



COLUSA · A CITY OF SHADE TREES



STREET IN COLUSA



## COLUSA

By Oscar Robinson, President Colusa County Chamber of Commerce

The geographical center of the Sacramento Valley is Colusa, the county seat of the county of the same name. It is situated on the right bank of the Sacramento River fifty miles north of Sacramento, and is surrounded by a splendid farming and fruit-growing section. This is one of the most inviting of California towns. Shade is a predominating feature; the residence streets are lined with beautiful trees, the broad Sacramento flows by, the Butte Mountains rise above the fertile plain a few miles to the east, and far in the distance, both east and west, snow-capped peaks are visible at all seasons of the year. A great navigable river, and a narrow-gauge railway connecting with the Southern Pacific main line, eight miles west, afford transportation facilities, and to these is soon to be added the Northern Electric Railway.

Colusa County was once the banner wheat county of America. It produced in 1880 (with Glenn County, then a part of Colusa) ten million bushels of wheat, two per cent of the wheat crop of the United States. This fact alone is sufficient to establish the fertility of the soil and to justify the title assumed, "The County of Good Luck."

In Colusa, as elsewhere in the Sacramento Valley, the wheat era is passing. Irrigation, with other valuable crops, is giving a new value to the land and stimulating new activity. Two hundred thousand acres lying in Colusa and Glenn Counties are soon to be irrigated from the great Central Canal. The Kuhn brothers of Pittsburg, investment bankers, have purchased the canal and approximately one hundred thousand acres of the land to be irrigated. They propose to complete the works and colonize the land.

It is difficult to appreciate in advance what the completion of this great canal and the settlement of the lands lying under it will really mean to Colusa County. The greater portion of the land will prob-



A COLUSA HOME



GRAPES AT WILLIAMS



IRRIGATION CANAL NEAR PRINCETON







ably be sold in farms of from twenty to forty acres, for a few of these acres well tilled means a competence.

Several thousand acres are now irrigated from one of the lateral canals of the Central System, completed three years ago, and two hundred farmers have already settled there. About two thousand acres are irrigated near Colusa, water being pumped from the river, and smaller areas are irrigated elsewhere.

Every crop known to California is grown in Colusa County. As the irrigated area expands alfalfa and other farm crops, orchards and vineyards are taking the place of wheat and barley. The principal crop upon irrigated lands is alfalfa. Five or six crops a year are harvested. Fruit is grown both in the irrigated districts and on other lands where moisture is sufficient. Prunes are grown extensively along the river, from Princeton on the north to Grimes on the south. Peaches, pears, apricots and plums are also produced in large quantities. Oranges are grown at all valley points. A Colusa orange-grower furnishes his entire product to first-class hotels in San Francisco at more than market prices because of the superior excellence of the fruit.

Grapes are grown extensively without irrigation in the vicinity of Arbuckle, Williams and Maxwell, thriving towns of the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway with a great future, being all within the area to be irrigated under the Central Canal.

The opportunity afforded the industrious man of limited means on irrigated lands in this county is well shown by numerous successful farmers who have settled the lands lately placed under irrigation. One of these, Mr. W. Burt, settled near Princeton five years ago with limited means, an invalid wife and six children. He bought seven acres near Princeton, has paid for it out of the proceeds of his crops and is making a thousand dollars a year over expenses.

Grain lands are worth from twenty-five to fifty dollars per acre, irrigated lands from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars.



HOME IN AN ORANGE GROVE - COLUSA -



A PICNIC ON THE WATER



A COUNTRY HOME near GRIMES



PUMPING FOR IRRIGATION



ROADS ARE GOOD IN THE COUNTY OF GOOD WORK

