

EDITORIAL

By James Browne, M.D., LL. D.

The assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg has aroused in the heart of every citizen of Idaho a deep feeling of regret, of resentment, and a profound sense of loss. The crime, at once so atrocious and cowardly, cries to heaven and makes the angels weep. In its cruelty and cold-bloodedness it is almost without a parallel in civilized communities. It is a disgrace to the state of Idaho and a foul blot on her fair escutcheon. It has cast a shadow over the State which cannot be removed until justice is satisfied and the heartless murderer or murderers punished. That the horrible crime was prompted by revenge is certain. Six years ago Governor Steunenberg suppressed the criminal outrages that occurred almost daily in the Coeur d'Alene mines. At that time those mines were terrorized by an organization of assassins who were working under cover of the name of the "Western Federation of Miners." Murders, as already stated, were of daily occurrence. How many murders were committed is not known and could never be ascertained. Dynamite was applied to the great mills of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines and the loss of property and life was immense. Governor Steunenberg resolved to expel the murderous gang, and did so by proclaiming martial law and calling upon the United States for assistance. Some of the ring leaders were convicted but none were executed. "By his vigorous proceedings the Governor broke up the federation in Idaho. The men of the inner circle who directed the crimes at Coeur d'Alene have now at last taken revenge. It is the price that many a courageous man has paid" for his devotion to duty and his zeal in the preservation of public order and the promotion of the best interests of Society.

Governor Steunenberg was no ordinary man—indeed he occupied a place in the forefront of the best citizens of the State. Idaho bitterly mourns the loss of her gifted son. He was devoted to Idaho and left his impression upon her in works that can never be forgotten. We had the pleasure of meeting him once and only once; and we shall never forget his pleasant manner, his kindly greeting and his cordial welcome. We felt that we were in the presence of a man of exquisite mental balance, of a man who measured fully up to the intellectual standard of those who rule, of a man who was always calm and self-possessed upon whom the cares of state sat lightly; and we felt that the people of Idaho had much reason to be proud of their Chief Executive.

And now by as brutal and dastardly a crime as was ever committed in this or any other State this excellent man has been sent to an untimely grave in the noon of life, in the vigor of manhood, in the zenith of his popularity, in the acme of domestic happiness. May he rest in peace! And may the dew of the Heavenly Father's blessing descend from day to day upon the mourning family and soothe and comfort them!

"The History of Idaho," in two volumes, now in preparation by the editors of THE IDAHO MAGAZINE, will far surpass, in scope, value and charm, any similar effort that has HISTORY OF IDAHO. been made in the State. It will give to Idaho a new form of history, one that is equally invaluable in its historic, sentimental and practical worth. It will be profusely illustrated with historic buildings and scenes, and with the portraits of the Beacon Lights of Idahoan history. It will be as readable as fiction, and at the same time accurate and scholarly. It will give a picture of absorbing interest of the development of Idaho into a great State. When completed it will be the greatest reference work on Idaho within the bounds of the Gem State. Moreover, it will stand for perfection in book making, and will be the only History of Idaho worthy to rank with the very best of state histories.



THE YEAR IN IDAHO.

The New Year edition of Goodwin's Weekly paid some attention to Idaho editorially, saying:

Last year Idaho took a distinct forward march. Her old mines held their own, some new ones were discovered, but her great advance was in agriculture. The great Snake river was bridled and led from her banks to fructify some hundreds of thousands of acres of land that heretofore has been called a part of the desert, and other enterprises of the same nature are on foot. In 10 years more Idaho will be a greater agricultural state than any of the many eastern states that have long been famous as bread producers. She will have 8,000,000 acres under cultivation, which will exceed the landed area of both Massachusetts and Connecticut.

She will have more acres of orchards than both New Jersey and Delaware, and her fruit will be better fruit than those states can produce.

And her people are up-to-date, true men and true women, all confident, all self-reliant, all filled with hope for themselves and pride in their state. Nowhere will the "Happy New Year" be more cordial, more sincere than in Idaho. In Rome it was said of one emperor, "He found Rome brick; he left it marble." So of this generation of Idaho people it may be said: They found Idaho a desert; they left it a garden of fruits and flowers. Congratulations are for Idaho, sure enough, on this New Year's day.



A very interesting contribution from the pen of Frank R. Coffin appears in the January issue of the IDAHO MAGAZINE, entitled "Reminiscences of Early Days in Idaho." Mr. Coffin

PRESS COMMENTS ON F. R. COFFIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS. has certainly been through the thick of great and glorious experiences during the infancy of Idaho and the graphic manner in which he relates those experiences in print holds the reader's rapt attention. More of the same would be very welcome, Mr. Coffin.—Idaho Weekly World.