

## Colony News

### Bonny Fair Oaks

WITH this issue we present a few more of the faces of Fair Oaks residents and purchasers. Others will follow from time to time until our Album of Fair Oaks is completed. We also give another landscape view of the lands in nature. It seems like sacrilege to cut down these noble oaks, and we hope that the "woodman" will "spare the tree" when it is possible to do so without interfering with the more valuable fruit trees which must replace them.

In the matter of the progress being made in Fair Oaks, and in lauding its virtues, we prefer to let others do the talking. The following from a disinterested Californian of eighteen months' experience, will tell its own story.

Mr. Wilson is the editor of the Pacific Coast Railway and Steamship Guide. When a resident of Chicago he had much experience in platting suburban towns and in the real estate line:

#### OUR FIRST VISIT TO FAIR OAKS AND WHAT WE SAW.

San Francisco, Cal., May 20, 1896.

Jas. W. Wilson,

Dear Sir: I thought you might be interested to know that wife and I made up our minds last week to take a trip to Fair Oaks, and find out for ourselves whether or not in your stories, and those of others writers in the "F. F. & F." you had drawn upon your imagination, or whether they were quite true. Of course, having lived now in Oakland, Cal., for eighteen months, we did not need converting to the merits of California's climate, nor its beautiful surroundings, but it did not seem possible that so new a settlement as this could have progressed so rapidly as outlined in your columns. So, like the Queen of Sheba, who heard such glowing reports of King Solomon's greatness and glory, and visited his city to find out for herself, we went, somewhat doubting, but, like that ancient Queen, we came away saying, "the half has not been told." To say that we were surprised, is speaking mildly.

We arrived in time to meet General Thompson, and his brother, from Iowa, and many other visitors, and through the kindness of Messrs. Alsip, Shaffer, Olson, Hubbs, and the latter's estimable wife, we were delightfully entertained, and shown all over the settlement, that we might get a correct impression of it from seeing it for ourselves. My uncle, Benjamin Wilson, a resident of Sacramento, who has resided in California for twenty-four years, was with us. And, by the way, I feel persuaded that to this delightful climate he is indebted for his life, as he was threatened with an early cutting off with dread consumption before coming here. He had visited the colony in November last, when my brother, Samuel, from New York, and yourself were there, but he was astonished to note how much had been done in the interim in the way of improvement.

Having, as you know, lived in your Roseland (La.) colony for three years, and knowing the up-hill work of starting a new colony, I was not prepared to see what we saw on arriving at Fair Oaks. It was a revelation to me. Instead of seeing here and there a rough board shanty temporarily thrown up, and a few acres plowed preparatory to cultivation, we found what seemed to us to be thousands of acres plowed, and thousands upon thousands of fruit trees set out, and scores of houses built, most of them such as we might look for in years from now. Saw also a full fledged black-



A VIEW AT FAIR OAKS—"IN NATURE IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PARK."

smith and wagon shop, two stores in active operation, and a new one building, and nearly completed.

And what shall I say of the location as a colony site? It is simply superb. I never saw anything finer, and do not expect to. It was no wonder to me that you met with such success in selling. Any one coming from the states east of here, where wintry storms prevail, to say nothing of the dreadful death-dealing cyclones, and nerve-racking thunder storms so frequently experienced there, cannot fail to be suited. If it is at all possible for them to make the exchange of locations, you may be sure they will do so, after seeing what you have for sale. I would rather have ten acres in Fair Oaks than 500 acres in Nebraska, Dakota, and others states I might name.

If I can sell my interests in Roseland, I shall want to go to Fair Oaks and buy. I have seen a piece there I would like. You remember I was obliged to leave Roseland in November, 1894, owing to business interests here and the fact that my wife's relatives were all here, including our son and daughter. We were doing well in Roseland, and those who are there now, I see, are making rapid progress. It is a good location, especially for any one who wants a mild climate, and desires to engage in truck farming. They are sure of big crops two or three times a year, and a sure market. No cyclones, nor blizzards. It is not everyone that can afford to buy in Fair Oaks, but anybody can afford to buy in Roseland and make big interest on the investment. I did well there and proved my faith in it by investing all I had there. If you know anyone who wants a small lot of three acres with lots of plums, pear, and other trees, two small houses (one plastered), and a barn, chicken house, etc., let me know. Or anyone wanting timber land by the acre, I can fit them up at a low figure, as I want to buy in Fair Oaks, but must sell something in Roseland first.

In closing this epistle, allow me to say that I was particularly struck with the splendid class of intelligent people already located in this new settlement. I am bound to end my days in California, having spent about thirty years in Illinois, and came near losing my life in its inhospitable climate. Nothing would induce me to return there. And if you will accept advice, allow me to suggest that if you value your life, and wish to enjoy it, the sooner you turn your coat tails to Chicago, and your face this way, for good, the better it will be for you.

Thos. Wilson.

The following from the Inter Ocean, Chicago, gives Chauncey M. DePew's opinion of California.

New York, April 12.—Chauncey M. DePew arrived home to-day from his trip to the Golden Gate with Cornelius Vanderbilt. He has a stock of new stories, his usual good nature, and a greater regard than ever before for the great wide West. The Vanderbilt party was gone twenty-two days. They slept in their cars nineteen nights. They were in twenty-five states, one territory, and the District of Columbia. The speed was fifty miles an hour.

"California? A wonderful future. The State is as large as France; it has 1,500,000 population, while France has 35,000,000. I was impressed a few years ago with the business opportunities of the South. The opportunities are as great in California and it is not so hot there. A glorious climate. They need manufactures. Up to this time fruit farms have yielded the best returns for capital. A man on ten acres of ground makes \$3,000 a year. They press the button and nature does the rest. They have been so prosperous that they have not stopped to encourage other industries. Of course, the difficulty of getting coal is one hindrance

to the development of manufacturing. A drawback to agricultural development is the fact that large tracts of land are held by individuals. We rode thirty-five miles on one man's holdings. That should be divided up among—small farmers."

The following is an extract from a letter from Col. F. M. Thompson, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, speaks well for Fair Oaks as a resort for asthmatics.

"We have been south and have seen nothing we like as well as at Fair Oaks. My brother had the asthma at Santa Catalena, Pasadena and at San Diego, so we came back here. He is feeling splendidly here, and we think it will prove all right for him here. Have met Mr. Stefins and have some data in regard to the railroad. Will look it up still further. We go with Mr. Olson to-morrow to New Castle to meet the party from Chicago. Will drive from there to Fair Oaks.

"Yours truly,  
"F. M. Thompson."

Under this same head another correspondent writes: "A Mrs. Bowers told me she had a child that had been sorely and constantly afflicted all its life with asthmatic and other troubles, but since coming there it had not had a sick day. She said she was glad on that account she had come."

#### ABOUT THE EXCURSION.

We shall take out a select party over the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy route from Chicago to Pueblo, thence over the scenic route, the Denver & Rio Grande and Rio Grande & Western to Ogden, thence over the Central Pacific to destination.

We shall have our usual special accommodations and will insure all who will go a delightful trip.

The \$50 rebate to those who buy ten acres or more at Fair Oaks has been extended to those who go out on this excursion, after which it will be positively withdrawn. Also present prices will be held open until July 1st. Those who want to get in on the ground floor at Fair Oaks should speak for a chunk of this land at once. It is going and going rapidly.

—The young man who prides himself on being original was talking to Miss Cayenne.

"Your mother seemed very much amused at that little story I told her last night," he said, self-approvingly.

"Yes," she replied, "Ever since I can remember, mother has laughed whenever she heard that story."—Washington Star.

—"I'm going to tell my pa on you," said Johnny Smithers, as the blacksmith pared some of the bone away from the horse's hoof.

"Why? What have I done?" asked the blacksmith.

"You ain't got shoes to fit Dobbin, an' you're whittlin' off his feet to suit those you have got."—London Weekly Telegraph.

ANOTHER DOUBT REMOVED. In this year's copy of "The Surprise," a little paper published by Dr. Peter Fahrney, of Chicago, Ill., there appears a letter of testimonial from Mr. Geo. Smith, a well-known and respected citizen of La Grange, Ohio. It tells of the remarkable restoration to health of that gentleman, by the use of the Blood Vitalizer, after he had been given up to die. His letter has naturally attracted much notice, and some have found it hard to believe, even going so far as to write Mr. Smith on the subject. We publish below a letter recently received by him, also his answer thereto:

Herndon, Va., Feb. 21, 1896. Mr. Geo. Smith, La Grange, O. Dear Sir:—I have read in Dr. Fahrney's paper, "The Surprise," what his medicine has done for you, and take the liberty of asking you if you will kindly inform me, on the enclosed postal card, if it is a fact or not, or if it is only a patent medicine humbug, and oblige yours truly, Robt. H. Schneider.

La Grange, O., Feb. 24, 1896. Mr. R. Schneider, Herndon, Va. Dear Sir:—What you read in Dr. Fahrney's paper in regard to the effects of the Blood Vitalizer in my case is a fact. I am confident that his Blood Vitalizer has saved my life. It is not a patent medicine—can only be had from his local agents living in different localities, or from Dr. Fahrney direct. If you wish any further information you are at liberty to write me again. Yours truly, Geo. Smith, La Grange, O.

Whitehall, Ill., March 9, 1896.

Edw. W. Buehl & Co., Chicago.

Gentlemen—Last December I sent for one of your New Souvenir Dessert Forks. I am so well pleased with it that I herewith enclose \$1.00 for the remaining five forks to make a complete set.—Yours respectively, Mrs. J. Stubblefield.

#### STREKETEER'S TAPE WORM REMEDY.

A sure remedy. Never was known to fail in removing Tape Worms entirely, head and all, provided the directions are followed. Removal guaranteed. For sale only by GEO. G. STREKETEER, Proprietor, Grand Rapids, Mich. Price, 25c.

—Presidential Candidate.—"Say, wife, do I talk in my sleep?"

His Wife.—"Sometimes."

"Well, if I say anything about the currency question don't you give it away."—Philadelphia Item.