

# Sacramento

CITY AND COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



THE CAPITAL AND THE GARDEN  
OF AN EMPIRE



By W. B. Thorpe  
Statistician of Sacramento County



104, and Franklin, 83. There has been a large increase in the population of each town since the census of 1900 was taken.

The assessed valuation of city and town lots for the year 1906 was \$10,073,270, and the improvements thereon were valued at \$9,309,030, making a total valuation of \$19,382,300 for that class of property. The assessed valuation of all property in the county for the year 1906 was \$38,747,575.

### RICHNESS OF THE SOIL.

It has been said that anything that will grow anywhere outside the torrid or the frigid zones will grow "better and bigger and more of it" in Sacramento county than in any other spot on earth, and while it sounds extravagant, it comes near the truth. The Sacramento river, winding its way for many miles through the rich bottom lands, forms the west boundary of the county, and in its lower reaches has cut up these lands into numerous islands. These islands and the other lands adjacent to the river have been subject to overflow in the rainy season, but they are fast being reclaimed and protected by substantial levees, drainage canals and pumping plants, thus bringing under cultivation a soil that is the very acme of richness. Other vast bodies of tule land, equally fertile when once reclaimed, are gradually being rescued and protected from overflow. It is on these lands, thus brought under cultivation, from which those vast yields of asparagus and beans were secured; the yield of asparagus last year being over 19,000,000 pounds, and that of beans being over 1,000,000 sacks. And this in addition to vast quantities of other vegetables and fruits raised on these lands. The rich bottom lands above alluded to are duplicated on each of the other streams that flow through Sacramento county. Back from these bottom lands, and slightly more elevated, come the great stretches of the valley whose fertile soils are so famous in their yields of all kinds of agricultural and horticultural products—soils that are superabundant in their production of every cereal, vegetable, or fruit that can be grown either in a temperate or a semi-tropical clime.

The valley on its eastern and northern boundaries is met by a belt of foothills that rise gently from the great plain, and increase in elevation by gradual undulations until they are lost in the higher ranges of the Sierra Nevadas. The soil of this extensive foothill region is of a red granitic character, upon which are grown the choicest and most luscious deciduous fruits produced in all the world; while the citrus products are as good as the best, and come to maturity at least six weeks earlier than do those of any other part of the United States.

The valley and the foothill climate is characterized by mild winters, warm summers, a dry atmosphere, and a medium rainfall. The summers are practically rainless from the first of June until the first of November, and harvested crops may be left in the fields for months at a time without danger of damage from rain or moisture. The dry-



ness of the atmosphere makes outdoor labor entirely comfortable, even when the thermometer registers 100 degrees, which only occurs at infrequent intervals of two or three days at a time, and sunstroke is entirely unknown. The summer nights are uniformly balmy and pleasant, and there is never any difficulty in obtaining refreshing slumber.



OAK PARK, ONE OF THE CITY'S PLEASURE PLAYGROUNDS.

### **UNLIMITED WATER SUPPLY.**

The water supply of the Sacramento valley, and of Sacramento county in particular, is without limit, and is easy of reach to all lands that need irrigation. The more important sources of this supply are the Sacramento and American rivers; which, besides being ample for all needs of irrigation, afford unlimited reservoirs of power for manufacturing purposes. The Cosumnes river, Dry Creek, and the Mokelumne river also furnish ample supplies of water for irrigation in their several drainage basins; while underlying the entire county there is an inexhaustible subterranean flow of pure water that furnishes an



unfailing source of supply for either domestic or irrigation purposes. These subterranean streams are reached at a moderate depth, and many berry and alfalfa farms are irrigated entirely by these waters pumped to the surface by ordinary windmills. A windmill capable of irrigating from five to six acres of land will cost about \$100 and will raise water from a depth of some twenty feet; but where the requirements of irrigation are very great, steam engines, using oil fuel, are often brought into requisition.

## PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL.

In speaking of the agricultural and horticultural development of Sacramento county, a late report of the California State Agricultural Society said:

All of the lands of the county are practically arable, and there has never been a crop failure. The up, or red, lands in the eastern part along the Cosumnes river and between that and the Mokelumne river and Dry Creek, and north to and beyond the American river, are devoted largely to the growing of grain and hay and to stock-raising and dairying, though fruit production is also very considerable where irrigation is practiced. Thousands of acres along the river bottoms and on the islands are used for the production of all kinds of vegetables, which are shipped East by the carload, and at times by the trainload. It is impossible to reach even an estimate of the vast quantities that are daily carried to the San Francisco markets by the various regular and trading steamboats which traverse the river. A great deal of this product is disposed of to the canneries in this and other counties. These vegetable lands along the Sacramento often command an annual rental of \$50 an acre.

Alfalfa grows luxuriantly without irrigation on all the rich bottom lands, producing from four to eight tons to the acre in the four crops that are cut annually. The average time between the cuttings is from thirty-two to thirty-six days, and for six months the fields are used for pasturage and dairying. The hay finds a ready market, and yields good prices.

Fruits of all kinds are produced on all of the land of the county, and particularly on the river bottoms and the islands. The winter fruits are oranges, lemons, pomegranates, olives, and persimmons, which all ripen in November, December, and January. Oranges and lemons ripen here earlier than in the southern part of the State, and are always sold at fancy prices on that account. The Japanese persimmon grows to the size of apples. Olives are very profitable, both for pickling and for oil.

The spring fruits that mature and are marketed in April, May, and June embrace strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and cherries.

After picking his early fruits and collecting the returns, the fruit-grower has to attend to the early summer fruits: apricots, plums, peaches, pears, and nectarines. The first peaches are ready by the



last of May, and apricots and the earlier varieties of plums ripen about the same time. From then until October there is no cessation in the picking and shipping of fruit.

Apricots ripen early, and of all countries in the world California is the only one that has made a thorough success of that fruit, and in this county it reaches its very finest development in size, flavor, and productiveness. Much of this product is canned.

A large number of varieties of pears are grown, among them the Madeline, Bloodgood, Dearborn Seedling, Le Conte, Beurre Hardy, Seckel, Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre Bose, Winter Nelis, etc.; but chief among them is the renowned Bartlett. The latter variety is shipped in large quantities to every city of any size in the Union, and is as well known in New York and Chicago and other centers of popula-



A SACRAMENTO COUNTY VINEYARD IN SUMMER TIME.

tion in the East as it is at home. It grows on the rich lands of our rivers and islands in large quantities and to greater size than anywhere else in the world. There has been no instance where an acre of Bartletts, on land suited to their cultivation, has failed, during the past twenty years, to yield a handsome income.

Plums are very profitable. They grow to a large size, and are shipped in vast quantities to the Eastern and home markets and to the canneries. Much of this product is pitted and dried in the sun for the market.

In the fall the fruit products are apples, pears, grapes, quinces, prunes, and peaches.

Sacramento county is pre-eminently the home of the grape, and on the red lands of the plains it reaches its highest perfection, particularly with irrigation. The table varieties include the Tokay, Muscat, Black Prince, Morocco, Emperor, and Cornichon. They always



bring first-class prices for shipment to the Eastern markets. The wineries of the State handle quantities of some of these varieties.

French, or petite, prunes are a leading fruit. They are remarkably prolific, and when cured excel the imported article, and bring a much higher price in the markets of the world. They do well on any land that is suited for plums, and are readily cured for market.

Figs grow in any part of the county, but on the river bottoms they reach a great size, and are remarkably prolific. The common black fig requires absolutely no care; the tree is as hardy as the native oak. The first crop is usually sold green, but the second is allowed to fall to the ground, and when dried the fruit is sacked. The Smyrna, or "fig of commerce," has been introduced and successfully grown.

Raisins are easily cured, the climate being peculiarly favorable.

Almonds have long been found a reliable and profitable crop. Like the fig, the trees require little or no attention. They can be grown in any part of the county. There is never any trouble to market all that is produced at very satisfactory prices; in fact, there is an ample field for more extended production of this standard nut.

The English soft-shell walnut has been demonstrated to be a profitable crop. Black walnut trees are extensively grown for shade and ornament.

Hundreds of tons of beans of all kinds are produced on the river and island lands. The interior of Grand and Tyler islands is to a great degree devoted to their production.

Potatoes, both sweet and Irish, are grown in large quantities on the bottom lands; of the latter, the average yield per acre is from 100 to 150 sacks.

## **CLIMATE.**

It has been truly said that a comparison of the climate conditions of Sacramento county with those of the great Riviera and the citrus and olive belt of northern and central Italy demonstrates that this county leads that great winter sanitarium of the world. This county shows a warmer winter, spring, and yearly average temperature, and about the same summer and autumn temperature as that of the noted citrus belt of Italy, where it is said "perpetual summer exists, skies are blue, and the sun ever shines." The average number of clear days in this county is 244, being more in a year than for any other inhabited portion of the northern hemisphere, except Yuma. The lowest temperature ever reached here was 19 degrees, and that occurred but twice in fifty years. Snow is unknown, except that about once in ten years there is a slight fall sufficient to measure, and which melts almost immediately. The average winter temperature, according to the United States Weather Bureau records at Sacramento, is 48.3 degrees; average spring, 59.5 degrees; average summer, 71.7 degrees; average autumn, 61.5 degrees; average yearly, 60.2 degrees. The



average annual rainfall is 19.94 inches. The winters are equivalent to spring in Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Central Illinois, Indiana, and Southern Colorado.

Judge N. P. Chipman, for many years President of the State Board of Trade, and now Presiding Justice of our District Court of Appeal



AN OLEANDER TREE IN FULL BLOOM IN CAPITOL PARK.

—an acknowledged authority on such matters—has said this of the climate of the Sacramento valley:

In judging of climate there is nothing so misleading and inconclusive as tables of mean annual temperatures. The mean annual temperature here, where there is seldom a frost and rarely a hot day,



is only about 5 degrees higher than that of New York, where people perish both by extreme cold and heat. Mean temperature conveys but a slight idea of actual climatic conditions, and does not necessarily imply either high or low temperatures in summer or winter. The Siskiyou mountains connect the Coast Range with the Sierra Nevadas on the north of the valley. This lofty battlement on the north, with that on the east, has much to do in warding off the arctic currents and deflecting them from the lower valleys. The Coast Range is higher toward the north than in the southern boundary of the State. It has a height west of the upper Sacramento valley of 4000 feet. This range is an important factor in affecting the climate of the upper interior valleys by shutting off the cool sea breezes of summer, as well as by modifying the winds of winter. These ocean breezes of summer, that blow almost constantly, are felt in the Sacramento valley as they enter at the Golden Gate and follow up the valley. The chief modifier of our climate, however, is the Japan, or great equatorial ocean current, which is deflected northerly and easterly when it meets the coast of Asia. It there divides, and a portion strikes the northwest coast of North America, then turns acutely to the southeast, and flows along the west shore and past California and Mexico. This current has been found to start with a maximum temperature of 88 degrees; at Alaska it is found to be 50.06 degrees; eight hundred miles west of San Francisco, 60.38 degrees; and one hundred miles west, 55.05 degrees. Here is a body of water of an average temperature of 57.89 degrees, and a thousand miles wide, that flows past our shores constantly. Observation shows that from this surface there flows an air current which rarely rises more than two or three degrees above the temperature of the water.

This great aerial current that moves with the ocean stream largely determines the climate of California.

As a sanitarium the Sacramento valley presents unusual attractions. The healthfulness is remarked by all comers. People from the East and West who come here to reside experience renewed vigor and life. It is an erroneous idea, sometimes entertained, that this mild climate begets that lassitude and indisposition to labor so common to tropical regions. That does not follow here. We engage, indoors and outdoors, in all the occupations found in the temperate zone, and with all the zest and ambition that distinguish the American people elsewhere. Another result of great economic value is that every day in the year is a comfortable working day. This cannot fail to impress the industrious and frugal who wish to utilize their capital, which lies largely in daily earnings. Considering our agricultural interests broadly, there is no dormant or idle season, or a period when consumption eats away production, as in countries where severe cold paralyzes productive effort for half the year, or exhaustive heat restricts in a portion of the other half. Intelligent, diversified agriculture admits of no necessarily idle day, and no period without the possibility of adding the productive value of a day's work. With factories or the workshops the same is true. Less fuel, less clothing,



uninterrupted work for the year, and greater comfort result from an equable temperature. There is, for the industrious man of moderate means, no more inviting country on the globe than the Sacramento valley.

### **VITICULTURE—CITRUS FRUITS.**

As was said in a former bulletin issued under the sanction and direction of the Board of Supervisors, in Sacramento county is grown the highest-priced table grape—the Flame Tokay. The favorite qualities of this grape are its size and beautiful coloring. It has a rich, iridescent bloom, which gives it the name "Flame" Tokay. It is,



FLAMING TOKAY TABLE GRAPES, NEAR SACRAMENTO.

however, by no means the only table grape grown. All varieties grown in the State are produced with rare success on Sacramento county soil.

In addition to table grapes, there is a very large market for wine grapes. So far as the Sacramento valley is concerned, viticulture is but in its infancy. The Natoma Vineyard, the second largest in the world and covering over 1900 acres, is in Sacramento county, and the largest vineyard (all wine grapes) in the world is at Vina, in Tehama county, also in the Sacramento valley. But it must be remembered



that the American market alone covers over 80,000,000 people and that a very small proportion is at present supplied by the home product. It must also be fully realized that the quality of our grapes and wines is no longer a matter of speculation, and that the demand for viticultural products of California is rapidly increasing, not only at home but abroad.

The production of citrus fruits in Sacramento county is in its infancy. Oranges grow on any of its soils to perfection, and in late years extensive orchards have been planted. The establishment and phenomenal success of the colonies at Orangevale and Fair Oaks, where land of supposed inferior quality has been demonstrated to be peculiarly adapted to citrus and deciduous fruits of all kinds, were incentives to the planting of fruit trees, and a very considerable area that had been devoted to grain-raising and grazing has been planted in orchards. Large quantities are shipped East and much is sold locally in Sacramento and San Francisco. They go to the latter city by steamboat, by express, and by train. The production of lemons and grape-fruit is not as great as the demand warrants, although they do fully as well as the orange, and can be raised on any of our lands. At Fair Oaks and Orangevale particularly fine specimens of both are produced.

## **WINES, BRANDY AND MALT LIQUOR.**

There are eight wineries in Sacramento county, four of which are located in Sacramento City, one at Natoma, one at Elk Grove, one at Homestead, and one at Bruceville. During the year 1905 these wineries produced 1,481,121.32 gallons of sweet wines. There was also produced during the same period 1,140,530 gallons of claret and other dry wines. Of the fortified wines the principal production was of sherry, 850,758 gallons; and of port, 500,284 gallons.

The county has a great reputation for its excellent sherry, as it has for its high standard of wines generally. The nature of the soil and the local climatic conditions unite in producing a quality of grape that possesses all the necessary elements of a high grade of wines.

In 1905 these same wineries produced 391,386 gallons of brandy.

The production of beer is also an item of considerable magnitude in the manufacturing statistics of Sacramento county. In 1905 the manufacture of malt liquor amounted to 123,169 barrels, or 3,818,239 gallons. Of this quantity 2,123,314 gallons were shipped out of the county and 1,694,925 gallons were devoted to local consumption.

The chief producers of beer are the Buffalo Brewing Company and the Sacramento Brewing Company, the former employing 125 people, and the latter 40. Besides its output of beer in 1905, the Buffalo Brewing Company also manufactured 7500 tons of ice. During the year the Sacramento Brewing Company added to their plant to the extent of \$100,000.



## STOCK-RAISING AND DAIRYING.

Sacramento county presents great opportunities to the livestock breeder and the dairyman. The climate is so even, temperate, and mild that animals remain in the open air, practically unsheltered, the year round without hardship. The soil, because of its richness, is peculiarly adapted to the growth of forage crops, especially alfalfa, which is at the same time one of the best and the cheapest of stock feeds. Because of the economy with which livestock can be maintained and the cheapness with which food can be produced, there is a



A HUNDRED-ACRE STRAWBERRY PATCH, NEAR FLORIN.

large margin of profit in breeding and rearing farm stock. Animals mature early and produce heavily, and their judicious breeding has been profitable. The average character of the dairy stock is fair, and is being constantly improved by the introduction of well-bred animals. The average production of butter per cow per year is not high, but the conditions are favorable for a very large product. The breeding of pure-bred pedigreed cattle is engaged in by several persons, but not as extensively as the profits of the business would seem to render advisable. The dairy product of California has heretofore been quite insufficient for the supply of the home demand, and as a consequence butter and cheese, as well as eggs and cured meats, have been im-



ported. This short supply has insured profitable prices. Butter manufactured in creameries has been sold in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Arizona, with some shipments even to the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, China, and Japan. Most of the cheese is produced in the southern portion, on the Cosumnes river, where there are a number of factories.

While the farmer as a rule raises more or less stock, the production of beef cattle is not sufficient to supply the demand for meat in the county, and most of the beef comes from the northern coast, principally southern Oregon. What stock is produced finds a ready sale at good prices.

Sheep are raised in the section north of the American river and in the southern and eastern portions of the county. From May to October these sheep are pastured in the mountain ranges of the Sierras.

Hogs are raised generally by the farmers, and several breed pedigreed Poland-China, Berkshire, and Essex swine quite extensively. The breeding of pedigreed hogs is quite profitable.

Our latest figures give us 32,397 head of beef and stock cattle, 10,800 dairy cows, 7,200 calves, 40,250 swine, 17,050 horses, 3,600 colts, 3,000 mules, 77,600 sheep, and 17,500 lambs. They also show for the year ending September 30, 1905, a production of 1,578,751 pounds of butter churned from our own milk and cream, and 549,219 pounds of cheese for the same period.

## **POULTRY FARMING.**

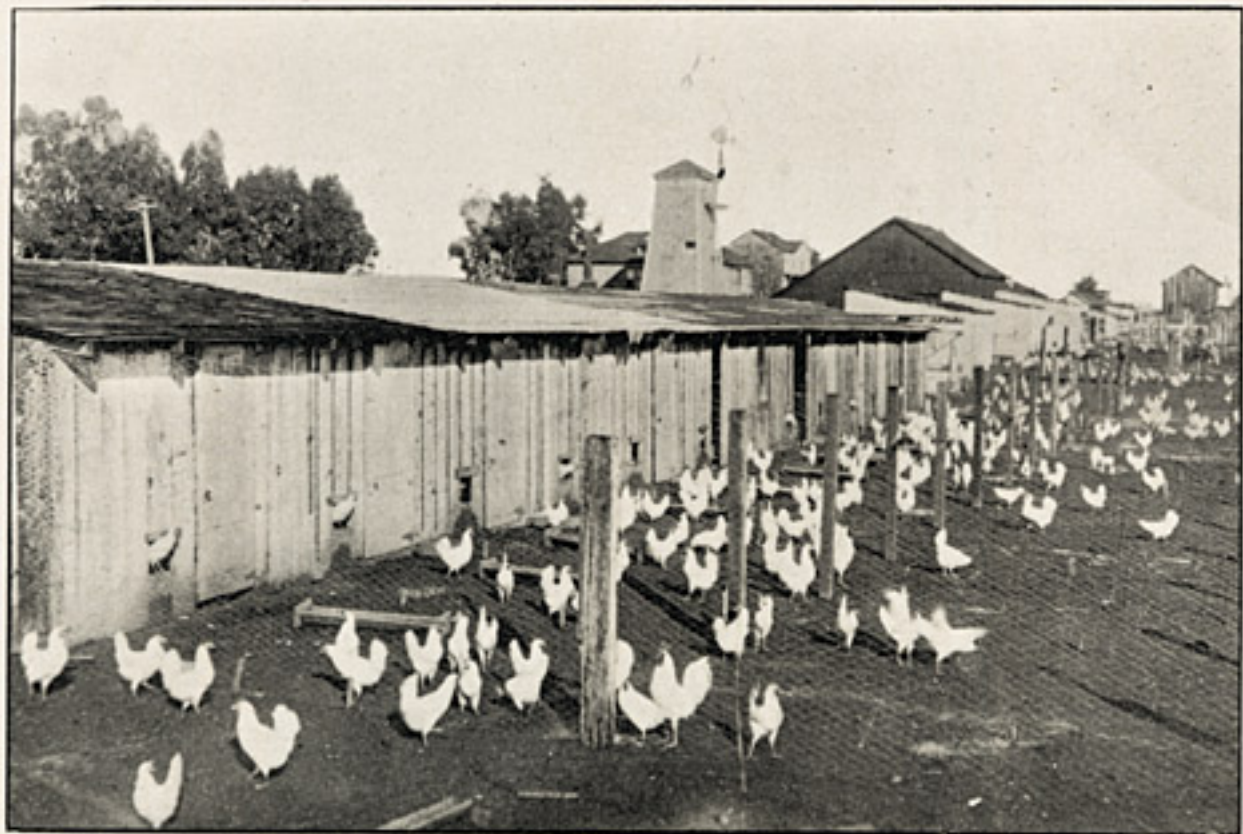
The poultry business in Sacramento county is increasing in volume and extent very rapidly. The vicinity of Elk Grove, and the districts immediately adjacent to Sacramento City are the centers of activity in this industry. While the business is a profitable one and requires but a minimum of capital, yet strict attention and careful and intelligent management are necessary adjuncts to the favorable conditions of nature. Mr. Frank M. Newbert, one of the most successful of our local poultrymen, has this to say of the opportunities in the poultry business in this county. He writes:

Sacramento county is fast becoming the largest poultry producing county in the State of California. In fact, she produces the best quality for the number of birds raised, and this fact is demonstrated by the number of prize-winnings made at our State Fair and other shows during the year.

The climate of Sacramento county is the best for the raising of poultry, and we have some of the most thoroughly equipped and up-to-date chicken ranches in the State. The industry is growing so fast and so many are making a success of the business, that within a few years our section will surpass Petaluma as a chicken and egg producer.

As I have said, Sacramento county's climate is peculiarly adapted to the raising of all kinds of poultry, but the White Leghorn seems





A CHICKEN RANCH NEAR SACRAMENTO CITY—A YARD OF WHITE LEGHORNS.



to predominate and excel all other varieties. If one is fond of outdoor work, he or she will surely make a success of the poultry business in this county, for the conditions are the best, feed is as cheap as in any other part of the State, and above all, we are handy to all the best markets. If one has a small capital and wishes to invest it in a healthful and interesting out-door enterprise, the chicken business will afford him that opportunity. He will, beyond a doubt, make his capital pay him more profit than any other industry would in this or any other country. But good judgment and the chicken business go together, and if one is thinking of starting a poultry farm it would pay him to visit some of the farms in our county, investigate for himself, and then I am sure that his incubator will be located in Sacramento county, and that there will thus be the beginning of another successful poultry farm.

We have a great many farms that are paying \$1 profit to the hen; some are even doing much better, and in view of the fact that Sacramento County is about to become a great center of all the electric and steam railroads of central and northern California, I claim that no other locality has a better outlook for the poultry industry.

## HOPS.

The soil of Sacramento county adjacent to the Sacramento, American, and Cosumnes rivers, is admirably adapted to the production of hops, and results have demonstrated that nowhere can be found a locality where the production is superior thereto, either in quantity or quality.

The production of hops in Sacramento county for the year 1905 was as follows:

In the American river district from 1265 acres in cultivation there was a production of 11,516 bales, or 2,188,040 pounds.

In the Sacramento river district, from 343 acres in cultivation, there was a production of 2142 bales, or 406,980 pounds.

In the Cosumnes river district the number of acres in cultivation was 1116, and the production was 7326 bales, or 1,391,940 pounds.

This shows a total production of hops in Sacramento County for the year 1905 of 20,984 bales, or 3,986,960 pounds, each bale being estimated at 190 pounds, which is a fair average.

The cost of production of hops per pound is about as follows:

	Cents.
Plowing, cultivating, training and care of vines.....	1.32
Picking .....	3.
Baling .....	0.875
Miscellaneous expense .....	3.5
Total cost of production per pound.....	8.695



## FLOUR MILLS AND MILL PRODUCTS.

There are four principal flouring mills in Sacramento county, the product of which for the year 1905 was as follows:

Barrels of flour-----	300,000
Barrels of meal-----	13,000
Tons of bran-----	3,000
Tons of middlings-----	2,000
Tons of rolled barley-----	29,000

These mills consumed, in producing the above quantities of flour and rolled barley, 82,500,000 pounds of wheat and 58,400,000 pounds of barley.



TYPICAL FRUIT FARM NEAR SACRAMENTO.

## ASPARAGUS.

The Sacramento river section comprises the largest asparagus-growing district in the world, and the canned product finds market in all parts of the civilized world. The production of asparagus in that portion of the district lying within Sacramento county has increased by leaps and bounds until now it constitutes one of the largest and most valuable products of the county; and still hundreds of additional acres are being planted each year and thousands of addi-



tional acres of river bottom lands are being reclaimed that will soon be added to those already bearing such a magnificent yield of this excellent and profitable vegetable.

During the season of 1905, from 3310 acres in this county, there were produced 423,578 boxes of asparagus, weighing 19,161,010 pounds. During that year, and the first few months in the present year there were planted in asparagus something over 1800 additional acres, which will materially increase the total production in the near future.

There are sixty-nine different growers of asparagus in Sacramento county, with holdings ranging from 7 acres to 425 acres each, the average number of acres cultivated by each grower being a little over 74.

## **MINING AND MINERALS.**

Placer mining is prosecuted to a considerable extent in the neighborhood of the town of Folsom, the industry having again come into considerable prominence by the introduction of dredge mining machinery. On the American river, in what is called the Folsom district, which extends from the town of Folsom to a short distance below the Fair Oaks bridge, a distance of a little more than six miles, extensive dredge mining is being carried on. Most of the gravel is on the south side of the river and in width from 1 to 1½ miles. These mining operations are in the hands of people with plenty of capital and skilled engineers. One of the companies has a machinery plant larger than any other in California, and is prepared to do its own repairing and build its own dredges. The gold is comparatively evenly distributed, and the gravel will average from 15 to 25 cents per cubic yard. The ultimate yield will probably be over \$40,000,000. Electric power is used and there is an abundance of water, both power and water being supplied at low rates. The gold is comparatively very fine in size particles, and has a mint value of about \$19 an ounce.

Dredge mining, while it yields large returns from great areas that would otherwise refuse to produce gold in paying quantities, is destructive of the lands for agricultural purposes, and transforms many acres of highly productive soil into barren heaps of gravel and of boulders. Where this class of mining is confined to non-arable land and where the land is purely mineral in its character, there can be little or no objection to its prosecution; but where vast areas of agricultural and orchard lands (whose value as such to future generations cannot be measured by dollars and cents) is exploited and rendered valueless for all time, then a wrong is being done to the husbandman of the future, and public sentiment will eventually dictate that this destruction of agricultural lands shall cease. In the meantime the mining dredge proceeds without regard to the character of the land it