

of all the asparagus grown in the United States is grown on the delta lands of the county, which have been reclaimed from overflow. It also boasts of the most extensive and modern dairy on the Pacific Coast.

At Florin, Elk Grove and Galt, large areas are devoted to berries, grapes and fruit of all varieties, this section being the center of the Tokay belt and the site of what is probably the largest Tokay vineyard in the world. Along the American and Cosumnes rivers are extensive orchards, vineyards, alfalfa and cornfields. In the Fair Oaks and Orangevale districts, thousands of acres are given over to the cultivation of oranges, olives, lemons, figs and grapes, and other fruits. Sacramento is the principal strawberry district of the northern part of the State, while practically all of the peaches, pears, plums, and other deciduous fruits shipped from this State pass through the city, the greater portion of them being grown within a radius of 45 miles.

Within the last year several hundred thousand acres in large ranches have been subdivided and are being sold rapidly in tracts of all the way from ten to a hundred acres. The reclamation of 100,000 acres of tule land east of the river and near the city is now in progress. These developments will contribute materially to the growth of both the city and county of Sacramento.

It may be thus understood that the combined advantages of water and rail transportation and the abundant power in neighboring streams, rendered easily available by electrical transmission, insure a large industrial development to this region. Rapid growth and development are reflected from the valley, which is as yet but in its infancy.

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THE Sacramento Valley is a vast expanse of fertile land with an area as large as the combination of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware. The City of Sacramento, the capital of the State of California, is its natural gateway and market-place.

The floor of the valley contains approximately three million acres as fertile as the region of the Nile, and, similarly, is watered by the Sacramento River, fourth in transportation importance of the rivers of the United States. The foothill country, which is tributary, contains another three million productive acres. This valley, however, has a more abundant water-supply than the Nile; the Feather, Yuba, Bear, Cosumnes, American and Mokelumne, being tributary to the Sacramento, increase the valley's area by several million acres and are invaluable, as well, for drainage, irrigation and transportation.

The abundant water supply, the fruitful land, the ready market—the demand exceeding the supply—the excellent transportation facilities, the wide range of high-priced agricultural products, and the mild and equable climate tend toward a future of great achievement. The following is a quotation from Mr. J. B. Lippincott, formerly supervising engineer in the United States Reclamation Service:

“The Sacramento Valley presents one of the greatest, if not the greatest, opportunities for irrigation development in the West.”

As Sacramento Valley, with all its prosperity, has but a small percentage of its land under irrigation, a vast opportunity is afforded for developments.

In early days, when gold was easily taken from the

earth with pan and cradle, the city of Sacramento was the favorite rendezvous for prospectors and miners. In our day of intensive farming, the soil produces an immense annual harvest.

Its accessibility and fertility, however, have been the most serious obstacles to its progress. California's first settlers, realizing that it was the most fertile area in the State, took up enormous holdings and kept them for years in unbroken tracts. More than half of the great valley having been taken in this way, newcomers were forced to look elsewhere for land. It was this that brought the vast deserts of the south under cultivation, thus evolving a new era of agriculture. It was in 1905, or about that time, that a new life began in the Sacramento Valley. Many of its old land barons had died. Their heirs, in many instances, opened portions of these large acreages for subdivision. Thus it was that the era of the intensive farmer dawned in the Sacramento Valley, into which the center of California's orange production is rapidly moving. During this same year, the WESTERN PACIFIC began active construction on its road toward the city, which meant an increase of contiguous territory and population. Up to that time Sacramento had grown no faster than the average American city, but since then it has grown by leaps and bounds. The population has doubled during the past ten years, the federal census showing a gain of more than fifty-two per cent, sixty-five per cent of which has occurred in the last five or six years. Business has developed proportionately; property values have doubled, trebled, and, in many instances quadrupled; new interurban electric lines have been built, others are in course of construction; many new ventures, some of them involving millions of dollars, have recently been started; bank deposits and clearings show an increase of 100 per cent during the last five years; the city assessment roll has been added to by 66½ per cent in two years, and the county roll by 26 per cent in one year and 125 per cent in ten years.

Sacramento, the capital of the State, has a population of 75,000, is at the head of tidewater on the Sacramento River, and is also the natural converging center of railway lines crossing the continent and the State in all directions. It is the strategic point for control of the commerce of this great valley empire, and, naturally, is its commercial, financial and railway center. It is also the most important manufacturing city of Central and Northern California. The main shops of the WESTERN PACIFIC RAILWAY and those of the Southern Pacific Railroad are situated here, as are also the largest and most modern fruit and vegetable canneries in the world. New public buildings, business blocks, fine hotels and homes are visible evidences of its progress. A \$300,000 city hall and a \$250,000 high school are two of the edifices just erected by the city. Recently the city voted \$800,000 for the erection of new and modern school buildings. So rapid has been the growth of the city that it has been found necessary to duplicate the high school erected only two years ago.

The people of California at the State election, November 3, 1914, voted in favor of a bond issue of \$3,000,000 for the construction of additional State Capitol buildings in Sacramento, and the city of Sacramento will issue bonds to the neighborhood of three quarters of a million dollars for the purchase of land for these buildings, the site being two blocks of property adjoining the present Capitol grounds. This will put an immense amount of money into circulation for labor, material, and property.

The county has undertaken large enterprises during the last four years, having built a new courthouse and jail at a cost of \$750,000, and constructed one hundred miles of macadam roads, with concrete bridges, at an expense of \$825,000. Located within its borders are some of the largest and most productive grain fields in the world, while it has always occupied a prominent position as a producer of beans, asparagus, onions and other soil commodities. For example, one-quarter