

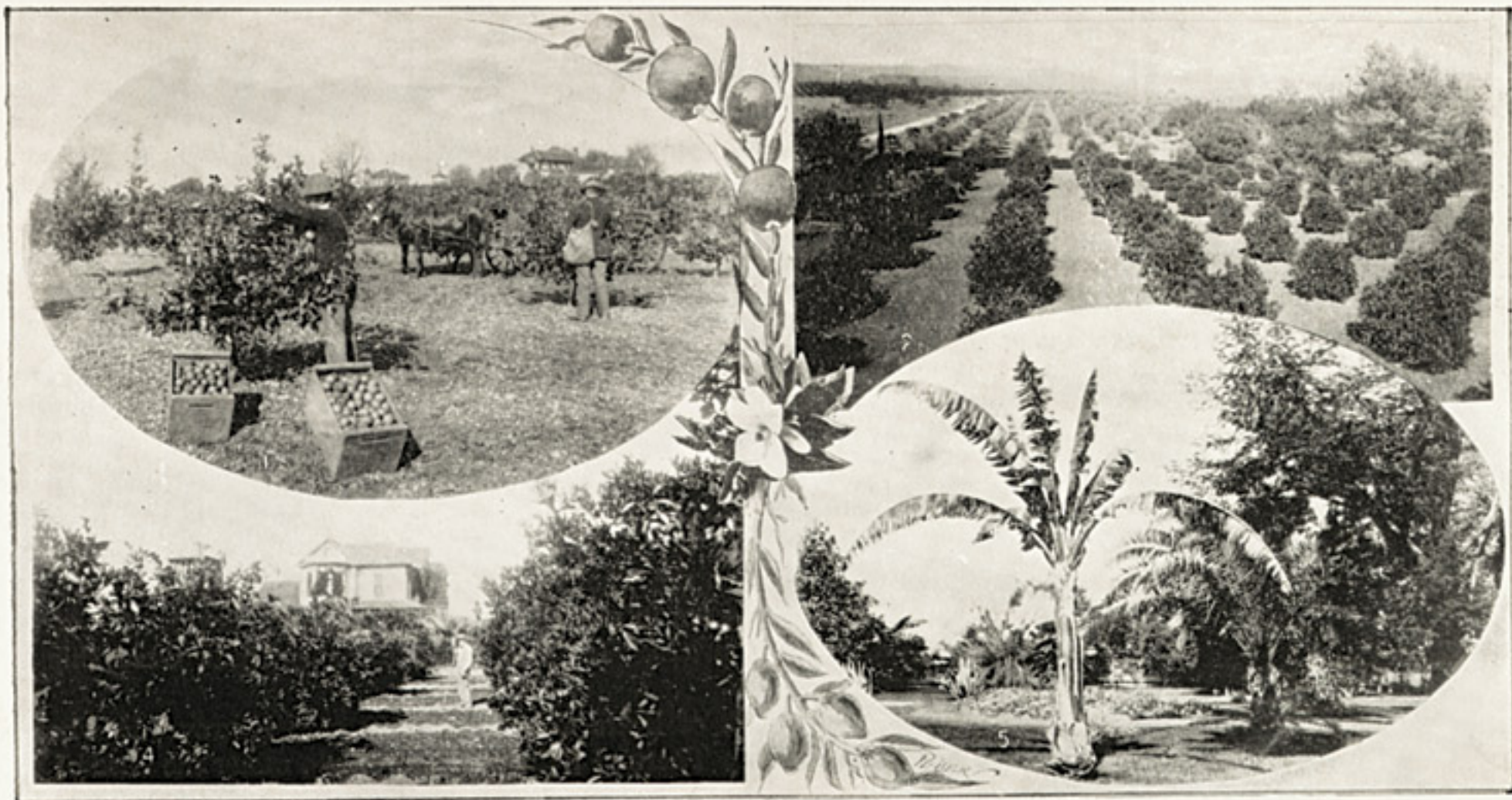


Picking Oranges in the Orchard of Bates & Boalt—Palermo.

The Land of the Orange.

ORANGES have been grown in Butte County for nearly half a century and during the past few years orange culture has developed into one of our most profitable industries. The first orange tree in this part of the State was planted at Bidwell Bar in 1856, but orange planting for commercial purposes was not commenced until thirty years later. The original tree still lives at Bidwell Bar. It is a fine specimen thirty-five or forty feet in height, and yields regular crops. It is known far and wide as the parent tree of Northern California orchards.

The planting of an orange tree at Bidwell Bar, then a famous mining camp, was the first step in the development of the citrus fruit industry of Northern California, now grown to importance and increasing every



1. Picking Lemons at Palermo.
4. Orange Orchard near Oroville—Rancho Mercury.

2. Orange and Olive Orchard at Thermalito.
5. Banana Palm at Palermo.

*Growth
of Orange
Culture*



Lemon Tree at the Home of E. Tucker—Oroville.

year. When it was demonstrated that the orange would grow here, it at once became popular as an ornamental tree, especially at Oroville, which became the county seat in 1856. Here oranges were planted in door yards and along the streets and these trees constitute to-day one of the most attractive features of the town and are a source of profit as well as pride. There are door yards in Oroville that yield owners upwards of a hundred dollars every year. Since oranges began to be planted for profit the growth of the industry has been rapid. The first orchard for commercial purposes was planted in 1886 and to-day there are probably five thousand acres of orange orchards in the county. Butte County oranges have no superiors. The trees are healthy, vigorous and free from destructive insect pests; the fruit is bright in color, luscious and rich in flavor. The Washington Navel, the king of oranges, reaches its highest perfection here.

Butte County oranges ripen from one to two months earlier than those of Southern California. Picking begins in October and practically ends in December. The bulk of the crop is harvested in time to reach the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets. At this season oranges are in great demand and our growers get the cream of the year's prices. About four hundred carloads were shipped last year.

The bulk of Butte County's orange crop is grown in what is known as "The Thermal Belt," a narrow strip along the base of the mountains, covering that portion of the foothills lying between altitudes of about 150 to 600 feet. The bulk of the shipments are from

The Thermal Belt



1. Home of Mrs. Annie K. Bidwell—Chico.

2. Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lawrence—Oroville.

3. Gladstone Lawrence and his Pet Deer.

Oroville, Palermo, Thermalito and Wyandotte, though oranges are sent to market from various parts of the county. Carload shipments were made last year from Biggs, Gridley and Honcut. Orange trees grow and bear fruit in every part of the valley and on the hills up to an altitude of 1000 feet.

That oranges pay has been fully demonstrated. At first there was much of experiment, but the industry is now firmly established on a sound basis. Some of the early planters became discouraged and neglected their orchards, but those who gave their trees good care found them very profitable, and neglected orchards gradually passed into the hands of men who appreciate their value and have developed them into fine properties.

The pioneer orchard, a picture of which appears on the front cover of this booklet, was planted in 1886 by the Oroville Citrus Association, a company formed by twenty business men of Oroville who had become convinced that this was an ideal orange country. They believed that an investment in orange culture would pay handsome dividends and results have demonstrated that they were right, returns having been far beyond their most sanguine expectations. These gentlemen invested originally \$24,000.00. A portion of the profits have been reinvested in improving and extending the orchard, and they have to-day seventy-



At the Hearst Orchard—Palermo. Orange Trees and Manager's Residence.



Residence Street in Oroville.
Homes of G. M. Sparks, F. Holub and N. Goldstein.

Orange Orchard near Oroville.
Home of Supervisor L. C. Shirley, near Oroville.

five acres planted in trees, thirty-five of which are in full bearing and fifteen are bearing some fruit, a property worth at a conservative estimate \$100,000.00, and paying good interest on that valuation. The orchard has been piped for irrigation and drained by tiling and every expense has been paid by the orchard, and a nursery that was planted in connection with it. In addition to increasing in value to four times the original investment the property has paid dividends amounting to more than one-half of the original investment. In view of this remarkable showing it is not surprising that little of the stock has ever changed hands or that the few shares transferred were bought by other members of the company. The present officers are Hon. C. F. Lott, President; P. R. Persons, Vice-President; E. W. Fogg, Treasurer; J. C. Osgood, Secretary.

There are many paying orange orchards. A few instances of financial success in orange culture may be cited, as follows:

<i>Dividend</i>	Supervisor Glenn W. Miller has five acres of oranges at his Wyandotte home which yielded last year, at seven years from planting, \$913.72. He paid for picking
<i>Payers</i>	and packing out of this. Mr. Miller paid \$25 per acre for his land. The wood paid for clearing. At three years from planting his orange trees yielded \$25 per acre; at four years, \$50, and at five years, \$100. The orchard has now repaid all expenses and is worth more than \$1000 per acre. Mr. Miller has several acres of younger orchard just beginning to bear.

The largest orange orchard is the Hearst orchard at Palermo, which consists of 240 acres. One block of ten acres on which the returns were carefully noted by the superintendent, Mr. A. Moncure, netted \$300 per acre in a single year.

E. Gilman, of Thermalito, has eleven acres mostly navel oranges, some of which are just beginning to bear. His gross sales last year were \$2,011.50; expenses, \$498.45; net return, \$1513.05.

The Palermo Colony Company cares for the orchards of a number of non-residents. Mr. W. J. Grier, local manager for the company, has furnished a statement of net returns received by some of the non-residents, as follows: J. M. Wilson, nine acres, six years old, \$350. Colonel Penney, U. S. A., fourteen acres

five years old, \$290. Mrs. Captain Patterson, U. S. A., eight acres five years old, \$200. These figures are net returns after all expenses had been paid, including cost of superintendence.

Among those extensively interested in orange growing here is Mr. Louis Glass, of San Francisco, general manager of the Sunset Telephone Company. Mr. Glass is one of the stockholders in the Oroville Citrus Association and recent purchases of other orange and olive properties here is positive proof of his entire satisfaction with present conditions and confidence in the future.

The cost of planting an orchard and caring for it to bearing age (five years) may be fairly estimated as follows: Cost of land ready for plowing, \$50.00 to \$100.00 per acre; cost of trees, 100 to the acre, \$75.00; cost of preparing land and planting, \$25.00; cost of labor and water, \$25.00 per acre for five years, \$125.00. Total \$300.00 to \$350.00 per acre. From \$50.00 to \$100.00 invested in fertilizers will hasten development and pay well. After orange trees begin bearing, fertilizers must be used to secure the best results and are used wherever oranges are successfully grown, though some sections with a boom on claim differently. Their cost is but a slight increase to the expense of management.

Cost of Planting

Orange culture in Butte County offers an inviting opportunity to the homeseeker and a portion of every orchard, where soil and climate are adapted to them should be planted to orange trees. The early ripening of our oranges is a feature the value and importance of which can hardly be overestimated. Another important advantage is the success attained here with the Washington Navel, which commands the highest prices and is grown successfully in but few orange producing districts of the world. The best orange land, under existing irrigation systems, can be had at prices ranging from \$25 per acre for large tracts three or four miles from railway, to \$100 per acre for small lots in colony tracts.