

The Sacramento Valley

NO CITY ever depended for prosperity, wealth and growth on a more fertile area than the Sacramento Valley; no city in the West is today the center of such a developing empire. This great valley, where winter is unknown and the growing season never ends, is just entering upon a period of development that cannot fail to pour a vast tribute into the lap of this city, situated in its center and at the gateway to the markets of the world.

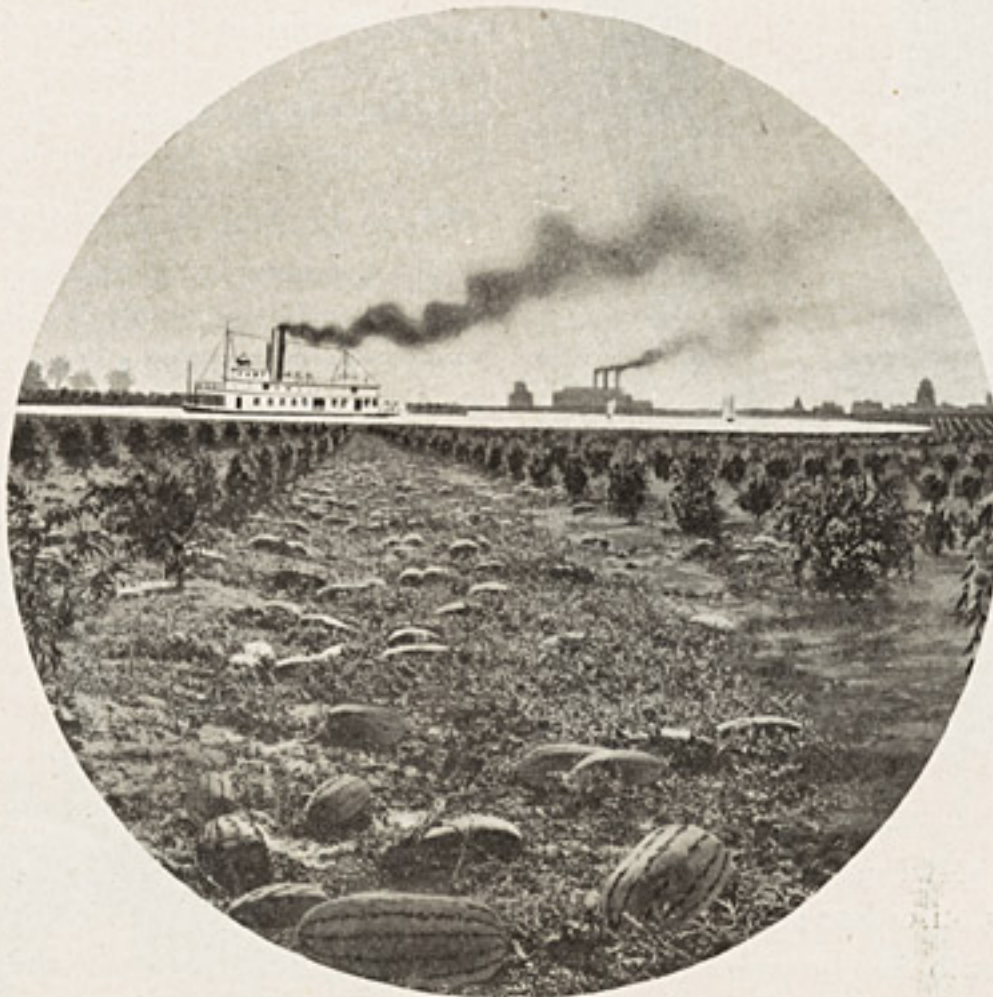
This valley has been the scene of two distinct changes in the character of the products and industries; a third is now taking place that is the promise of a forward movement such as this part of California has never seen. The first industry was cattle raising. This was succeeded fifty years ago by wheat growing, and this in turn is giving way to a diversified and intensive agriculture made possible by irrigation.

The change from early maturing cereals, which, on account of the rainless summers, are all that can be grown on the greater part of the land without the application of water, to alfalfa and other valuable crops, which can be grown with water, is revolutionizing agriculture in this valley and creating opportunities for thousands of American farmers.

Several great irrigation enterprises are ready to deliver water to the land, and the irrigated area is being extended rapidly. Irrigated lands are now available in every valley county in areas to suit the purchaser and at prices that are far below their actual productive value, the very abundance of the land serving to keep down the price.

These lands will grow almost any-

thing man may care to plant. Alfalfa is a leading crop, yielding from four to six crops a season, averaging from a ton and a half to two tons per acre to the cutting, and selling usually at about seven dollars a ton in the field. Dairying, stock breeding and fattening are important industries, and the alfalfa fed on the land yields a still larger return.



The delta lands below this city comprise the great garden district of California

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-beets are grown on a large scale.

Sacramento is the principal center for the shipment of the fruits of deciduous orchards, which are sent to Eastern markets, eighty per cent of these being produced within a radius of fifty miles.

The delta lands of the Sacramento below this city comprise the great garden district of California. One-fourth of the asparagus crop of the United States is produced here; other vegetables are grown by the square mile. This is one of the great bean districts of the country, producing approximately two million sacks annually, principally of the white or "navy"



Where winter is unknown and the growing season never ends.

bean. The potato crop is one million sacks, or 50,000 tons; onions, 15,000 tons; cabbages, 1,500 tons, and alfalfa, 100,000 tons. This is also an important fruit district, and especially noted for Bartlett pears, producing the bulk of this fruit grown in the United States.

The extreme fertility of these lands renders them attractive to investors. Several large engineering projects are in process of construction, designed to reclaim additional areas, the total area embraced in these being approximately 40,000 acres, all within a radius of forty miles. Another great project which is approaching the construction stage will reclaim 60,000 acres lying on the east side of the Sacramento River, immediately north of this city.

Irrigation development is progressing on a still larger scale. 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, and are now completing the system, which was designed to cover 156,000 acres and may cover 200,000 acres. Other important projects are the Butte County Canal in Butte and Sutter counties, built to irrigate 80,000 acres, the Yolo Consolidated Canal, in Yolo County, which is intended to irrigate, ultimately, more than 100,000 acres; the Orland Unit Project, now being built by the United States Reclamation Service at Orland, Glenn County, for the irrigation of 14,000 acres. Other projects recently built are the Los Molinos system in Tehama County, the Rich Field ditch at Corning, and a small system at Colusa. Other irrigation systems are the Palermo, Oroville and Forbestown ditch systems in Butte County, the South Yuba system in Placer County, the El Dorado system in El Dorado County, the Orangevale and Fair Oaks system in Sacramento County, the Browns Valley system in Yuba County. Considerable areas are irrigated by pumping from wells and from the rivers, hydro-electric power being supplied from power transmission lines that are

built from the great power plants on the mountain streams into and through the Sacramento Valley.

The superior advantages of Sacramento Valley land and climate have been attested by the 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 climate especially suited to their cultivation. After a careful inspection, covering the entire State, a committee of experts located these gardens at Chico, Butte County, in



The great strawberry district at Florin, seven miles from Sacramento



Orange grove at Fair Oaks, near Sacramento

the heart of this valley. At this garden are now growing large numbers of plants brought from many parts of the world.

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, thirteen miles west of Sacramento.