



PICKING OLIVES

NORTHERN ELECTRIC
DEPOTTHE OROVILLE
DIAMOND MINEON THE LINE OF
WESTERN PACIFICEDUCATION
AND ORANGES

OROVILLE

By N. B. Crane, Secretary Oroville Chamber of Commerce

Oroville is situated where the Feather River enters the Sacramento Valley, seventy-five miles north of Sacramento. It is the county seat of Butte County, a prosperous and progressive city. A rapid growth has been experienced during the past few years, due to the development of a great gold-dredging industry and to the advent of new railways. The population has practically doubled since the last census and now numbers about six thousand.

The Western Pacific Railway, now nearing completion, passes through here. This line will connect San Francisco, Sacramento and Salt Lake and form the last link of the first railway system extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Its course is down the Feather River Canyon, entering the valley at Oroville, which will be an important division point, with round-houses and repair shops. This new railway penetrates a region of vast forests and rich with minerals of many kinds, and its coming means a great industrial and commercial development for this city. Already land at this place has been purchased for a great sawmill and factory by a concern having large tracts of timber rendered accessible by the Western Pacific line.

The Northern Electric Railway connects Oroville with Chico, Marysville and Sacramento, and has been an important factor in stimulating recent growth. Rapid and frequent communication is afforded. A branch of the Southern Pacific system, extending to Oroville from Marysville, is soon to be made a main line by an extension to Nelson.

Oroville is the center of the leading gold-dredging field of the world. Forty dredges, giant machines that dig down deep into the earth and extract the gold, are working in the valley of the Feather.

The only diamond mine in the United States is near Oroville. For many years diamonds have been found in this vicinity, prin-





cipally at Cherokee. A mining company is now engaged in sinking a shaft and is working in kimberlite, the formation in which diamonds are found in the diamond fields of South Africa.

Oroville is the home of the orange. It is the only city of California where the orange is the principal ornamental tree, where the streets are lined with orange trees and the door yards filled with them.

Olives, oranges and lemons are the distinctive crops of the Oroville district, which includes Thermalito, Palermo and Wyandotte. This is the largest orange-producing district in Northern California, shipments aggregating 150 carloads annually. It is also one of the principal olive-producing districts of the State. The leading olive pickling and oil-making plant of the State is at Oroville.

All kinds of fruits are grown here. The rolling foothill lands of this portion of the State are the ideal fruit lands. Apricots, peaches, plums, pears, nectarines, cherries and many others reach perfection. Almonds, English walnuts, pecans and other nuts do well. Date and other palms are grown, including an occasional banana. Grapes of all kinds reach perfection. Table grapes, especially Tokays, are grown extensively.

An exceptional opportunity is afforded the settler by the lands of this section. Prices rule low and are certain to advance, for the coming of the Western Pacific is certain to be followed by extensive settlement and corresponding advance in land values. Foothill lands, unimproved, can be purchased at prices ranging from \$25 an acre upward, the best lands well located and with water available at from \$75 to \$150 an acre.

Water for irrigation is furnished by three systems, the Palermo Ditch System, the Oroville System and the Forbestown Ditch System all taking water from the Feather and its tributaries. Work has been commenced on another large system designed to irrigate 50,000 acres of land in the valley west of this point.



A GOLD DREDGE.
40 OF THESE ARE WORKING NEAR OROVILLE.



ODDFELLOWS HOME, THERMALITO



FISHING IN THE FEATHER RIVER CANYON.



GREAT WESTERN POWER HOUSE



THE ORANGE HARVEST
PALERMO.

