

# Imperial Dress

AND FARMER.

"Water is King—Here is its Kingdom."

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## THE YOSEMITE VALLEY.

CALIFORNIA OWNS THE PROPERTY IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE—TODAY IT IS A LIABILITY—IT SHOULD BE MADE AN ASSET—PROPOSED PROGRAM.

### CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE EDITORIAL PARTY.

God made the Yosemite Valley, but California holds the title to the property. As there is but one God, so there is but one Yosemite Valley, for Nature never duplicates its works.

Any attempt to describe the valley must of necessity be a failure, for the English language does not furnish the necessary words and the imagination of man is too limited to conceive the idea that lies so far beyond the reach of words.

#### Asset or Liability.

In this valley the State has a great property. Whether it appears in the great State ledger as an asset or as a liability depends entirely on State management.

At the present time it is a liability. It costs the State several thousand dollars annually to maintain the property for the benefit of the few who are able to visit the great wonder each season.

If this property were properly developed, it might be made a valuable asset, drawing to this State annually thousands of people and millions of wealth from other States and other countries, to say nothing of affording our own people a popular outing resort that could be furnished by no other State or nation.

#### Other Works of Nature.

The Niagara river pours a vast body of water over what would be considered in the Yosemite an insignificant precipice, and the rapids and canyon below the falls are grand, but there is little variety to the grandeur.

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado is the grandest canyon to be found in the world, but this is its only grand feature.

The Yellowstone Park presents a number of spouting geysers such as are to be found no where else in the world, but there, as at other places, there is a lack of variety.

It is the Yosemite that gives the variety of attractions that would arrest the attention of people from all parts of the world, if it were only made more accessible.

#### Inadequate Accommodations.

Today the travel to the Yosemite is in excess of the accommodations for caring for the visitors. In order that a person may be induced to undertake a seventy-mile stage ride going in and another seventy mile stage ride coming out, there must be something more than ordinarily attractive at the point of destination and yet it is no uncommon thing to see a hundred people taken by stage over this road in a single day with from eight to eleven passengers to the stage; and when the traveler arrives at the hotel in the valley and registers his name he is liable to be told that there are no vacant rooms in the house. At the present time the hotel accommodations in

the valley are too limited as compared with the facilities for reaching the valley, and the facilities for reaching the valley are too limited to accommodate the people who would like to visit the valley.

Under present conditions the cost of the trip is reasonable, considering the mode of transportation, but very high as compared with what the cost would be if proper transportation facilities were afforded.

#### The Tourist Crop.

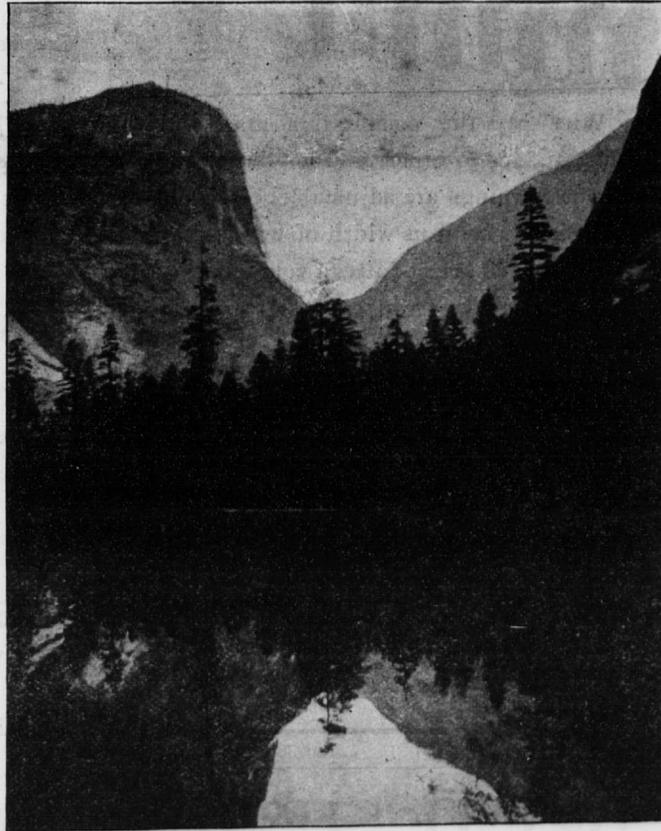
The people of Southern California are beginning to appreciate the value of the tourist crop. This source of revenue is just as legitimate as the revenue of \$10,000,000 a year from the orange groves. Possibly the orange

If proper facilities were afforded thousands and hundreds of thousands of people from other States and nations would visit California annually for the purpose of visiting the Yosemite, and while here they would spend much time in other sections of the State—many of them remaining permanently. They would bring here annually millions of wealth and they would leave much of it here.

#### Make it an Asset.

If the Yosemite were properly improved, and the facilities for reaching it were properly developed, that property would soon become a valuable asset instead of a burdensome liability.

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado has been made available to the traveling public by the construction of a railroad to the brink of the chasm, and the erection of a hotel at the end of the railroad, and yet that great natural wonder can never be made a popular resort such as could be made in the far-famed Yosemite, because of the monotony of its grandeur.



From Imperial Press Kodak. MIRROR LAKE IN THE YOSEMITE VALLEY.

crop may, in the course of time, be overdone—the supply may exceed the demand—but such a condition of affairs can never be found in connection with the tourist crop. Possibly Central and Northern California do not fully appreciate the value and permanence of this crop. Southern California is each year preparing more and more for this harvest and each year sees the income from this harvest on the increase.

Today no one comes to California for the purpose of visiting the Yosemite Valley. A few only while here take in the valley, while the masses of our visitors from the East and Europe do not visit it because of its inaccessibility.

#### State Or National Property.

The State property consists of a tract of land four miles in width by twelve miles in length, covering the Yosemite Valley and its great natural wonders, and surrounding this State property is the Yosemite National Park, extending thirty-six miles in width by forty-five miles in length, which is the property of the National Government.

#### Duty of the State.

What should the State of California do? It should improve the Yosemite Valley by building therein ample hotel accommodations, and it should offer facilities to private capital for the building of suitable electric railroads for

bringing the people into that valley by the thousands per day.

At present the tourist season lasts only about six months. With proper railroad facilities the season would last the entire year, for thousands of people would want to visit that valley in mid-winter to witness sights that could be seen nowhere else on earth.

#### Electric Railroads.

It is entirely feasible to build an electric railroad up the Merced river from the Southern Pacific line, starting at Merced or some other available point, then crossing the Sante Fe, thus drawing its supply of passengers from both of these roads, and thence running up the river through the grand scenery of Yosemite to Mirror Lake, and thence to Vernal Falls, passing the Cascade Falls, Inspiration Point, the Cathedral Spires, El Capitan, Bridal Veil Falls, Widow's Tears, Maiden's Tears, the Three Graces, the Three Brothers, Yosemite Falls, North Dome, the Half Dome, the Sentinel, Glacier Point, Mirror Lake to Vernal Falls and the Nevada Falls, as well as other points of interest not here enumerated.

Such a road is entirely feasible. The surveys have been made up to the Cascade Falls at the lower end of the valley and there are no obstacles above that point.

#### Run by Water Power.

The power to run such a road could be taken from the Merced river at the lower end of the valley where it crosses the National Park reservation without interfering with the grandeur of the stream or the beauty of the landscape, and at a point where it would not interfere with vested rights—riparian or otherwise.

Such a road would eliminate from the consideration of the would be visitor one hundred and forty miles of staging, that must be forever very tiresome, notwithstanding there are some attractive features to the ride as it is now taken.

#### Big Tree Branch.

A branch road could be built from the main line up the south fork of the Merced river through Wawona to the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, for no one would ever want to visit the Yosemite without taking in this cluster of arboreal giants. This branch would not be more than twelve or fifteen miles in length.

#### Mt. Lowe Incline.

But there is another improvement that should not be omitted. The Mount Lowe railway near Pasadena has demonstrated the feasibility of climbing the mountain on a heavy grade. The Yosemite Valley needs two Mount Lowe inclines—one on either side of the valley—one to reach the summit of El Capitan and the other to reach Glacier Point. From the top of these two inclines burro trails and carriage drives could be built so that visitors to the valley could travel along the rims of the valley on either side.

Under these conditions a visit to the Yosemite would be a luxury and thousands of people would then make the trip when only scores go now.

All this work could be done by private capital if properly encouraged by