

# SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

The  
World's  
Garden  
Valley



\$115,500,000 Value of Agricultural  
Products in 1925

SPE  
979.453  
S1235  
1926  
SAC

CEN

LENOIR



A FLOCK OF SHEEP WITH MAMMOTH GOLD DREDGER IN THE BACKGROUND

## The Soils of Sacramento County

**I**T IS CHARACTERISTIC of California conditions that its soils are what is known as "spotted" and the variable soils of Sacramento County and its remarkable variable climate, make possible the wonderful variety of its soil products.

The soils of Sacramento County are of six main types—Delta Lands, Bottom Lands, Foothill Lands, Sandy Loam, Gravelly Loam and Adobe Lands.

Bottom lands border the Sacramento River and its tributaries from the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains as far south as Courtland. The seepage from the streams sub-irrigate these bottom lands to a large extent, and they are far more productive than the uplands. These rich lands produce heavy crops of alfalfa, vegetables and a variety of root crops, tubers and deciduous fruits, among which the Bartlett pear is the best known.

The "Delta lands" are located in the island district of the Sacramento River. "The Delta" represents approximately 120,000 acres of reclaimed lands, and from the nature of their formation are the richest in organic matter of any lands in the county. Three-fourths of the world's supply of asparagus comes from "The Delta" district, and these lands are especially adapted to the production of potatoes, celery, tomatoes, garden truck, onions, pears, cherries, peaches and apricots.

The "Adobe" belt commences a few miles south of the City of Sacramento and extends to the vicinity of the Consumnes River, rang-



A FIELD OF CELERY IN THE RICH DELTA OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

ing from three to ten miles in width. These "adobe" lands are exceedingly rich in organic matter, and their composition is a fine clay deposit formed by the general wash from the slopes, lodging on the flats below. These lands are adapted to grain and hay crops, grapes, and where carrying a large enough deposit of sand, orchards do well.

Extending from the southern boundary of Sacramento County past the American River, and north, are found the sandy loam "plains." These lands are cultivated extensively and are well adapted to the culture of Tokay grapes, deciduous fruits, general orchard products, strawberries and poultry.

Between the foothills and the sandy loam area spoken of above, is found the gravelly loam deposits. Laying generally south of the American River they extend on down and cross the Consumnes River. These red lands are highly mineralized and contain a considerable percentage of iron. In this district, olives and almonds produce abundantly, as well as peaches and other fruits.

The Foothill lands border the eastern portion of Sacramento County, skirting along the border of the Sierra Nevadas, including the famous Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Folsom sections. The soils of these rolling hills are composed of disintegrated slate and decomposed granite. The top soil is generally sandy loam. It is very easily tilled, is rich in minerals that encourage plant life and has a sandy clay subsoil. It is in this district that citrus fruits, olives, grapes and deciduous fruits reach a high state of perfection. The district is located in the thermal belt, and citrus fruits are here harvested from six weeks to two months earlier than in any other section of California.



GOOD DAIRY COWS GUARANTEE GOOD RETURNS

## Soil Products

**S**ACRAMENTO COUNTY is one of the foremost fruit producing counties in the entire State of California, and grows all of the standard market varieties of deciduous and citrus fruits. Practically every acre of land in the county is suitable to the production of some kind of fruit. Sacramento County has an equable climate, fertile soil and an abundant supply of pure, soft water—the three essentials for successful fruit culture.

A great acreage in the county is given over to the production of pears, peaches, plums, prunes, apricots, cherries, figs and nectarines. Harvest starts in May and shipping reaches its height during July and August.

Other important fruit crops are oranges, lemons, grape fruit, raisins, grapes, pomegranates, quinces, olives, almonds and walnuts. The bearing acreage in deciduous and citrus fruits, berries and grapes in Sacramento County totals 36,345 acres.

The raising of field crops is largely confined to asparagus, hops, rice, celery, beans, cantaloupes, alfalfa, potatoes, onions, miscellaneous vegetables, wheat, barley and oats.

**Pears** Sacramento County leads the State in the production of pears. Pear trees produce heavily, both on the bottom lands and on the irrigated uplands. The harvest begins in July, when large shipments are made to the East, which are on the market before shipping begins from other pear growing sections.



PEAR ORCHARD IN BLOSSOM ALONG THE SACRAMENTO RIVER HIGHWAY

**Asparagus** **T**HE great asparagus gardens of the world are located in the famous "Delta lands" of Sacramento County. The average yield per acre is four tons. A great number of canneries are devoted exclusively to the handling of this crop, and heavy shipments are also made direct from the fields to the Eastern markets. A purchaser of canned asparagus anywhere in the world can be reasonably certain that it came from the Sacramento River "Delta." There are 20,000 acres planted to asparagus in the county.

**Hops** The world's finest hop fields are located within a radius of from five to fifteen miles of Sacramento. The vines grown are very heavy producers, and are usually free from pests that infest many other hop growing districts. There is heavier production of hops per acre in Sacramento County than any other hop growing district in America. The harvesting season provides employment for hundreds of persons. The yield averages a ton to the acre.

**Almonds and Walnuts** On account of the absence of injurious frost, the Sacramento section has close to a monopoly on the almond crop. Fully 75 per cent of the almonds grown in the United States are produced within a short radius of Sacramento City. One ton per acre is the usual yield in Sacramento County. Walnuts are also produced in large quantities. Sacramento County is the home of the California Black Walnut. The English Walnut grafted on to Black Walnut stock is a very successful producer.



SACRAMENTO COUNTY ORANGES RIPEN AND REACH THE EASTERN MARKET THE EARLIEST OF CALIFORNIA'S CITRUS FRUITS

**Olive Orchards** **O**LIVE orchards do exceedingly well on the uplands of Sacramento County and in the foothill section. New trees are constantly coming into bearing, and the great number of new pickling and processing plants erected, indicate the great proportions this crop has reached. The olive tree lives for several generations, and once a grove is brought to maturity, it will prove a money producer almost indefinitely. The yield from a matured grove ranges from two to six tons per acre.

**Citrus Fruits** The Fair Oaks and Orangevale Districts in the foothill sections of Sacramento County are given over largely to the production of citrus fruits. The orange, the lemon and the grapefruit all produce heavily. The harvest begins the latter part of October, and Sacramento County oranges are among the first to reach the markets of the world, the growers receiving the benefit of the highest price when the demand is the greatest. Our orange crop is sold from six weeks to two months before oranges from southern California.

For three successive years gold medals for Navel oranges, olive oil and ripe pickled olives were awarded to those products from Fair Oaks and Orangevale.

**Apricots** This distinctive California fruit matures early and produces abundantly in Sacramento County. Reaching the market early, there is a heavy demand for the fruit in the fresh state. The canners and dryers absorb a large portion of the crop. The bearing life of an apricot tree is approximately 30 years.



NINETY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE ALMONDS PRODUCED IN AMERICA ARE HANDLED THROUGH THE GREAT ALMOND PACKING PLANT IN SACRAMENTO

**Peaches Bear Early** PEACHES grow to perfection in Sacramento County, all varieties being produced. More peaches are canned in the county than any other fruit. Peach trees mature early and the profits are assured. The fruit here grows to nearly twice the size of the peaches produced in the Eastern States. The firm flesh of the fruit, sweetness and spiced aroma, is due to the long, cloudless summer. The trees require a well-drained soil, and will bear a commercial crop within three years from planting. One-third of the canning peaches of the world are grown in Sutter County, Sacramento's neighbor in this great valley.

**Plums and Prunes** These two fruits are so closely allied that they are considered together. The prune is a variety of the plum that can be dried. All varieties of plums and prunes do exceedingly well in Sacramento County. The early variety of the plum is generally a good money producer, reaching the Eastern market when prices are high. Sacramento County prunes find a ready market, and are superior to the imported product. The sandy clay loams are well adapted to the culture of these fruits.

**Berries** Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, loganberries and dewberries are produced in quantities in Sacramento County, with strawberries far in excess of the others. Berry ranches range from five to twenty acres, where a specialty is made of this crop. A half acre berry patch in connection with the fruit orchard augments the ranch income to a considerable extent. All berries are of excellent size and flavor and ripen early.

## SACRAMENTO—THE WORLD'S GARDEN VALLEY



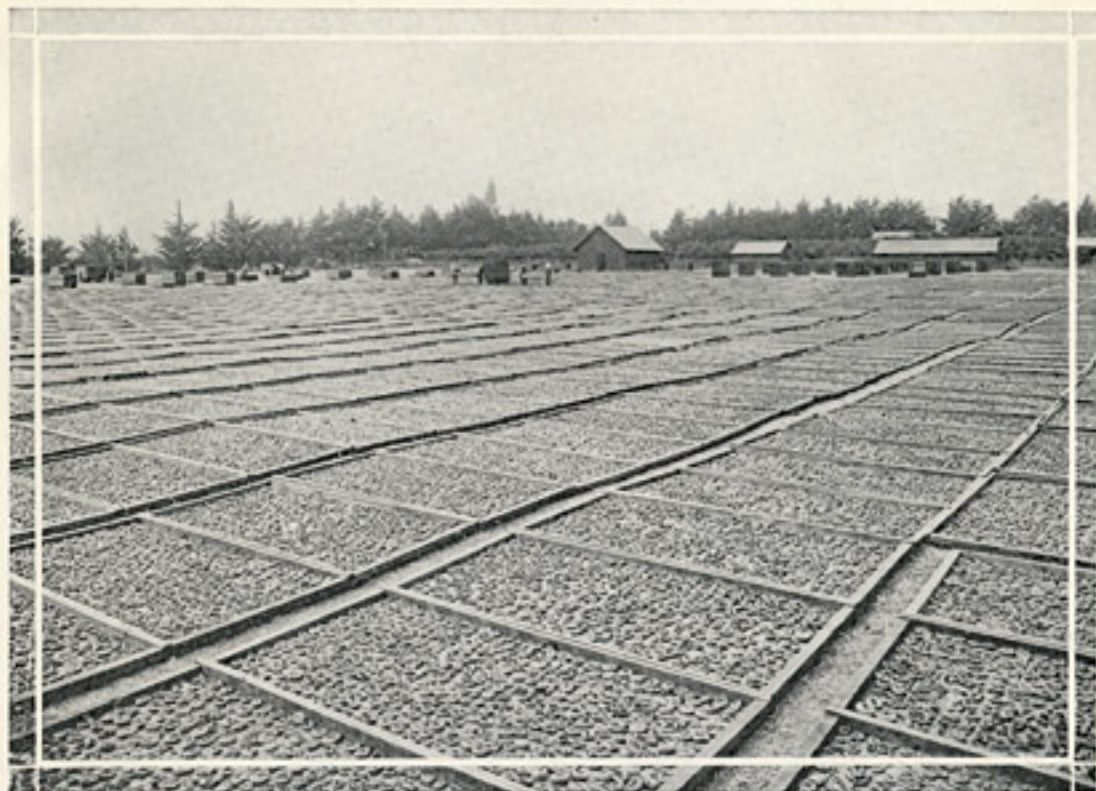
FERTILE VALLEYS AND FOOTHILLS, WHERE IS GROWN EVERY VARIETY OF DECIDUOUS AND CITRUS FRUITS

**Table Grapes** **F**AMOUS the country over for its grapes, Sacramento County is the location of the largest Tokay vineyard in the world. Both wine and table grapes are successfully grown in all parts of the county. The Flame Tokay is the best known variety, and is produced in great quantities, receiving a higher price on the Eastern market than the Tokay variety grown in other sections of California.



A SACRAMENTO COUNTY FLAME TOKAY VINEYARD





DRYING PEACHES IN A CLIMATE WHERE PRODUCTION EXCELS

**Miscellaneous Fruits** SACRAMENTO COUNTY also produces cherries, apples, figs, nectarines, persimmons, pomegranates and quinces. Cherries shipped from the county are usually first to reach the market. They ripen in May. The Bing, Royal Ann and Tartarians are the best known varieties.

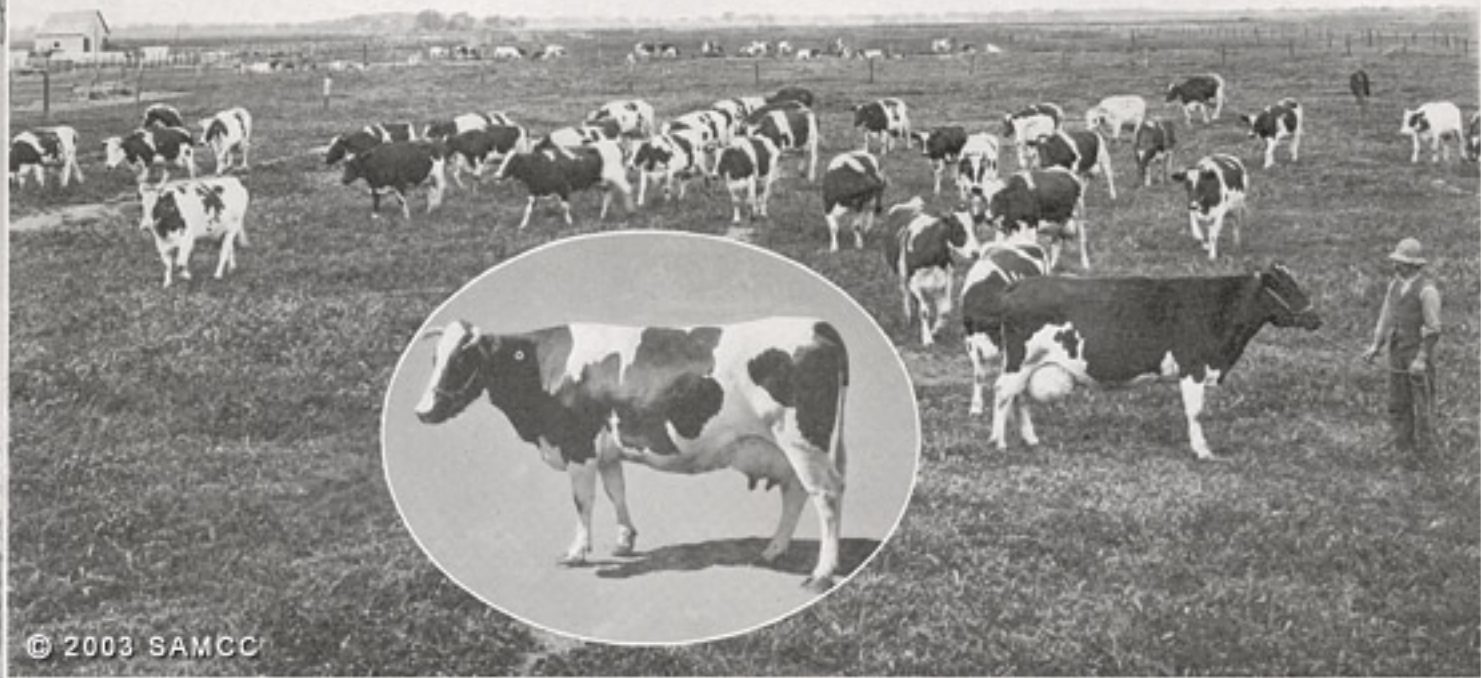
Apples are not grown extensively. They are produced principally on the river bottom lands, and are of the early summer variety.

Heavy planting of fig trees gives promise of large production, and an excellent opportunity is offered for profits in fig culture. Fig trees produce very heavily and regularly in Sacramento County soil.

The production of nectarines is confined largely to family orchards and does not equal the demand.

Persimmons, pomegranates and quinces do very well in this locality, but the planting is limited, due to small demand in both local and Eastern markets.

**Alfalfa** The world's greatest fodder plant has found a congenial home in Sacramento County. Alfalfa is deserving of the attention of every new settler. It produces abundantly on the irrigated high lands and the soils of the river bottom alike. Alfalfa produces an average of eight tons to the acre, while ten to eleven tons are not uncommon.



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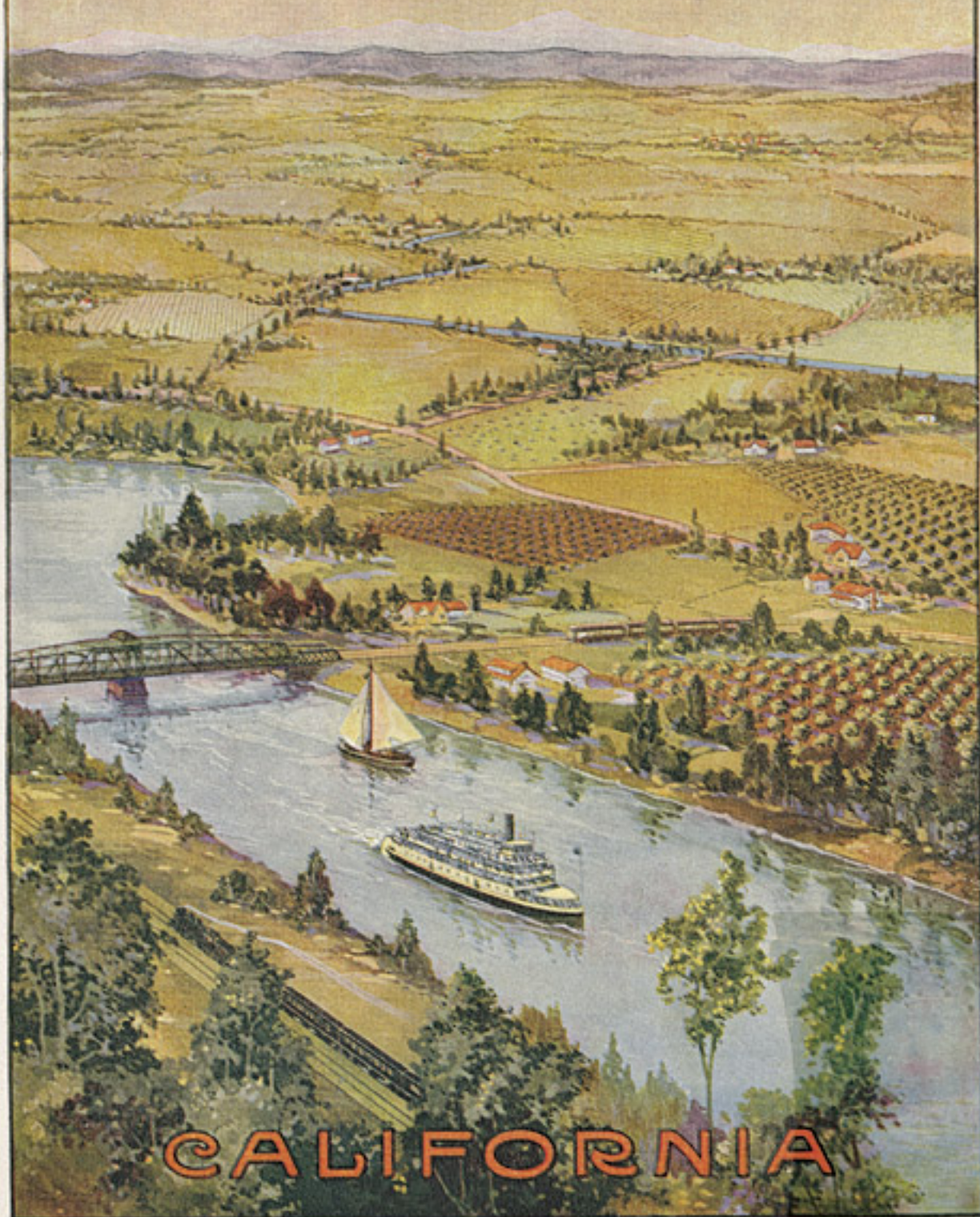
TYPICAL DAIRY HERD OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY. WORLD'S RECORD COW IN CIRCLE.



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ONE OF THE LARGE FOOD PACKING PLANTS IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY.

# SACRAMENTO VALLEY and Foothill Counties



CALIFORNIA