomed are those who have graduated from the normal training-schools, or those who have had years of experience in teaching. Many applications have been received from foreigners, but my observation leads me to believe that, owing to the difficulty of overcoming the prejudices and opinions inculcated and formed by their earlier training, they cannot enter into the spirit of our laws and in full measure impart to our youth the unwritten and yet vital teachings respecting the rights, duties, and dignity of American citizenship; and for these and other reasons ought not to be encouraged in coming here as teachers.

TEXT BOOKS.

In compliance with the amendment to the school law enacted by the thirteenth legislative assembly, each county in the Territory has adopted a uniform series of text books for a period of four years. The necessity for such adoption has been urged by my predecessors for many years, and that it has at length been accomplished I regard as a matter of congratulation to all citizens interested in the systematic training of the children. Although at the outset some dissatisfaction was expressed by those who love "the good old way," when endless confusion arose in every school because of the large variety of books, yet fewer complaints have been made than I anticipated, and, so far as I can learn, the teachers are well pleased with the change and regard it as a material aid in their work. As nearly every school-book publishing firm in the country have some of their books in use in various counties, the monopoly which it was formerly feared would control prices and kinds can have no existence.

LEWIS COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

By act of the late legislature the Lewis Collegiate Institute, located at Lewiston, in Nez Percé County, was granted corporate privileges with power to become a college

or school of higher grade upon the graduation of its first class. The course of instruction embraces a teacher's and commercial course, with preparatory and collegiate departments in both classical and scientific studies. According to the last report received there were enrolled in the different departments as follows:

	Number of pupils.
Primary department.....	28
Unclassified.....	31
Preparatory classical and scientific	14
Literature and art, sophomore class.....	1
Teacher's course:	
Junior year.....	2
Sophomore year.....	1
Commercial course.....	5
Musical department.....	52

The institute is under the control and management of a board of trustees, and its business affairs are subject to the inspection of the governor and all Territorial officers and a visiting committee appointed by the Columbia River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Though yet in its infancy, it is to be welcomed as an addition to the number of schools whose doors are open in our Territory to those seeking an education beyond that afforded by our district system.

THE INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS

still continue to maintain the efficiency of former years, and confirm the opinion that wherever possible graded schools should be established. Both those of Boise City and Lewiston have attained an enviable reputation throughout the Territory, and many parents from other places are locating in those districts, attracted by the superior educational facilities afforded their children. There are a few other graded schools in the Territory equally deserving of favorable consideration, and I mention those above named only for the reason that I am more familiar with their work and attainments than with the others.

From the figures presented in respect to the money received and disbursed for school purposes, it would appear that the people are interested in a reasonable degree in the education of the children, and that they respond in a praiseworthy manner to the demands for money wherewith to keep in motion our school machinery; but with this outlay there is not, in our present condition, any return to the greater portion of the people beyond laying the foundation of their children's education in the elementary branches. In our sparsely settled mountain districts the pupil whose parents possess only average means can hope for nothing beyond this, while even those residing nearer the independent districts, unless possessing more than the settler in a new country usually does, cannot hope for more. For more than twenty years we have been a growing Territory, and while the number of children has been increasing from year to year, and the number of common schools also, yet we have no free schools, open to all classes, whose aim is to give a practical training for the real business of life—no school from which a boy or girl can graduate with the certainty that they have been prepared by competent trainers for the exercise of a trade or industry which will secure for them a livelihood. Remote from trade centers, relying upon the mining and agricultural industries for support, without manufacturing facilities, and to a large extent shut away from the outside world until a very recent period, outside of the calling of the father there has been little opportunity for the son to become familiar with the usual trades, and now that the manufacturing interests are awakening the fact presents itself that hindrances are in the way of the child learning to be a skilled artisan by reason of the rule that maintains among the trades of limiting the number of apprentices to the children of those belonging to the respective branches, a "close corporation," denying except to the favored few an opportunity of exercising the powers given them in the most congenial and profitable way. The result, in my judgment, can be no other than eventually to fill our Territory with a class of men kept poor by enforced idleness, or, if at work, not working in the way most profitable to themselves or the community. I believe that I do not underestimate the value of the common schools in the work of helping the country and educating the citizen; nor would I detract from the worth of the higher departments of education. The former are invaluable so far as their work goes, and the latter to be encouraged by all possible means. My criticism on the common schools is that having started the pupil on the way they leave him helpless, practically, before one-half the journey is completed; in fact, uneducated. In order to achieve the higher education, means beyond the reach of the majority of the pupils or parents are necessary, and so the majority find themselves equipped for the solution of the "bread and butter problem" in, to say the least, a very unsatisfactory manner. The education that is needed when the common-school course is concluded is a practical one, and by practical I mean that shall give the pupil the knowledge how to do some one thing in the trades and industries so skillfully, thoroughly, and well that he can enter every-

day life in confidence that he may rely upon the work of his hands for his livelihood in communities where, other things being equal, there are always opportunities for making skilled labor profitable when the unskilled laborer must be content to live from hand to mouth. In advocating such education I am aware that I am not in accord with those who claim to uphold the higher course. But in view of the condition of our people, and feeling that the limited course in the common schools does not meet our necessities, and realizing that to the majority a college education is out of the question, I regard it as of pressing importance that an industrial or technical school should be established in our Territory.

As the law now stands we can derive no funds for such purpose from our own resources. The title to the school lands reserved by the United States is still vested in the General Government, and they cannot be sold until an act for that purpose is passed by Congress. As to the policy of selling them at this time, even if we had the power, I am not prepared to say. They must increase in value as the population of the Territory becomes more dense. But we cannot afford to wait. The demand for a school of practical education is pressing and immediate. If it be true, as some assert, that in the East they "are educating large masses of young persons out of the sphere in which they were born and into no other," it is equally true that we in this Western land are failing, through no fault of our own, to educate a large mass of young persons in the sphere in which the accident of birth has placed them, and though helpless in ourselves to better this condition of affairs, if we can obtain aid to build up and maintain a school the graduate of which shall, by reason of the facilities and aids there afforded him in acquiring a knowledge of some pursuit or industry congenial to his tastes and suited to his genius, be armed with an education that shall fit him for obtaining a livelihood at the outset of practical life, instead of being compelled to take up with the first means of making a living that offers, and doing even that little in an unskillful and ignorant way, it will be a long step in the right direction.

I know of no way of obtaining funds for such a school unless it be by appropriation made by Congress, and I would respectfully suggest the propriety of calling the attention of the General Government to our needs in this respect and asking for an appropriation sufficient for the erection and maintenance of an industrial or technical school, to be located at some convenient and central place in this Territory, and under such control and management as may be advantageous to the community at large and for the best interests of the pupils.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS W. MOODY,

Territorial Superintendent Public Instruction, Idaho.

Table compiled from statistics taken from reports of county school superintendents and superintendents of independent school districts now on file in this office.

Counties.	DE.										
	No. of districts.	No. of school-houses.	No. of schools.	No. of scholars.	No. of librarians.	No. of volumes.	Length of school during the year.	Proportional attendance.*	No. of boys between 5 and 21 years of age.	No. of girls between 5 and 21 years of age.	Total No. of children between 5 and 21 years of age.
Ada.....	36	33	33	1,468	1	800	144½	.....	1,035	1,047	2,082
Alturas.....	34	7	26	1,230	.....	3	127½	.....	.....	.....	1,305
Bear Lake.....	12	12	12	724	.....	.....	8½	.....	801	722	1,523
Bingham.....	25	23	23	822	.....	.....	115½	.....	1,252	1,140	2,392
Boisé.....	13	13	14	827	.....	.....	67	.....	235	227	462
Cassia.....	22	16	17	618	.....	.....	75	.....	563	467	1,030
Center.....	5	1	5	135	1	.....	36	.....	144	148	292
Idaho.....	13	10	13	160	.....	.....	36	.....	213	219	432
Kootenai.....	4	4	4	179	.....	.....	22½	.....	97	82	179
Lemhi.....	9	7	10	189	.....	.....	39	.....	178	162	340
Nez Percé.....	45	34	47	1,490	.....	.....	208½	.....	1,067	978	2,045
Oneida.....	22	23	24	1,939	.....	.....	145½	.....	1,091	1,036	2,127
Owyhee.....	7	9	9	166	.....	.....	47½	.....	86	80	166
Shoshone.....	5	1	4	67	.....	.....	18	.....	114	74	188
Washington.....	21	12	17	523	.....	.....	73½	.....	437	399	836
Totals.....	273	205	248	10,037	2	803	1,240	.....	7,313	6,781	15,399

* Data furnished insufficient to enable me to report correctly.

† To October 9, 1885.

Counties.	Dr.				
	To cash paid for teachers' salaries.	To cash paid for sites, buildings, repairs, and school furniture.	To cash paid for school libraries and apparatus.	To cash paid for rent, fuel, and contingent expenses.	Total debits.
Ada.....	\$15,452 68	\$5,518 92	*\$3,250 00	\$2,699 83	\$26,921 46
Alturas.....	10,409 95	17,303 99	587 60	5,106 50	25,660 39
Bear Lake.....	4,050 30	180 10		192 00	4,431 90
Bingham.....	4,261 22	1,914 50		36 70	6,212 72
Boisé.....	5,732 84	286 20	20 00	474 80	6,507 84
Cassia.....	3,009 73	2 10		369 50	3,391 27
Custer.....	3,315 00	205 00		616 14	4,136 14
Idaho.....	1,905 00			19 20	1,689 81
Kootenai.....	1,100 00	47 50		321 27	1,468 77
Lemhi.....	2,773 50	165 89		166 27	3,105 66
Nez Percés.....	10,838 55	2,727 18	76 96	2,692 49	16,338 53
Oneyda.....	4,410 93			381 34	4,486 27
Owyhee.....	4,671 38	325 68		368 35	5,365 41
Shoshone.....	985 00	641 85		102 50	1,729 85
Washington.....	3,385 70	55 55		210 37	3,651 62
Total.....	76,301 78	29,374 46	3,934 36	13,757 26	115,097 64

* Interest on school bonds in Boisé City district.

† To October 9, 1885.

Counties.	CR.					Total credits.	Balance on hand at the end of school year.	Balance minus at the end of the school term.
	By balance on hand at beginning of school year.	By cash received from Territory.	By cash received from county taxes.	By cash received from district taxes.	By cash received from miscellaneous sources.			
Ada.....	\$1,445 63		\$12,074 69	\$9,584 64	\$2,853 30	\$29,998 02	\$1,878 57	\$559 99
Alturas.....	2,244 49		10,646 33	6,434 01	14,390 00	32,363 29	2,633 75	531 36
Bear Lake.....			1,536 30		2,893 75	4,431 30		
Bingham.....	455 04		3,970 51	2,053 81	107 50	5,484 86	431 02	176 78
Boisé.....	1,446 19				7,008 41	8,472 69	1,959 05	
Cassia.....	435 35		3,655 92			4,091 47	593 93	39 68
Custer.....	3,336 29		2,578 48		219 60	6,233 37	2,097 23	
Idaho.....			1,726 45		355 00	2,159 65		
Kootenai.....	294 4		1,446 40			1,747 16		278 39
Lemhi.....	558 98		2,509 22		425 74	3,493 94	388 28	
Nez Percés.....	3,373 36	\$42 66	7,670 75	7,879 39	742 51	18,085 79	3,452 95	72 40
Oneyda.....			4,478 27			4,478 27		
Owyhee.....	4,146 42		6,805 96		133 75	6,989 71	5,520 72	
Shoshone*.....	1,252 99		637 17		161 60	1,773 66	510 33	187 28
Washington.....	500 15		3,729 09			4,230 14	602 36	
Total.....	22,489 23	42 66	63,465 54	25,951 85	29,291 16	133,983 32	20,068 19	1,875 88

* To October 9, 1885.

DESERT LAND—ITS RECLAMATION.

The millions of acres of land suitable for agricultural purposes can only be made productive by a system of irrigation, and this can only be accomplished by the most liberal policy of the Government in continuing the act known as the desert land law. The utility of the desert land act may readily be observed, and the advantages derived from the continuance of its beneficent provisions, when it can be stated as a fact that hundreds of thousands of acres which were but barren wastes a few years ago, on which scarcely a spear of grass or any kind of vege-

tation could be seen by the eye of man, by joint and individual enterprise and the liberal expenditure of capital in diverting the water from its natural streams and conveying it by ditches and canals on the dry and arid lands of the desert have brought those tracts into a high state of cultivation, where thousands of people have laid the permanent foundation for happy and prosperous homes. To change or repeal the present law, except to make it more liberal in its provisions, would be to give one of the most vital interests in the Territory a retarding set-back, which could have only the effect of preventing settlement, crippling the resources, and paralyzing the agricultural industry of the Territory, which must ultimately become the chief dependence of our people when the mines of gold and silver are worked out and exhausted.

The late rulings of the Commissioner of the Land Office, requiring each settler on a desert land claim not only to bring water on the whole of such claim, but actually to cultivate and raise a crop on every fractional part of his claim, can hardly be interpreted in the light of liberal encouragement to the poor and honest settler, who with scant means seeks to build a home for himself and family on worthless desert land.

Let us now look at what would be the cost to the man of limited means, who under such rulings commences to make a home on a desert land claim. He must reclaim, fence, build, and improve.

Wire for fence, 63,360 feet, 4,224 pounds, at 10 cents.....	\$422 40
Posts, 2,640, at 15 cents.....	475 20
Lumber, 11,360 feet, at \$24 per thousand.....	242 60
Post-holes and building fence.....	150 00
Clearing and breaking land, 640 acres, at \$5.....	3,220 00
House and barn, &c.....	1,000 00
Ditches to irrigate 16 forties, say.....	2,500 00
Total.....	8,010 20

Will it be contended that a home on the desert land of the Government can be made for a less sum under the law as at present construed?

It comes to this: The man who has seven or eight thousand dollars and looking for a home will buy one already improved. The man without such means will pass by the desert land, as thousands have done and will do in the future, knowing that the worthless land, even in its present condition, is beyond his reach and means to settle on.

If any change be made in the law as it now stands, that change should be to give the settler a full and speedy title to one section of desert land when the proper proof is made that the land is actually desert land.

The actual settler should have the right under law to make the best terms he can with capital to secure the supply of water to make his claim valuable as a home.

The capital of the poor man who desires to settle on a piece of desert land consists generally of a team, wagon, plow, &c., and in his ability to labor. He may see the making of beautiful homes even on the desert and waste lands of the United States, but without the means to divert the waters from the deep and rapid mountain streams that run their course unmolested to the sea what is his condition?

But if capital, whether in the hands and possession of one man or fifty men, seek by its expenditure to accomplish by the skill and the handiwork of labor to bring the waters on the barren waste, why should the Government object? Where or how is the Government wronged? In this case capital goes hand in hand with labor. Why then should the man or men who use their capital for the mutual public good be discriminated against?

It may be said that abuses are likely to grow up under too liberal

laws. This is far-fetched. We may say with equal truth that no law ever made is quite free from the danger of technical innovation, but to err on the side of rights and enterprises which secure the settlement and cultivation of the waste and worthless lands would not only be in accordance with the right spirit of national progress, but an absolutely wise policy.

The results of those great irrigating enterprises, as shown in the last few years, astonish most the persons of the largest experience and observation.

We might refer in detail to the vast good which has been achieved in the reclamation of desert lands.

In Bingham County, by means of a canal, some 60,000 acres of waste and desert land are brought under conditions for settlement and cultivation. On the south side of Snake and Raft Rivers, Goose Creek, and other streams irrigating canals have been constructed which reclaim hundreds of thousands of acres of land. In Alturas County a large settlement of farmers is supplied by means of irrigation.

In the Bruneau Valley similar schemes are working successfully.

The Idaho Mining and Irrigating Company of New York is now engaged in the work of constructing a canal which will supply an amount of water equal to 4,000 cubic feet per second. It taps the Boise River just south of Boise City, and commands the broad plain north of the Snake River for a distance of more than 50 miles, that will reclaim, when finished, between 400,000 and 600,000 acres of land which will prove very productive when water is brought upon it.

The several canals completed and in course of construction at the Weiser River, in Washington County, will reclaim large tracts of good land.

There are already some two canals on the Peyette River which will reclaim between 60,000 and 80,000 acres.

Perhaps one of the best and most easily accomplished irrigating schemes is the one lately contemplated at the cañon of the Peyette River, which when completed will reclaim from 250,000 to 300,000 acres. The water located and claimed by this company will exceed 250,000 inches under a 4-inch pressure. The cost will not exceed \$130,000. The services of P. J. Kinney, esq., an able and reliable engineer, have been secured to superintend the construction of the canal. The irrigating ditches and canals in the northern portion of the Territory, where completed, are proving a great success.

OUR STOCK INTERESTS.

The live-stock interests of Idaho are steadily advancing in comparative rank and importance among the resources which are to make this a wealth-producing region. During the past year the losses from exposure and from disease combined have not exceeded 2 per cent. of the herds which thrive summer and winter upon the open ranges. The dry and healthful atmosphere is a heritage bequeathed to animal life, and as a consequence there are no prevailing diseases among domestic animals, and by proper restrictions and quarantine regulations upon railway lines, it is hoped that contagious diseases may be prohibited from being admitted within our limits for many years to come.

It is estimated by those associated with the stock-growing interests that fully 400,000 head of horses and cattle annually graze upon the hills and in the valleys of the Territory, the aggregate gross value of which would equal nearly \$15,000,000.

The number of sheep probably exceeds 200,000 head and the wool clip for the year approximates 1,000,000 pounds, the average price received by flock-owners ranging from 12 to 13 cents per pound.

The number of swine is not great, perhaps not exceeding 40,000 head; yet, from the fact that the same healthful conditions exist as in other domestic animals, the economy with which they are raised upon alfalfa, &c., and the high price of this product in the near mining camps, has begun to attract more attention as a profitable branch of husbandry.

The exports of live-stock from shipping-stations on the Oregon Short Line Railroad in Idaho, during the year 1885, aggregate 1,800 car-loads, or 36,000 head of horses and cattle. The imports by the same line of road, including the introduction of improved breeding-stock, amounted to 200 car-loads, or about 4,000 head.

The cost of transportation of live beef from Central Idaho has been reduced by the Union Pacific Railway during the year, the freight rate from interior points averaging from 1 cent to 1½ cents per pound to Chicago.

THE NECESSITY OF MILITARY ROADS.

One of the great needs of the Territory is a system of roads. Showings, facts, figures, statements, and petitions have been sent to Congress year after year asking for a small appropriation to construct a military road from Fort Boise, up the North Boise River, to the Salmon River Basin, in which is situated the Lemhi Indian Reservation. A road also from Indian Valley in Washington County, or from the Salmon Meadows to the Camas River or Mount Idaho, in North Idaho, would be, as it were, means of preserving peace, and afford protection to the lives and property of the settlers on those routes, and have the effect to prevent future Indian wars. The present lines of railroads, and those in contemplation of construction, are so far from the range and haunts of the Indians that they offer but few facilities for transportation in time of Indian hostilities. Less than \$100,000 would complete both roads. We therefore appeal once more most earnestly to Congress to give us the appropriation for these objects.

RAILROADS.

The completion of the Oregon Short Line in and through our Territory stands at the head of the great enterprises in Idaho. No people can feel more the necessity and importance of extending toward the companies who own and who may hereafter build lines of road in Idaho fair and liberal legislation. While our people thus feel kindly toward the extension of railroad enterprises in Idaho, they also recognize the fact that the railroads should endeavor to build up and improve the sections of the country through which they pass, and not to seek to retard the development and progress of the Territory by unjust discrimination in freight tariffs so commonly practiced in certain portions of the United States.

It is painfully apparent that a fair, equal, and equitable system of rates and fares should be inaugurated, which would make the expense of importations and exportations on the same article uniform.

By abandoning schedules of rates that give certain sections of our country an unjust and ruinous advantage over other sections, and adopting a fair and equitable schedule which would give all our people, rich and poor, an equal show, much would be accomplished in the work of making a great and prosperous commonwealth, besides improving the condition of both the railroads and the people of Idaho. We need, above

all things, railroad competition and reasonable cheap rates of transportation. Travelers, grain-growers, cattle and horse raisers, who travel and ship their products to market, as well as the owners of producing mines, feel the benefits of railroad transportation already inaugurated.

MAIL ROUTES AND FACILITIES.

The most liberal policy should be adopted in supplying the people, particularly the people of a new country like Idaho, with the best mail facilities which can be devised.

None of the great Governments of the Old World have ever undertaken the policy of economical restrictions in affording their citizens mail facilities for the purpose of making money and adding to their revenues.

The policy of our Government should surely be of a more liberal nature.

The curtailment of mail service in Idaho has subjected numerous settlements in our Territory to not only inconvenience, but great hardship and injury. Under the present indiscreet shortening of the mail routes large and populous districts are left to the side chances for their mails. There is no just cause or reason why a fair and ample star-route service should not be maintained and encouraged so long as the necessities of the people demand the service.

LOCATION OF THE CAPITAL.

After more than twenty years the people of the Territory, through their representatives, have succeeded in securing the permanent location of the capital of the Territory.

The question of establishing the seat of government has been one of vexed agitation at times in different portions of the Territory.

Now that it is permanently fixed all seem to acquiesce cheerfully in the act of the legislative assembly in terminating the controversy.

Boisé City is, by geographical location, the facilities of approach from all points, the mildness of the climate, the scenery and surroundings, best fitted for, and is justly entitled to the honor of being the seat of government.

The necessity which called for the action of the citizens and tax-payers of the Territory to sustain the appropriation of \$80,000 for the building of the capitol, and \$20,000 for the erection of an insane asylum, reflects but little credit on Congress, which lavishes its millions, in the way of appropriations upon worthless jobs and visionary local schemes within the States, such as appropriations for improving the navigable streams, rivers, sloughs, &c. Congress generally winds up with a dividend day for all the States with the Territories left out.

The right thing for Congress to do at its coming session is to appropriate \$150,000 to reimburse our Territorial treasury for the outlay in erecting the capitol building and the insane asylum, which will be needed to complete and finish those buildings as they should be, and for the purpose of flagging the walks, fencing and beautifying the grounds, &c.

This is not too much to ask in view of the fact that since the organization of the Territory in March, 1863, Idaho has collected and paid into the National Treasury largely in excess of the amount appropriated by the Government to pay the classification of Federal expenses borne by the General Government. Where, then, is the evidence of that fostering care toward the Territories so often uttered by sentimentalistesmen?

MILITARY POSTS.

The establishment of military posts and the wise distribution of troops, as at present maintained in the Territory, reflects great credit on the Government and the War Department at Washington, because, notwithstanding the fact that Idaho is far advanced on the march of civilization and settlement, the Territory to a certain extent may be classed as an Indian country. The presence of numerous tribes of Indians, and the many Indian reservations within our borders, may well admonish the Government of the necessity of continuing the present military posts and troops. Their maintenance and their existence afford the best guarantee of peace to our people.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

This question has been so often and so forcibly reverted to that it is now needless to refer to it at any length in this report. In order to entitle themselves to the equal protection of the law the Mormons, like all other classes of American citizens, must obey the laws.

It is now believed and confidently asserted by the able administrators of the laws of the country that the act of Congress known as the Edmunds law is working effectually towards the abolition of the practice of polygamy.

STRIKES AND RIOTS.

Our Territory has been quite fortunate in being free from labor strikes and riots.

Except the brief strikes of last spring, on Wood River, which at one time threatened to culminate into serious riots, and which the firmness and vigilance of the officers of the law and those in authority succeeded in suppressing, there has been nothing of this character to interrupt the industry among the labor communities in the Territory.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS.

The honest and friendly recognition by the present administration of the principle and policy of appointing from the citizens of the Territory officers to fill the various Federal positions, is fully appreciated by our citizens.

In and during the long line of administrations since the organization of the Territory, this thoroughly American policy has been ignored. It seems that it was reserved for the honesty and wisdom of the Democratic party to carry out in practice what they proclaimed to be good in theory, the results of which are no less gratifying to Republicans than Democrats. In this connection, I may be pardoned for the statement of a fact showing the wisdom of adhering as much as possible to the policy of home rule. Out of the many defalcations of Federal officials in the Territory within the last twenty-two years, not one can be justly charged against an officer appointed from the people of the Territory! The idea seems a strange one, if a people, who have conquered a peace with wild tribes of Indians, who have built settlements in the valleys and on the waste lands, who have enacted and established an enlightened code of civil law, who have built and now maintain churches of every Christian denomination, who have distinguished themselves by the erection of seminaries of learning, and drawn to themselves the

credit of supporting an advanced system of education, who by their skill, energy, and nerve have opened the mountains and extracted the hidden treasure from the earth and paid tribute to the increasing national wealth, and laid the foundation for a high and elevated civilization within our Territorial empire, should not be able to furnish men to the Government from their midst qualified and fit for public station when such are needed.

RESTRICTIVE ACTS OF CONGRESS.

We are made frequently to feel the severity as well as the injustice of many restrictive acts and laws of Congress, to one of which I will take the liberty to call the attention of Congress at its next session. It is found in the Revised Statutes of the United States, section 1855, which reads :

No law of any Territorial legislature shall be made or enforced, by which the governor or secretary of a Territory, or the members or officers of any Territorial legislature, are paid any compensation other than that provided by the laws of the United States.

If this law is a valid one, it certainly is an unjust law. No matter what duty or labor may be imposed on the officers of the Government and the Territory by reason of the growing necessities in the conduct of our affairs, such new duties and burdens must be performed without the additional compensation which may be deemed just, and which would be cheerfully paid for by the people of the Territory, who can under these circumstances only be the proper judges. The law should be repealed at once. The interest of the people is no longer subserved by keeping such a law on the statutes of the United States and in force. The salary of our judiciary is entirely too small for the labor performed by our judges, and the expense of traveling from district to district in the discharge of their constant and responsible duties.

OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The penitentiary was built by the Government, and is under the control of United States authority. If it remains so, the building should be enlarged, as it is now entirely inadequate in size and room for present necessities. If turned over to the Territory, Congress should make an appropriation to aid the Territory in completing an additional building and substantial wall around it.

THE UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE.

This institution, conducted under proper regulations, can be of great utility to the mining and commercial interests of the Territory.

I have not been able to get such a report or data as to its present workings on which I could base any recommendations, if I found the necessity to do so as to its management.

POPULATION.

From the most reliable data within my reach at this time, I think it quite safe to place the population at 75,000, and feel assured that when the next census shall have been taken, in 1890, our population will have increased to 100,000 or more.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER.

It is quite difficult to get the exact amount of gold and silver extracted or taken from our mines.

The reason of this difficulty may be said to exist in the fact that nearly one-third of the gold product is taken out of the country, or shipped by private hands. What facts and figures we have at hand enable us to place our estimates at about \$5,486,000 the past year.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I have the honor to say that I am quite sensible of the defects and omissions of this report; but I am happy to state that, whatever may be its imperfections, I am satisfied I have rather under than over rated the greatness, prosperity, and advancement of the Territory.

We rejoice, however, in the fact that we have so able and upright a Delegate in Congress as Hon. John Haily, whose election was more a triumph of the people of the Territory than a party success. Mr. Haily is perhaps more conversant with our people, our resources, and our wants than any other gentlemen who has ever had the honor to represent Idaho in Congress; hence, I defer greatly to Mr. Haily to supply the deficiency which may be found in this report.

I take pleasure in acknowledging favors in the compilation of this report to Hon. James Penault, Hon. S. W. Moody, P. J. Kinney, esq., C. E., and to others.

EDWARD A. STEVENSON,
Governor of Idaho.

Hon. L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary of the Interior.