

Colony News

News from Our Colonies

ABOUT FUTURE EXCURSIONS.

The last excursions of the season to Green Cove Springs, Fla., and Chadborne, N. C., will be run May 5th.

This will be a fine time to see these states, especially for farmers who want to see what the land produces and become acquainted with the methods of Southern farming. It is true it is a hard time for farmers to get away, but to those who can do so it will be a delightful trip.

In the month of May also the South is in its glory. It is the month of flowers.

The fare to Chadborne, N. C., will be one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip. You can buy tickets in most cases at your own railway station.

We have also secured a reduced one way rate for that date, good on any line making the necessary connections. This rate is about \$10 less than the regular fare. Our friends who contemplate moving to Chadborne will save money by going on that date.

The same reduction applies to our excursion to Green Cove Springs, for the same date.

HOW THEY ARE GETTING ON.

The many friends who are interested in the Sunny South Colony, will read with interest the following letter from Mr. J. A. Westbrook. Though brief, it is to the point, and shows what the infusion of a little Northern blood will do for a Southern village:

Chadbourne, N. C., April 4th, 1896.

Messrs. Howard & Wilson, Chicago, Ill.—Gentlemen: Having just returned from the Sunny South Colony, I write to give you the impressions received while there.

All the colonists seem prosperous and happy; busy improving their lands and building their residences. The streets of the village have been cleaned up and so many improvements made that one would hardly recognize Chadbourne as the same village of one year ago.

The strawberries over there are looking splendidly, and I think they are the best in the state, and are about six days earlier than Mt. Olive. The garden peas are in bloom, the potatoes are up and they will soon be shipping radishes, and I consider it only a question of time when this will be one of the most prosperous sections of our state. Yours respectfully,
J. A. Westbrook.

Mr. Westbrook is one of the most successful farmers and horticulturists of the state. His words, though few, come with the weight of authority. It strongly confirms our judgment in the selection of this section for our Sunny South Colony.

We believe every member of the settlement will prosper.

SOME BEAUTIFUL VIEWS.

We are indebted to the manager of the Atlantic Coast lines, Mr. T. M. Emerson, for some of the most beautiful and perfect specimens of photography we have ever seen, illustrating farms and gardens at and in the vicinity of our Sunny South Colony at Chadborne, N. C. These will be reproduced and published, in our beautiful illustrated booklet, "The Old North State, or the Story of a Colony in the South." This booklet and the pictures tell the whole story. It will be sent postpaid to any prospective home-seeker for 10c.

Nothing shows the possibilities of a country so well as growing crops, and the next to the crops is a photograph of them. The sun does not exaggerate and tells no lies.

FROM THE SUNSET LAND.

General Howard's letter in last week's issue, telling the story of the conversion of the land of the Fair Oaks Colony into a home for the orange, lemon, olive and vine has doubtless been read with inter-

est. The work of putting in the water system and other promised improvements, is being put forward with an energy characteristic of Californians. It takes a vivid imagination to picture what Fair Oaks will be a few years hence.

It will also be seen from the General's letter that Sacramento has struck a fresh gait of progress. This is the usual result in sections where we undertake to locate colonies. The work we are doing in calling attention to the superior merit and advantages of this, the best fruit and farming section of the state could have no other result.

SOME STRONG LETTERS.

The following letter, though not meant for us, have accidentally come into our hands. They are samples of what the residents of Fair Oaks are writing to their friends. They also contain much information of interest calculated to develop the California fever and lead the afflicted to the fairest and best portion of the state.

The following is from E. S. Smith, a resident of Fair Oaks, to a friend at Riverside, who was looking for a home in California:

Mr. J. W. Humphrey, Riverside, Cal.

Dear Sir: I have been here three days and intend to leave to-night, and feel it my duty before going to write you and beg that you come up here and go over the Fair Oaks Colony before you settle upon a location. A more beautiful country in the state of nature it is impossible to conceive of, and the climate is unsurpassed. Besides I am informed by a party, whom both of us can trust, Mr. E. H. Hale, that the success of the culture of citrus fruits has been demonstrated beyond question. Oranges and lemons are ripened here fully a month earlier than in Riverside. The fruit is as fine as can be produced in the world.

The Howard & Wilson Publishing Company, the owners of the land, have 500 men on the ground employed in leveling the large oaks. I send you by mail plats of the ground and town-site. This land was not on the market until last November, and there are fully 150 people located on the property at the present time, so you can see how rapidly it is being settled.

Arrangements are being made for irrigation facilities to be in operation June 1, and the Electric Rail Road from Fair Oaks to Sacramento in the near future is an assured fact.

The oranges raised here never reach the Eastern market, and it is claimed never will, for as they are ripened a month earlier than in Southern California, the home demand takes them all at the highest prices—higher than the Southern crop demands.

Again, I beg of you to come up here and look over the land. I have bought ten acres in Fair Oaks and I intend it shall be my home in the near future, and it will be very pleasant to have some of our South Haven friends near us. Your friend,
E. S. Smith.

Fair Oaks, Cal., March 30, 1896.

The following from Joseph F. Baker was sent to Mr. Samuel Wilson, of New York. Mr. Wilson was the means of inducing Mr. Baker to go to California. The letter shows that he made no mistake:

Gentlemen: It is now about three months since I left New York, in the midst of a snow storm, bound for California, well named "the land of sunshine"; for I must say with few days exception, and those in the midst of winter, I have not seen such beautiful weather. I spent three years in Florida, and thought the climate there was grand, but I confess it does not equal that at Fair Oaks.

Being determined to satisfy myself before settling down, after a week at Fair Oaks I visited other places near by and then journeyed through Southern California, so much better known to Eastern people. I stopped a few days at all the well-known places, and was most pleased with San Diego on account of its fine climate. Los Angeles and Pasadena were undoubtedly very beautiful, but were entirely so through the lavish expenditure of money. Capital has made Southern California what it is to-day, and a proportional amount of money

and energy applied to Fair Oaks will make it the peer of any place in the state. Looking at all the unimproved lands in the south you would see either sage brush, desert or dreary, wild, treeless hills and mountains. When I returned to Fair Oaks what a change. Here was a beautiful rolling country, covered with green grass and grand live oaks, with hundreds of birds among the trees, singing their praises to God. It was as though I had wandered into some well-kept park. From the tops of the knolls I could see the snow-capped Sierras to the east, while to the southerly and westerly the beautiful Sacramento Valley, with its fine homes spread out before me as far as my eyes could see. It was a grand sight. I spent a week or two more thoroughly investigating the soil and comparing it with other places, and finally decided that Fair Oaks was the "spot for me." I bought a tract, built me a little cottage, and now while the much-abused, but reliable, honest workmen, the Chinamen, are clearing the land preparatory to setting out a Washington Navel orange orchard, I am waiting the coming of my wife and children.

I neglected to say that I found fruits mature much earlier here than in Southern California. In fact the orange crop is all picked and sold before the Southern oranges are ripe. American River oranges find a ready home market at high prices.

The colony is growing very fast; there are now over forty houses built and a number of more contracted for. In the town we have two first-class general stores, butcher shop, blacksmith shop, bicycle repair shop. There is now building a bakery and a drug store. Our school has been legally organized and the building will be put up during the summer, and school opened first of September with the same studies and advantages as can be attained in the best schools in the state.

Trusting that you will soon visit our little community, when I will take pleasure in personally showing you how we have advanced. I beg to remain, yours sincerely,

Jos. F. Baker.

NEXT EXCURSION TO CALIFORNIA.

The next excursion will go out May 7th. Full particulars next week.

A GLIMPSE OF ROSELAND.

By O. McG. Howard.

Leaving Chicago on a bleak winter afternoon, heavily clothed to keep out the cold, it seemed a marvelous transformation to be sitting on the car platform to cool off the next morning. That is what the editor did on his way to Roseland, Louisiana, whither he was going to look over this first of the Farm, Field and Fireside's famous colonies. Though but twenty-four hours' ride from Chicago on the fast trains of the Illinois Central, Roseland pays no tribute to the frost king and is becoming widely known as a delightful winter health resort where people of moderate means can enjoy the southern sunlight without paying for it at about one dollar per day, as is the case at some winter resort hotels.

Roseland is a thriving little city with a population of over fifteen hundred people. Two hotels, good stores, two mills, ample church and school privileges and a population of energetic, hard-working northern people combine in making the name of Roseland well known as a synonym for prosperity. It is not a "boom town" in any sense, but has had a steady and prosperous growth from the start. The people went there determined to succeed and that determination has resulted in as fine a lot of well-tilled fruit and truck farms as can be found anywhere in the south. What was an unbroken forest when the Farm, Field and Fireside first sent its representative in search of a suitable home for the brave and confident pioneers of its first colony has become as fine a tract of garden and orchard land as any in the south. Every year adds to Roseland's prosperity and emphasizes the good judgment of the men who set-

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