

# Colony News

## Excursions

To Fair Oaks, January 7.  
 To Green Cove Springs, January 5.  
 To Sunny South Colony, Chadbourn, N. C., December 15 and January 5.  
 Low rates of fare and special car accommodations.

### Roseland, La.

Our Pioneer Colony, Roseland, La., has climbed to the front in shipments. In the general gold standard stagnation it is refreshing to find one place that is prospering. The Roseland Herald says:

"The figures in the shipment of vegetables from Roseland the past season show that Roseland ranks No. 1 on shipments of any town on the road between McComb City and New Orleans. Roseland is first; Ponchatoula second; Hammond third; Amite City fourth, and Arcola fifth. The amount of money paid for freight to the Illinois Central road was about \$8,000 from Roseland shippers alone—a sum never exceeded any previous season. Thus it will be observed that Roseland is gaining fast each year and the time is not far distant when the town will receive due credit as the greatest shipping point in Louisiana. People north should make a note of this and come and see for themselves. We can offer better inducements to the homeseeker in every way than any other town in this section of country. In the vegetable line Roseland has fully demonstrated what can be done and has a bright future before her. Her prosperity is assured. We are in the center of a wealth-producing country. Our citizens are energetic, prosperous and wide-awake, and if northern people seeking homes will only give Roseland careful consideration and locate in our midst they will never have cause to regret it."

Roseland is a good sample of the effectiveness of our "Colony idea." When we started our colony, Roseland was a "forest primeval."

### Fair Oaks, California

Col. F. M. Thompson, one of the G. A. R. boys from Iowa, who went out with our November 17 excursion, writes to Gen. Howard as follows:

Fair Oaks, November 24.

General C. H. Howard.

Dear Sir and Comrade: Last night I stood again under those grand old oaks where six months ago we met for the first time. The oaks are as magnificently grand as then, and I find myself with a feeling of reverence creeping over me while in their presence. On this, my second visit, I find myself as much infatuated with the beauty of Fair Oaks as at our former visit. This is surely one of nature's favorite spots. My brother, General J. F. Thompson, wife and little daughter, are here for the winter. We have left the snow-clad fields of the east behind us and in our imagination we can see them glistening in the sunlight as we view the distant snow-capped mountains. At this distance they look beautiful, although it sends a chill coursing up our spine when we remember our experiences in past winters at home. We dismiss them from our mind while we luxuriate amid the flowers and orange groves, although we can't forget our loved ones who are still there but who we trust will be here before long.

We turn our eyes towards the prospects surrounding us which are pleasing indeed. We note with much satisfaction the material prosperity in evidence on all hands throughout the colony. As we drove out from the Capital City, Sacramento, the first tract of interest to us reached was that of E. Huntington of Rock Rapids, Ia., of twenty acres, and it is truly a fine piece. Mr. H., wife and baby will be out on the 1st and will begin to improve his holding. We pass on over Jas. Radke's and J. L. Dwinell's of Marshallton, Ia., and R. B. Beason's of Worthington, Minn.; now we reach our own and George Baldwin's, of Rock Rapids, Ia.; those two tens are as fine as silk. Gen. J. F. Thompson's ten acres of oranges and five of lemons are looking fine. We never saw so great a growth made in the same length of time as has been made here; then south to his ten acres of olives, which are looking very well. D. W. Adron, of Cherokee, Ia., has ten acres right adjoining. We payed it a visit also and find it has not grown any less beautiful. It is dotted with many magnificent oaks, both live and white. These will soon be replaced, however, with the orange, olive, lemon and vine. It has on it one of the finest building spots imaginable. Next comes Mr. Cunningham's, of Worthington, Minn. They have just arrived and are now building a home. We have not yet reached Fair Oaks town, but as we drive on we note at every turn new houses, some just completed and many others in the hands of the workmen. Arriving at Hotel Fair Oaks, we are greeted by those two genial people, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, the host and hostess, who make one feel at home at once. The hotel has kept pace with the other improvements in the colony

by adding a large wing on the east of the main building, giving some fine rooms and a neat little private sitting room, where we find a new Fisher upright grand piano. But this is all for the outside. Our appetites call for something more than music, so we gather around the table and then the fun begins in earnest. Oranges fresh from the trees, grapes from the vineyard, green beans, peas, fresh tomatoes, lettuce, new onions, sweet and Irish potatoes, and cauliflower, all the latter from the gardens of Fair Oaks, together with the richest of milk and golden alfalfa butter, make us feel glad we are here.

The first thing we want to know about is the water, as water is king wherever you may go in California. We find that there has been about thirty-five miles of pipe laid and the settlement is now supplied with an abundance of the very best and purest of soft water, clear as crystal. The laterals on the lots are two-inch pipes giving a flow of more than two hundred gallons per minute.

There are many others we would be glad to mention personally, but there are too many located here to do so in detail; but there is one that I cannot pass without giving special mention, viz., Mrs. Bell Bowers, late of Chicago, a lady who has always lived in the city and who had no previous experience of country life. She was ambitious, however, to have a home where her children would be less exposed to the ills that children encounter in a large city. So she bade her husband good-by, he having a good position at a good salary in the city, took her children, two boys and a sweet little girl, and came to Fair Oaks, bought ten acres and had it cleared. Did you ever locate a home on a new piece of land? If not you have no idea how difficult it is. You look your land over; you must take in the surroundings, the lay of the land and many other things. This inexperienced lady had all this to do. With the true grit of an American woman she located and built her a good house and is now having the grounds terraced and laid out. In this she is a real artist. She has her walks and drives almost completed and her barn and chicken house, with buggy shed between, and all is as artistic as if planned by a landscape gardener. In her home orchard of almost an acre she has probably fifty varieties of fruit; then she has planted almonds, olives and oranges, so that her tract is now all planted and under cultivation. In a year or two she will have an ideal home fit for a queen. This shows what intelligence and pluck can do. Mrs. B. receives her friends in her parlors, which are elegantly furnished, as gracefully as though they had called on her in her finer city home. We have not had the pleasure of calling on Mrs. Siddell, who came on at the same time that Mrs. B. did, and who also, I learn, has done splendidly.

With the advent of the electric railroad the success of the Fair Oaks colony is assured. Yours very truly,  
 F. M. Thompson.

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Rev. E. I. Galvin, one of Chicago's former best known citizens, but now of Fair Oaks, writes among other things as follows:

"A short time ago I took a double team and drove out to Fair Oaks with my wife and daughters, fording the river near the hotel. My folks were delighted with the beautiful prospect from the bluffs, and with the hills, and with my chosen lot. While there I found Mr. Spencer and went over the lots of Messrs. Ruggles, King and Bramhall, of the Michigan Central Railway, also that of Mrs. Cash, of St. Louis, and wrote Mr. Ruggles the next day my cordial endorsement of these selections, both as regards their location and the evidenced good soil.

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Among the recent purchasers at Fair Oaks are Mr. Andrew Hodge, vice-president and treasurer of the Chicago Paper Co., and A. T. Hodge, of the Butler Paper Co., and Mr. Patterson, editor of the Chicago Daily Journal. These are all people of wealth and influence who will build ideal homes and help build up an ideal community. Of such is Fair Oaks.

General J. F. Thompson, of Iowa, has taken the electric railway in hand and with his well known energy will soon have the graders at work. When that road is built every acre of Fair Oaks property will be worth one-half more.

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There is a rumor in the air of a \$30,000 hotel for Fair Oaks. Don't bank on it yet however. Such a hotel will pay well. We can fill it with well-to-do Chicagoans.

### Green Cove Springs, Fla.

Mr. Anweiler, one of the colonists, is bringing a lot of horses overland from Detroit. It has come to a pretty pass when it is cheaper to go overland in the old-fashioned way than to pay rail freights.

Mr. Keppler, from Kentucky, one of the pioneers, has been home and returned with a lot of friends. Thus the settlement grows.

What an observer says of the thrift of Green Cove Springs:  
 "In the last few months I have traveled over a portion of Clay, Putnam, Marion, Lake and Orange counties, but nowhere

have I seen the evidence of thrift and prosperity that there is in and around the settlements of Green Cove Springs, especially among the colonists, where there are a great many new buildings going up, a great amount of land being fenced and cleared, and planted to something as fast as being prepared, which I consider as evidence of future prosperity, and should be encouraging to prospective settlers. Of course we have the professional "kicker" here as well as everywhere else, but he doesn't seem to last long, he either gets disgusted at his own twaddle or goes somewhere else where people are easier discouraged. As I have said, Florida is just what you make it. That is, the resources of Florida are numerous; all need not follow the same occupation and with a unanimity of action among the settlers of Green Cove Springs there is no reason why the colony will will not be a great success.

Van Derveer."