

pose of examining and ratifying the selections made by your company's experts. Allow me to say that without exception they were pleased and satisfied. There was not one but what said that they could not have done better had they made their own selection.

Several of our party visited the school, in charge of Mrs. Jennie Huber, a very bright, pleasing little woman, who thoroughly understands her business. She demonstrated her ability to fill this position to the satisfaction of all. Several of the residents from Chicago spoke in praise of the high standard maintained in the school, and said that their children made better progress and enjoyed their work more than in the Chicago city schools from whence they came. The school now seats forty pupils. Arrangements are being made to largely increase its capacity to accommodate the large number of purchasers who are coming with their families to settle in Fair Oaks.

On Wednesday Mrs. O. W. Ruggles, wife of the General Passenger Agent of the Michigan Central Railroad, visited Fair Oaks for the purpose of looking over her forty-five-acre tract and selecting a site for the residence, barn and other buildings, and to make final arrangements for the planting of the tract. Her visit seems but to increase the generous enthusiasm and interest she has always manifested in Fair Oaks. Judging by the plans she has outlined they propose having as pretty a home as there is in California. Where nature has done so much, this can easily be accomplished. Things of beauty grow here as if by magic. In fact, Fair Oaks seems to grow on one. The more one sees of it the better he likes it. This has been the experience of all, and only the faith that I can soon again visit it will prevent my carrying an unwilling and rebellious heart back to the regions of chilling cold and clouded skies in the east. Some day I hope with my family to be able to sit beneath my own vine and fig tree and eat the fruit thereof in peace in this glorious land of the setting sun. Sincerely yours,
George R. Morrell.

Excursion Notes

The next excursion dates will be as follows:

Florida, January 5. To Green Cove Springs. There are no special homeseekers' rate to Florida. The regular round trip rates are \$45.00 from Chicago and correspondingly more or less from other points according to the distance. By buying a homeseeker's ticket to Everett, Ga., at one fare, plus \$5.00, and paying local rates from Everett a saving can be effected, making the rate of \$39.55. By joining our excursion, however, either at Chicago, Richmond, Ind., Cincinnati, Ohio, Chattanooga, Tenn., or Atlanta, Ga., or intervening points, we will put you through at one fare, plus \$2.00, the round trip, or \$30.50 from Chicago, and more or less from other points, according to distance.

THE ROUTE

Will be via the Pennsylvania (Panhandle) from Chicago, leaving this city at 10 a. m., via Richmond, Ind., leaving Cincinnati at 8 p. m., via the Queen & Crescent to Chattanooga, where a stop of a few hours will be made for a visit to Lookout Mountain and other attractions; leaving Chattanooga at 2:55 p. m., via Western & Atlantic, to Atlanta, Ga.; leaving Atlanta at 7:50 p. m., via the Central of Georgia, to Savannah, where another stop-over will be given long enough to see the historic city. Thence via the F. C. & P. to Jacksonville, and the J. T. & K. W. to Green Cove Springs. Tickets good to return in twenty-one days.

Those buying through tickets from their home offices, outside of Chicago, should buy them via these routes. Buy the homeseeker's ticket to Everett, Ga., and connect with our party at one of the above places. One way settler rates from your home station to Green Cove Springs 1½ cents a mile, or \$20.55 from Chicago.

For information about Florida and the Colony send 10c to this office for Fair Florida. Mr. F. H. Hafer is the Southern Manager, Green Cove Springs. Send to Mr. Hafer for a copy of the Sub Tropic, the colony paper.

North Carolina, January 5, to our Sunny South Colony at Chadbourn, N. C. One fare plus \$2 the round trip, or 1½ cent a mile one way.

Send 10c to this office for a copy of the "Old North State."

Senator J. A. Brown, Chadbourn, N. C., is the local manager. Send to him for copy of the Truckers' and Planters' Journal, the colony paper. Published weekly at \$1 a year; \$1.60 in club with this paper.

California, January 7, special car and special accommodations. Lowest rates. Write to this office for particulars. Also send 10c for The Heart of California, telling all about the state and colony.

Edwin K. Alsip, 1015 Fourth street, Sacramento, Cal., Western Manager. All applications for literature should be addressed to this office.

The New Heart

Is now ready, and has been mailed to all applicants. Send 10 cents for it. Also, the prospectus of the Olive and Fruit Growers' Association. This association furnishes groves at Fair Oaks, Cal., on the monthly installment plan.

Colony News

From Fair Oaks, California

The following is a report from one who went out on our December 1 excursion to Fair Oaks:

Fair Oaks, Cal., December 12, 1896.

My Dear Mr. Wilson: After a very pleasant trip over mountain and plain, accompanied by delightful weather and the comfortable accommodations afforded by the railroad companies, we have reached Fair Oaks.

Our company was a very genial one, and the acquaintances which we have made en route will be lasting.

We find Fair Oaks, with its beautifully rolling land and charming landscape and soft, balmy climate, all that we anticipated. To-day we took our first trip over the land. It is indeed beautiful. Some sections still remain in the state of nature, but in others, where cleared and planted, the soil showed its quality and ability in an exceptionally strong growth attained by the young orchards. This was especially noticeable in the orange, lemon and olive.

When we think of Fair Oaks as we first saw it in January last, it seems almost impossible that so much progress could have been made in so short a time. Surely the spirit of Chicago's push and energy inspired the management and the many of her citizens now resident at Fair Oaks.

Our party, after an appetizing dinner chiefly made up of products of Fair Oaks home soil, started on a tour of investigation. It is perhaps needless to say that all were delighted with the nature of the soil as exhibited in the growth of trees, improvements made, water system, etc. What pleased us most was the thrifty condition of the orchards planted by your company under charge of your western manager, Edwin K. Alsip, and his efficient orchard superintendents, Messrs. Spencer and Kleffer. There was such a large difference in the appearance of the trees—a strong growth, symmetrical pruning, general good condition of the orchard, as to be particularly noticeable. It is evident that your company is very careful in the selection of stock, and that your superintendents are skilled in tree planting. The contrast with the work done by other contractors and where the parties have done their own planting is very noticeable; so much so, indeed, that every one commented upon it.

Mr. G. C. Spaeth, of Mt. Carmel, Ill., one of our party, who is himself a thorough horticulturist and experienced orchardist, was particularly well pleased with the work done by the company. He said he considered the work of the highest order. This is another proof of the old adage that "the cheapest is not always the best," nor indeed the cheapest in the long run.

Among our party were several who had made purchases in the east, and were visiting Fair Oaks for the first time for the pur-