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YUBA AND SUTTER.

Two Counties of Almost Unequaled Fertility.

THE DELTAS OF NUMEROUS RIVERS

A Glance at the Great Advantages and Wonderful Resources of This Highly-Favored Section.

ITS RICH SOILS, GRAND FORESTS AND MINERAL DEPOSITS.

Prolific Production of Oranges, Lemons, Olives, Figs, and of All Deciduous Fruits—Extensive Orchards and Vineyards—Yields of Grain.

[Fifth Paper upon the Resources of Central and Northern California—Prepared for the RECORD-UNION by its Special Representative, Dr. H. LATHAM.]

At no other time in the history of the American people has there been such a stream of home-seekers moving toward the setting sun as now. From the great crowded cities on the Atlantic and the lakes; from the worn-out soils of the east, and the south, and from the oft divided homesteads of the prairies, comes the murmur of anxious inquiries for homes. Our people are descendants of the conquering and colonizing races of the earth, from whom they have inherited an insatiable hunger for the western horizon. That race trait which has been so powerful in settling new countries and building up civilization, seems more intense and powerful now than ever. The statistics of travel show that annually more than 750,000 people come west through Chicago alone, in search of homes—population enough to add a new star to the galaxy of the Union each year. In addition to these there are large numbers of well-to-do people owning homes north of the 36th parallel of latitude, who are weary of long winters, ice, snow and blizzards, and who are eager to fine some country where they can escape these rigors and burdens. This pervading discontent, arising from the tyranny and robbery of winter, extends from the Tennessee to the British boundary, and from the Atlantic to the eastern foot of the Sierras, a country containing more that forty million people. For all these anxious and earger home-seekers—

"Lo! we uncover the land
Which was hid of old in the West."

THE PACIFIC SLOPE

Is the newest-found territorial gem of this continent. It is an empire in extent and natural resources. It has every element that makes wealth, that sustains a dense

EMPIRE BLOCK, MARYSVILLE.

population, that builds vast manufactures, that stimulates trade and that creates a far-reaching commerce. It has rich soils, immense forests, inexhaustible deposits of the royal and useful metals, a vast water system and an incomparable climate. Its geographical location is most favorable. It occupies the semi-tropic zone. From its mountain slopes it looks down upon the great peaceful ocean, upon whose shores more than one-third of the world's population dwells. The heart of this favored region is

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The area of this portion of the State is 90,000 square miles, or more than 57,000,000 acres. It is larger than the two great States of New York and Pennsylvania, with a population of 10,000,000. It is more than twelve times the size of Massachusetts, which has a population of 1,500,000 people. It is one-half the size of France, which supports a population of 37,000,000, with incomparable industries. It is larger than Italy, whose fertile plains were described by Napoleon as "the granary of the world." Its location leaves nothing to be desired. It lies in the south temperate zone, between the frozen north on the one hand and the torrid south on the other. It has more than 500 miles of coast line, with the finest land, locked harbor in the world, which, through its Golden Gate, gives free water communication to the dense population of Europe and the untold millions of Asia. Two great rivers bisect this area. The San Joaquin, rising in the southern part flows north, and the Sacramento, having its source in the north, flows south till the two join, and pour their waters into the Bay of San Francisco. These two rivers furnish water transportation to the greater part of this region. The valleys of these two streams are of incomparable beauty and fertility. They enraptured the Spanish explorer and the Jesuit and San Franciscan fathers in the sixteenth century; they excited the strongest admiration of the bold rovers of the seas in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; they extorted the most extravagant praise from the pathfinders and explorers in the middle of this century, and they made the "Argonauts" willing exiles from their childhood homes at the commencement of the American occupation. Flanking these valleys are two high mountain chains. On the west is the Coast Range, which extends along the Pacific shores for 500 miles. On the east side is the Sierra Nevada, whose pinnacled peaks form the eastern part of the State.

TOPOGRAPHY.

From the physical confirmation there is every topographical feature known to earth. There are wide, fertile valleys for him who prefers the lower levels; sloping hill-sides for the dwellers at the mountain's feet, and deep valleys, canyons, gorges and lofty elevations for those who love the lights and shadows of the great mountains.

THE SCENERY.

No other part of earth presents a wider and more varied panorama of beauty and grandeur than this "heart of the Pacific slope." To the west, the great sea rolls her crested waves against beetling crags and giant cliffs, or over wide stretches of pebbly beaches, and shores of glistening sands. The gently rounded domes of the Coast Range, and the snow-crowned summits of the Sierras overlook picturesque valleys and forest-parked plains. Shasta and Lassen, the grim sentinels of the north, lift their heads into eternal silence. The great rivers flow through the grain-ladened valleys, looking like ribbons of silver set in cloth of gold. Innumerable streams, from their sources in the perpetual snow, dash through narrow gorges, pour in gleaming cataracts down precivitous mountain sides, and whirl in silent eddies at the feet of over-branching forest monarchs. Great woods darken the mountain sides and green oaks beautify the valleys.

THE SOIL

Of Central and Northern California is of remarkable fertility. In the valley of the Sacramento it was formed at the bottom of an immense lake, which received the washings and weatherings from the lofty ranges that surround it. For untold ages the potash from the decomposing granite formations, the magnesia and lime from the weatherings of the magnesian lime strata, and the soda from the decomposed vegetation, was carried, year after year, and deposited in the bottom of this inland sea, where it was stored up in inexhaustible quantities for the uses of the tillers of the land in later times. This accounts for the incomparable fertility of the valley. Judged by the analysis of the chemist and the experience of the farmer, there is no richer soil on the earth than the alluvium in this drained bed of what was once the great Sacramento lake. Along the foothills are the "red lands," the soil of which is a loam composed of sand, clay, lime, soda, potash, phosphorous, magnesia and iron. This red soil has every element of fertility and is known to be almost inexhaustible, bearing annual croppings for a great number of years without requiring fertilization. The evidence of the inexhaustible fertility of the soil of Northern California is furnished in the unexampled wheat product of that section in 1884, amounting to 35,000,000 bushels, with a yield of more than 50 per cent. greater than the average of the rest of the United States, and in the enormous yield of fruit and every other agricultural product.

ITS TIMBER SUPPLY.

In her tree growths this section presents a remarkable contrast to the vast treeless plains and prairie regions east of the Rocky mountains. Oak growths are found in every county of the Sacramento valley, which in many places presents much the same appearance as the famous oak openings of Michigan and Kentucky. In some places, on the darker soils near the streams, the growths have been so large and thick as to require thinning out in order to allow successful cultivation. Some of these oaks attain enormous size—single trees making as much as twenty or thirty cords of wood. Every county in the valley has timber enough to furnish fuel for household use and shade for stock. These oak growths extend far up on the foothills on either side of the valley, and at an elevation of 2,500 feet the great forest belts of both ranges are met. For size and density of growth, these forests compare favorably with those of any other section of the world. Here are vast growths of pine, spruce, fir and cedar. These vast pineries constitute the lumber supply of the whole country, and are practically inexhaustible.

THE DELTAS OF YUBA AND SUTTER COUNTIES.

In the center of this wide and fertile valley of the Sacramento, are the Sutter Buttes, rising abruptly out of the surrounding plain to an altitude of 1,500 feet. From their summits is presented a beautiful view of this great valley and its surroundings. To the north Shasta's pure white cone is plainly in view; to the east are the long dark lines of the Sierras, 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, just missing the crown of perpetual snow. To the south Mount Diablo's blue lines are visible, and to the west are the tawny outlines of the Coast Range, while all around are the oak parks and openings of this great valley, through which gleam the waters of the Sacramento, the Feather and Yuba. At the feet of the on-looker is Sutter county, formed by the delta of the Sacramento and Feather rivers. Further to the east is Yuba county, composed of the three deltas formed by the Feather, and its tributaries, the Honcut, the Yuba and the Bear rivers. These are as rich as any portions of the valley of the Nile or of the Mississippi. It is to these rich delta plains, and the adjacent foothills, that the attention of the home-seeker and the capitalist is invited.

VIEW IN R. C. KEEL'S ALMOND ORCHARD, SUTTER COUNTY.

YUBA COUNTY.

A Glance at Its Many Advantages and Wonderful Resources.

This county extends from Honcut creek on the north to Bear river on the south, and from the Feather river on the west to the crest of the Sierra Nevada on the east. It is in the center of the great Sacramento basin and embraces rich valley lands, sloping foothills and high mountain sides. Its area is about 400 square miles or 450,000 acres, and is about equally divided between valley land and foothills. The county is situated between the 38th and 40th parallels—the latitude of St. Louis, Cincinnati and Washington.

THE WATER SYSTEM.

Honcut creek rises in the Sierras, and drains the northern portion of the county. In the center of the county is the Yuba river, a large rapid stream with three tributaries, the North, South and Middle Forks. Each of these tributary streams has a number of smaller feeders, sent down from the canyons, gorges and valleys of the higher ranges.

In the extreme southern portion of the county is Bear river, another mountain stream, with a network of feeders in the higher ranges. With all these lasting and rapid streams this county is one of the best watered portions of the coast. In the foothill portion of the county there are numerous clear, cool springs that burst forth from the hillsides. There is no part of the county in which good well water cannot be found at depths varying from ten to forty feet. In addition to this lavish natural water supply, there is a perfect

NETWORK OF WATER DITCHES,

Which were constructed for mining purposes. These ditches start from the streams in the high mountains, and run along the crests of ridges and divides at as high elevations as can be found, so as to cover as much of the land as possible. All of these have been constructed with a great expenditure of labor and money. These ditches, with their tributaries, aggregate hundreds of miles, and now, since the cessation of placer mining, the vast volumes of water they carry is available for purposes of irrigation. Their owners are now extending them from the foothills to the plains below. It it believed that these old mining ditches have a capacity to carry water enough to irrigate all the arable land in Yuba county. If the future development should demand more, it can be easily obtained from streams that drain these great mountain sides.

AREA OF FORESTS.

In most portions of this county, even on the plains, there are sufficient timber growths to furnish fuel for present and future use. Since the American occupation, more than forty years, the amount of tree growths has increased by reason of protection from fires. Along the streams in the valleys there are willow, poplar, sycamore, soft maple, box-elder and cottonwood growths, and on the plains live, burr, white and black oaks. On the mountain sides there is a forest belt twenty-five miles in width, in which there is every kind of evergreen growths — white, red, pitch and sugar pine, spruce, fir, hemlock and cedar. In this great timber belt there are some of the largest tree growths of the coast. All through these forests there are large steam and water mills, which manufacture millions of feet of lumber for home and foreign use.

QUALITIES OF SOIL.

The soil of the delta or valley portion of Yuba county is very fertile. It is a dark alluvium, and produces large crops of grain, grass, vegetables and fruit year after year without fertilization. On the higher plains it is a brown loam, which produces wheat, rye, oats, barley, the native clover, fruit and vines in large quantities and of the best quality. The foothills have the "red soil," rich in alkaline and saline matters, and especially adapted to tree fruits and grapes. A third of a century's farming has demonstrated the fertility and adaptability of all these soils to all kinds of agriculture and horticulture.

OF THE CLIMATE.

The home-seeker should understand at the outset that there are no seasons here as in the country east of the Sierras. Our people are mostly descendants of the Northmen, who have always lived in cold countries, with the well-marked seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter, and we still use these terms to designate certain months of the year, but under the climatic conditions existing in this State they are untrue and misleading. We have only two seasons—spring, or the season of showers, and autumn, the dry season. Spring commences with the first showers in October or November, and there is a general awakening of vegetable life. The hillsides and valleys are soon

COVERED WITH GREEN VERDURE AND FLOWERS,

Buds and blossoms. It is the seedtime, too, of the farmer, the same as spring is everywhere around the world. All through the months known as autumn and winter the fields on those rich deltas and foothills are busy, bustling scenes, with plows, harrows and seed-sowers. Cattle graze on the new vegetation, the groves are vocal with the songs of birds that remain here the whole year or those migratory songsters that come here from the inhospitable North to revel in flowers and sunshine. Doors and windows are opened wide to admit the warm sunlight and the aroma of fragrant fields, and children disport the day long in the open air. These rains continue—alternating with sunny days till May or June. Autumn succeeds to spring, and continues till the rains come again in September or October, and is the harvest season, and there is no other country in the world which has such an assured and safe season for harvest. From the middle of June to the last of September the farmer has a surety of fine weather for haying, harvesting and hauling farm, orchard and vineyard products to market.

WHY THERE IS NO WINTER HERE.

The reason why there is no winter here on the same latitude as that where there is snow, ice, and sweeping blasts in all the country east of the Sierra Nevada range is apparent to any one who will study the matter for a moment. Climate is the result of two great causes, astronomical and geographical. The first alone would produce the same temperatures on the same altitudes, and on the same elevations the world around. It is the geographical influences which modify temperatures, and produce the variations. It is to these that we here owe our complete immunity from winter. There are

TWO GREAT GEOGRAPHICAL INFLUENCES

That operate to produce our winterless climate. The first is the great ocean current of heated water that continually washes this coast. The second is the great mountain barrier which, starting from the extreme western point of the Alaskan peninsular, runs southeast without a break to and into Mexico. The starting point of this great barrier is 1,800 miles west of the Bay of San Francisco, and it completely deflects and shuts off the Arctic winds that would otherwise sweep down along this coast. It is to these two dominating influences that we owe the absence of winter temperatures, that give us the orange, olive, lemon and pomegranate in such high latitudes and altitudes.

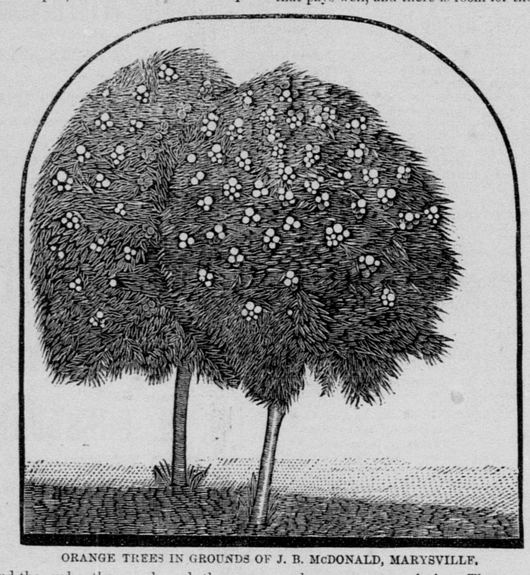
TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL.

The mean annual temperature, as taken at Marysville, is 60° Fah.; the mean for the spring months is 55.5°; for summer, 71.8°; for autumn, 61.6°, and for winter 49.2°. The highest temperature, with a properly-exposed thermometer, is 100° and the lowest 22° above zero. There is no portion of this continent that has a better temperature than that of the delta, plains and foothills of these two counties.

The average annual rainfall is 22 inches. For the winter months it is 12.1 inches; spring, 5.15 inches; summer, 0.15 of an inch, and for the autumn, 4.6 inches.

PRODUCTIONS.

These two counties may safely challenge the world to produce a larger and more varied list of productions than nature has given them. Every product of the north temperate zone, as well as those of the semi-tropics, is found here. The pine

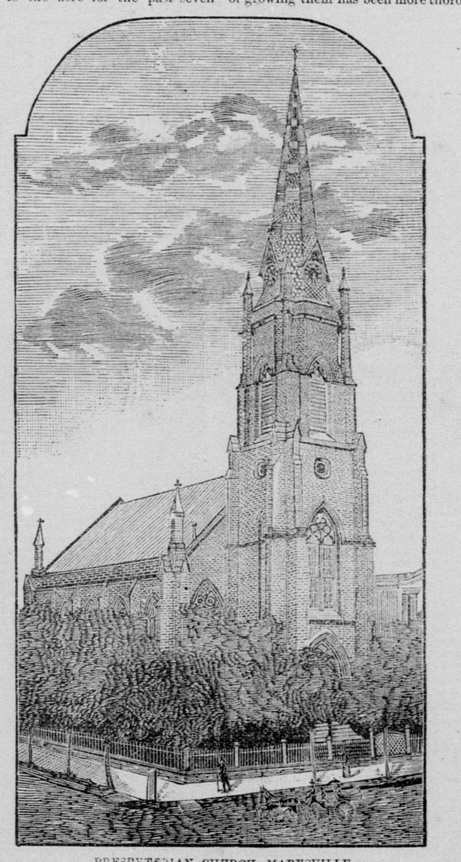


ORANGE TREES IN GROUNDS OF J. B. McDONALD, MARYSVILLE.

and the palm, the maple and the magnolia, the apple and the apricot, the olive and the cherry, the orange and the plum, and the pomegranate and the pear; all these do as well side by side as in their native climates, further north or further south. The list of tree growths, textile and food plants growing here is too long for insertion in this article.

THE CEREALS GROWN.

The deltas and foothills of Yuba county have been producing wheat, barley, rye and oats for forty years. The quality of the product has been good, the crop rate has been fully equal to the average crop of the rest of the State. The average yield of wheat to the acre for the past seven



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARYSVILLE.

years has been eighteen bushels and of barley twenty-two bushels.

GRASSES—NATURAL AND CULTIVATED.

When the first Americans came to these delta plains and foothills, they found them covered with luxuriant growths of wild oat-grasses, native clovers and bunch grass. These were found to be so nutritious for all kinds of stock and so well adapted for pasturage that, as a rule, few attempts were made to introduce other grasses. Wherever alfalfa, red clover, timothy and herds' grass have been introduced they have done well. In this county there are some noted alfalfa pastures and hay fields, and the area devoted to the raising of that plant is rapidly increasing. The foothills afford as good grazing as there is on this coast, and there are many fine stock ranches there. The wild-oat grass, native clovers and bunch grass grow luxuriantly, and there is an abundance of clear water and cool shade.

STOCK BREEDING.

Yuba county for its limited superficial area has been one of the noted stock counties of the State. Some of the best blooded horses, cattle and sheep in the State are to be found there. In 1886 there were 4,500 horses in the county, and 55,000 sheep. Much money has been wisely expended in the introduction of the best breeds of all kinds of stock. For more than a quarter of a century some of the most noted horses, both racing and trotting, have been owned there, and at all the State and District Fairs the entries from Yuba county have been seen in the front. There is no better region in the State for the stock-grower to locate than on these deltas or in the foothills. With the superabundance of water in the streams and irrigating ditches, alfalfa can be grown on the plains and in the valleys of the foothills.

FRUIT-GROWING.

Of the noted orchards in the State, the very first in point of date as well as excellence were around Marysville. Briggs, Teegarden, Hutchins and Swezy had large and productive orchards in the '50's. These orchards embraced nearly every variety of fruit since grown on the coast. These fruits were not only large and luscious, but they were and are still the first in the markets, and therefore commanded the best of prices. The people of Marysville claim that for many years their apricots and peaches have been the first of the season seen in San Francisco and other markets. This is a great advantage to the fruit-grower, as it gives him double prices for his fruit.

Every kind of fruit does well here. All the small fruits are very productive, and well repay the labor bestowed upon them. All kinds of grapevines do well in the valleys and on the hillsides. There are some noted wine vineyards in the foothills that for years have been paying property. So large is the production of wine grapes that

A LARGE WINERY

Has been built near Marysville. The capacity of this winery is 200 tons of grapes per day. Raisin grapes are grown to a considerable extent, and there are tens of thousands of acres of cheap lands available for this industry. The growing and shipping of table grapes is also an industry that pays well, and there is room for thousands more to engage in it. There is no reason why there should not be 100,000 acres more of orchards and vineyards than now in Yuba county, and there is every reason why there should be. The soil, climate and abundance of water favor it; the markets are good and the transportation cheap and quick. It is safe to say that in ten years the fruit, wine and grapes grown in this county will figure largely in the local and foreign market reports.

CITRUS AND OTHER SEMI-TROPIC FRUITS.

There may be counties in the southern part of the State that have planted more citrus trees than Yuba, but there is no section of this coast where the experiment of growing them has been more thoroughly carried on and with more successful results. It is now nearly thirty years since orange trees were planted. There are at least two hundred people who have grown them successfully, and without damage from frosts. The growths have been as large as in the best citrus countries, and the fruit is all, in size and flavor, that can be desired. At the citrus fairs held in Sacramento for the past two years the citrus fruits grown in Yuba county have attracted marked attention, and have received a large share of premiums, prizes and medals for their acknowledged excellence. These citrus trees seem to flourish equally well on the slopes of the foothills and the valley lands. What has been said of orange trees and their production may be said of the lemon. In that county there are some of the oldest olive trees in the northern half of the State. They have grown to an unusual size, and have been prolific and continuous bearers for twenty years. There is no reason why the

PRODUCTION OF OLIVES AND OLIVE OIL

In that county should not be a large one in the near future. Fig trees of mammoth size are to be found in this section, and they produce largely of fine fruit. With the introduction of the better varieties, Yuba county should supply large quantities of dried figs to take the place of those now so largely imported. There are great quantities of cheap land in the Yuba foothills where all these citrus and semi-tropical fruits could be grown to great profit. The homeseeker of moderate means can locate himself and family here and soon have an independent income from his land and labor. There he can have all that is worth living for—an unequaled climate and a home as picturesque as he chooses to make it. Of late years, since cheap transportation has opened the markets of the East to our green and dried fruits and our wines, there has been great activity in this section in tree and vine planting. All over the plains and through the foothills people have either added to their orchards and vineyards or put out new ones. The statistics of this increase are not available, but it has been large.

CITY OF MARYSVILLE.

A Beautiful Place for Residences and a Thriving Business People.

Marysville is the trading and manufacturing center of a large country outside of Yuba county. It enjoys the trade of all Yuba and Sutter and a part of Colusa, Butte, Sierra and Placer counties. It has the advantage of being surrounded by a country held in small holdings, with a family on each farm. By comparison there are many more proprietors in this section to the same area than in most other sections of this State. The result of the ownership of the smaller tracts and their tillage by the owners has demonstrated that "ownership will turn sand into gold." The prosperity of this country around Marysville is greater than those sections where great holdings are the rule. Production and consumption are greater, and every branch of business is better.

THE TRADE OF MARYSVILLE

Is to-day much greater than that of any town in Northern California north of Sacramento. The population is believed to be about 6,000, and is constantly increasing. The business buildings are handsome and substantial structures, and some of the blocks would be a credit to more metropolitan places. The streets are wide, well graded and macadamized, and the sidewalks are better than in any place outside of San Francisco, with the possible exception of Woodland. In that respect it is a model city. Marysville has not only a retail trade with this large section of country, but

A HEAVY WHOLESALE BUSINESS.

Every day in the summer there are numbers of heavy freight wagons loaded with all kinds of goods going out to the many trading centers in the mountains. To those who are not familiar with the business of this place, it may seem like an exaggeration to say that there are mercantile houses that sell an average of $1,000 worth of goods every week day of the year. Every branch of trade is well represented.

In groceries and provisions the leading houses are those of Garrett & Elder and W. T. Ellis. Both of these firms carry immense stocks, and sell at wholesale and retail. The sales of either one of these will exceed $300,000 annually. In the hardware and agricultural implement business

THE FIRM OF WHITE, COOLEY & CUTTS

Does an immense business. Their salesrooms cover a large area, and they are compelled to have several store-rooms and warehouses in addition. Their sales the past year have aggregated more than $350,000. This firm is also largely engaged in manufacturing, and the goods of their make go all over the State.

The Hampton Hardware Company is another large house, and there are two other large hardware houses. There are several large dry goods houses with immense annual sales. Of these the Red House, Ed. Weinlander and T. Dougal are the leading ones.

MERCANTILE HOUSES OF THE PLACE.

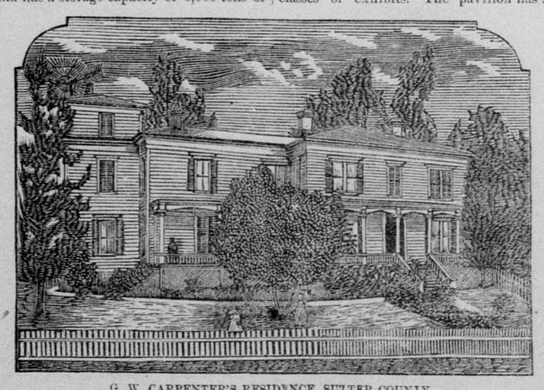
In Marysville there are mercantile houses as follows: Wholesale liquor stores, 2; cigars and tobacco, 5; cutlery, guns and pistols, 2; groceries and provisions, 10; livery, sale and feed stables, 10; dry goods, 9; boots and shoes, 3; meat markets, 5; stationery and notions, 4; bankers, 2; harness, saddles, etc., 3; jewelry, watches and clocks, 3; furniture, 3; drug stores, 8; fruit stores, 4; millinery, 3; tea store, 1; hardware and crockery dealers, 4. There are ten large blacksmith shops, some of which manufacture carriages of all kinds and do a large business. There is one large machine shop, the Empire Foundry, which does a large business, and employs from 15 to 25 men, pays good wages—$3 50 to $4 for mechanics, $2 50 to helpers.

THE MARYSVILLE WOOLEN MILL

Is one of the largest, best managed and best paying establishments in the State. It was incorporated in 1868. D. E. Knight was its originator, and has been its manager and President from the beginning. It is known as a "seven set mill," and has a capital of $200,000. It consumes annually 750,000 pounds of wool, all grown in the surrounding country. The goods manufactured are tweeds, flannels, and blankets. One hundred hands are constantly employed, and the money disbursed for labor reaches $40,000 per year. The power is steam and the fuel used is wood, of which 1,200 cords are annually consumed. The value of the output of manufactured goods last year was a quarter of a million dollars. The buildings occupied are a two-story building 140x160 feet, a single-story picker-room 40x40 feet, machine shop 20x60 feet, store house 20x60 feet, which is used in part for storage and in part for the manufacture of underwear, etc., boiler-room 25x60 feet, and a warehouse 40x80 feet. The business of this single establishment adds very materially to the prosperity of Marysville and the surrounding country. There is no other manufactory on this coast that has been better managed and which has paid better returns.

FLOURING MILLS.

Marysville has one of the largest and best-known flour mills on the Pacific coast. The "Buckeye" brand is favorably known wherever bread is eaten on this continent, and even in England and Asia. Its flour is the favorite with housewives all over this State and in the mining regions. It has been shipped and sold in the Mississippi valley and on the Atlantic slope, and always at the top price. Large quantities of flour from these mills are constantly shipped to the Orient. It is one of the old mills of the coast, and its reputation rests upon years of good production. The Buckeye mill has a capacity of 550 barrels of flour per day, and the warehouse attached has a storage capacity of 15,000 tons of wheat. To store 30,000,000 pounds of grain and manufacture 160,000 barrels of flour requires immense buildings, and these the Buckeye Company have. The mill proper is a large structure four stories high, and the power used is steam. There are two immense warehouses used for storage. Warehouse No. 1 is 140 by 90 feet, and has a storage capacity of 10,000 tons. Warehouse No. 2 is 120 by 180 feet, and is two stories high, and has a storage capacity of 5,000 tons of



G. W. CARPENTER'S RESIDENCE, SUTTER COUNTY.

wheat on the lower floor. The upper story is used for the storage of flour. This mill is of the utmost advantage to the farmers of the surrounding country, furnishing a steady and good market for wheat and barley. Justus Greely is the President of the Buckeye Company, and F. H. Greely the Secretary. Fifty men are given constant employment in the mill and warehouses, and between $40,000 and $50,000 being annually disbursed for labor. More than $500,000 is paid to the farmers for their grain each year.

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

The city is lighted by gas and electricity furnished by the Marysville Coal Gas Company. Capital stock, $100,000; D. E. Knight Superintendent. The gasometer has a depth of 20 feet and a diameter of 42 feet. There are five and half miles of gas mains laid in Marysville and in Yuba City. The electric light is the Brush system. There are two thirty-light machines, and for street lighting there are 150-feet masts with 10,000 candle power. There are intersection lights at the street crossings.

RESIDENCES AND GROUNDS.

The residence portion of the "Delta City" is not surpassed in beauty and neatness on this continent. The streets are lined with beautiful shade trees, which have now attained such size and spread of branches as to almost form arches over the streets. All the yards of residences are decorated with the choicest semi-tropic shade trees and rare flowering shrubs. There is an air of neatness, taste and refinement about these residences that would reflect credit upon Dayton, Ohio, New Haven, Conn., and Springfield, Mass., so world-famed for their beautiful grounds and yards. The residences of N. D. Rideout, J. B. McDonald, J. B. Fuller, C. B. Kimball, John Stewart, Thos. Dougal, P. C. Slattery, Judge I. S. Belcher, Hon. W. H. Parks, and W. M. Cutter, and many others, are models of comfort and elegance, and have a wealth of rare trees, shrubs and flowers, unexcelled on this coast.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

The schools are the pride of the citizens. The buildings are large, well lighted and well ventilated structures. The salaries paid teachers show that there is an effort to obtain the best, and the percentage of daily attendance of those on the school roll is very high. There are four private schools, with a large attendance. The whole county is divided into school districts, with creditable school-houses, and competent teachers. The new-comer may rest assured that in whatever part of the county he may go, his children will have ample advantages for a fair education.

ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

The facilities for carriage travel are as good as found anywhere. There are good roads in every direction, and substantial bridges span all streams, and the aim of the County Supervisors for years has been to make them all free. There are lines of mail coaches from Marysville in every direction, east, west, and south. The arrival and departure of these coaches with their loads of passengers, mails and express-matter reminds one of the old days prior to the advent of railroads.

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

The California and Oregon Railroad runs almost the whole length of the county, north and south, and the California Northern Railroad forms a junction with this main line and runs to Oroville, Butte county. In addition to these railroad lines, there is a line of steamers which makes regular trips from Marysville to San Francisco and way ports. These means of transport are cheap and rapid, and afford the best communication with the outside world.

CHURCHES — SOCIETIES — THEATERS—HOTELS—NEWSPAPERS.

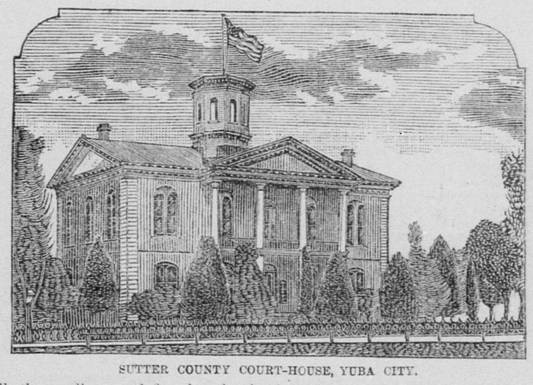
In Marysville there are all the fraternal organizations of the coast, and they are in a flourishing condition. They lease large halls and meet regularly.

There are several fine churches, with strong church organizations and well-supplied pulpits. There are two Catholic churches, one Presbyterian, one Methodist and two African churches.

The Bar of Marysville for numbers and ability ranks with any in the State, and many of the leading lawyers and jurists (now in other places) of the coast were its former members.

The Marysville theater is one of the largest and handsomest in the interior of the State. It will seat 1,500 people, and is neatly and tastily decorated.

Marysville has four hotels. Three of these—the Western, United States and Golden Eagle—are large buildings, with



SUTTER COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, YUBA CITY.

all the appliances of first-class hotels. During fair weeks 500 or 600 strangers are comfortably cared for in the hotels of the town.

There are two newspapers, the daily and weekly *Appeal* and the daily and weekly *Democrat*. They are managed and edited with ability and have large circulations.

The character of the people of this city and county is indicated by the fact that the County Assessor found nearly 1,500 wagons, buggies and carriages, and 125 pianos and 160 organs in the county.

The total value of all the property in Yuba county, one of the smallest in the State, is $5,500,000. Of this $4,100,000 is real estate.

DISTRICT FAIR AT MARYSVILLE.

The Thirteenth District Fair of this State is held each year at Marysville. The Fair Association has a mile track near the city, with a grand stand and stables, stalls and sheds for the accommodation of stock. Large purses and premiums are given, and the exhibitions of stock and speed are among the best of the State. The public-spirited citizens have built a commodious and handsome structure in the city for the exhibition of all classes of exhibits. The pavilion has a large hall, with a gallery around it for spectators, an art gallery and offices for committees and officials. This building is used for public meetings, balls, parties, receptions and concerts.

OTHER TOWNS IN THE COUNTY

Are Wheatland, with a population of 1,000, stores, shops and forges, a bank, good schools and churches, and an able weekly paper, the *Graphic*, situated in a rich country; Smartsville, Camptonville, Brownsville, Timbuctoo and Strawberry Valley. All these places have postoffices, stores and hotels, and are the centers of rich surroundings.

In all this delta and foothill county there are cheap fertile lands, an abundance of water and timber for all purposes, an unrivaled climate; the widest possible range of productions, good schools, a wide-awake, hospitable and refined people, the best means of transportation, and a market for all the products of the farm, garden, orchard, vineyard, mill and forge. The home-seeker can do no better than settle here.

SUTTER COUNTY.

Immense and Varied Productions and Desirability for Homeseekers.

Sutter county is small in the number of its acres, but in natural and developed wealth it belongs in the front rank of the counties of California. The fertility of her soils, the beauty of her oak-parked plains, picturesque buttes, immunity from crop failure, high average production, and her splendid farms and farm buildings, should have made her the most noted section of the Pacific coast; yet she is the least known county of the State. This is accounted for in part by the fact that the great lines of travel scarcely pass within sight of her, and partly from the fact that she has no towns of considerable size, the trade, manufactures and public press of which make her resources and advantages known and give them widespread notoriety.

THE LOCATION OF SUTTER COUNTY

Is midway in the Sacramento valley between the Sierra Nevada range on the East and the Coast range on the west. Her western boundary is the Sacramento river, which is navigable the whole length of the county. The Feather river forms more than one-half of her eastern boundary, and is navigable from its mouth to her county-seat—Yuba City. The area is 611 square miles, fully three-fourths of which are between these two rivers. In the northern portion of the county is the most noted topographical feature of the Sacramento valley. The "Sutter Buttes" rise abruptly out of the dead-level of the great valley, and can be seen for a hundred miles from the north or south. With the exception of the area occupied by these buttes, the county is a gently-sloping alluvial plain.

THE SOIL

Is a deep, warm alluvium, as rich as any soil under the sun. Some portions of the county have been tilled for more than forty years, and time has tested not only the high fertility of the soil but its adaptability to the production of all kinds of crops. As has been said before in this article, these plains once formed the bottom of an inland lake into which all the mountain streams of the Sierras, the Coast range and their connections on the north, the Siskiyou mountains, poured the weatherings and washings from all these vast mountain areas. In this way these soils were formed of the most fertile elements. Nearly the whole of these alluvial plains and even the sides of the Buttes were covered with tree growths. In many places even now, after the farmers have thinned them out, the oak growths form almost continuous parks. On the banks of the Sacramento, the Feather and Bear rivers there are sycamore, poplar, cottonwood, box-elder, elm and maple growths. The growth of wood from the oaks on the plains and the timber on the stream banks is more than sufficient to furnish the whole population of the county with fuel.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Lumber is furnished at reasonable prices by Marysville, Wheatland, and Live Oak, on the line of the California railroad and by steamers at the many landings on the Sacramento and Feather rivers.

Brick can be made in nearly all parts of the county, as there are vast deposits of good clay adapted to brick making. These deposits of clay, situated near low-priced fuel, should make such lasting building material cheap and place it within reach of all.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Water for domestic purposes is obtained in all parts of the county from wells at no great depth. There is hardly a farmer but what has his well, wind-mill and large tank. If in the future the development of agriculture and horticulture should be in the direction that requires irrigation, there are volumes of water in the Sacramento, Feather, Yuba and Bear rivers for all possible demands, for irrigation and other uses. In addition to these streams, there is now little doubt that underlying the whole of this area there is an immense cachement basin of water filled from the mountain ranges on three sides that would give

FLOWING ARTESIAN WELLS,

If sunk to the proper depth. Within the past four months, just west of this county, across the Sacramento, N. D. Rideout has sunk an artesian well, and at a depth of 900 feet he found water with sufficient pressure to force it several feet above the surface. There is no topographical or geological reason why flowing artesian water cannot be had over the whole alluvial area of this county. It seems probable now that the county is all in the artesian belt. However this may be the present supply of good pure water for all purposes is ample.

THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

Are as good as are enjoyed by any county of the State. The California and Oregon runs along the eastern border from Roseville to Marysville a distance of 30 miles, thence it traverses the eastern part of the county to its northern line. From Marysville, just across the Feather river, which is the county boundary, the California Northern gives rapid and cheap communication to the great timber and mining regions of the Sierras. To Yuba City, the county seat on the Feather river, there is a line of steamers that run regularly to and from San Francisco and way points. Along the whole western boundary on the Sacramento river there are large and fast passenger and freight steamers every day. These steamers, competing with the railroads for business, compel extremely low fares and freights. These great natural highways will give the people of this county cheap transportation so long as their waters flow down to and through the Golden Gate.

THE WINTERLESS CLIMATE

Of Sutter county is very similar to that of its neighbor, Yuba county, fully described in this article. It will be sufficient to say that there is no winter here; that every semi-tropical growth known to the State flourishes here with perfect immunity from frost; that flowers bloom in the open air through all the winter months; that November, December, January, February and March are the months for plowing and seeding; in short, that these months are Sutter county's spring, with all which that season means around the Chesapeake Bay. There are no blizzards, cyclones, sunstrokes and no severe thunder-storms in this county.

The health of this county will compare favorably with that of any county of equal area on this continent. From its earliest settlement there has been an almost entire freedom from severe endemic and epidemic diseases.

THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTY

Goes back to the times anterior to the American occupation. In 1841 General John Sutter made a claim to fifty leagu