FARM AND ORCHARD.

The Fruit Business in California All Right.

Pasture Has a Most Important Influence Upon the Quality of Butter and Cheese—Chestnut Culture—General Farm Notes.

There is a certain class of growers in this State—those who have not received satisfactory prices for their fruit this year—who are getting the blues and predicting disaster to the fruit industry of California. Such croakers are to be found in every calling and branch of trade, and as is usually the case their pessimistic views in this matter are entirely unwarranted. It is true that prices of many staple fruits have taken a tumble as compared with last year's values, but there is a reasonable cause for this in the very uncommon conditions that have existed and now prevail. To begin with, California has the largest fruit crop she has ever produced, and at the same time the East has a crop that has not been equaled in many years. To more seriously complicate matters, California fruits were late, and the Eastern early, so that the markets of the East were called upon to handle these two great crops simultaneously. There could be but one result where perishable goods are involved, and that was disappointing returns to the producers and shippers of the East and the Pacific Coast.

This, however, does not indicate that the California fruit business is going to the demnition bow-wows, nor is it headed that way. It has simply met with one of those off years which comes to every industry, no matter how great or prosperous it may generally be. Still the depression is not a serious one. Growers and shippers of some kinds of fruit have met with annoying losses in shipping to Eastern markets, but the shipper who pays $1 for forty-two pounds of Bartlett pears, boxes them and pays transportation cannot reasonably expect to gain much by the transaction. There is gilt-edged profit to the producer in such prices, but it is just such investments as this that causes the reports that California fruits are being grown and shipped at a loss this season. The same may be said of our peaches that have collided with the surplus Eastern product, but at the same time the leading varieties have realized fairly satisfactory prices. When orange clings are being bought by the canners at two and a half cents, as they were on the first of the present month, it cannot be truthfully said that the bottom has dropped out of the fruit market.

The fact of the matter is that growers are face to face with the unpleasant fact that their returns of last season were no criterion of those for the average year and that they will have to be content in the future with small margins of profit, more in accordance with those of other branches of agriculture. At the same time we see no reason to fear that fruit-growing in California is being overdone. It is true that a vast acreage of orchard is coming into bearing during the succeeding five years, but the market for our fruit products is being very rapidly extended in all directions, and we believe there will be plenty of demand for California fruits at fair prices when the business shall have been properly adjusted.—California Fruit Exporter and Farmer.

QUALITY IN THE PASTURE.

The breed of cattle used for producing the milk from which choice butter is made are but the agents for converting the different foods into the commodity desired, and the skill and labor applied render the products of better finish in appearance, but the quality is also influenced by the food, and especially by the pasturage. Pastures differ greatly, some varieties of grasses being better adapted to certain locations than others, and, as the animals also differ individually, the most uniform product is that which is made where there is the greatest uniformity of pasture, breeds and methods of manipulation.

Land being cheaper in America than in England, our farmers rely principally upon natural pastures, probably induced by the better adaptability of the grasses to the soil and their greater hardiness under favorable conditions; but the European farmer gives his attention to the cultivation of the pasture, using manures and fertilizers, and selecting those varieties of grasses that assist in adding quality to the product. There is a certain effect imparted to milk, butter, cheese and meat by the sweet herbage of certain sections, and the European pastures are more varied, combining not only the most nutritious grasses, but also those that more or less flavor the product, as it is acknowledged by the most experienced dairymen that some foods will produce butter and other products of a better quality than will others, and this result is partially obtained by cultivation, every noxious weed being eradicated and the nutritive grasses and aromatic herbage being encouraged by seeding, the less desirable plants being crowded out or exterminated whenever it is possible to do so.

Referring to the quality of the products Daniel Batchelor many years ago called attention to the fact that the Parmesan and other Italian cheeses, which are widely known, derive their excellent quality from the grasses upon which the animals feed, and that the famous Gorgonzola cheese is due to the sweet herbage of the region in which it is manufactured, and the fact is cited to show that the flavor and savor of the food permeates the flesh, the fat and the lacteals, affecting the quality more than the skill and care given. There are seasons, however, when the pasture is useless, and when the severe winters demand other methods of feeding, but even in such cases the animals may be largely influenced by a variety of food and the quality of the hay. Whether these advantages favor our our farmers or not, they certainly have a wide field for experiment in the production of choice articles. — Philadelphia Record.

CHESTNUTS.

In a bulletin recently published by the Pennsylvania Experiment Station (located at State College Postoffice, Center County), Professor William A. Buckhout gives some valuable information relative to the culture of the chestnut.

The chestnut cannot be grown successfully on heavy clays, wet soils or limestone land. It prefers loose, sandy soils, or such as has been derived from the decomposition of slates or shales. In Ohio it is found native on the sand ridges which border on the lake shore and on the shaly hillside of some of the hill counties in the southern portion of the State, but never on the limestones which cover the western and southwestern portions of the State, nor can it be cultivated in this region with any prospect of success.

The chestnut grows readily from the seed, but great care must be exercised not to permit the nuts to become dry. To accomplish this they must be planted as soon as gathered, or else must be kept in moist sand until ready to plant. If possible the nuts should be planted where the tree is to stand, as the chestnut has a long tap-root which renders transplanting difficult.

Our native chestnut is practically of but one variety, but the European chestnut is not only much larger and finer than the American, but has produced, under cultivation, a number of varieties, some of which are highly esteemed for the superior quality of their fruit. The trees do not grow so large as the American and come into bearing more quickly; the latter does not usually fruit until ten or twelve years old.

Within the past few years species from Japan have been introduced into the United States. Unfortunately they do not appear to be entirely hardy, except in the South and some favored localities in the Middle States. They are quite dwarf in habit, produce nuts larger even than the European, and begin to fruit when they are but four or five years old.

These two characters, of small size and early fruitfulness, give them special value, and if they can be worked upon stocks of the American species we can secure trees which will bear earlier and produce larger nuts than our native species.

The supply of chestnuts never equals the demand in this country, and many districts in which the trees are abundant derive a very respectable income from the sale of the nuts. It is therefore obvious that this is an industry which can be made far more productive and profitable than it now is, since very little effort has been made toward cultivation.

FARM NOTES.

For New Jersey is reported a total of 34,-307 farms, with 313 abandoned farms, and an average value per acre of $65.

From the report of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture it appears that it pays to raise cucumbers. They return $280 per acre. Sweet potatoes come next at $122.

Keep the dairy-room at about 50° (not over 60°) if possible, using a thermometer to indicate the temperature. The temperature of the cream when it goes in the churn should be 60° in summer and 62° in winter.

Sameness of food is costly. An animal may thrive for a time on a certain diet, but sooner or later a change must be allowed, or the animal will fall off in flesh or production. Variety of food supplies all the requirements.

Farmers who do not have a silo know that the root crops are useful agents in promoting the thrift of the stock in winter, and they make a mistake if they have neither roots no ensilage for winter. Too much dry food entails a loss.

All seed corn should be thoroughly dried before storing it away for next year's planting. When the seed is dry it is less liable to being injured by severe cold, and the more thorough the drying of the corn the better it will keep.

The prize for the best 100-acre farm or less, in England, was won by a farmer who farms eighty-one acres of grass land, forty-one acres being in pasture. He keeps fifty-two cows, and spent $3,000 for extra food for his stock each year.

It does not pay to feed good food to poor stock. An experienced dairyman makes use of the remark that he cannot afford to feed $20 worth of grain to a calf worth only fifty cents, and the expression applies in other directions on the farm.

Farmers should rigidly guard their hogs against disease by procuring any new stock required only after inspecting the herds from which they desire to select. Never buy from a neighborhood in which disease is known to exist or recently existed.

An extremely rich soil is not suitable for the large fruits. The growth of wood is too rapid and tender. Fortunately there is no great amont of such soil in this country, and when found it is better adapted to wheat, corn or onions than to pears and apples.

"The milk tester is the best detective on earth for picking out the poor cows; 4 per cent. of butter fat should be the minimum, and the cow whose milk does not reach this point has missed her calling, and is unworthy of a place in the advanced dairyman's herd.

There is a good deal of courage as well as good judgment needed to prune and thin out trees at the proper time so that they will have room to grow systematically and not interfere with the light and air where needed, and may not intercept some beautiful view.

A steer that produces the most choice beef is one that is not only fat but well supplied with lean also. Tallow often secures the prize at fat stock shows in preference to meat that is intimately interspersed with lean and fat. Weight does not always indicate quality of flesh.

A clean soil in the fall and the weeds destroyed before they seed will save one-half the labor in the spring. Seeds of weeds start off in growth very early, and the farmer cannot keep them out of the way. The time to destroy weeds is when they are just coming up through the ground.

As a speaker at one of the New York dairy schools said: A cow with an udder full of milk is always standing still or lying down, chewing the cud. No one ever saw a dairy cow dancing round in pursuit of exercise, unless she was doing it at the end of the boss cow's horns in the barnyard or pasture.

Roots and clover hay are a combination that give excellent results as food for cows, and contain many elements, especially mineral matter, that are in but small proportion in grains, though roots abound more largely in starch. Clover is rich in nitrogen and mineral matter, while the succulent roots promote digestion.

A farmer of Atchison, Kan., wanted to dig a well, so he plowed a lot of land and planted it in oats. Every day he watched the oats, observing the spots that showed the greatest moisture. Finally he selected a spot and sank a well. At twenty-four feet he had a fine stream of water. It is said to be the best well in the county.

The mares should be bred in the fall rather than in the spring, as foaling late in the season does not prevent the mare from being used to better advantage in the spring, the colt being weaned when the dam is likely to be required. It is also more economical to care for the colt during the winter and turn it on the pasture in the spring.

After the fruit is gathered the orchard may be used for stock. Sheep and hogs will clean up the refuse, and also benefit the trees by their manure. If the orchard is fenced in with a hedge the field will be suitable for winter, as the hedge and trees serve as wind breaks. During severe weather, however, all classes of stock should be protected in the barnyard.

The overfeeding of breeding stock is an evil that demands attention. It is well known that for breeding purposes an animal should not be excessively fat, yet animals are exhibited at fairs as "breeding" stock when, in fact, they are in a condition which is just the opposite to what they should be. If fat animals are attractions at fairs they should be induced to compete for prizes offered for fat stock. Fat animals are only fit for the butcher.

One who has tried the Horned Dorset sheep is very emphatic in his assertion that they cannot be excelled by any others as general purpose sheep for the middle temperate zone. They are especially noted for their prolificacy of breeding, usually raising two lambs per ewe per annum. They are large bodied, heavy meated, produce an excellent quality of mutton and a good fleece of medium coarse wool.

Red clover aud orchard grass ripen about the same time, timothy ripening about three weeks later. As clover and timothy do not ripen together, it will be worthy of an experiment to use orchard grass and clover on some soils. Timothy and clover give the largest yield, however, and will be used in preference by the majority for that reason, though the two kinds (clover and timothy) would be more suitable if ripening at the same time.

Keep your eye—and nose too—on the linen cream strainer, and the rag used for washing the milk and cream cans, the churn and the butter worker. All these things need close watching during the hot days, which are so productive of microbes and musty conditions. Hot water and plenty of sun and air are the requisites for keeping things sweet, and under no circumstances can the dairyman afford to ignore their free and liberal use.

Many readers have doubtless been troubled with cabbage growing stalky and not heading well. It is told in *Country Gentleman* that if pains are taken in setting out the plant to get the tap or main root set down perfectly straight this difficulty will be overcome. Unlike the tomato plant, which will thrive set down in any shape, I have never seen a cabbage head up well set with the main root cramped and twisted up, says the authority quoted.

A case is reported in which a colt was cured of a bad attack of scours by administering to it every four hours a teaspoonful of elixir of lactopeptin in half a pint of sweet milk. When the treatment began the animal was so weak it could not stand, but in three days it was well. The same stockman tried the lactopeptin cure next on some young pigs with the scours and it worked like magic. He gave the pigs each one-quarter of a teaspoonful three times a day.

The verbena mildew has been very successfully combated at the Cornell Experiment Station with a solution of water in water of potassium sulphide at the rate of a quarter of an ounce to the gallon. The plants were occasionally sprayed with the fungicide, and while traces of the disease still appear at times it is rendered perfectly harmless. This preparation has also been applied to cucumbers infested with the same or a similar fungus with very satisfactory results.

Has it ever occurred to you that if you have a surplus of any one forage that sheep are just the fellows to equalize matters? There are no other animals that will eat and thrive upon so many sorts of food; so instead of providing a forage crop on purpose for them, wait until you see what you will have a surplus of and then provision the sheep with that. So that it be clean and wholesome they will not care much what it is, but will take it and give you good return in wool and mutton.

In going through your apiary if you should notice a colony at this time of the year that seems to be overrun with drones, examine it at once, for in the majority of cases the colony will be found queenless. This being the case the workers will take it on themselves to lay, and of course every egg laid will hatch out a drone. If the colony is not too far gone, and seems to be medium strong, introduce a laying queen at once and the trouble will be over. If it seems too weak, unite it with a colony having a queen.

SHORTHORN BREEDERS.

Annual Election of Officers—Expulsion of One of the Members.

At the annual meeting of the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, held at Agricultural Park on the 17th inst., the following were elected Directors for the ensuing year: Judge E. A. Bridgford of Colusa, August Heilbron of Sacramento, J. F. Childs of Yolo, P. H. Murphy of Sacramento, and P. Peterson of Colusa.

The board organized by electing Judge E. A. Bridgford, President; August Heilbron, Vice-President; P. Peterson, Treasurer, and Adolph Heilbron, Secretary.

Various matters of interest to the association were discussed, among which was the advisability of making an exhibit of stock at the World's Fair at Chicago next year. A committee of three, consisting of Judge E. A. Bridgford, P. Peterson and A. Heilbron was appointed to inspect the different herds and report at the next meeting.

The following resolution was adopted:

"WHEREAS, The Sacramento *News* published a purported interview with Edward Younger reflecting upon this society, and particularly several members thereof, and whereas we, after investigation, find that the statements made in said purported interview, so far as they reflect upon the gentlemen therein named, are untrue; now, therefore, we request that Mr. Younger publish a denial of such statements or a retraction of the same, and that an answer to this request be made at once."

J. M. Dixon presented the above resolution to Ed Younger, who refused to comply with its request, whereupon the association expelled him as a member by a unanimous vote..

MALONE'S EYE.

How It Happened in Court Ornamented with Court Plaster.

John Malone, wearing a large patch of court plaster over his left eye, but withal an air of confidence, stood up in the prisoners' dock of the Police Court yesterday and declared that he was not guilty of the imputation that he had stolen a hat belonging to an inebriated guest in an L-street saloon.

Antonio Flores, the barkeeper in the saloon, testified, however, that he saw Malone going out of the saloon with the hat. He called to Malone to stop, but the latter mistook this for a signal to sprint. Flores did not know the name of the man the hat belonged to.

The hatless man was not in court, so Judge Cravens, on the suggestion of acting City Attorney Anderson, dismissed the case, as the ownership of the hat could not be proved.

Then the patch of court plaster over Malone's eye was accounted for. Flores was called up to answer a charge of battery preferred against him by Malone. It appears that a day or two after the hat episode Malone happened into the saloon again, and Flores demanded the return of the hat. Malone says that when he denied knowing anything about the hat Flores poked him in the eye with his fist. Flores, however, held up his right hand and swore that he "never touched him." He explained that "Malone had lost his balance, and, in falling, struck his eye against the corner of a table.

Judge Cravens heaved a deep and troubled sigh. He remarked that this was "one of those cases a person can't tell anything about," and dismissed it.

Mrs. Belcher's Suit.

Mrs. S. W. Belcher filed another suit in the Superior Court against George H., Arthur and Edward Booth, who leased two orchards from her some time ago, and who, she says, did not live up to the terms of the lease. The new suit is identical with the one filed a few days ago, except that it goes further by asking that a receiver be appointed to take charge of the fruit and receipts.

Suit on a Note.

In Superior Judge Catlin's court yesterday the suit of A. K. Talbot against E. F. Aiken for the recovery of $577 alleged to be due on a promissory note, was heard. Aiken did not deny the note, but claimed that according to a certain agreement had between himself and Talbot the note was not yet due. The court found, however, that the note was due, and judgment was awarded to Talbot.

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JUDGE CRAVENS RELENTED.

Hanger Jones Permitted to Rejoin Rose's Racing Stable.

When the case of Hanger Jones, the horse-trainer who is charged with battery upon a man named Small, was called in the Police Court yesterday, Attorney C. N. Post announced that the prosecuting witness had left the city and in all probability did not intend to appear against Jones. Mr. Post said that Jones desired to leave town with L. J. Rose's stable, and did not care to have the case hanging over his head.

Judge Cravens, however, did not look favorably upon this proposition. He said the case might be a serious one, and he did not feel disposed to dismiss it without knowing what the real facts were. He preferred to postpone the case indefinitely and issue an attachment for Small.

Attorney Post pleaded again for Jones, saying that the Rose stable was now in Los Angeles and Jones was needed there as soon as possible. Besides Small had not been hurt and probably would never return.

Judge Cravens relented finally and dismissed the case.

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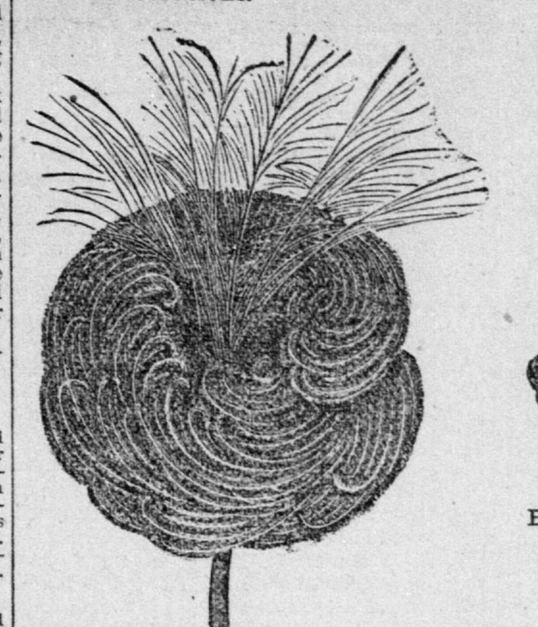

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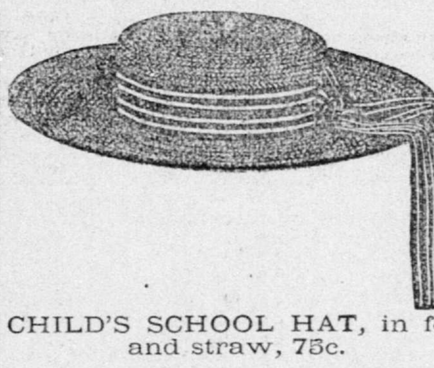

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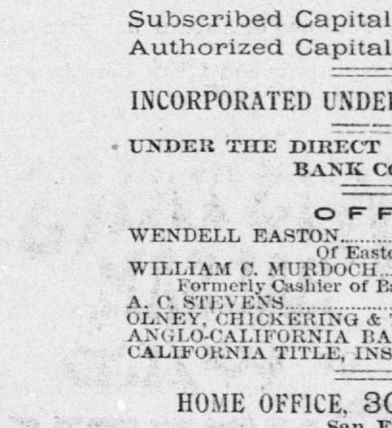

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SEND THE WEEKLY UNION TO YOUR friends in the East.

Capay Valley Lands.

A CAPAY COLONY.

Busy Fruit-Growers in a Pretty Yolo Valley—Tancred and Its Adjoining Farms.

IN THE SPRING OF LAST YEAR Robert A. and Neal D. Barker associated themselves with William McKay, all of Oakland, with a view of searching out a suitable location in which to engage in the profitable occupation of fruit-growing. After visiting many localities, they decided on the Capay Valley, Yolo County, and the Rhodes tract at Tancred.

Negotiations were opened with the Capay Valley Land Company, owning the tract in question. With W. H. Mills, the General Agent of that company, they arranged for the purchase of about 220 acres of foothill land. This being more than they had thought of taking for their own use, they spoke to a number of friends about it, with the result that the tract was divided among the following people: B. L. Hickok, 40 acres; W. T. Barnett, 20 acres; N. T. Greathead, 20 acres; Mrs. L. Greathead, 20 acres; W. McKay, 20 acres; N. D. Barker, 20 acres; R. A. Barker, 20 acres; J. P. Brownlee, 20 acres; E. H. Haslett, 10 acres; Joseph Barker, 10 acres; A. W. Kelly, 10 acres, and Frederick Kelly, 10 acres.

So far this had been merely a private venture of the gentlemen above named, but in talking up the question of dividing the land already purchased, it was found that so many more would like to join it than the area of the purchase would admit of, that it was suggested on all hands, "Why not get some more land and divide it up in the same way?" Then followed the idea of a stock company to take hold of a larger tract and arrange for the cultivation of the whole of it, after subdividing it according to the requirements of the subscribers. A provisional board was formed, a prospectus issued, and finally, on the 5th of June, 1890, the Western Co-operative Colonization and Improvement Company was duly registered and proceeded to business, with the following officers: President, William McKay; Vice-President, M. P. Brown; Directors—H. C. Ellis, Charles Brooke and R. A. Barker; Secretary and General Manager, Neal D. Barker; Solicitor, C. E. Snook; Treasurer, First National Bank of Oakland.

The balance of the tract, 373 acres, was purchased. A contract was entered into for the purchase of a large number of fruit trees, vines, etc. This early purchase of trees was the means of saving between $3,000 and $4,000 to the company, the prices in some cases having more than doubled since then.

The ideas which the prospectus set forth have been but slightly modified and the progress of the company has been uninterrupted. Those who went into it doubtingly have become enthusiastic, and almost all the members arranged to set out all their lands in fruit trees, etc., the first year. Consequently in this, the first season, some 40,000 trees and between 20,000 and 30,000 vines will be planted.

The satisfactory working of this scheme has had the effect of attracting considerable attention to the work of the Colony Company, and a number of people are now desirous of joining in with them. An additional 200 acres have been added to the sixty acres originally purchased.

For the company is predicted a very bright future, as well as for the beautiful valley in which their operations are conducted. How this marvelous little garden has come to be so long neglected is a puzzle to every one who has visited it, but one thing is very sure, and that is that this neglect will never again be felt in the valley.

The fruits set out are mostly of the standard varieties—peaches, apricots, Bartlett pears, prunes, figs, raisin grapes, etc., while along both sides of the avenues, throughout the tract, walnuts will throw their graceful shade. A considerable number of citrus trees are also being set out; quite a sufficient number to demonstrate that these fruits can be successfully grown in the valley, about which the colonists appear to have no doubt, provided proper care is given to the young trees. Neal D. Barker, General Manager of the company, resides on the tract, and to his care is to be ascribed much of the success of the venture.

Mention should be made of the town-site, about which there is a pleasant innovation which might with profit be followed by more ambitious places. A small park of some three acres has been laid out right in the center of the town. This park it is proposed to beautify by planting in it from time to time as many of the beauties and curiosities of tree and shrub life as may be obtained by diligent search and a wise expenditure of money. It is not expected that Tancred will ever be a large and busy city, but it is thought that it can be made a very pleasant little place to dwell in.

A petition has been circulated recently and very largely signed, asking the county to accept Island avenue, on the colony tract, as a county road, and to build a bridge across Cache Creek at this point, in order to give the settlers on the east side of the creek access to Tancred Station. The Tancred colonists are quite willing to give the necessary right of way, and are very desirous of having a bridge there, as the colony lands extend along both sides of the stream. It is thought that it would be a very wise expenditure of public money to grant them this very necessary improvement, as the operations of such companies are of widespread benefit to the whole county and State. The attractions and comforts of the cities are well known, but to those who are willing to settle on the land and show that the country also affords attractions and comforts and ways of making money pleasantly, every inducement should be held forth.

The following is a list of the principal members of the Tancred Colony, with the number of acres owned by each, and a fact worthy of mention is that in each contract or deed issued by the Colony Company there is a provision that no intoxicating liquor shall ever be manufactured or sold on the land. The apparent success of the enterprise shows that the ideas and plans of the colony, as set forth in the prospectus some time ago, are not impracticable: C. T. Hull, Berkeley, 5 acres; W. P. Hammon, Oakland, 14 acres; C. S. Kasson, San Francisco, 11 acres; Jos. Barker, 10 acres; A. W. Kelly, Kincardine, Ont., 5 acres; N. T. Greathead, 5 acres; R. G. Greathead, Oakland 10 acres; R. A. Barker, San Francisco, 10 acres; N. D. Barker, Tancred, 10 acres; Dr. K. Favor, San Francisco, 27 acres; J. P. Brownlee, Kincardine, Ont., 9 acres; W. T. Barnett, Berkeley, 5 acres; M. P. Brown, 10 acres; Chas. Brook, Sr., Oakland, 10 acres; W. C. Boutelle, Berkeley, 20 acres; Mrs. T. A. Crelin, Oakland, 5 acres; C. H. Peach, Tancred, 5 acres; H. C. Ellis, Oakland, 10 acres; J. Vanstone, Winnipeg, 10 acres; E. A. Vanstone, Tancred, 5 acres; E. Wadsworth, Sacramento, 5 acres; M. A. Thomas, Oakland, 6 acres; James Graham, San Francisco, 11 acres; A. Stark, 12 acres; J. Stark, 10 acres; Mrs. M. Vrooman, 5 acres; C. E. Snook, 10 acres; C. T. Greathead, 12 acres; Wm. McKay, 5 acres; Mrs. Wm. McKay, Oakland, 5 acres; Mrs. E. C. Wooley, Brooklyn, N. Y., 10 acres; Mrs. H. Beckley, Oakland, 5 acres; T. A. Marriett, 5 acres; J. C. Harrison, Tancred, 5 acres. The land reserved by the Colony Company, including townsite, consists of 61 acres.
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