

Farms that await Farmers

In California's Great Valley

COUNTRY ROAD NEAR SACRAMENTO

A hundred thousand California farms are waiting for farmers to come and till them—farms that lie level as a floor where soil is fertile and climate best for growing crops.

Why are these farms waiting? Because California is young; because the present population of the State is too small to farm them; because these lands have been the great wheat ranches and have not been available for settlement; because it has pleased the Power that rules this universe to hold this splendid area for settlement by a twentieth century people.

"One hundred thousand farms" does not tell all the story; the great valley of California is five hundred miles long and fifty miles wide. It is larger than many States; its northern extremity is in the latitude of Long Island its southern in the latitude of Cape Hatteras. If this great valley could be picked up and laid down between the same parallels of latitude on the eastern coast it would include the cities of New York Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Jamestown and Raleigh. It is a vast plain and when the lands and available waters are in use the farm population alone will be numbered by millions.



ROLLING foothills and mountain valleys afford more farms, the ultimate number and extent of which no man may guess, all rich with the promise of golden harvests, thrifty homes and happy families. These have advantages of their own and are more attractive to many than the valley lands. Visit the great foothill fruit districts, where for miles and miles the hills are covered with orchard, or travel the foothills the thousand miles that encircle the valley and note here and there the orange and lemon groves, the rose and vine embowered homes, and you, too, may plant your vine and fig tree there!

This is no new or untried land. It is not the frontier; these farms that await farmers in California lie near towns and cities; they are served by steam and electric railways; they are at the very door of San

Francisco, the great market of the Pacific Coast; they are near schools and churches; they have good roads, telegraphs and telephones. They afford all the advantages of modern life.

All of the lands are not for sale; some cannot be purchased at any price; but vast areas must be sold to settlers and farmers before California can achieve her full development. It is estimated that there are now on sale in the Sacramento Valley no less than 200,000 acres, all ready for immediate occupancy. Additional tracts are being placed on the market and will be ready as fast as there is demand for them.



A GREAT change is taking place here. Wheat and barley were once practically the only crops grown on valley lands; they are still the principal crops on large areas, but grain is giving place to more valuable crops, which can be grown by the aid of irrigation, and this is the reason the wheat lands are for sale. Owners of large tracts cannot irrigate their holdings; their methods are wholesale; they farm with traction engines, gang plows and combined harvesters, all of which are out of place where high class crops are the rule.

The change from dry farming, with only one possible crop, to irrigated farming, with a wide variety of crops, affords in this valley the opportunity of the new century. It is an opportunity for those who seek farm homes and investments and for those who seek other business opportunities as well, for the growth of population and industry means proportionate increase in values of all kinds.

Land prices at the present time represent only a fraction of real values, being governed by the vast area available, and not by actual producing or interest paying capabilities. The supply exceeds the demand. Good lands, especially in the foothills, can be purchased at prices ranging as low as \$25 an acre; the best lands, well located and with water available for irrigation, can be had for from \$75 to \$150 an acre. One hundred dollars an acre is probably about the average

price paid for lands suitable for growing alfalfa—the season's crop of hay brought as much to many alfalfa growers last year.



ORANGES are grown in every part of the Sacramento Valley and adjacent foothills. Olives and figs are among the staple fruits. Lemons are grown at many points. Practically every deciduous fruit is grown

on a large commercial scale. The list includes apples, apricots, cherries, figs, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums and prunes, also grapes and berries of every kind. The Sacramento Valley produces the bulk of the deciduous fruit crop of the State, including practically all the Bartlett pears. It contains the principal strawberry district and leads in the production of table grapes and seedless raisins.

Asparagus, beans, hops and sugar beats are grown on a large scale. Practically all of the asparagus marketed from this State is grown in the delta lands along the lower Sacramento River. This delta is also one of the greatest bean districts in this country, forty thousand acres being planted to this crop. Sugar beets are grown in many parts of the valley for a beet sugar factory at Hamilton, on the Sacramento River, in Glenn County. Indian corn is grown to a considerable extent in low moist lands. Sweet corn may be grown in every garden.

Alfalfa is rapidly becoming the principal farm crop. As the irrigated area expands and new lands are made available for intensive agriculture, the greater part are sown to this most valuable of forage plants. The long growing season is especially suited to large production, large and regular crops are the result. Dairying, live stock breeding and fattening follow the extension of the alfalfa area, and it is doubtful if any other crop promises so much to the future, for this valley is destined to become the greatest alfalfa district in the West.

The superior advantages of Sacramento Valley land and climate have been attested by the very highest authority, the United States Department of Agriculture. Some years ago Secretary Wilson decided to establish a plant introduction garden for propagating and testing seeds, plants and bulbs gathered in foreign lands. The requirements of a wide variety of plants, collected in many countries and varying climates, necessitated the selection of a site especially adapted to the culture of a wide variety of plants, including the most tender. After a careful inspection,

covering the entire State, a committee of experts located these gardens at Chico, Butte County, in the heart of this valley. At this garden are now growing large numbers of plants brought from many parts of the world. Among them are several varieties of alfalfa, many strange forage plants and grasses, rare and unknown fruits and nuts, each a possible promise of a new crop for the American farmer.

The State of California also appreciates the advantages of the Sacramento Valley and has located here the State University Farm. This, too, was chosen after a careful inspection of many offered sites, all of which were accorded a close examination by the members of a commission appointed to make the selection, and by the Director of the State Agricultural College. The farm, which is now being equipped for the education of the farm youth of the State, is situated at Davis, Yolo County, 13 miles west of Sacramento.



SACRAMENTO Valley farms do not, however, depend upon governmental endorsement; they show for themselves. The farms that await farmers adjoin in many instances profitable alfalfa fields and other

improved lands. Prospective purchasers can satisfy themselves as to the character of the soil and its capabilities by inspecting these.

It must be borne in mind that these lands are in California; that the climate invites the culture of tender and valuable crops; that the products of the tropic and temperate zones grow here side by side; that the growing season is practically continuous and crops follow each other with only casual regard for the seasons; that the list of products includes every farm, orchard and garden product known to America; that alfalfa, the best of forage plants, yields from four to six bumper crops each year.

The prospective purchaser should determine in advance what crops he desires to grow and select the land and location best adapted to them. Careful inspection of the land by the man who is to farm it should be the first step toward a purchase.

The new comer who has read of California as a land of small farms and large values, of orchard vistas and avenues, will find some surprises here. He will see these, but what will impress him most is the immensity of the area where they are yet to be made. The unimproved condition of the plain is the settler's opportunity.



AN ALFALFA CROP