

The San Joaquin Valley
California



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THE
San Joaquin Valley

Resources, Industries *and*
Advantages
Scenery, Climate *and* Opportunities

OF

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

*Facts for the Investor, Home-Maker
and Health-Seeker*

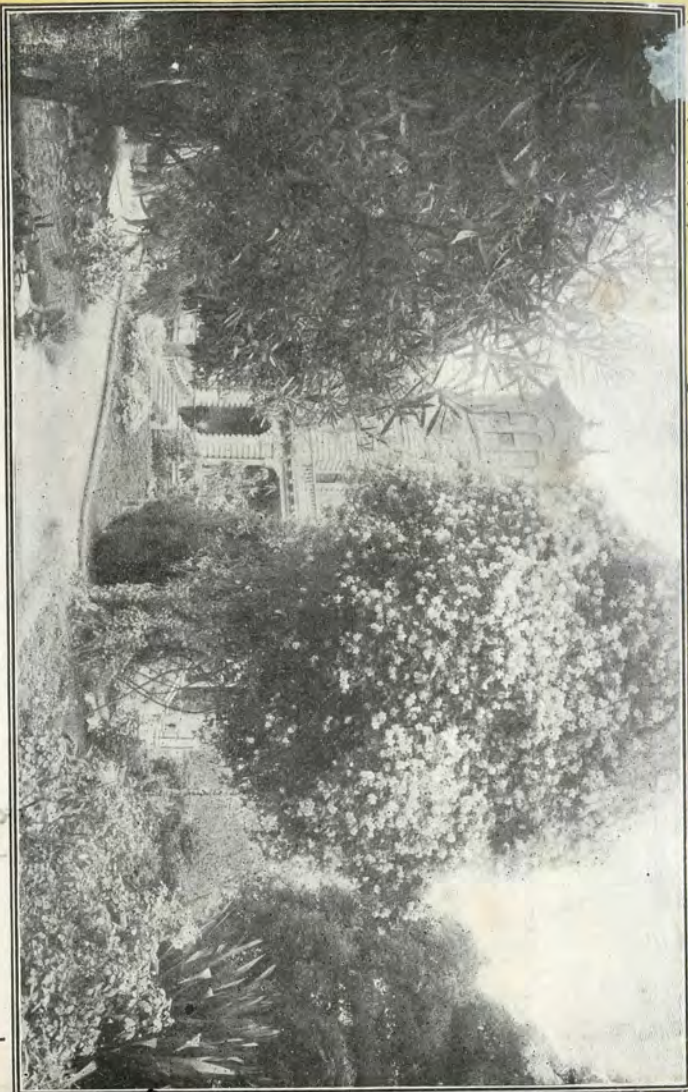
BY A. J. WELLS

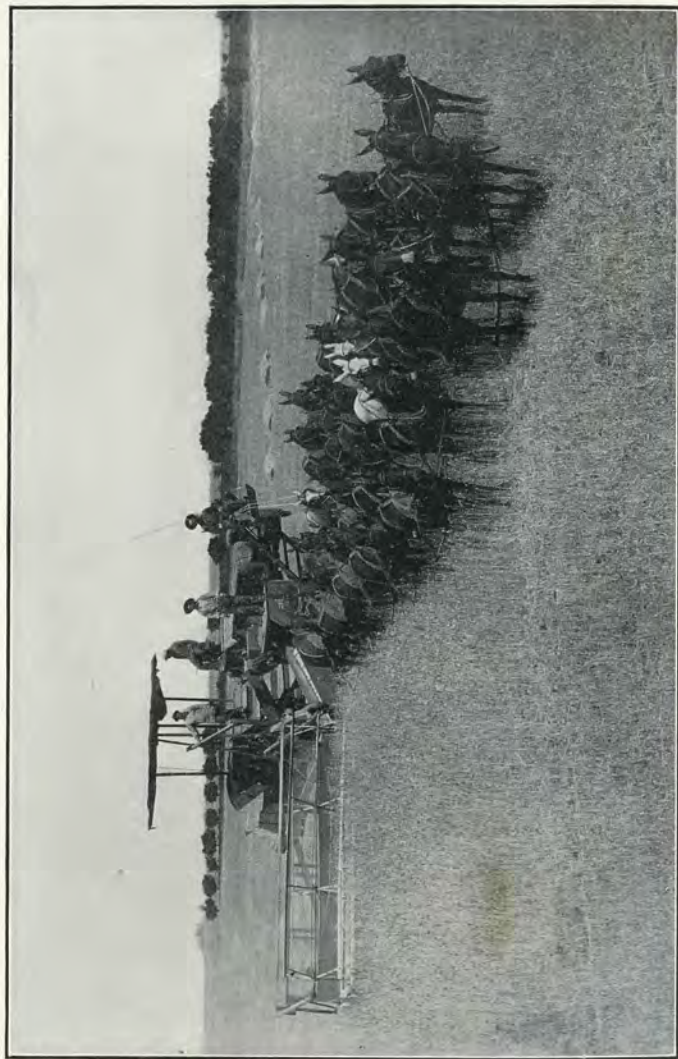
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San Francisco, Cal.
1903.

ROSE TREE IN THE GARDEN OF A SANTA CRUZ HOME, CAL.





A Harvester in action in the San Joaquin Valley.

THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

A Remarkable Land

CALIFORNIA is a strange land. It is unlike any other under the sun. It cannot fairly be judged by comparison with any other. Its history is unique. Beginning in a delirium of excitement about gold, and gathering adventurers from all lands, it has in half a century become a great commonwealth, peaceful, law-abiding, full of the institutions of learning and of religion, and with developed resources which have given it fame among the nations of the world.

Its size is unusual. It is equal to all New England with New York and Ohio added. It has a vast mountain system, yet its central valley is one of the great agricultural basins of the world.

Its scenery is unequalled anywhere, and its climate is the softest known to the temperate zone. It is almost the only land under heaven, where climatic conditions are not subject to the law of latitude.

Its range of productions is unparalleled in any single country of the world. Such a land must be seen through a variety of temperaments, looked at through the experiences of years, from large personal contact with it, and from many points of view. Otherwise, much that is written about it, and much that is justly said of it, will seem to the casual visitor mere exaggeration. This land of strange contrasts exercises a peculiar fascination. Something about it evokes interest, arouses enthusiasm, compels attachment, and this deepens with knowledge, and the lapse of years. When we have tarried long under its serene skies, and in its kindly air, seeing the blonde beauty of its summers, and the emerald of its winters, enjoying the long, warm, stormless Autumns, that have in them no "melancholy days;" or looking at the glory of mountain and cañon, lake and waterfall, the very physical aspect of things becomes entangled in one's net-work of nerves, and we repeat the experience of the ancient Lotus eaters, and lose all desire to return to the lands that gave us birth.

We are to look at the central portion of this great State. Happily, all the route is mapped out for us, and the lines of the Southern Pacific reach around the Bay, across the hills, and up

and down both sides of the interior valley, every point of interest being made accessible. A comprehensive railroad system has made the development of the great valley possible, and indeed, the whole State, so that from being a land where it was always afternoon, it has become a country of activity, industry, and vast productiveness.

We are to look at it chiefly as the land of the farmer, and are to see how diversified are the industries connected with the soil, how remunerative is the work, and how nearly ideal are the conditions of country life.

But a great inland empire must have a seaport, a commercial city, a gateway to the countries and markets of the world, and any adequate view of the country side, must include the Bay and the Harbor, and the City of San Francisco. This is a period of unusual interest, and the commercial importance of this metropolis of the Coast must be taken into account, the trade outlook across the sea, the growth of a merchant marine, the industrial revolution being wrought by the discovery of oil; the widening uses of electrical energy, and all the forces which are building here in our day a great municipality.

A NEW ERA.

Transition This is a day of changing conditions in the farming region. The period of great land holdings is passing away, the days of speculation in wheat farming are gone; the mistakes of fruit planting have been outgrown, and we are beyond the stage of costly experiment; the importance of irrigation is clearly seen for large areas. It is a time of development. The foundations of a great industrial community are being laid, and a young and vigorous civilization firmly established. But much of the land is still thinly populated. It is so vast that it can only be occupied by degrees, and growth has waited for cheaper lands, for cheaper transportation, and for the coming of the age of irrigation. People have said, "We cannot live upon climate," and they have dreaded isolation, distance from neighbors, from eastern centers, and they have feared high-priced lands and dry seasons.

But all these are now things of the past. Today the East is near. Three days from Chicago, and four from New York, is almost neighborhood, so much has the world shrunken. Lands are low; irrigation is rapidly changing methods of culture, and large tracts are not desirable; the markets of the world are now accessible.

Commerce Commercially, too, it is a new day in the West. The Pacific Coast has acquired an unlooked-for importance. It has come suddenly to the consciousness of the East. No sagacity could foresee the events of the last few years,

and their results. They have made this Coast the commercial front of Asia. The "Captains of Industry" are all alive to the situation; they are planning to handle the vast traffic that is coming. Great investments are being made in ships, and immense sums expended in reducing curves and grades on trans-continental railway lines, and in equipments. And all this comes at a time when the possibilities of a great future as a manufacturing State are distinctly before us. It is all being felt in the establishment of new industries, and in the development of a new spirit—a "new civic consciousness." Business is enlarging; commerce increasing, building going forward by great strides. There is a phenomenal awakening through all the State. California stands today facing a magnificent future. She is at the opening of a new era.

A GREAT DESTINY.

Physical Features The topography of Central California involves unity. There are no barriers of river or mountains to divide, no sectional interests to hinder a common purpose. The chief city is such by reason of its situation. It commands the gateway of commerce. The peninsula on which it stands has the sea on one side, and the Bay on the other. The cleft in the Coast Range makes the Golden Gate, and toward this all the waters of the interior run.



City Hall, San Francisco.

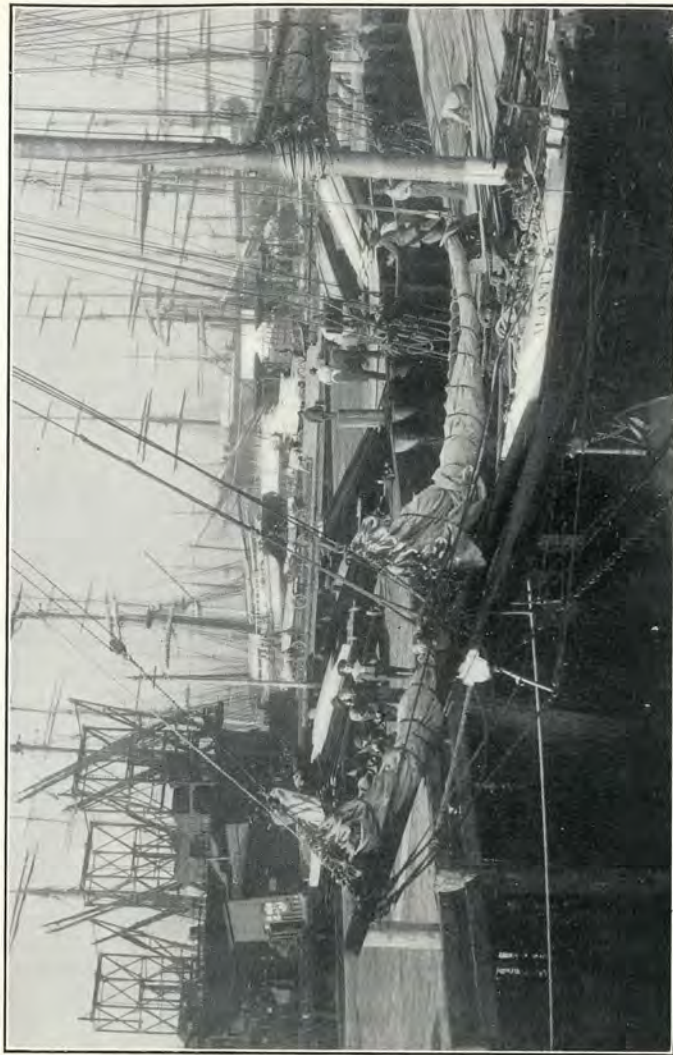
That interior is a vast basin—an elliptical valley 450 miles long by about 50 miles wide. It lies between the Coast Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas. It was once, no doubt, an inland sea, and geologists call the valley a "sea trough." Its bottom, once uneven, rock ribbed, and full of valleys and hills, has been slowly silted up through the ages, until it is now a level plain, flat as a floor, and with a soil of immeasurable depth.

In any other land but California, this great basin would be drained by one principal river, and slope in one direction. This sags a little near the center, and is drained by two rivers, flowing in opposite directions. The San Joaquin comes from the south, the Sacramento from the north. They meet and join, and turning west slip into the Bay. Many streams are tributary to them, so that the whole valley is well watered. It is the agricultural heart of California, its two ventricles the two valleys, which are yet one—the whole the most fertile, the most extensive, the most healthful valley in the world. It is a microcosm—the world in little—an epitome of the earth and its fullness. Its inevitable port and market-place is San Francisco. The natural gravitation of all this vast area is toward the Golden Gate.

A Great Harbor

In the Bay of San Francisco the navies of civilization might anchor. New York Bay has 22 square miles at high tide, but only $9\frac{1}{2}$ square miles within the "3-fathom" limit. North and East rivers give a total of $21\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. San Francisco's harbor has 79 square miles within the "3-fathom limit"—a complete land-locked refuge for those who go down to the sea in ships. This alone is a guarantee of the future of the city which fronts it. When Dana saw it in 1835, he wrote: "If ever California becomes a prosperous country, this Bay will be the center of its prosperity." This great tidal reservoir reflects the flags of every nation, and all kinds of craft float on its waters. Here are barnacled hulls from Java, and one may follow them back in imagination to the coffee plantations of that Dutchman's island; or we may look upon the brigs and barkentines of Japan, or upon one of her modern cruisers, built and launched here, and be in fancy among the alert, self-poised, ingenious little brown men, and the artistic homes of Japan. Or a breath of the tropics comes with the swift, schooner-rigged traders from the South Seas, and a boreal blast seems to fill the rigging of the whalers from the frozen north. Tea caddies from Shanghai smell of Oriental gardens, where slim-fingered celestials pick the fragrant leaves; while clippers from Liverpool; packets from Hamburg; jute laden craft from Calcutta; coasters and tramps, familiar with every port of the Pacific littoral, bring the ends of the world together in this great Bay.

Across it ply the great ferry boats of the Southern Pacific, carrying an average of 50,000 people daily to Oakland and other points. The Government Tug "General McDowell" runs back



A glimpse of the shipping in San Francisco Harbor.

and forth between the Presidio, the Forts and Alcatraz, the fortified island which commands the entrance to the harbor, while the Italian fishing fleet scud before the wind early and late, seeking their prey in the peaceful sea.

Angel Island is the largest of the Bay islands, containing about 600 acres. It is a military post, and the Quarantine Station for the port. Yerba Buena, or Goat Island, has about 300 acres. There is established on it a lighthouse outfitting station, a torpedo station and magazine, and a naval training school under the direction of naval officers, for the benefit of the merchant marine. The great mole of the Southern Pacific reaches far out toward this island from the Oakland shore, and Alameda thrusts an arm out to connect with the ferry service. Alcatraz Island is much smaller, but bristles with cannon, and sends its streaming light far out to sea. It is a prison for refractory soldiers in the United States Army.

This broad and picturesque harbor is rapidly becoming a great distributing point. Millions of imported goods come yearly into, and other millions of exported merchandise pass out of it, through the Golden Gate. The Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines; Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and Tahiti; Mexico and Central and South American ports, China, Japan, Siam, the Straits Settlements and Asiatic Russia, all are reached from this port.

American exports to Oceanica, best reached from the Pacific Coast, have increased in ten years 132 per cent; exports to Asia in the same period 163 per cent. The development of the Philippines is yet to come; the trade with China is but in its infancy, but how vast it is soon to be, is indicated by the millions being spent in preparations to handle it by men and companies who have studied the situation. We are at the point of departure of a new commercial era. The ships are building, the railroads are making arrangements to handle, the traffic that is coming. The Golden Gate will be the chief western portal through which the mighty volume of trade between the United States and the awakening Orient will flow, and San Francisco will be to the Pacific Coast what New York is to the Atlantic seaboard. The natural, ample, inevitable harbor for most of the vast commerce with Asia is here. In this port the ships will gather by a kind of natural gravitation, for here is the short curve of the planet inviting to market.

SAN FRANCISCO The chief city of the West has a unique history. It had its chief beginning in a contagion of excitement that quickly developed a riotous situation, and some of the most perilous experiments of self-government have been tried here. It has the most cosmopolitan population of any American city, and is still in its early youth, but will compare favorably in culture, in education, and in morals, with the older cities of the East. Among the twelve largest cities of the

nation, San Francisco is fifth in the amount of money expended for each pupil in the public schools, and has close to her doors two of the great Universities of the land, one of them more richly endowed perhaps than any school in the world.

In library strength, this young city stands fourth in rank. In telephone facilities it is first, while its street car system is as complete and as extensive as that of any city of equal size in the land. Its churches, its theatres, its fraternal halls, its hotels and private residences, its squares and parks are indices of the progressive civilization of this western city.

Golden Gate Park More than a thousand acres have been rescued from the drifting sand and clothed with such beauty as to make Golden Gate Park famous. Its drives, its flowers, its unusual collection of half tropical trees and shrubs, its aviary, its buffaloes and elk and deer, its museum, and music stand, and monuments, and conservatory make it a place of great interest.

At the ocean side the Cliff House, and Seal Rocks, and wonderful Sutro Baths are places of constant attraction.

Markets The markets of the city are novel to the Eastern dweller. The fruits of a half tropical region are all



An Oriental Gateway.

Entrance to the Japanese Garden, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

the year in evidence, and the street corners are bright with the gold of oranges and the splendor of flowers, while the local market-stands, open to the sidewalk, have always fresh vegetables and various kinds of fruit. Strawberries grow out of doors ten months out of the twelve, and green peas can be had in mid-winter at prices the most moderate. Sea air, sunshine and green salads, and more fruit than the Hesperides ever knew, combine to make a cheerful city.

San Francisco is well-built. There are few evidences of poverty, and none of those contrasts between opulence and squalor, so often a feature of the home-life of large cities. It is not a beautiful city, though narrowly escaping this, but it is picturesque, and has an individuality of its own. What artists call "local color" is not wanting, either in landscape effects, in the water front, in Chinatown, the Park, the Presidio and its forts and forests, or in the city's suburbs. The view from the many hill-tops is very fine, and the whole outlook, across the Bay and its islands, to the cities and villages, the level stretches, and rolling country, and sharp peaks on the near horizon, forms a pleasing panorama.

Its Position The location of the city is commanding. Its great water front invites the manufacturer. The factory and the ship are brought together. On the south shore are many industries, and all the signs point to the development of a great manufacturing district in that region. Here is deep water, safe anchorage and the terminals of two great transcontinental railway lines. Here is the Risdon Iron Works, sending its machinery to a hundred points. Here is the Union Iron Works, where was built and launched Dewey's flag-ship, the "Olympia," which led the way to the victory in Manila Bay which electrified the world; here also was the birthplace of the "Oregon," which made the most memorable voyage on record, and streaming smoke and flame and hurling shells was in at the awful destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago. Many smaller establishments of various kinds, numbering about 120 distinct industries, and representing millions of capital, are around the Bay shore.

Cheap fuel in abundance will create new industries, and California will rapidly become a manufacturing State. And the Bay region will naturally be the center of the greatest activity.

Commercially, too, the position of the Bay city is commanding. Near the center of the State, and at the Golden Gate of the Pacific, all roads run to San Francisco. It is the natural market place for all the region north of Tehachapi, and its geographical position insures its permanency. Nature determined its location in advance of trade, or the foresight of real estate agents. A great harbor, a gateway to the sea, the rivers of the interior, and now great railroad lines insure the growth and expanding commerce of what was but a little pueblo of the uncommercial missionaries. More than two-thirds of the producing area of the

State finds here a market-place, and the varied products of forests and mines, of fields and orchards go to the world's ends from this port.

Mill Markets In South Africa as well as England and Scotland, in Chile and Australia, in Alaska and Siberia, in Japan, and China, and India, California fruits are on sale, and her flour and barley are making their way to all the countries bordering on the Pacific. Ships that land at Port Costa with wheat from the valleys are all cleared at this port. During November, 1901, a ship was cleared every day, most of them for the United Kingdom. A shipment of 8,000 tons of flour was made to China recently by a single mill. Lima beans are largely shipped to China, Japan and the Philippine Islands. Here are found the ships of all nations, and the exports from this city are more than all the Custom Districts from Alaska to San Diego combined. There were three steamship lines in 1895, operating steamers from this port for foreign service; now there are ten powerful companies, and more than a dozen lines with regular sailings for foreign traffic. Steamers recently launched, register from 12,000 to 16,000 tons, and are equipped with the appointments and conveniences to be found in the best Atlantic liners. They are built to meet the demands of an increasing ocean trade. Commerce with the East, with China, Japan, Hawaii, Corea, Manchuria, with Russia in Siberia, with the Philippines, is building here a great city, and a great merchant marine, suited to the uses of a growing foreign commerce, will have its home at this port.

The development of the Orient is certain. It may be slow, but it will come, and the great potential wealth of China will be opened up, and her conservative millions will get into the swing of the world's forward movement. This western city is at the point where, naturally, the lines of that great traffic will center, and her destiny is inevitable. Commerce will make San Francisco great. Its population is now about 365,000, and is rapidly increasing.

OAKLAND This handsome city across the Bay has a population of about 80,000. Originally an oak park, many of its broad-topped trees have been preserved, and add much to its beauty. But a few miles removed from San Francisco, its climate is appreciably milder and is very uniform. It rests against a natural amphitheatre of hills, a wing of the Coast Range, and has the great Bay on its western front, and a land-locked harbor, six miles in length, on its southern side. It has proven an attractive place for the families of many business and professional men, who are occupied during the day in the larger city. A great throng make their way to the ferries night and morning, so that Oakland has long been called "the bed chamber of San Francisco." Its school privileges have earned for it another title, that of "the Athens of the Pacific." The University of California



Hall of Records, Oakland.

is in its immediate neighborhood, though fast making a city of its own. Mills College is not far away in its sylvan retreat, and there are many private seminaries and high schools. It has parks, hospitals, homes, orphanages, sanitariums, libraries and reading rooms and churches, and many evidences of culture and charity.

Oakland is distinctly a city of homes. It is as distinctly destined to be a city of shops and factories. Its water front and tidal estuaries will make of it a manufacturing city, and as it becomes a center of industrial life, its fine back-ground of hills will become populous with homes.

Fine Views The view from these hills is unexcelled. The beautiful city at their feet, the shining waters of the Bay beyond, the islands—happily sometime green with trees—the ships at anchor or coming and going to and from the ocean outside, the ferry boats gliding back and forth, the towers and spires of San Francisco on its hills—all this is a charming picture. And when night comes, and the lights are kindled and reflected in the waters of the Bay, one is not able to tell where the lights leave off, and the stars begin.

Pushed back by the growing demands of business, the city of homes will climb the hills, and overflow Fruitvale, and spread among the rounded slopes and curves of a region made for human residence.

Water Front On the eastern shore of the Bay are 15 miles of water front, and already many factories and mills. These will grow and others be added. There are many harbor facilities. Oakland Creek has now a depth of 20 feet, and a width of 300 feet for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and this will be further increased by the action of the Federal Government, until the deepest sea-going vessels can be accommodated. The basin lying at the head of Oakland Creek will be dredged to a greater depth, and suited for the use of shipping of much larger draft than now enters it.

Ship building is actively carried on, three yards being located on either shore, and a fourth located adjacent to the entrance to the creek. At the West Oakland yards the most of the ferry boats of the Southern Pacific Company have been built, and from the several yards the largest wooden vessels ever built on the shores of the Bay, have been launched. The only marine railway drydock in the Bay is connected with one of these yards.

Manufacturing industries will naturally seek this side of the Bay, the large area, the small cost of ground, closer touch with the overland railway, and contact of ship and factory and rail, being some of the reasons that will appeal to manufacturers. The city will share with San Francisco in the great destiny which awaits her, and embracing her suburban homes and towns Oakland will become Greater Oakland.



University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

Bay Shore Industries

Near Sixteenth Street Station is located a sash and door factory with a large equipment and turning out recently a \$50,000 order. Near Emery Station the iron industry is represented by two large plants, the product of which goes all over the Western Slope to the islands of the Pacific, and to the Orient. A large cannery is also operated here, the fruit coming from the region back from the shore. A little beyond are extensive stock yards, and elsewhere, belonging properly to Oakland, are flax mills, cotton and jute mills, flouring mills, oil and borax and syrup refineries, electric light and power works, and many smaller industries. This feature of Oakland's life will grow; the Bay Shore will be full of the homes of operatives, and new settlements will be created, until all the lands, once covered by the tides, are the homes of artisans and their families. And their children will be found in the classic halls near at hand.

BERKELEY

This is the seat of the University of California, and the location of a great State charity. The Asylum for the Blind, the Deaf and the Dumb is here, caring for many unfortunates. The culture and the seclusion which belongs to the region, makes it an admirable place for such an institution.

The rapidly growing town clusters about the college and climbs up the hillside, and looks westward directly into the Golden Gate and the sunset. The California live oak abounds, and the campus is left in the beauty of nature. It is a magnificent site for a great school, and magnificent plans are made for buildings to adorn it. After a world-competition, the scheme of Benard of Paris was approved, and will involve an expenditure of not less than ten millions of dollars. The new mining building is to be erected at once at a cost of not less than \$500,000. When realized in stone, and other durable forms, the architect's plans will make the place famous for its beauty, and will greatly enlarge the scope of the University. This elaborate and expensive preparation has been made possible by the benefaction of a noble woman, Mrs. Phœbe Hearst.

The University has affiliated colleges of medicine, dentistry, law and art. The latter is housed in a building presented for that purpose, the famous Hopkins Mansion, the most elaborate and expensive private residence in San Francisco. The colleges of medicine have fine buildings near Golden Gate Park. An astronomical department is located on Mt. Hamilton, the splendid Lick Observatory on that summit, being one of the three great observatories of America.

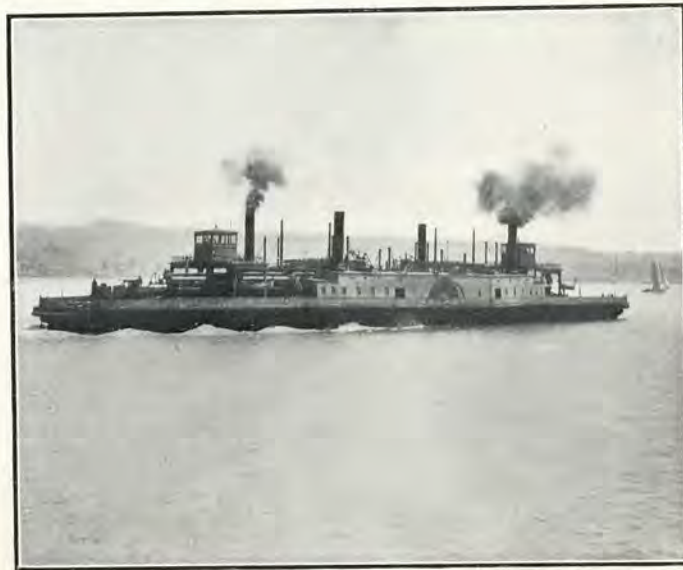
The present wealth of the University is very great, and like Stanford University at Palo Alto, it is absolutely free, and both are open, without limit of sex or race. These are universities in the true sense of the term, and answer all questions that may be asked about California's interest in higher education.

It is believed that California has one college student for every 400 inhabitants, a larger proportion than any other State in the Union. President Wheeler, of Berkeley, attributes this to the fact that "no class in California consciously accepts the doom of mediocrity." In advertising a piece of land for sale Themistocles noted that "it lay by a good neighbor." California gives scholastic proof that her people are already good neighbors.

Up the Bay Passing on up the shore of the Bay, which the track hugs closely for 30 miles, we find a large furniture factory, just opened, employing about 300 men, and turning out large orders. Stations are found at every mile, and soap companies, stock yards, tanneries, oil refineries, and at several points large manufactories of high explosives are observed. At intervals for miles, isolated because of their dangerous character, these distinctive industries are fully equipped and profitable, in spite of the hazard involved. Chinese are largely employed.

VALLEJO JUNCTION

This marks the point of departure for Vallejo, and for Mare Island, the naval station of the Government. Here also travelers who wish to see the



The great ferry steamer "Solano" crossing Carquinez Straits, Port Costa to Benicia, the former capital of California.

Napa and Sonoma valleys, cross the narrow arm of the Bay. Near by is the great Selby Smelter and Refinery, an old and successful plant, doing an immense business with a vast territory.

PORT COSTA Here are the great warehouses which receive the products of the grain fields of half the State. They have an aggregate capacity of more than 350,000 tons. At the docks, 30 deep water vessels can lie, and if need be, load at one time. Just beyond are the many-armed rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, and great river rafts, and stern wheelers traverse them hundreds of miles from their mouths, bringing the brown pyramids of jute sacks from the harvest field to the ships hold. There are smiling valleys among the near hills, and thrifty homes. The bluffs along the strait are picturesque, and the rounded hills full of beauty. When we return we will cross the arm of the Bay here on the great ferry boat, the "Solano," keeping our seat in the car meanwhile.

MARTINEZ This is a garden-like region full of charming nooks, and basking in the sunshine. The town is very delightfully located, its back to the many-curved hills, and its face to the water, looking directly at Benicia, across the Straits of Carquinez. It is a quiet, restful place, many of its first families coming from New England.

AVON A branch road runs from here to San Ramon, through a beautiful little valley. It lies in the shape of a horse-shoe about the base of Mt. Diablo, and was early occupied. Its climate is delightful, tempered by Bay breezes, and the soil is very fertile. The principal towns are Avon, Concord, Walnut Creek, Danville and San Ramon, the valley being called by the latter name.

Mt. Diablo is a picturesque peak, 3,896 feet high, and the view from its summit is very wide.

BAY POINT This town touches Suisun Bay, and is near the farthest end of that arm of the Bay which reaches northward from San Francisco. A large smelting plant is here, but recently completed. Here also are extensive chemical works, employing 100 men, a recent addition to the industries of the town.

McAVOY These towns are also on the Bay, and not far from the Black Diamond Coal Mines.

CORNWALL These small towns are in a region of great fertility. A wide area here has been made by the river, through centuries, and is exceedingly rich. The Los Medanos Ranch of 8,000 acres is for sale in small tracts, while 2,000 acres of another tract will be devoted to the production of asparagus. Many acres in the region round about have been planted to almonds, while the county has its quota of olives, peaches and apricots, as well as grapes.

ANTIOCH This prosperous town has a paper mill of large capacity, and a large drying yard for lumber and

LATHROP This is a dining station, and passengers change cars for points north and south. It is a station, for these reasons, full of activity. Stock breeding, alfalfa growing and the diversified farming which obtains in this county, makes the region a prosperous one. Lathrop is on the main line running down the east side of the valley. We shall see it again as we return from Sacramento. We go back now to Port Costa, and cross the strait. The giant ferry boat has four tracks, and can carry two engines and 48 freight cars. Our whole train is transferred to the boat, and so steady is the ponderous float that many passengers pass over without being aware of it.

BENICIA This is an active and pleasant town of about 3,300 people. A large tannery, extensive works for the manufacture of agricultural machinery, the Government Arsenal, and a military post, with its appurtenances, are here. The county is Solano, and raises much wheat, oats and barley. The tide lands are used for grazing purposes. In the Bays and along the Sacramento River, salmon and other fish are caught, this being quite an industry.

SUISUN Here the proximity of tule swamps, or marshes, makes fine duck shooting, and this is a place much frequented by sportsmen. In the small valleys adjacent, much fruit is grown. Napa Valley is reached from here by a short run to Napa Junction, and also Sonoma Valley. Portland cement is found near by, and the rock is to be reduced for commercial uses.

ELMIRA This is a junction town of considerable importance. A branch road runs from here into the Vaca Valley and Capay Valley, both full of fruit farms. Vacaville is well known for its early cherries. Elmira is in the broad valley of the Sacramento, and in a good farming region.

DAVIS This is another principal town on the line, at a point where the road for the north diverges. Palms and bananas begin to appear, as we get away from the sea air. It is a rich region, and prosperous farms are the standing evidence. Irrigation works are projected, and this will add to land values.

SACRAMENTO This handsome city is the capital of the State, and the chief city in Northern California. Its population is about 33,000. The various lines of the Southern Pacific radiate from here, and here are located extensive railroad shops, often employing 3,000 men. The city is prosperous, with fine residences, and solid business blocks and well kept streets. Ample electric energy supplies light and power. The State capitol is a splendid structure of granite, with a beautiful and well kept park of 30 acres about it. A substantial structure belonging to the Government, accommodates the Postoffice, Land Office, Internal Revenue Department and the Weather Bureau. A fine art gallery, with valuable paintings and other works of art, belongs to the city.



Planting vegetables on the River Islands.

The county has fully 600,000 acres of farming land within its borders. About 40,000 acres are under irrigation. The rainfall is more abundant here than lower down in the valley, but irrigation makes the farmer independent of the clouds, and insures the harvest. Sacramento County is well watered, having the American, the Cosumnes, the Sacramento, and on the south the Mokelumne River, as sources of supply. It is a rich region with a good market, and the best of transportation facilities. We shall look at it more closely in the survey of the Sacramento Valley, in the book called by that name.

BRIGHTON

This is a suburb of Sacramento, on the east side of the river, in the midst of farms and orchards and gardens. A branch line diverges here running to Placerville.

FLORIN

Market gardens, orchards and vineyards surround Florin. One grower here, from 10 acres of strawberries, netted in 1901, \$135 an acre. Another, from 8 acres Flame Tokay grapes, netted \$112 an acre. An olive orchard near, returns about \$30 an acre. Much land is devoted to strawberry culture, the profits in some cases reaching \$350 an acre.

ELK GROVE

A pleasant town, in a monotonously rich section. From 15 acres grapes, prunes, peaches and cherries, one grower in 1901 netted \$95.18 per acre. Another, with 263 acres, gathered a net revenue the same year of \$3,500. He kept 100 sheep, 10 cows and has 10 acres of peaches, 20 of prunes, and 13 of Tokay grapes. These are examples of actual results, and are fairly representative.

GALT

This is a prosperous town, in so desirable a region every way, that it should quickly double its population. Vine-

yards, olive and orange groves, and orchards of deciduous fruits, are taking the place of grain farming. Desirable land for oranges, with water available in two fine streams, can be had from \$40 to \$60 an acre. Prepared, planted and cared for five years, the cost will approximate \$250 an acre. But ten acres in oranges will yield enough to pay for itself in the next two years. This is surely a good investment. All the products of California do well here. Our farmer cuts 6½ tons alfalfa to the acre from 80 acres, sown 25 years ago. His 200 Durham cows return a net income of \$30 per cow. From 150 acres of beans he received net \$3,375. Land can be easily made profitable in such a climate.

The River Region

Near by, on the west, is the Sacramento, and for many miles the river is lined with orchards and vegetable farms. Vast quantities of potatoes are grown on the islands, and the culture of asparagus has become a great and profitable industry. It is canned and shipped eastward and to foreign countries. It is claimed that the canned asparagus is better than the fresh vegetable, and for its production the reclaimed lands along the river have been brought to a higher state of perfection than anywhere else in the world. From Bouldin Island, in San Joaquin County, it goes to Germany, beating there the native product, and it finds also a market in many other lands. Artichokes are also extensively grown and canned. The rental value of these lands is very high.



Close Quarters.

IONE From Galt a branch line leads up to this pretty foothill town, in its snug little valley. It has about 1,200 people, not counting the boys in the Reformatory, a State school located here. The climate of the Sierra foothills is everywhere fine, and all fruits do well. Grapes especially will flourish on these red uplands, and they will one day be covered as are the hills of France. Gold, copper, coal and potters clay are found in this region. Amador, Sutter Creek, Jackson, Plymouth, Volcano in this county are all old centers of mining activity. A rich gold field lies to the south and west. The Mokelumne River was famous in early days for its rich bars, and the hills are full of quartz veins, where extensive deposits are yielding immensely today.

LODI Back in the fat valley again, in an attractive town. Lodi ought to be beloved of many, for it is the center of a vast melon patch. It is also a general fruit region. Six miles north is a grove of 5,000 olive trees. In 1901 they bore about 100 tons of berries. When reported, 1,800 gallons of oil were filtering and 75 casks of pickled ripe olives, worth 75 cents a gallon, were



Court House, Stockton, Cal.

still unsold. Here is an income of at least \$6,000. A 200-acre peach orchard is near by, and yields an average of 200 pounds of fruit to the tree. Lodi farmers were first to secure rural mail delivery in their county, and now have telephones, the wires being strung on fence posts.

WOODBIDGE From Lodi a branch runs west to this point. A big dam irrigates 20,000 acres, with laterals to cover as much more. It is a good dairy region. One dairyman with 65 acres of alfalfa, keeps from 30 to 40 cows, which yield each about \$1 per week in butter fat. Calves and hogs to consume the skimmed milk, will add to his income. This is one of the garden spots of the county.

VALLEY SPRINGS Eastward from Lodi the branch line runs to this foothill town, in Calaveras County. Stage lines connect with trains for the Gwinn Mine, Mokelumne Hill, San Andreas, Murphy and Sheep Ranch, all famous mining places. A stage line also runs to the Big Tree Grove in this county. This is something worth crossing the continent to see. Here are trees which were large and vigorous when the Shepherds visited Bethlehem, and were good-sized youngsters when Moses was found in the bulrushes. Some of the noblest of all the giants are in this grove. They do not look old. They impress the visitor with a sense of youthful vigor, and show no signs of decay. These great trees are found only in California.

STOCKTON This handsome, well-built city of nearly 25,000 people, is the commercial center of the San Joaquin. It is at the head of tide-water navigation, and at the junction of the Southern Pacific Railway and the Santa Fe. It is a prosperous city, with a great future before it. Stockton has superior advantages for manufacturing, and for the distribution of its products of factory and field. Flour and woolen mills, harvesters and other agricultural implements, mining machinery, street cars and railway cars, pottery and briquettes, the latter a combination of coal and crude oil, are among its principal industries. Fruit canning and packing, too, has a large place. The annual output of its factories and packing houses is over \$14,000,000. Fuel is cheap here. The coal fields of Tesla are near by, the product of which is distributed chiefly through this city. Natural gas is supplied at a low rate, and is used in factories, and for heat and light in private houses. Unlimited electric power, generated 45 miles away, is also at command.

River Traffic Steamers, barges and sailing vessels ply between Stockton and the Bay, the river traffic being very large. The distance is about 100 miles, and the volume of traffic is not exceeded by more than three rivers in America. The annual freightage is estimated at a million and a half of tons, and 150,000 passengers. The county has 873,000 acres, nearly all of which is productive. Below the city is found the peat land, so rich that \$50 an acre is paid for the use of it for truck farming.



At the Dock.
Gas Works.

Stockton, Cal.

M. E. Church.
Public Library.

This is not an unusual figure. This vegetable mould yields enormous crops of onions, potatoes, etc. The returns, both in quantity and size, are almost incredible. Much asparagus is raised on the islands of the San Joaquin. Vast quantities of potatoes are grown in this county. The yield is often 200 bushels to the acre. The early crop is planted in December and the main crop from March to June. They are harvested from May to January. It is a common sight to see men planting potatoes in one end of a field while digging is going on in the other.

Owing to the relation of Stockton to the Golden Gate, it has a daily ocean breeze, and is one of the healthiest cities in the Union. Its water supply is from artesian wells. The zone of variable winds which draw in from the sea, and embrace the whole region, provides an average rainfall sufficient for most needs, but irrigation is steadily extending its area. For local irrigation, water is found not far below the surface, and wind-mills are in sight in many directions.

The city has a half tropical air, and palms and bananas, a profusion of flowering shrubs, and a variety of shade trees, beautify the streets and grounds of private residences. Seen from some elevation, the whole region seems a bower of green.

Public Utilities The Court House is a fine granite structure, occupying a square, and surrounded by a terraced lawn. A free library building is of native marble, and cost \$100,000. The State Hospital for the Insane embraces a group of handsome buildings, with well kept grounds, and cost about \$1,000,000. A new Postoffice is arranged for, the appropriation being \$200,000. Work is ready to begin.

The natural metropolis of a vast region, the future of Stockton is well assured. The growth of the city will keep pace with the development of the country, and there is room in the county alone for 200,000 people who shall till the soil. Good land can be had for \$20 to \$100 an acre, on easy terms. Here is rich soil and a hungry market. The State wants nothing so badly as farmers.

MILTON Eastward from Stockton, at the end of a branch line, lies this pleasant market town. The country round it has been, like so many others, a great wheat field, but is in a transition state, and will break out in vineyards and orchards and alfalfa fields. Stage lines run to Copperopolis, Angels Camp, and other points.

PETERS This town is midway across the valley from Stockton. A branch of the Southern Pacific runs from here down the east side of the great plain, 59 miles to Merced, where it joins the main line. There are no drawbacks to the region around Peters.

FARMINGTON The name suggests the character of the region. It is the land of the farmer, and the town ministers to its commercial needs. The whole region down to the Stanislaus River is fertile and inviting—a land of the harvest-field and the orchard.

OAKDALE

This is in the valley of oaks, whose pioneer ranks have been thinned to make room for streets and homes and crops. It is a pleasant town, sitting in the sunshine, on the east side of the county, which stretches away across the level plain. Not less than 600,000 acres are farming or fruit lands. Perhaps 250,000 acres have recently been brought under irrigating ditches, and groves of young orange and lemon, orchards of deciduous fruit, vegetable garden and fields of clover, grow where late the yellow wheat fields were. The town feels the influence of the quickened country life and is growing. At Oakdale the Sierra Railway meets the Southern Pacific. It winds up among the rounded foothills to Poverty Flat and Jamestown, and to Sonora, the well-known mining town of the "early fifties."

The days of old,
The days of gold,

are gone, with their romance, but the prosaic hills still in a business-like way yield up the yellow metal. Jamestown has about it a group of very rich mines. Sonora, four miles beyond, is a town of 3,000 people, with valuable mines.

The Sierra Railway reaches, by stage from Chinese, the wonderful Yosemite Valley, the route being known as the "Big Oak Flat Route." It passes through the Tuolumne Grove of Big Trees, the stage road running directly through one of the larger trees—the "Dead Giant."

CLARIBEL WATERFORD HICKMAN

These are small towns on the east side. Large ranches are still in evidence here, and wheat raising is on a gigantic scale. Five or six great harvesters can sometimes be seen in action, circling slowly around a 10,000-acre field, each cutting a swath 26 feet wide, drawn by 30 horses, and covering 75 acres each in a day. The grain is left behind in sacks ready for market. Where header wagons are used, and steam threshers, the great machine can be seen from far, throbbing with dust and heat under the cloudless summer skies.

MONTPELLIER HOPETOWN

Between the Stanislaus and the Merced, the land is here and there broken by ridges that mark the water courses, and the unfenced rolling plain is dotted with bands of sheep, and late in the afternoon the red shirted shepherds and frisky collies can be seen driving their flocks slowly toward a group of tents in the distance, a rude corral, or a solitary white oak, where the shepherds cook their supper and spend the night. They do not live badly, but there is no poetry about their business, nor in the men. The shepherd has become the shepherd. They are generally Mexicans or Portugese.

While we watch the sheep, the train rushes across the Merced River, and if we remember whence it comes, we will have either a vision of the most marvellous valley in the world, or a wish to

see it. For this is the River of Mercy, that flows through Yosemite; that leaps over the walls of unexampled precipices; that reflects, in its clear depths, the awful form of El Capitan, and sings softly amid the grass and flowers of such a valley as is found nowhere else on the planet. Many cross the ocean from Europe to see these perpendicular walls, and look upon these swaying cataracts. Those who have not seen Yosemite, have something yet to look forward to with desire.

ARUNDEL AMSTERDAM

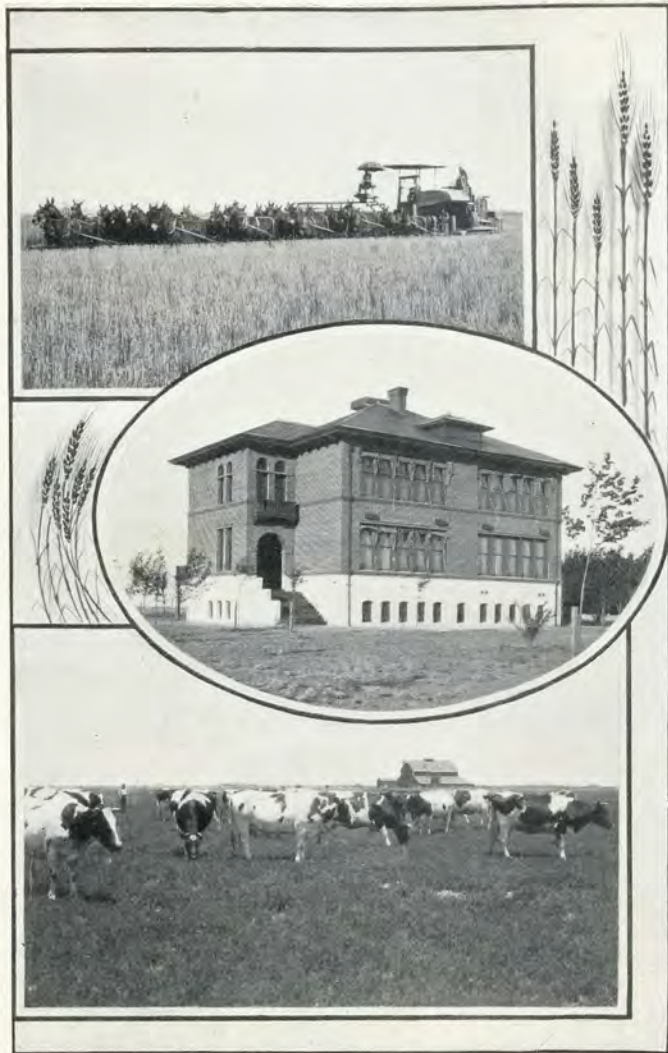
These are shipping stations, growing into pleasant towns, the homes of many families. Farm-life is here escaping from the domination of the wheat field, and orchards appear, fields of alfalfa and herds of cows.



Corn in California.

MERCED

This county town, in the very heart of the valley, has a population of about 1,300. It is an attractive place, with an air of the semi-tropics about it. It is still the center of considerable staging business to Yosemite, though the bulk of the travel goes now from Berenda and Oakdale, where branch roads reduce the distance by stage. From Merced to the mountain mining towns, stage lines run regularly, and as a trading and shipping point it is quite active. In the little park facing the station, a granite and marble fountain is erected. Flouring mills, creameries, an ice and refrigerating plant, electric light and power companies, are among the public utilities. Largely given to wheat, Merced County is becoming a fruit section, and oranges are successfully grown. Vineyards for wine and raisins



A Reaper—24-in-hand.

High School.

Holstein Stock.

are numerous. Nuts are grown. From one 10-acre grove of almonds $6\frac{1}{2}$ tons were taken, selling at \$250 per ton. English walnuts do well and bear heavily. Mixed farming pays. One mile west of Merced is 19.1 acres on which a family of 7 persons live. The income ranges from \$1,200 to \$1,800 in cash per year. Six miles west, 20 acres of alfalfa keeps 24 cows, which return \$1,200 from sales of milk. Many colonies have been organized, and successfully planted. One is largely devoted to the culture of pyrethrum, the plant from which buhach or insect powder is manufactured. The product is shipped all over the United States. The colony is known as Buhach, but raises also much fruit. It has more than 100 acres in grapes. Returning now to Lathrop, we take the main line down the center of the valley.

MORRANO These shipping and business centers for the wheat farmers, are in San Joaquin County. **RIPON** is not far from the Stanislaus River, which marks the lines of the county of the same name. An irrigating canal takes water from the river above Knight's Ferry, and carried along the north side, waters a good region. This will develop into a beautiful and productive country.

SALIDA Stanislaus is one of the great wheat counties of California, and Salida is in the midst of great grain fields. But there is much besides, dairies, alfalfa, stock and fruit.

MODESTO This is the chief town between Lathrop and Merced. It is a modern town of 2,000 people, with electric lights, fine water system, and good sewerage. Well built homes and solid business blocks, with a good trade and a rapidly developing country side, gives Modesto a bright outlook. Wheat, hay, deciduous and citrus fruit, vegetables, berries, sweet potatoes, sugar beets, flax, oats and barley, are raised. It is a rich and productive region. A great irrigation system here is the work of farmers. The haphazard method of waiting on the weather is going by, and the irrigating ditch is becoming the providence of the field and the orchard. There is comfort in it, as well as profit. The moisture goes where you want it, and



How the Butter grows in the San Joaquin Valley.

comes when you want it, and relief from anxiety about rain is an immense gain.

Go up the Tuolumne River to where it roars through a dark cañon. Here is the highest overflow dam in the world, 129 feet, thrown across a cañon 336 feet wide. Across its top the river flows, and from this height is diverted into a tunnel cut through solid rock for 600 feet. Through cuts and flumes and canals, it is carried to the valley, and greenness and fruitfulness spreads in its path.

**CERES
KEYES
TURLOCK**

These are small towns, doing a large shipping business for the regions roundabout. No richer lands are found anywhere in the valley. The Turlock irrigation district is one of the prosperous sections of the State. It covers an area of 176,000 acres, and the water supply is sufficient to irrigate 375,000 acres, so that the farmers by and by will have water to sell.



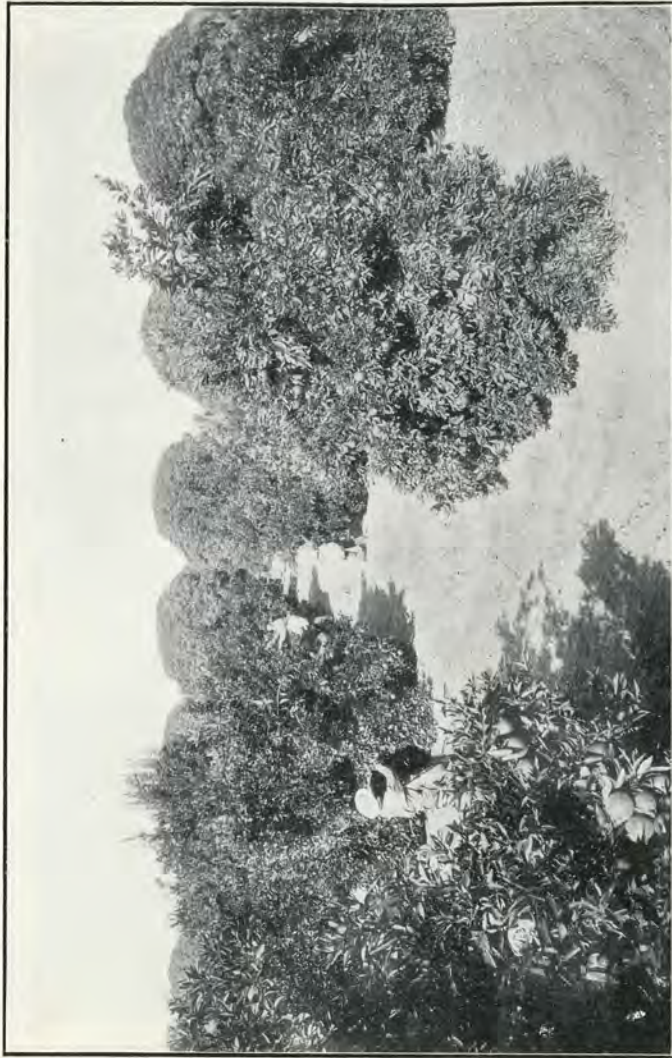
Irrigation Headquarters near Turlock.



Fig Orchard at Modesto.

Palm Avenue, Stockton, Cal.

Alfalfa—5 crops a year.



Oranges grow in the San Joaquin Valley.

**DELHI
ARENA**

We have passed into Merced County again, and between these two stations crossed again the Merced River. It is but a rill here, the waters being diverted for the sake of the land. A system of canals and dams in Merced Cañon, and a vast storage reservoir, the whole costing about \$3,000,000, supplies Merced City and much of the county lands with water.

ATWATER

This is one of the numerous colonies of the region, and a place where men with small capital can do well. Land is cheap, and it can be put on a living basis from the start. This is a sweet-potato district, about 200 carloads being shipped annually. "Merced sweets" have a reputation through all the west. They yield about 15,000 pounds to the acre, and command a cent a pound. One man received \$2,300 for the product of 20 acres, and instances are cited where they have yielded the grower \$200 an acre. The average, however, is much lower. The soil is a sandy loam. Melons, corn, alfalfa, the dairy, all pay well. The demand for corn husks, for the wrapping of the festive tamale, it is said, will pay all cost of husking the corn. It is one of the districts in which corn yields largely.

**ATHLONE
MINTURN**

The fat valley is still about us, rich as Egypt. These stations serve the commercial needs of a large area, the latter belonging to Madera County.

BERENDA

A branch line runs from here, covering part of the road to Yosemite. You are switched off in the night, if you wish, and wake up in the morning at Raymond, in the yellow foothills. From Raymond a stage line carries the traveler to Wawona, a fine mountain hotel, so beautifully situated, at the edge of a mountain meadow, beside the South Fork of the Merced, and amid lofty peaks, as to make you wish to stay there all summer. But close by is the Mariposa grove of Sequoias, the "Grizzly Giant," and all his famous kinsmen, at once the greatest and handsomest trees in the world. From Wawona to the Yosemite is but 26 miles, a delightful forest ride, ending in the great valley, with its flat floor, carpeted with grass and flowers, and its musical waterfalls and stupendous vertical cliffs. This excursion, into the heart of the Sierras, is one of the experiences of a life-time, and yields "the harvest of a quiet eye" for all the after years, as one broods over the memories of an unexampled vacation. Returning from Yosemite, it is worth while to come out by way of the Big Oak Flat route. This takes you down the cañon of the Merced, and through some fine forest and mountain scenery.

If we turn aside at Big Oak Flat and journey southward along the Sierra Slope we will find a romantic region. Here is the "Fremont Grant," out of which the pathfinder got nothing but disappointment. Here is the spring where Mrs. Fremont found her camp-ground, welling among tufts of grass and waving tulips. Here, thirty years ago, stood her



A Packing House in the San Joaquin Valley—All the family can work

Mariposa cottage, deserted and falling into decay, with its door hospitably open. Yonder was the village of Bear Valley, and not far away the wonderful Mt. Bullion, whose treasures were to enrich so many. Now, after thirty years of slumber, the old mines are being cleaned out, improved machinery put in, and new mines opened. These veins, that once poured out streams of gold, are being tapped again, and the famous mount may yet justify its name.

MADERA This is the county seat of Madera County, and has a population of about 2,500 people. There are good schools, high school, churches, a fine granite courthouse, lumber mills, winery, etc. A V flume, 58 miles long, connects this city of the plain with the largest sugar pine forest in America. A vineyard of 1,000 acres is near by, and fruit and alfalfa share with wheat and stock raising the attention of the people. In the hills gold and silver and copper are mined, and fine granite quarries furnish stone of the best quality, widely used on the Coast. This is one of the best counties.

FRESNO This is the raisin city, embowered in trees and surrounded by vineyards. None of the famous fruit and vine districts of France or Spain are more worthy of a visit than this region. Twenty-five years ago it was a sheep walk—and not a paradise for sheep, either. A sandy waste where wheat would not grow, it gave no hint of the opulence and beauty of today. Here is a city of fully 15,000 people, with a score of great packing houses and many wineries and canning factories, and about it more than 2,000 families which live on less than 40 acres each, and are prosperous. The town site was staked out in 1872. It

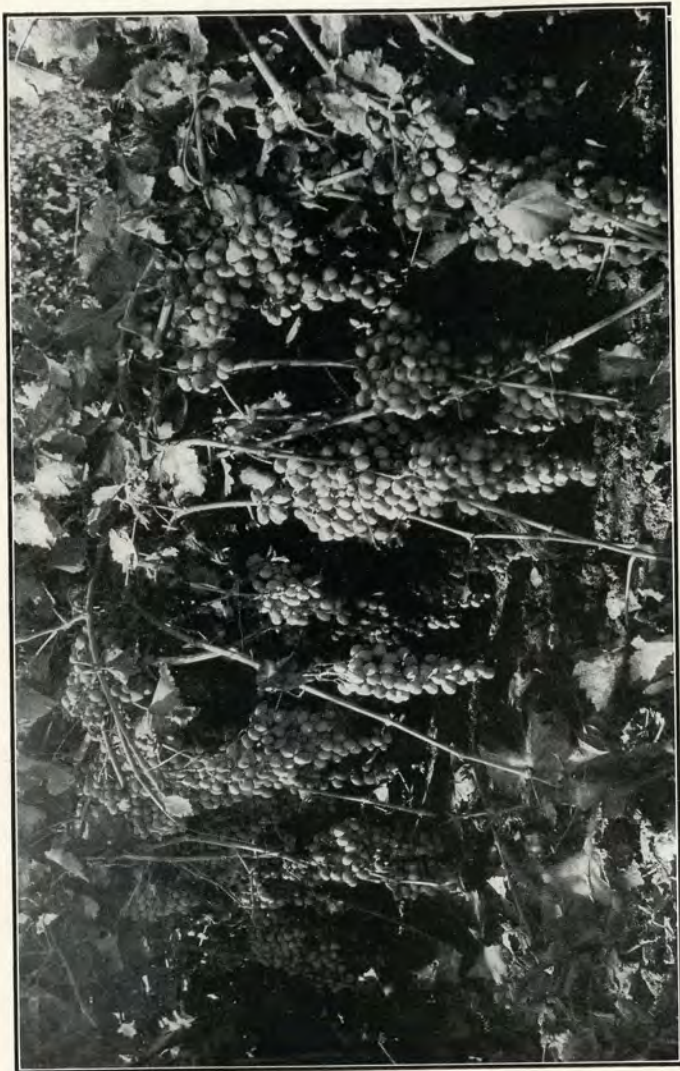
was then part of a treeless plain. Now there are well-paved streets, splendid business blocks, a fine opera house, courthouse, elegant residences, a net work of railroads and electric wires, and a wilderness of flowers and half tropical shade trees—an oasis of beauty in what seemed a desert. The irrigating ditch has wrought the miracle.

Beauty and Fruitfulness Everywhere are vineyards and orchards, olive groves and groves of figs, forests of almonds and apricots, peach and pear and prune, avenues and orchards of orange and lemon, hedges of pomegranate, and here and there Japanese persimmons, loquats and guavas. Long lines of Lombardy poplars extend across the plain, tall palm trees rise, the date of Arabia and the desert palm of Southern California. Eucalyptus, pines, Deodar cedars, auracarias and sequoias are becoming splendid trees, and centuries hence will be worth a pilgrimage to see. The vineyards stretch away for miles, wine grapes, table grapes, raisin grapes, so extensive that the vine clad slopes of Burgundy are dwarfed in presence of this viticultural immensity. In the sun-long Autumn days the land seems to overflow with its fruitage. The roads are crowded with teams, hauling fruit to the canneries, grapes to the wineries, or new made raisins to the packers. A purple stream trickles along the wayside, the waste from the wineries; clusters of grapes lie unnoticed, and the musky breath of the crushed fruit fills the air, mingled with the peculiar smell of fig trees and their fruit, and ripe fruit of all kinds.

*"Purple and silver the grapes of Shiraz,
Ripen for wine in the long-fingered leaves."*

Raisins But not all these vast vineyards yield wine. The greatest single industry in the Fresno region is the making of raisins. About 75,000,000 pounds are annually produced. The importation of raisins has fallen off in the last 10 years about 35,000,000 pounds, and presently we will be sending out our product into foreign markets. The seedless raisin especially, is rapidly capturing the trade, and one firm here turned out 25,000 tons in 1901.

Figs The celebrated Smyrna fig—the fig of commerce—is now produced here in perfection. It has taken 20 years of study, and cost a small fortune to learn how to equal the old world product, and not until the insect with the long name—the Blastophaga, or fig wasp, was imported and colonized, was success achieved. The United States Government took a deep interest in the problem, and aided in its solution. Now success has crowned endeavor, and a new industry is assured. In size, in flavor, in color and sweetness, the home product equals the fig of Smyrna, and will command the market. The colony of wasps has increased, and seem at home in the new world. The production of an edible fig equal to that of Asia, marks another step forward by the California fruit grower.



Nearly ready for Raisins.

Colonies. Within easy reach of the city, are more than 20 prosperous colonies. There is no community of interest. Each proprietor owns his own tract, and manages it independently. But large areas were subdivided and settlements formed, and these were called colonies. They have been remarkably prosperous. Individual holdings run from 10 to 40 acres. This makes a compact farming community, free from the usual isolation of farm life in new countries. A ranch of 60,000 acres, lying partly in the adjoining county of Kings, is being rapidly colonized by small farmers. The imperial county of Fresno has more than 3,500,000 of acres. The State of Connecticut has less by nearly 400,000 acres. Wheat, barley, corn, hay, cattle, sheep, dairy produce, lumber, oil, gold, silver and copper are among the products of the county, besides its enormous output of green and dried fruits. Citrus fruits show an increasing acreage, and



A profitable Cherry Orchard.

the Mt. Campbell district produces as good oranges as can be found anywhere. Melons are shipped by the carload, as luscious as any ever grown in Georgia.

The Center

Fresno is geographically in the center of the State. It is a center, too, for people from all lands, many of the States of Europe, as well as of our own land being represented here. It is also a railroad center, having three trans-continental lines. The Southern Pacific reaches Eastern centers by way of Ogden and Omaha, and by way of Los Angeles and New Orleans. The Santa Fe has a main line through the city, and a branch or loop line. The Southern Pacific has two loop lines, one on the west side from Tracy, the other on the east side from Fresno to Famosa. A short line runs also northeasterly 24 miles to Pollasky. We will run over this branch road, looking at its two principal towns.

CLOVIS

This is an active little town of about 500 people. It is the terminus of a great lumber flume, and the site of extensive mills. Tapping a great forest of pine, the rough lumber comes down into the plains with the speed of an express train. The water is used about Clovis for irrigation and ten-acre plots are covered with trees and vines.

POLLASKY

The end of the line is a lively foothill town, on the banks of the San Joaquin River, which is here a noble stream, with a clear, rapid current, as it breaks out of the rounded hills into the plains. Pollasky is the shipping point for the mountain regions beyond. Near by is Millerton, an old town, once the county seat.

MALAGA

Below Fresno, on the main line, is a little town whose name has in it a reminiscence of Spain, and the aroma of raisins. How fruitful is the land! Wine and raisin vineyards, orchards and fields of alfalfa make a charming picture.

SELMA

This is the chief town in the southern portion of the county. A bank, a flouring mill, a packing house, creamery, dairy association and high school, with new business blocks, are signs of prosperity. An electric system and fine water supply are both here. This region is the home of the peach, and the size and quality are a revelation to the Eastern visitor. Neither insects nor disease attacks the tree here. The emerald of the clover fields delight the eye. Green pasturage all the year develops the creamery, and the dairy adds the grazing herds to the landscape, giving a pastoral charm to the scene. The blessings of a climate without snow and ice is upon the happy kine, and they flourish like Jacob's ring-streaked herds. All kinds of fruit grow here, and all kinds of industries that depend upon the soil, are represented. The region offers the settler a large range of choice in location, as well as choice of occupation.

Kings River is crossed on our way down the line, a mountain born stream whose cañons are among the grandest in the world. This wild cañon and the Giant Forest, on the tributaries of the

Kings and Kaweah rivers, with the great trees, the cascades and mighty granite walls are worth the labor of a year to look upon. No finer scenery ever invited the mountain climber. From the east side we will go up into this region.

GOSHEN

The country here is rich as the land celebrated in Hebrew history. The town is at the crossing of a line that reaches the oil district of Coalinga, on the west, and Exeter on the east side.

VISALIA

This important town lies to the east, midway between Goshen and Exeter. It is the county town of Tulare County; a city like Paul's, "of no mean order," full of civic pride, well paved, and clean. The public buildings are good, and there are various packing houses and manufacturing industries. The vast plain in the midst of which Visalia lies, is not all a garden. There are spots quite barren, the waste places of a great empire, which skillful husbandry may yet restore. There are places where an excess of alkali salts injure or prevent vegetation. So there are spots on the sun, and as in that luminary, so



A choice location for Alfalfa.

here, the area of waste land is small. The immense plain is immensely rich and productive, as a whole, and the region around Visalia is one of the richest.

An Oasis It has been styled "an oak forest, islanded in gray plains." It is an oasis of great beauty, watered once by crystal streams, glowing with wild flowers, and green with perpetual grass, in the pioneer days an Eden of wild life, perhaps 15 square miles of magnificent oaks. In groves now of 50 to 250 acres, the pasturage of domestic animals, the great trees that remain lend their characteristic strength and beauty to the landscape. Horses, hogs, sheep, and cattle, roam among them now, and the more recent clearings are luxuriant with orchard trees, fields and gardens. The whole land glows with color. Flowers of many kinds, native plants and exotics, sunflowers and purple



Luxuriant with Orchard Trees.

bordered daturas, palms and bamboos, poplars and cedars of Lebanon, with groups of widespreading oaks, make a landscape to delight the wayfarer. Stock and fruit, mixed farming and dairying, wheat ranches, poultry and fat cattle, tobacco and corn, grapes and oranges, vegetables and alfalfa—all make the land fat as Egypt of old. Life surely is not so strenuous here as in the older lands, and to wrest subsistence from the soil is not difficult. It does not make a man old before his time.

Transformation A few years ago, these plains were the home of the jack rabbit and the horned toad, and the feeding place in winter of myriads of wild geese. From November to March the geese are still abundant, and the water courses swarm with duck, and other wild fowl. The sportsman finds the wide river bottoms and the marshy stretches so immense as to suggest a frontier region, while the cultivated areas are so vast as from another view-point, to seem to occupy the whole land. A condensed milk factory in Visalia, just established, is one of the sensible innovations. For years we have shipped this product across the continent, when we might far better have furnished our lumber camps and mines with our own manufacture. California can produce its own condensed milk, its butter and cheese, its ham and bacon, its sugar and poultry, preserves, jams and jellies, and the aim should be first of all to supply our own needs—all that we consume.

The Giant Forest

Stages leave Visalia for Redstone Park, and from thence to the forest, the whole distance being about 50 miles. It takes the traveler into a region of surpassing interest. Here is a "forest primeval," beside which the Acadian forest of "Evangeline" was but a "wood lot" of young saplings. The six square miles embrace not less than 20,000 big trees, of which perhaps 3,000 range from 15 feet to 34½ feet in diameter, and from 200 to 400 feet in height. The "General Sherman" is, by Government measure, 370 feet high and over 34 feet in diameter. Who shall say how far back into the ages the roots of this great tree run, or what generations of wild life have lived and died under its branches? Looking up the vast fluted trunk, and remembering that this unexampled life numbers its years by thousands, we say of it reverently,

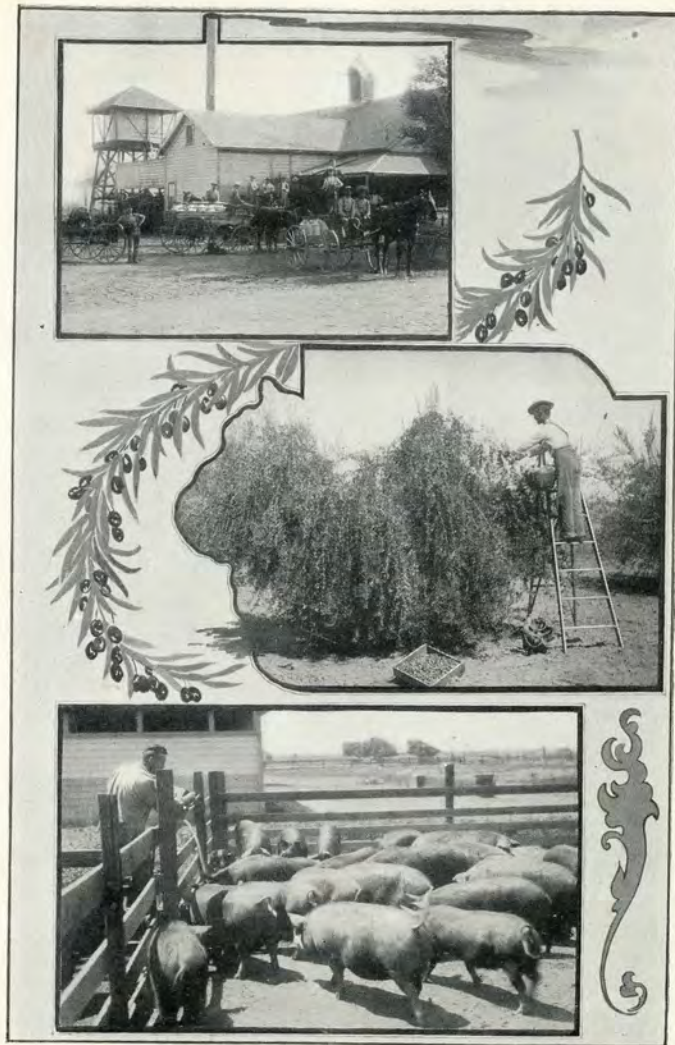
"A living thing,
Produced too slowly ever to decay,
Of form and aspect too magnificent
To be destroyed,"

and we are glad to observe the vigor of even the oldest trees of the forest, and their promise of centuries of life yet to be. This wonderful timberland is interspersed with beautiful meadows, and one can easily imagine it the home of many wild things, whose pasture-field and playground were these natural meadows, shut in by the great forests.

From Moro Rock the outlook is amazing. Yonder lies the



From the field to the sack—one operation.
 Almond Pickers.
 Ready for Market—"some punkins."



A San Joaquin Dairy and its distributors.
 Olive Branches and their fruit.
 The California Hog—no farm is complete without them.



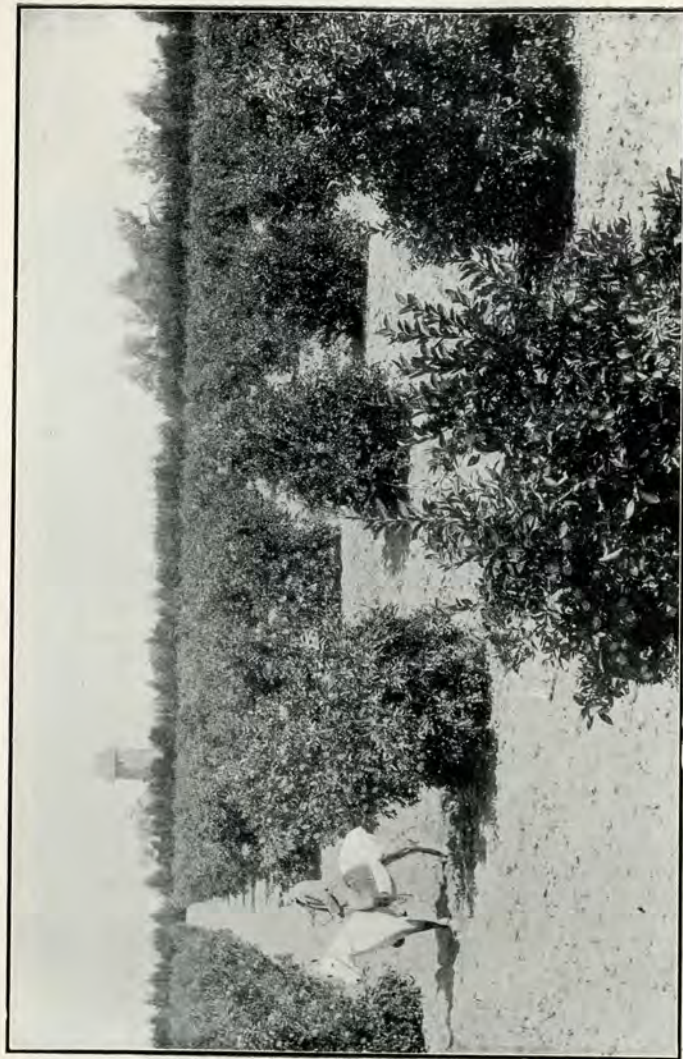
Tehipite Dome in the High Sierras—A favorite summer resort.

valley of the Kaweah, 4,000 feet below, spread out like a tinted map; beyond is the panorama of the San Joaquin Valley, all softened and glorified by distance; and still beyond, a background for the picture, is the blue mountains of the Coast Range. In the other direction, the eye takes in the High Sierras, a world of snow, and ice, and granite crags and towering peaks, and amid the "tumbled fragments of the hills" are more than 2,000 Alpine lakes, clear and cold, and beautiful in their granite cups. Wild flowers abound, many of them very rare. Magnificent lilies are everywhere. The Kern River is easily reached, and the fishing is unsurpassed. The trout reach a weight often of 5 pounds, and this, too, in one of the most rapid streams the trout fisher ever whipped. The excitement of landing a 5 pounder in such water is a thing to remember. In Volcano Creek is found the beautiful golden trout, the splendor of whose coloring, seen in the sun and fresh from the water, is dazzling. It is as good to eat as to look at. The Kaweah is also a good trout stream. An outing in this region is the experience of a lifetime.

TULARE Here is an active and healthful business life to which the improved conditions of a naturally opulent country are tributary. For many years it was all a stock range; then a wheat field; now it is reverting to stock again, but with changes. Alfalfa supplements the native grasses; creameries spring up; more attention is given to dairy stock, and the business is found to be profitable. Horses and mules are extensively raised, the care of sheep occupies many, and Tulare produces more hogs than any other county in California. Wine grapes are being planted, and ten-year contracts at good prices are offered grape growers.

Artesian Water The county has an artesian belt, where flowing wells are obtained, and nearly all parts of Tulare Valley has abundance of water beneath the surface, within easy reach of pumps. Dry farming is somewhat precarious, as the rainfall is often too scanty to mature crops, but the whole movement of agricultural life today is toward irrigation and intensive culture, and there is no reason why all parts of Tulare County should not quickly double and quadruple its population. The streams of this region are the White, the Tule and the Kaweah. The water of all these is so largely drawn upon for irrigating, that only a small stream remains.

Experiment Station South of Tulare lies one of the California Experiment stations. Everything is tested here and reported on—fruits and seeds and grains. Much attention is given to the reclamation of lands charged with excess of alkali, but it gathers many varieties of grapes and fruits and has introduced many useful cultures to the valley. Visitors come here from all parts of the world, and experts from the agricultural bureaus of Russia, Italy and Austria, interested in the



An Orange Orchard in the San Joaquin Valley.

problems of agriculture, call here to avail themselves of the researches of this department of the University of California.

URLAM Just before reaching Urlam we cross the Tule River, Before it was tapped by canals, it was a broad and beautiful stream. It is now much shrunken. These towns are in a wheat region, where the furrows of the gang plows are drawn around a section of land. The crops are enormous—when the rainfall is sufficient. But two dry years to one wet one preach the gospel of irrigation very powerfully, and these dry farms will all come under the ditch by and by.

PIXLEY These are shipping points for the country round about, and supply in turn the commercial and social needs. They are still in the wheat belt, the soil monotonously rich, the deposit of the ages, and deep as a well. Where wheat is grown, everything gives way to that, and little attention is given to beautifying homes or towns. The transition period is at hand, however, and fruit and ornamental shrubbery and flowers will change the face of things.

DELANO This is a junction town, the loop line for the east side swinging away toward the Sierra foothills, to come back to the main line at Fresno. Famoso is in the flat valley, and is a lively railroad town, with considerable trade, and the promise of a good future.

FAMOSO This is the chief town of the upper end of the valley, and full of vigorous life. It is not visible from the station, being hidden by its own boscaje, luxuriant trees forming a screen a mile deep. It is the shire town of Kern, a county as large as the State of Massachusetts. Its population



Cabbages by the carload in Winter.



A Crop of Mules.

Stock in the San Joaquin Valley need no expensive winter barns for shelter.

is about 8,000, with perhaps 14,000 more in the county. The town is well provided with cement walks, bitumenized streets, sewers, electric railways, good water, public library, school buildings, clubhouses, and newspapers. There are foundries, steam laundries, machine shops, planing mills, flour mill, packing houses, refineries, ice plant, and splendid county buildings, good churches and many fraternal societies.

Well Watered The town stands in the midst of a great breadth of irrigated land. Just before we enter it the road crosses Kern River, itself rising in the highest mountains of the United States, and flowing through some of the grandest scenery in the world. It supplies 300 miles of main canals and 3,000 miles of laterals with water for 150,000 acres of enormously rich land. The underflow from the mountains provides an artesian belt of 20x50 miles area, many wells having a great flow. It lies at a depth of from 125 to 400 feet. A never-failing body of water lies nearer the surface, and can be reached by pumps. One of the most attractive sections of the State for the thrifty farmer is here. Splendid land, cheap water rates, an excellent and growing market, a good climate, and a vast variety of products, offer exceptional advantages. Everything grows in the fruit line, while berries and melons, celery, asparagus, sugar beets, corn and sorghum, and all the vegetables and cereals flourish vigorously. Vast tracts are still held unbroken, so that the pastoral, and the agricultural, modern intensive horticulture, exist side by side.

Lakes To the south and west are the remains of two lakes, Buena Vista and Kern, steadily growing smaller from the withdrawal of their tributaries. The region is a delta of Kern

River, and has been made fat by the fertility of the hills for centuries. A great seed farm is here, raising among others, seed for canary birds. Apricots, prunes, raisin grapes, almonds, English walnuts and pecans grow in this garden region, the black land producing abundantly. The development of Kern County has been later than that of Fresno, but it has a like expanse of well watered land. The tendency of irrigation is to break up the large holdings, and this region offers excellent opportunities for small farmers and for colonists. The pictures of rural peace and prosperity to be found here, are charming, and show what energy and skill will do in such a climate, and on such soil.

McKITTRICK A branch line runs from Bakersfield west to Olig, a shipping station beyond McKittrick; from Oil Junction a short line runs east to Oil City, and a third diverges from Gosford to Sunset, some miles south of McKittrick. These are oil districts, and what are known as the Kern fields have contributed much to the growth of Bakersfield. McKittrick is about 50 miles west, located in the low hills of the Santa Maria Mountains. It is a sterile region, once volcanic, the ground still broken and blackened as if recently the gas had broken up through the thin crust, giving vent to the pressure below. Jumbled piles of dried asphalt and hardened oil sand, and oil seepages, indicate the character of the deposits beneath the surface. Since the wells were sunk here, the yield has been continuous and abundant. The first drill was sent down in 1899.



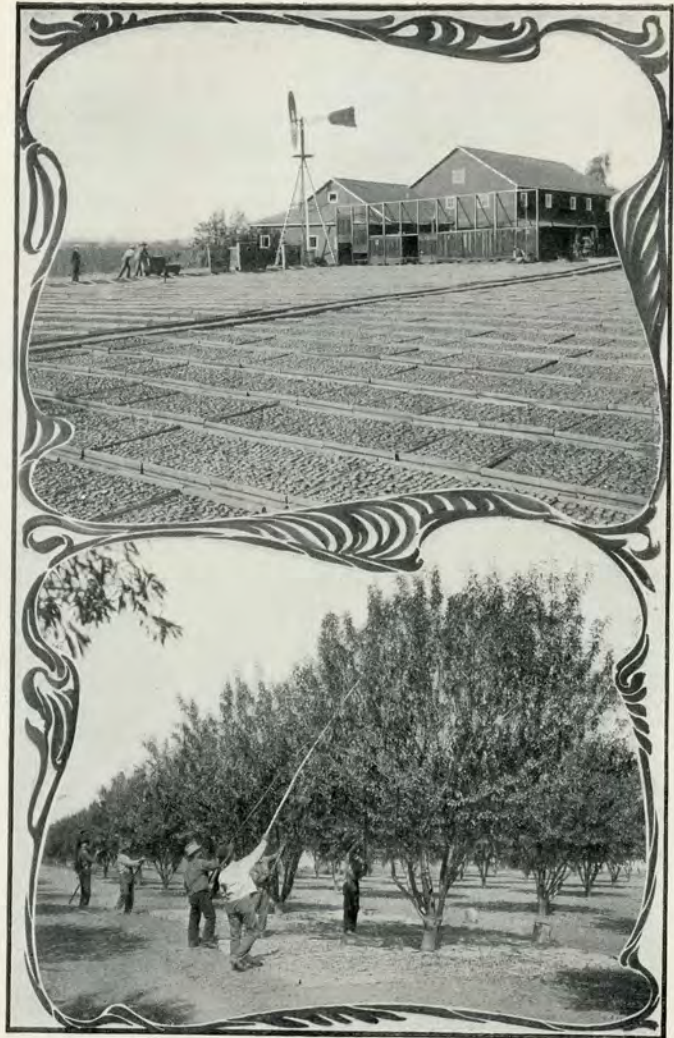
An Irrigation Ditch.



A Blackberry Patch.

A Truck Garden.

Harvesting Chlicory.



Drying Apricots.

Picking Almonds.

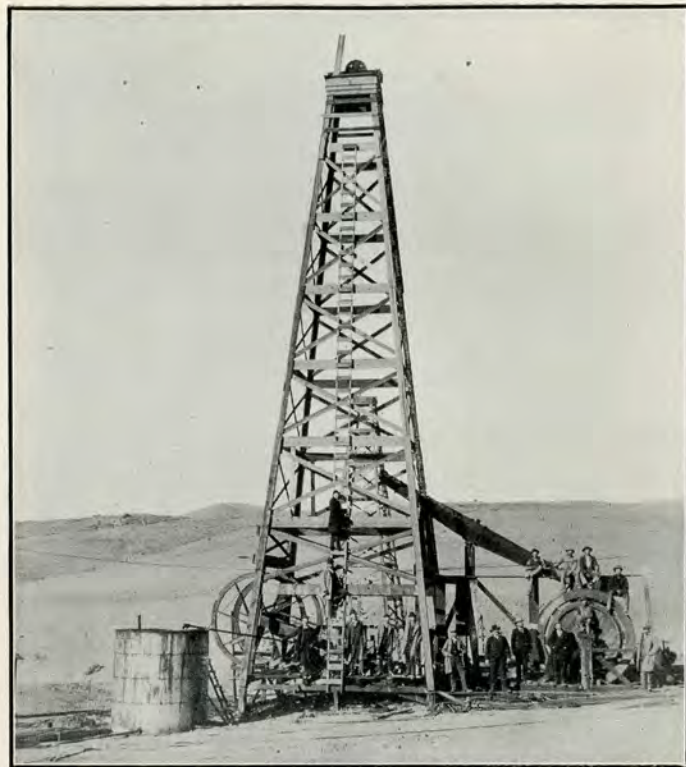


SUNSET Southeast lies the newer district called by this name. Here the formation is somewhat different, and the remarkable dissimilarity of the oil found within a small radius is of great interest to oil men. The whitish yellow shale and gypsum hills, starved looking grease wood and scanty sage brush, make a desolate and forsaken-looking land. But its sale in all this region has made many rich, and the generous flow of the wells is so important to the State as to be beyond estimate.

OIL CITY From Oil Junction on the main line, a short road runs to this point. An old prospector who had seen the oil excitement in Pennsylvania, digging a well on the banks of Kern River, struck oil instead of water, at a depth of sixty feet. Now the region is a forest of derricks for miles, and

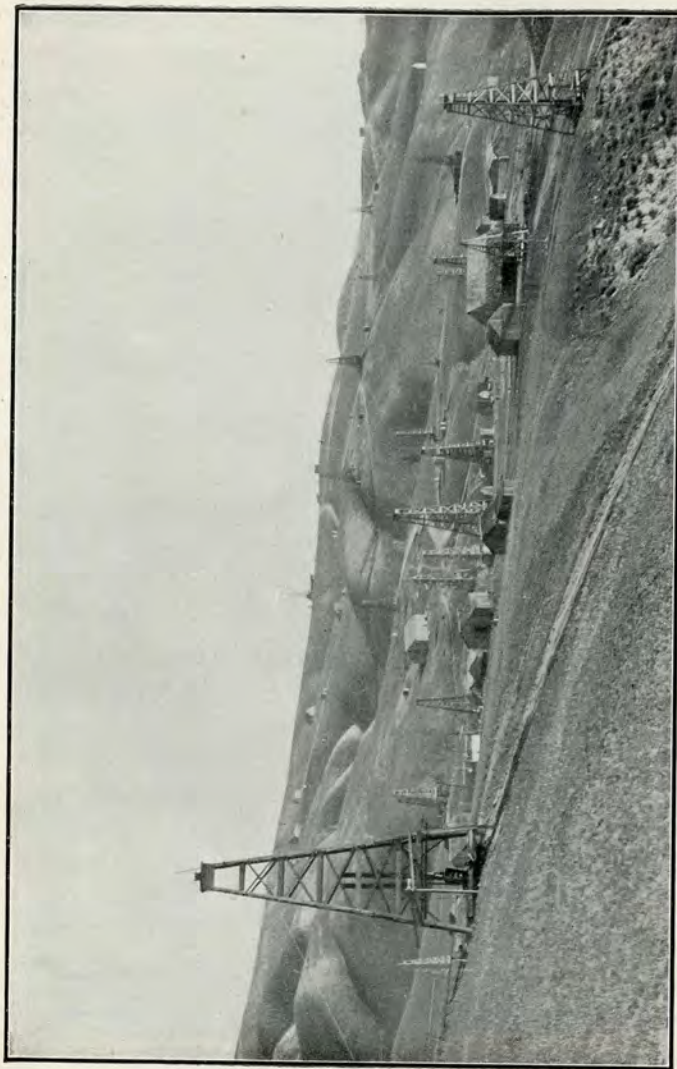


Onions for Seed.



A typical Oil Well.

while the wells have had to be driven from 500 to 1,000 feet, the yield of this Kern River district has been steady and with promise of permanence. An industry in itself, this fosters so many others as to be of incalculable value. Here are the raw materials; here is a great market opening; here is a climate that permits every branch of manufacture to be carried on all the year, without the expense of heating operating rooms. The one thing lacking was cheap fuel, and now this is at hand. It means new life to the State. Factories are decreasing their expenses by its use; steamships and railroads are using it, and mine owners find it possible to work low-grade ore where oil can be used in place of wood



Oil Field at Coalinga.

for furnaces. The settlement of great tracts of rich land, and the building up of towns and cities, will be hastened by the discovery of oil. Naturally, Bakersfield is the metropolis of the oil industry at the head of the great valley. Oil trains are constantly moving, carrying great cylindrical tanks to the cities northward, and the growth of Bakersfield has been greatly accelerated. The rich farming and fruit country tributary, will maintain and increase what she has gained from having "struck oil."

TEHACHAPI

We are at the upper, or southern end of the San Joaquin. The Sierras here thrust an arm across to the Coast Range, and shut the valley in from the south, as Shasta does the Sacramento from the north. The land as we climb up is thin and broken into gorges and rounded hills. There are several stations along the route through the foothills, and as we climb to the summit, and there are in the hills themselves, small nooks and sub-valleys, and for part of the year abundance of pasturage, but the region is not inviting.

The Loop

As the road winds through the most difficult part of the range, it swings around and crosses its own track, in an effort to relieve the grade. The famous Loop is a very ingenious bit of engineering. Tehachapi is on the summit and from here we return on our track to Famoso, and from thence pass up the east side line to Fresno.

SPOTTISWOOD JAMESON

These are small towns in a wheat section, with some fruit and general farming. Some water farther up is obtained from wells, and the beginnings of irrigation are here.



An Oil Train.

Since this view was made the engines have been equipped with oil burners.

**ORRIS
TERRA BELLA**

Not far from the orange region, this is still a wheat center, but with the same climate that makes the citrus fields beyond, successful. Fruit is creeping in; general farming is being introduced, and an extensive vegetable farm is near by. Wells are sunk, with large openings, and considerable water for irrigation is readily obtained.

PORTERVILLE

Here are extensive orange groves, as vigorous, and healthful, and productive, as any in the orange region of the South. The golden globes, that must have the sunshine and the warmth of Seville and Valencia, ripen earlier than in Southern California, and the fruit is of the finest quality.



The famous Tehachapl Loop.

**Orange
Land**

The lands that grow superior oranges, are often unattractive, sandy or gravelly and seemingly barren. Here they are full of small boulders, and lie on the gentle slopes leading to the dry foothills. But the soil is deep and rich, of a quality which the orange loves, and out of whose elements, with marvellous chemistry, it extracts the delicious juices which fill it, and the pungent oil which makes the rind to shine. Water for irrigating comes from Tule River, and from wells, a large body of water seeming to lie under the land at from 60 to 100 feet. The orange shipments from Porterville have

exceeded 325 carloads for a single season, and are rapidly increasing, as young groves come into bearing. Shipments of ripe oranges have been made as early as the 30th of October, while practically the entire crop is turned off before the 1st of January. This early maturity is accounted for by the higher average summer temperature, the nights, too, being warmer than other orange-growing sections nearer the sea. On the loamy lower lands, all kinds of deciduous fruits flourish. The grape especially ripens here with a large percentage of sugar in it, and the dewless nights of September—the raisin-drying month—make the curing of the harvest easy and rapid. Porterville is a new town, but has already a population of about 1,200. It is in a delightful region, and is itself a beautiful town.



The Orange Groves of the San Joaquin Valley send hundreds of carloads of fruit to the Eastern market for Christmas.

**LINDSAY
EXETER**

These are orange towns also, with the same general conditions of soil and climate as at Porterville.

The first fruit was grown in Lindsay from the plantings of 1890, yet in 1901 the shipments were 244 carloads. The cost of land varies from \$50 to \$100 an acre at this writing, and land, planting, care, water and taxes, will make the first year's cost of ten acres about \$2,150. By the end of the sixth year the cost will have increased to say \$3,450. But the crop the sixth



The Orange Grower in the San Joaquin Valley has an assured income

year will pay three-fourths of this, and the seventh year will leave the owner with clear property, and the nucleus of a bank account. This is a more conservative estimate than is usually made.

Exeter is a junction town, the cross country road through Visalia, Hanford, and to Alcalde terminating here.

**KAWEAH
TAURUSA**

The wheat fields of the earlier days are again in evidence, these towns being shipping centers with large warehouses. Fruit raising and other industries are creeping into the wheat fields, the soil and climate being excellent. The Kaweah River reaches back into the deep and picturesque cañons of the Sierras, and into some very valuable timber lands. The Sequoia National Park is not far away, and



Orange trees require care and work and thought, but under such conditions they give good returns.

Mt. Whitney looms majestic on the horizon, his head nearly three miles in the air. These river cañons are very attractive, the streams full of trout and the scenery wild and impressive. Here, at the edge of the valley, grows the wide spreading oak, adding beauty to value and making the landscape attractive.

Here again the pioneer farmer looked to wheat chiefly, and large tracts are still devoted to grain.

**DINUBA
REEDLEY** But land is becoming too valuable for cereals, and will have presently a more intensive culture, and will yield a more profitable crop. The Mt. Campbell orange tract is but six miles from Reedley, and the large Alta Canal from Kings River flows through the district, and water is plentiful and cheap. The market for oranges will take care of itself. Population is increasing, and people are living better. There is a growing demand for fruits. The market for citrus fruits will expand in new direc-

tions, but the area in which they can be produced is limited. The regions where such fruit as grows here are neither numerous nor large, and climate cannot be imported.

SANGER Begirt by vineyards, orchards and wheat fields, the chief feature of this town is its V flume, which brings lumber from far up in the pine regions. The lumber is here dressed and prepared for market. The first house was built here in 1888, yet there are perhaps 1,200 people here, with electric lights, and schools, and churches, and solid business blocks of brick. A fertile orchard section stretches far up into the foot-



A fine summer camping site in the High Sierras.

hills, along the Kings River bottom, and some of the richest orchards and vineyards in the county are here.

KINGS RIVER CAÑON

From Sanger a stage line runs to Millwood, 42 miles, and from thence during the season, a pack and saddle train carries you on to Copper Creek, 26 miles farther. Here you are in easy reach of the Fresno Grove of Big Trees, and the splendid cañon of Kings River. This is one of the scenic regions of the State, not so well known to the general public, because off the main line of travel. But it is a favorite resort of nature-lovers and adventurous spirits, and nothing wilder or more fascinating is found in the Sierras. The



A carefully kept orange grove about six years old. Note the white-washing of the trunks to prevent sunburn.

highest mountain of the range is here, and the highest in the nation save Mt. St. Elias. It is almost unclimbable, but once on the top of Mt. Whitney, you are at the summit of the United States, and might look down upon two oceans, if your eyesight was good enough. The other peaks here are towering Mt. Gardner, 14,000 feet, and Mt. King, less lofty, but very rugged, while the granite helmets of Mt. Tyndall, Mt. Brewer and Kaweah Peak are in the neighborhood. The streams are full of trout, and grouse and other game are in the hills. The route all the



One of the many beautiful lakes in the Kings River Canyon of the High Sierras.

way, is full of interest. The Painted Rocks, "the Gates," two mountain masses that guard the pass to the giant hills, the forest, the flashing stream, the trail itself, a revelation to "palace car" travelers, the night camp on the trail—all is novel and delightful. All details are provided for, and the comfort of the explorers looked after by the men in charge. The Big Trees are among the finest in the State. Perhaps the largest tree in the world, and the most perfect, is the "General Grant" of this park. It excels the famous "Grizzly Giant," in the Mariposa Grove.

BUTLER This is a fruit-center, and between here and Fresno, 640 acres of raisin grapes are in one holding—a splendid outspread, the vines not festooned, as Virgil saw them, from elm to elm, but standing sturdily on their own stem. This is the habit of the vine in California, a shrub, almost, with "long-fingered leaves," and trailing branches loaded with the purple fruit. Other vineyards and fruit farms in this district make it Eden-like. We must go back now down the main line as far as Goshen, and then turn westward.

HANFORD This is the chief town of Kings County, and one of the most enterprising and prosperous in the valley. It is on the branch that runs westward into the oil district of Coalinga, and practically is the southern terminus for the west side line. The Santa Fe passes through it on its way to tide water. The streets are well shaded, and the whole place attractive by reason of vines and palms, and a variety of ornamental trees. An opera house, a free library, good hotels, schools and churches, a creamery, packing houses, and solid business blocks attest the prosperity of this young town. It was not incorporated until 1891, and has already become an important commercial point. Hanford's population is about 3,000. Great orchards and vineyards are everywhere; wide fields of alfalfa and herds of grazing cattle are seen, and no part of the great valley shows more prosperous farmers than this. This splendid irrigation system, and the low cost of water and good drainage, are behind the evident opulence of the region, as well as the rich soil and the California sunshine.

MUSSEL SLOUGH This is the "Mussel Slough" country, so-called because the sloughs, made by the overflow from Kings River taking a near cut to Tulare Lake, are full of shells. Tulare Lake was the feeding ground of the aborigines, and mussels were part of their dietary. The lake is now shallow; it lies but a few feet below the level of the plain, and is rapidly disappearing. The first settlers came from the Middle Western and Southern States in emigrant wagons. They selected this region because it was rich, and water was plenty. With pick and shovel they built their own canal and ditches, and now own the water, with no interest to pay. Then they planted trees and vines, and the result must be seen to be appreciated. It is a community of solid and



Water and pasture aplenty assure a good wool crop and a plentiful supply of mutton.

almost uniform prosperity. The region is incalculably rich, no artesian well having gone below the alluvial deposit of the ages. Hemp has been grown here very successfully, and it is believed that large returns per acre could be realized from this product. Attention is being given to the development of machinery to work it. Corn is not a common crop in California, partly owing to the cool nights, but here it grows luxuriantly. This acreage is annually increasing in several localities. Around Hanford, wheat or barley can be harvested, and corn then planted, as late often as the 10th of July, and it will mature well, yielding large returns. Everywhere the advantage of having the water supply under the control of the farmer is manifest. Moisture where it is needed, and when it is needed, puts farm life on a secure footing, and delivers it from the uncertainty of the rainfall, which never did, and never will consult the farmers' interest. Plant life under this sunshine laughs responsive to the gurgle of the water, and abundant harvests, and a sense of security from the uncertainty of the seasons, makes country life here the most independent in the world.

ARMONA This is the actual junction point with the west side line to the north, but it is so close to Hanford that it might almost be called a suburb. The two towns will grow

together. It is but $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Hanford. Some large packing houses are here, and all about the town are miles upon miles of fine orchards and vineyards. Here are grown the fancy brands of raisins, the golden apricots, which early in the spring find their way to eastern markets, and here is a noted pear orchard of 12,000 trees. The selections are so made that the fruit ripens in regular sequence, and is shipped from June to October, much finding its way to the markets of England and Germany.

LEMOORE This prosperous little town lies west of Hanford, in the midst of clean, carefully kept farms and orchards. To live in a pleasant neighborhood of homes like this, and spend your days in caring for a near by orchard, a vineyard, or dairy



Corn a month old.

farm, is an ideal country life. And it may be profitable here. Peaches in this vicinity have yielded a little more than \$12 per tree at four years old. Nine acres of peaches have returned \$2,000 gross; and 6 acres of apricots, \$722; and $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres prunes, \$1,250; and 17 acres raisin grapes, \$1,837. All this but recently. Dairy-
ing is equally profitable when managed rightly.

COALINGA This is another oil district, served by this branch road. Coalinga is still in the agricultural lands, and raises much fruit and stock, but it is a shipping point for much of the output of the oil wells not far distant. **ALCALDE** Alcalde, a few miles further west, is the present terminus of this



8000 sacks ready for the train. A Flock of Turkeys is a profitable incidental crop raised without trouble or expense.

line, that now, as from the first, has been looking towards tide water and the Pacific. The oil measures here are extensive, and the flow constant. The use of oil as fuel is increasing rapidly, and the Southern Pacific Company, putting on 500 oil tank cars of 150 barrels capacity, was compelled to order 500 more of twice the capacity. Large orders have come from Hawaii for oil, and its consumption is threatening to outrun the production, so that new fields are being explored. The oil bearing sands are widely distributed through the State. Coalinga has coal mines as well as oil. It lies in Fresno County, well over to the west, and near the line of Monterey County. Returning now to Armona we go north again on the west side line.

**HARDWICK
LILLIS**

Between these two stations we cross Kings River, while to the west, and flowing northerly, is the San Joaquin. The region is known as the "Fresno Slough Country," the waterways marked by willows and sycamores, and the lowlands covered with native grasses or alfalfa. Extensive tracts of grazing and wheat lands lie to the west, while the track of the railroad runs through good farming and fruit lands, with dairies and wheat fields and stacks of alfalfa in sight.

**CANDO
CARUTHERS**

These are small towns, the shipping points for the country roundabout. Corn grows here, and yields heavily; an acre of alfalfa will keep one cow all the year, and butter can be made for one-half what it



Holstein Cattle.

Threshing Beans by Roller.
Harvesting Red Onions.



Hauling Wheat.

Cutting Asparagus.

Water Melons.

costs to produce it in the Middle West. Many cows return for butter each year \$50 to \$55, and nearly \$20 more for calf and skim milk. The corn fields here show an astonishing growth,—a wilderness in which a man might lose himself.

ORMUS

A mixed farming region, with stock and fruit, grazing cattle, and hay fields, vineyards and wheat.

McMULLIN

A profitable region in which to dwell, and where the Eastern farmer can pursue his favorite lines. Indian corn, Egyptian corn, broom corn, truck farming, dairying—all pays. Honey from alfalfa ranks with clover honey of the East, and pays well. Hogs are a source of steady profit, and cattle and sheep are here fattened for the markets of San Francisco.

COLLIS

Here the line we have traveled from Armona joins the west side road from Fresno, distant 15 miles. Between Collis and Fresno lie the great orchards of Kearney and Neville, and every mile reveals the productiveness of the land.

JAMESON

These stations lie to the west of Collis. The

WHITES BRIDGE

train crosses, just here, a tributary of the San Joaquin, fed from the Tulare Lake region.

Much stock is raised in this district. Whites Bridge is an old time stage station.

MENDOTA

This is a small but active station, chiefly remarkable for the large shipments of wool and hides.

FIREBAUGH

The San Joaquin waters this region, and there are lowlands and marshy places where the sportsman's gun is heard, and where the mallard, the teal, and the widgeon are flushed by the passing train. Much of these lowlands are rich in wild pasturage, and Firebaugh is an active center for live stock and wool. In the days gone by, when there were no fences and few farms, and orchards were unknown, the social scale ran—"cattlemen, sheepmen, hogmen," and in this order. They had the country to themselves. Then the "sandlappers" came along, and gradually the country was fenced in, and "dry farming" was succeeded by canals and irrigating ditches, and the contemned "sandlapper" had won the day, and became the aristocrat of the valley. Firebaugh is on the west side of the river, at the head of navigation during high water. A short canal runs westerly, and there are irrigated and well cultivated farms, with various kinds of fruit, and all the elements of home-making.

DOS PALOS

A colony of this name brought Dos Palos into existence. The colony is young, but about 100 families are here, 2½ miles east of the town, and orchards and vineyards, farms and gardens, show a thrifty settlement. The town is supplied with artesian water. Lands are low priced, and the man of small means can do well.

LOS BANOS

These musical Spanish names are old, and do not indicate Spanish settlements. Dos Palos means "two trees," and Los Banos "the baths, or swimming pools." The town has a population of about 700, and is steadily growing.



A Wagon Load of Grapes.

It is surrounded by the colony of the same name, from the lands of Miller and Lux, many families being located. A public park of ten acres is being made into a place of great beauty. The lands are fertile and well watered. A creamery serves the neighboring dairies.

VOLTA This place is nine miles from Los Banos, and near the outlet of the Pacheco Pass, in the Coast Range. Through this a wagon road runs into the Santa Clara Valley. Volta is the shipping point for a large, rich territory. The soil is a sandy loam, and adapted to a high state of cultivation.

INGOMAR The town is small, but in a rich and thickly populated country. Where were once great cattle ranges, and an entire absence of homes, are now many farms and orchards, school houses, and evidences of prosperity. Much alfalfa is grown, and the moist lands near the river return heavy crops. The region is very generally irrigated.

LINORA These are towns close to the northern line of Merced County. Alfalfa fields are green all the year, and nowhere do clover and cattle go better together. The lush Chilean clover and the fat dairy cows, or larger herds

of cattle for the market, seen against a background of shade trees, makes a picture to be remembered. These irrigated lands attract many water fowl, and the city sportsman knows where to secure the heaviest bags. The wild geese are here by thousands in the winter months, and must be herded off, at no little cost, for they are a pest to the farmer.

NEWMAN This is the most important town on the west side. It is a place of considerable wealth and business enterprise. This is Stanislaus County, and here again is the land where the cows are in clover, the irrigating canal and the Herefords being visible in many directions. Large orchards and vineyards, too, contribute to the well being of the town and the wheat field is still in the landscape.

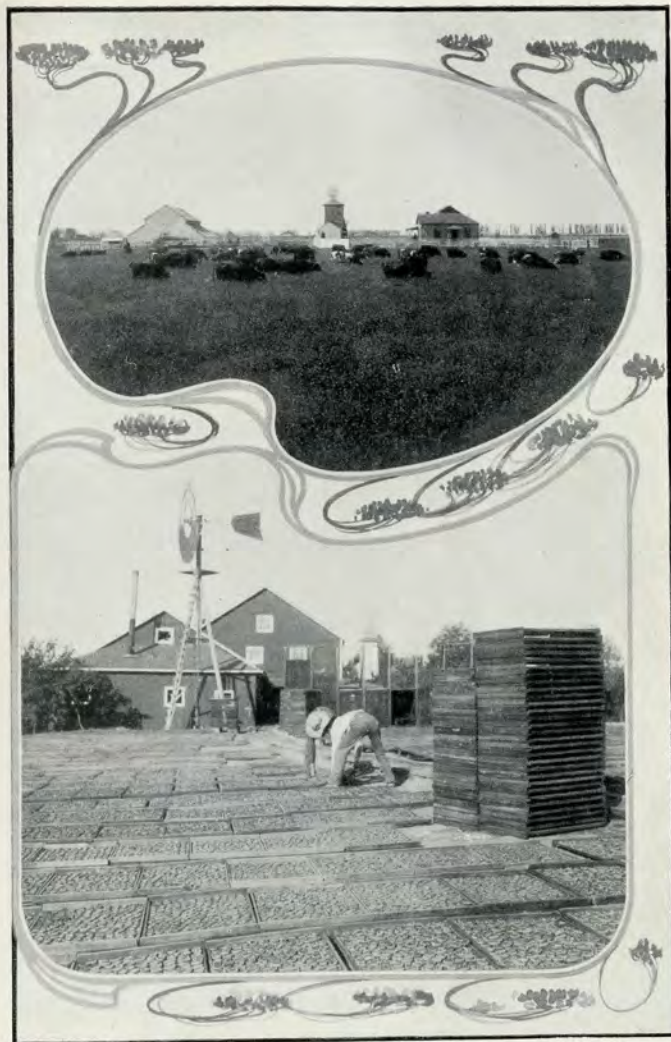
CROWS LANDING These are towns in the wheat fields of Stanislaus, a county that produces wheat by the hundred of tons. Crows Landing is one of the pioneer towns. Large warehouses tell the passing traveler what the chief industry has been. Now dairying interests are growing, and orchards and vineyards being planted, and the pasture fields expanding. California's new agricultural era is



Laying in a stock of Alfalfa.

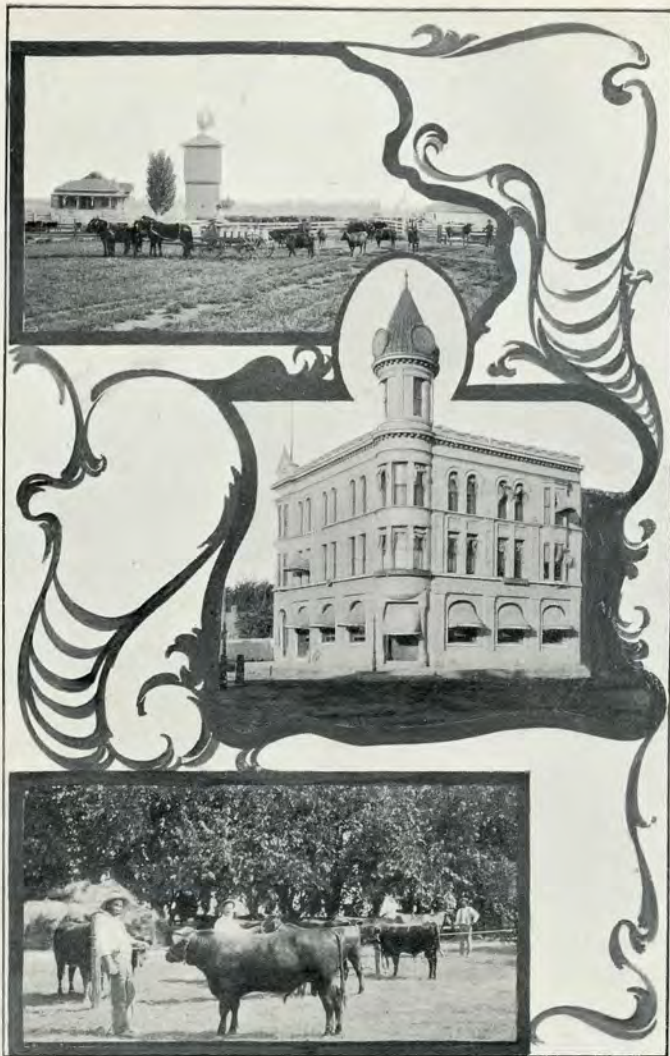


Picking Black Prince Grapes.



A Dairy Ranch.

Drying Apricots.



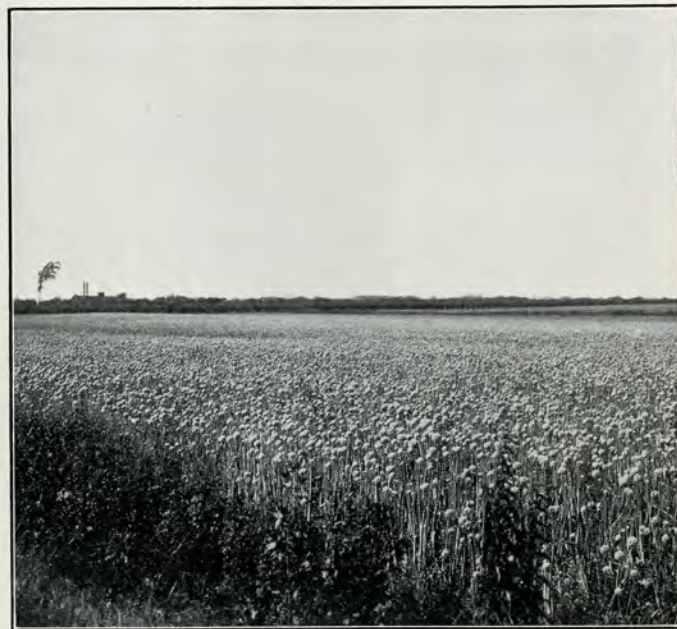
A Dairy near Newman.
Bank at Modesto.

Short Horns on ranch near Newman.

in evidence in many ways. Oranges, lemons, walnuts, olives, grapes, deciduous fruits and butter-making are assuming comparative importance. The towns feel the new life of the country, and are steadily growing.

**WESTLEY
VERNALIS**

The railroad traverses a wheat region, bordered on the east by the San Joaquin, easily recognized afar by its woodland fringe. Vernalis, by its very name, hints at verdure—the vernal hue of trees and clover fields,—the new growth that is invading the wheat districts. At Vernalis we cross into San Joaquin County, and a few miles beyond the train will “slow up” at the crossing of a railway line running from Stockton to the Tesla coal mines, located in the Livermore hills. These are a part of the Mt. Diablo Range. The next point is Tracy, the railroad center we saw on the way down. Turning west here, we journey toward San Francisco by way of Niles, having come into the valley by way of the Bay route and Port Costa.



A crop of Onion Seed.

**ELLIS
MIDWAY**

We are passing into the hill country, and it is dry. These are foothill towns, with considerable pasturage around them in the time of the rain, and some wheat farms.

ALTAMONT

This is the highest point in the line across the hills. The elevation is 749 feet above tide water. The rolling hills are cultivated, and stock is raised. Olive trees will one day occupy these hillsides, and beauty will join hands with utility.

LIVERMORE

This is a town of considerable size, located in a beautiful valley. It is completely walled in, and Mt. Diablo on the north, 3,447 feet high, and Mission Peak on the south, 2,275 feet, are the culminating points of the range. The valley is nearly circular, and is very rich and fruitful. Shut away in a world of quiet of its own, it is a charming place of residence.

The splendid Hacienda of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst is in this valley. Much wine is made here, and vineyards spread far and wide.

PLEASANTON

This is also a region of vineyards and wineries, but fruit is much in evidence. The town is at the western extremity of the Livermore Valley, near the head of the Alameda Cañon. The drift from the rolling foothills has made the region very fertile, and corn grows here to great height, and potatoes, melons, sugar beets, and hops are extensively grown. Its relation to the city makes it quite a field for berries. Some day Pleasanton will be a city, the surrounding country being well able to support one, when it is settled up.



White Muscatel Grapes.



Pigeon Houses.

SUNOL At the head of the cañon through which flows Alameda Creek, filled with speckled trout, and abounding in picturesque nooks, this is a camping ground for great numbers from the surrounding cities. Many have erected cottages. Orchards abound, and the farming lands are very productive.

NILES The traveler here strikes the line from Oakland to San Jose, running down the east side of the Bay. It is a busy junction, as well as a rich and pleasant farming region. Here a pioneer flouring mill was located, and here is perhaps the largest nursery in the State, for all kinds of fruit trees, roses and shrubbery. It is a choice fruit belt. Orchards and vineyards extend to the summit of the adjacent hills. Not far away is the site of one of the old missions, called Mission San Jose. Time has left but a fragment of the quaint old house. It was located in one of the loveliest spots in the world, under the shadow of the Mission Peak, overlooking the Bay, and the broad valley of Santa Clara. When the whole land was theirs to choose from, the Franciscan Fathers seldom failed to choose wisely, and the Mission valleys are the most beautiful and fertile in the State.



Shearing Sheep.

Packing the Wool.

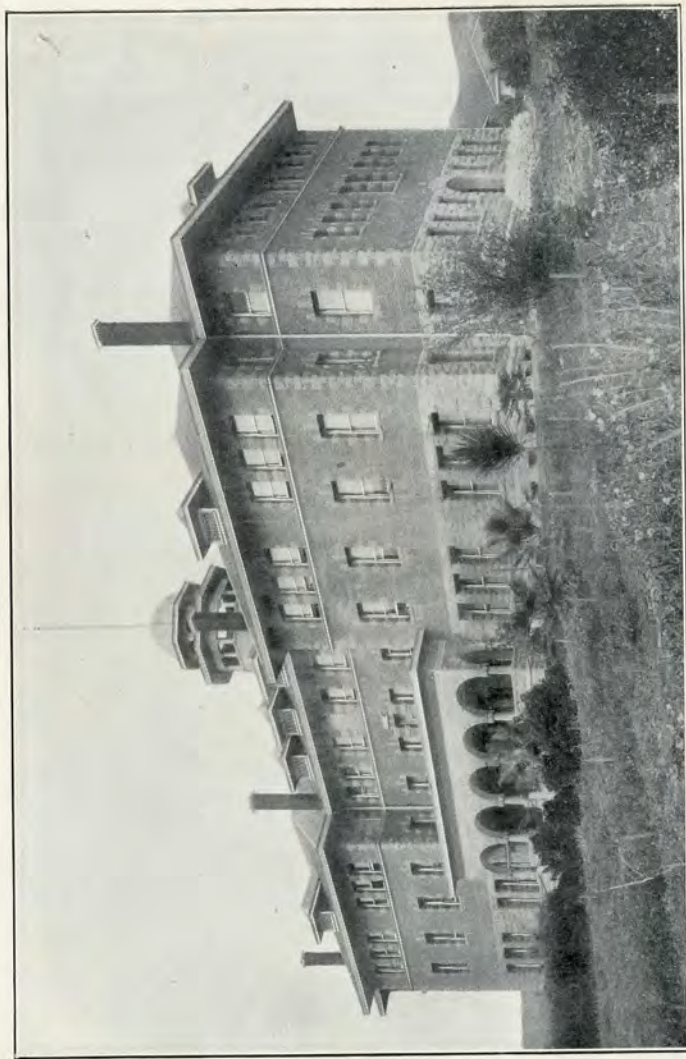
CENTERVILLE Two lines run down this side of the Bay, a broad and narrow gauge. Midway between the two, lies the prosperous town of Centerville. It is connected with the narrow gauge at Newark by a spur. With an ideal climate, rich soil, and fruitful orchards and vineyards, it is a delightful home town.

NEWARK This town is the seat of the extensive car manufactory of Carter Brothers. The surrounding country returns grain and a variety of other farm products.

ALVARADO Here sugar and salt come close together. The pioneer sugar factory is located here, having a capacity of 850 tons of beets daily. About 4,000 acres are devoted to beets, and 200 men are employed. Close by lie the evaporating ponds, and are piled the pyramids of salt. Perhaps 25,000 tons are produced here annually, finding a market in the ends of



An Alexander Apple Tree.



Masonic Home at Decoto.

the earth. Miles of available territory are still unoccupied, and salt will be made here while the tides ebb and flow.

DECOTO On the main line again, and just above Niles, this pleasant little town is located. It is the seat of the Masonic Home, where members and their families are cared for in their old age. An imposing structure stands on a slightly elevated position, connected with over one hundred acres of land. The region is quite healthful, full of trees, and very homelike.

HAYWARD This is a beautiful town, in an attractive location, and with a delightful climate. It has about 2,500 people. It is much visited, during summer, by residents of San



Foothill Farm in Alameda County.

Francisco and Oakland. Traversed by the Southern Pacific, reached by many trains daily, and served also by an electric car line from Oakland, it is one of the charming places in the country close to the city. Cherries are grown in abundance, and the blossoming trees make the place very beautiful in the early spring. It will fill up with fine villas and elegant homes, as rapid transit makes the city quickly accessible. In these small valleys among the hills is found the finest climate on the planet, a combination of the Coast and the interior that is as near right as heart could wish.

SAN LORENZO

These stations, that slip by like beads on a thread, are all in the same zone of climate and soil, differing a trifle in their surroundings, but alike embowered in orchards. The blossoms of the cherry predominate, and the luscious fruit, fresh from the tree, is a great attraction to "city people." Currants are grown extensively, and vegetables. The air has all the tonic of the sea, without the trade winds.

SAN LEANDRO

This, too, sings the praises of the cherry, and rivals Japan with its bloom. Here, originally, was a grant of four square leagues of land, and the adobe hacienda of Don Jose Estudillo. Now it is the garden spot of a township, and the home of 2,500 people. All about are orchards, vineyards, and choice vegetable farms. The streets are clean and wide, and the houses good. A large establishment, manufacturing agricultural machinery, is located here. These suburbs, of what will shortly be great cities by the Bay, are very attractive. The charm of the country, its quiet and seclusion, its pure air and smokeless skies, yet with the lights of the city near, and the heart of its business and its pleasures quickly reached,—this will more and more enhance the value of property in these suburban regions, and fill them with the homes of wealth.

SEMINARY PARK

As its name indicates this is a college station. A famous seminary for young ladies, called "Mills College," is located just out of sight. It is one of the older schools, of high grade, easily reached, yet shut away in its academic groves, and with an air of seclusion. An educa-



Picking Burbank Plums.

tional institution never found choicer setting. Extensive lawns, choice flowers, orchards and gardens, with a beautiful brook, and the wildness of nature unmarred, make a charming picture. The college is well supported.

ELMHURST

Where but recently were scattered farm houses, and an occasional wayside inn, is now a line of residences, and prosperous little towns. Elmhurst is new, but growing rapidly. The region is rich in agricultural wealth, and produces much fruit.



Tragedy Prunes.

MELROSE

This is a station with a postoffice, and serves the surrounding fruit and vegetable farms. Once the seat of extensive manufactures, which have located elsewhere, this is to be given up to suburban homes, with gardens and orchards.

FRUITVALE

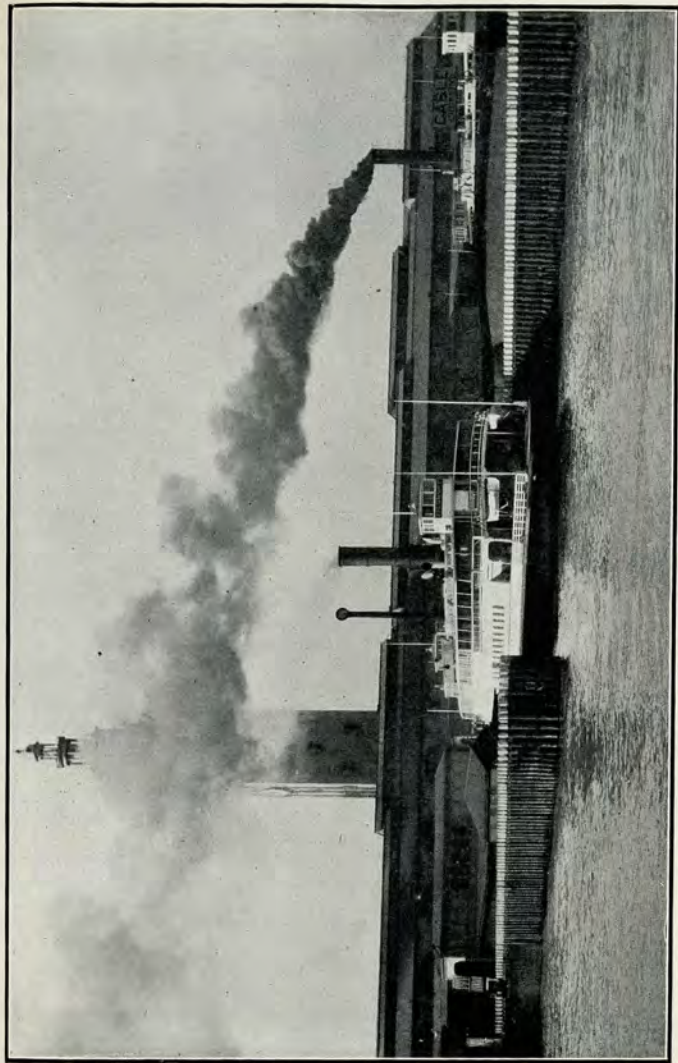
Just back of Oakland lies this delightful little valley, reached by several car lines and by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Its contour, and the quality of the soil, well name it Fruitvale. It is almost a continuous series of park-like recesses. The rounded outlines of the low hills, make a landscape of quiet beauty. It is full of pleasant homes, and of fruit trees and flowers.

ALAMEDA

Our trip round the great valley ends in this quiet city. Over against it lies the larger city of Oakland, the two almost grown together in spite of tide lands, and facing it across the broad Bay lies San Francisco. Often when the latter is swathed in fog, or ocean winds whip you around breezy street corners, Alameda is quiet and warm in the sunshine. So many are the vagaries of California climate in this region. Six miles here makes a good deal of difference, while six hundred along the central axis of the State, north and south, will not show two degrees of variation in temperature. Alameda has streets of charming homes, full of foliage, and full of beauty. It is reached by local trains from the ferry landings, and is served by both broad and narrow gauge, and by electric roads. It is a chosen place of residence for many who shrink from the chill of ocean winds. With its back to the warm interior, and its face to



Lake Merritt, Oakland.



The new Union Ferry Station, San Francisco.

the tranquil Bay, it is brooded over by an air that ought to suit the most exacting. Its location is on a peninsula between two creeks. The Bay Shore on the east and south is really a plain, five or six miles wide, and perhaps forty miles long. Were the Bay filled up, it would appear as a broad arm of the Santa Clara Valley.

Back of the town lies one of the richest pieces of land in the county. It is called Bay Island Farm. It is a great asparagus producing section. Vegetables for the Oakland and San Francisco markets, are grown here every month in the year.

The completion of the Oakland Harbor will equally benefit Alameda, and the time is near when both sides of the harbor will be lined with wharves, and occupied by shipping. And Alameda will be an island, when the tidal canal is completed, and may yet be known as the "Venice of the Pacific."

We have now compassed the land; we have seen its chief cities, its harbor, with the ships of the nations at anchor; the smoke of steamships, and the white wings of sailing vessels; we have looked upon the vast outspread of orchards and vineyards, where in a generation, fruit culture has attained a perfection, and assumed a magnitude, which astonishes the world; we have seen the green of Chilean clover, the Naples yellow of the wheat ranches, and the gold of oranges and lemons, such as Spain and Sicily cannot excel. Are we mistaken in thinking that the great valley—larger than half the New England States, and rich as the valley of old Egypt—will have a great population? It is inevitable. The future tides of population will move countryward. There will be less isolation for the farmer, a wider horizon for the man who tills the soil, and manufactures, mining, and an enlarged commerce, will rest back upon the land. Horticulture here is a science, and agriculture is becoming scientific. It is a land where a man can farm with brains; where he can own the soil he tills, and spend his substance upon it; and where the life-giving water, under the dust of the long and opulent summer, will make the harvest certain, and abundant. We have kept in view chiefly the agricultural wealth of the region. Much of the tillable land of the State is here, and those who are settled in the great valley, are but the advance guard of an army of occupation that will soon be here. It is an opportunity that will swiftly pass. Valleys are the homes of the race, and there are none left upon the planet, that have at once room for millions, and both soil and climate that will insure health and prosperity. The price of lands is low. Measured by what they will return per acre, they are very low. They are not arid. In many parts the rainfall is ample. But water is abundant, and the practice of irrigation is extending, and water will make every part of Central California a land of plenty. The beauty of it will only be equalled by the cash returns.



THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE CLIMATE.

It is sometimes said that California has many climates. It is only true within sharp limits. There are variations—delicate modifications, but in general the State has but two climates, the land and the sea. San Francisco has the climate of the sea—with variations. Owing to her relation to the ocean gateway, and to the warm interior, the climatic properties are not always observed. The sensible temperature of the Bay City may be called chilly. It is so to some people. But the mean annual is only 56° and the minimum only 32°,—not an uncomfortable point for sensitive people even, save for the moisture in the air. The mornings are generally delightful, summer and winter, and the range of temperature being small, the same clothing is worn throughout the year. It is a city in which at least "November's as pleasant as May," and May good enough for anybody.

The territory under the jurisdiction of both sea and land climate includes the valleys about the Bay, where the conditions are as near perfect as they are ever found on this planet. The actual temperature of the interior is often high. It would not be "the land of sunshine," nor "the land of the orange" otherwise. It would not be famous for the quality of its fruits otherwise. But the sensible temperature—that which a wet bulb thermometer would show, and to which the human impression corresponds, is not uncomfortable. This because the air is dry. All the moisture has been wrung out of it. There is no exhaustion from the heat. Sunstroke is unknown. No clouds obscure the sun of summer, and the languid, depressing days, called "muggy," are not in the calendar. The nights are generally cool. Blankets are comfortable. The days toil is rounded out with refreshing sleep.

The seasons are two—the wet and the dry. The semi-tropical character of the climate is indicated in this, that the rainy season is showery, and rain falls far more often at night than during the day. There are storms of two or three days duration, often, but in the regions of average rainfall, the rainy days do not

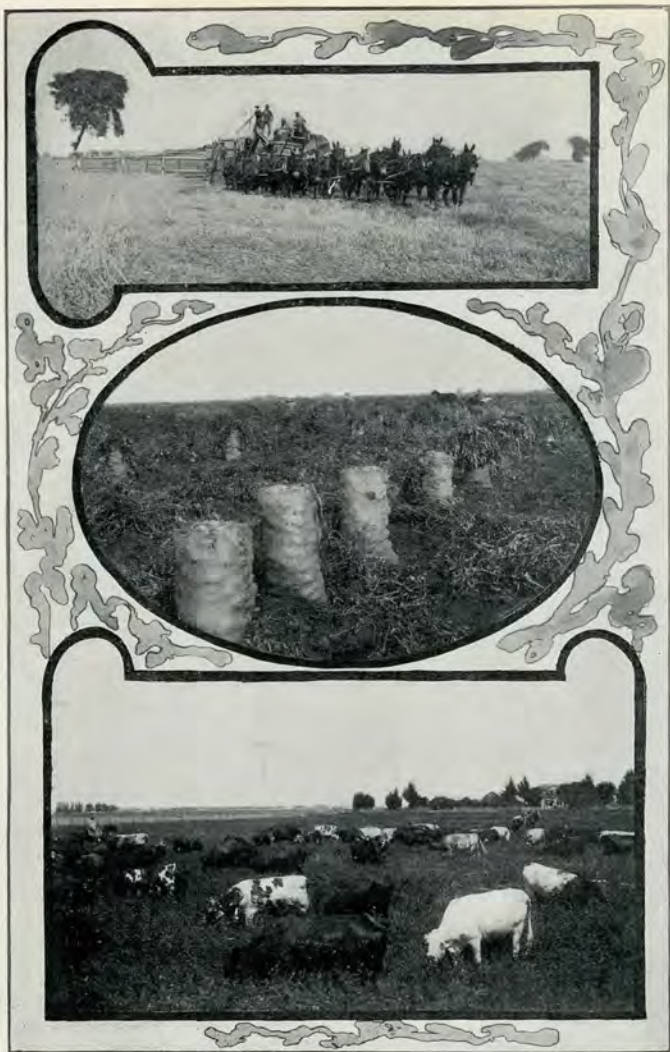


Packing Raisins at Fresno.

equal in number those of the same months in the lake region of Ohio or Illinois. After a southeast storm, there will often be weeks of delicious weather. Winter is such only in name. It is a season of growth, often of much balmy, plant-building sunshine. Plows are turning up the soil; seed is being sown; grass is springing; flowers are blooming; stock is feeding in the fields. The grower of deciduous fruit is trimming trees, with his coat off. The orange grower is picking, packing and shipping his harvest; girls and boys are in the unwarmed warehouses sorting and packing the golden fruit. Vegetables are in the open markets, all the year. A cold snap may come, and the danger point of frost may be threatened, but the hazard is not great. The fact that the vast fruit interests of California are safe and profitable, year by year, attests the mildness of the winter climate. Now, such a climate has an "economic value." It is worth something, in coin, to the outdoor worker. It means less expenditure for the home, and the barn, and outbuildings on the farm. It costs less to care for stock, and less for fuel to warm the house. There is less loss of time. There is no hibernation. Men do not "lay by" until the winter is over. The machinist need not stop to warm his tools, the carpenter and the mason do not find their work covered up by an untimely sleet or snow. Every day—in field or orchard, in shop, or barn, or dairy, may be a day of productive labor. This is a positive gain. It should be reckoned



Grain Warehouse at Solano.



Combined Harvester.
Sacking Potatoes.
Alfalfa Pasture.

among the workers assets. It is part of the capital. Then the soil—in such a kindly air—is vastly productive. With water, less land is needed. Life is easier. The farmer does not wear himself out on a large holding. The profits are greater. Many a "40-acre lot" yields its owner an income of \$2,000 a year. Fruit pays; dairying pays; mixed farming pays. The days of fortunes in fruit growing or general farming are probably gone by. But a small orchard affords a comfortable living, "with occasional unexpected profit thrown in." Here are some facts which can be verified. It is the testimony of men on the ground. Names could be given, as well as localities. Near Selma, Fresno County, are 75 acres in alfalfa. On this 70 cows are kept, and pay \$4 per month for 10 months of the year. This is \$2,800. About 70 hogs are kept, and the calves of the herd. Only skim milk and alfalfa for the hogs, save a little corn at fattening time. Two men do all the work. Near Fresno, 35 acres raisin grapes returned \$1,760, beside the grapes sold to the winery. Four miles from Dinuba 18 acres Sultana grapes in four years, beginning with 1897, yielded \$13,000, an average of \$3,250 per year. Atwater, Merced County, 20 acres of peaches, 11 years old, returns, 1897, \$1,400; 1898, \$2,400; 1899, \$3,700, gross.

At Porterville, 20 acres of oranges, crop for 1900, returned \$3,800.

Near Visalia a 20-acre orchard clears from fruit and berries, \$100 an acre.

Four miles from Tulare, 160 acres, worth \$50 an acre; 60 acres in alfalfa, remainder in grain and pasture, and a few acres of fruit, yields an average income of \$4,000 a year.

On lower Tule River 80 acres in alfalfa keeps 40 cows, their calves and a few hogs. The owner's income is \$2,600.

Near Tipton, 160 acres of cheap land, partly irrigated from artesian well, has yielded from stock and alfalfa, \$1,200 a year for nine years.

These are fair samples of actual experience in a winterless land.

It is not facts merely that we want, but a perception of their significance. This half tropical sunshine, this amazing growth everywhere under the dusty covering; the fertility of this alluvium gathered from the mountains for ages, and the value in dollars and cents of a climate that clothes the fields with emerald in January, and invites the invalid out of doors for ten months of the year—this must appeal to the man who wants a home where the natural conditions make life comfortable and the earning of one's daily bread easy.



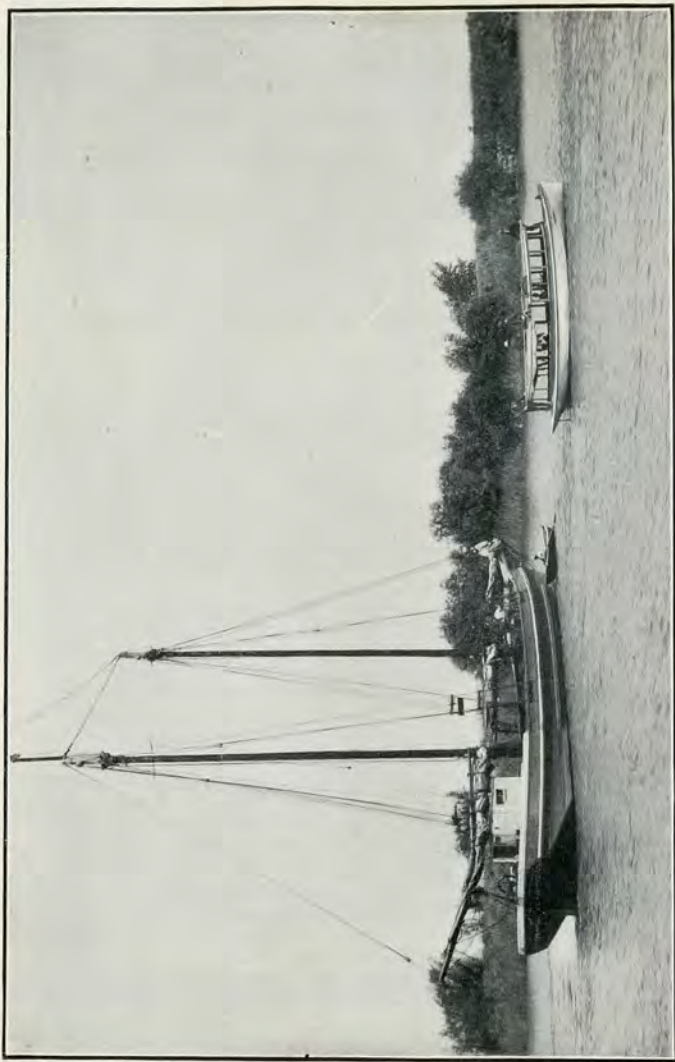
Combined Harvester. 80-acre field of winter-sown grain.
Threshing Outfit.



A Family Group.

THE HOME-SEEKER AND THE INVESTOR.

California just now offers industrial advantages which deserve to be pondered. They grow out of new conditions, and these in turn have been produced by certain events. Some of these events no sagacity could foresee, while others belong to the natural processes of development in a new country. Thus, the war with Spain has meant more to California than to any State in the Union, and more to San Francisco than to any other ten cities of the Union. It has given to the State an oriental frontage, and to the city a commercial importance, in two years, which ten years of peaceful life could not have won for it. We are at the gateway of a new era. The magic of climate is still here, but it is no longer the chief attraction. The charm of romance still lingers about the name, but it belongs to the past. Sentiment will still attract a few, for the country side offers an ideal life, but the great word today is commerce, the supreme attraction now is that of industrial opportunity. The east has become aware of California in a new sense. A place for travel, a mecca for the invalid, a stopping place on the way for "the globe trotter," it is now a field to be exploited in the way of business, a land of vast commercial possibilities, and through which, in a channel cut by war, a mighty stream of trade is to flow. And the man of sagacity and of finance, the "Captains of Industry," the heads of great corporations, are alive to the value of the Pacific Coast, as never before. Seward's prophecy, that "the Pacific Ocean would become the scene of man's greatest achievements," is on the point of being realized. California has always faced the Orient, Oceanic, Hawaii and Australia. Her ships sailed westward to reach the "Far East," and others gathered by a kind of natural gravitation, in her great harbor, for here was the short curve of the earth inviting to market. But the volume of that traffic grew slowly. It waited the march of events. The Philippines came in; China awoke from her long sleep; Japan put on the spirit of



The great San Joaquin River.

modern civilization: Hawaii was annexed; and Russia thrust the longest railroad in the world through to the waters of the Pacific, seeking to expand her trade. And the commercial front of all this awakening life is California. This fact explains the interest of great steamship lines in her destiny, the activity in ship building for the Pacific Coast, and the reconstruction of the railway map of the United States. It explains the vast increase of trade at San Francisco, and the phenomenal awakening throughout the State. It is a new day, and the homeseeker and the investor should make a note of it.

The other events, which belong to the instinct of development, are of two classes. One is the discovery of oil in vast reaches of territory. This means cheap fuel, and cheap fuel means manufactories, and this means prosperity in many directions. The other class of events concern the soil. One is the breaking up of the great land holdings. Many are poor raising wheat, and will subdivide and sell off their land. The low price of grain makes its cultivation unprofitable. General farming is coming in; fruit growing, stock raising, dairying, is inviting attention. Agricultural affairs are in a State of transition in many parts of the State, and much land is for sale at prices that will never be heard of again.

Then irrigation is a growing factor. It means smaller farms; it means freedom from anxiety about the rainfall; it means control of the situation—water when your land needs it, and where it needs it. In short it means scientific farming—farming with the element of uncertainty eliminated. All this is of great consequence to the man seeking a new field. It offers advantages that will not repeat themselves. The rapid settling up of the inviting territory we have traveled over, is to be looked for; it seems absolutely certain. Its resources of soil, climate, mines, forests, water-power, and all that goes to produce material strength and wealth, are simply incomputable. A period of new and marvellous development has begun, and in this day of rapid-fire guns, of quick transportation and electrical correspondence, it is only a question of a few years when the population of the State will be doubled. Orchard-hidden-Fresno is but a quarter of a century old; the cattle trails are scarcely obliterated from the imperial district about Visalia, the sheep corrals have but recently vanished from regions now clothed with raisin vineyards and profitable orchards, in the midst of which are the homes of prosperous thousands. It will be but a little while until the fame of the well-watered San Joaquin will go to the ends of the earth.

The situation is unprecedented, and the wise man will think it over seriously. The development of California has been phenomenal, but its growth has only begun. It wants men, and capital, for these only can best develop its vast resources. It wants men with intelligence and energy, for these, with but little money, can get a foothold, and make themselves independent.

A land overflowing with bounty, it wants men of energy and thrift to possess it, young people with bare hands for support, who are willing to work, and who will find themselves in a few years released from drudgery, and living comfortably in a land where the kindly climate and the fertile soil reward man for his labor. "God's country" it is sometimes called. Rather it is woman's country, childhood's country, the country where the invalid lives out of doors, man's country, where the "greatest progress of the race has been made in the briefest time," and whose beauty and riches promise to make it unequalled in the annals of the world.

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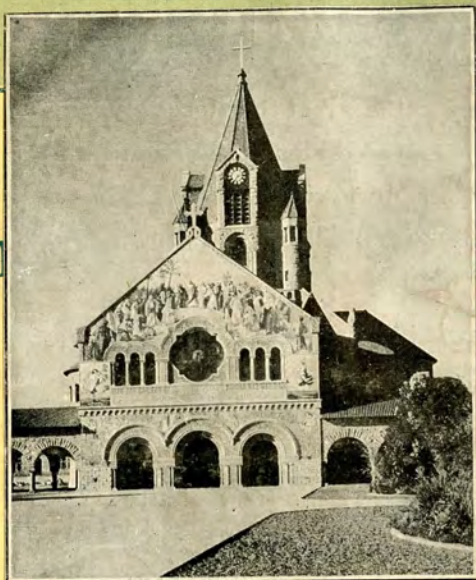
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