



Colony News

Excursion Notes

Our next excursion dates will be: South, March 2; West to Fair Oaks, March 4. This will be a delightful season to visit either place.

ROSELAND EXCURSION.

Remember the excursion to Roseland, La., Feb. 16. We go via the Illinois Central Railway. The train leaves Chicago at 4 p. m. We invite all who desire to see Bonny Roseland or to secure a home there to join us. The fare will be one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip, or a greatly reduced one-way rate.

Fair Oaks, Cal.

We are in receipt of the following from the Ladies' Aid Society of Fair Oaks:

"On Jan. 19 the 'Ladies' Aid' of Fair Oaks served a chicken pie supper, accompanied with potato and cabbage salad, baked beans, bread and butter, cold ham, cake and coffee. A fee of 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children (too large to carry) was taken at the door. The receipts for the evening amounted to \$21.25. The expense did not exceed \$1, as all was donated. The occasion was a grand success. Nowhere, under the shining sun, can be found a more intelligent, refined or better looking class of people than at Fair Oaks. Come, see and be convinced. Respectfully,
Mrs. Watkins, Pres.
Mrs. Siddall, Sec.

How He Missed It

We are in receipt of the following and publish it because the story has a moral:
Redlands, Cal., Jan. 21, 1897.

J. W. Wilson, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:—Yours of Jan. 5, and directed to me at Kewanee, is just at hand. I left Illinois Dec. 30 last and am now settled at Redlands. I found that I could not conveniently stop at Fair Oaks, as I wanted to, but was very much pleased with the country around there. If I had not had friends here and partly bargained for my ranch before coming out, I should surely have joined your Fair Oaks Colony. As it is, I have bought an orange grove already in bearing, and as you told me I would, paid better than a thousand dollars per acre for it. I saw some fine oranges near Fair Oaks, so am convinced that they can be grown there, besides a greater variety of fruits than can be grown profitably here. However, I like Redlands and the climate here and hope that I will not regret going by Fair Oaks. I think there is a much better opportunity for a man with small capital there than here. Thanking you for the courtesies extended to me and wishing you the full measure of success that you deserve, I am, Very respectfully yours,
Charles F. Wolcott.

The moral is a mathematical one, a question of profit and loss. It runs in this way:

Cost of 20-acre grove at Redlands.....	\$20,000
Interest at 7 per cent, 10 years.....	14,000
Living expenses, 10 years, at \$1,000 a year.....	10,000

Total expense 10 years.....	\$44,000
Net income from grove for 10 years, at \$200 an acre..	40,000

Balance.....	\$ 4,000
Value of grove.....	\$20,000

Net gain in 10 years..... \$16,000

AT FAIR OAKS.

Cost of 20 acres best orange land at Fair Oaks.....	\$ 2,000
Cost of piping water on land.....	200
Costing of planting and cultivating 3 years, our price..	2,200
Interest on investment, 10 years.....	3,000
Cost of living ten years.....	10,000

Total expense at end of 10 years.....	\$17,400
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Income 4th year.....	\$ 1,000
Income 5th year.....	2,000
Average for next 5 years at \$300 an acre..	30,000
Total net income.....	\$33,000

Gain.....	\$15,600
Value of grove.....	30,000

Net gain in 10 years.....	\$45,600
Less net gain at Redlands.....	10,000

In favor Fair Oaks..... \$29,600

This estimate is based on the higher price obtained for oranges grown in the "warm gold belt," in which Fair Oaks is situated, due to earliness. Redlands is a beautiful place and produces some of the best oranges in California. Fair Oaks is even more attractive in nature than Redlands and produces equally good oranges and equally abundant crops, while they ripen from four

to five weeks earlier. For this reason, although we have only estimated them one-half higher in price, they really sell for double. A market is also found for all produced in the cities on the coast, while Redlands ships its crop to eastern cities to find a market. Thus Fair Oaks saves the long haul of freight and the expense of more frequent handling before reaching the consumer, besides getting higher prices.

Another great advantage at Fair Oaks is in the more abundant and cheaper water supply. Redlands' growers pay double Fair Oaks' prices for a much scantier supply of water.

We conclude, therefore, that our friend did make a mistake in "passing by" Fair Oaks. Still we believe he will never regret going to California and investing even \$1,000 an acre in an orange grove, providing he has secured a good one planted to good budded fruit. There are many seedling groves for sale in California which are not worth the soil they occupy. Our friend doubtless had too much sense to buy one of this character.

Horticultural Notes

—In thinning out a grove remember that a live sapling is better than a dead giant.

—Hillsides which cannot be made to repay cultivation because of washing and exhaustion of the soil, should be planted with trees. The land will then be earning something, and the accumulation of leaf mold will gradually enrich it. By and by it can be made into a good pasture field, if into nothing else.

—The Jansen Nurseries, Jansen, Nebraska, pay the freight on all goods when the order, singly or in clubs, amounts to \$10. when you order goods this way you know just what they will cost at your station. If any of our readers expect to buy nursery stock this spring, it will pay to send to the Jansen Nursery Co. for their price list, which is sent free on application if this paper is named.

—S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., patentees and manufacturers of the celebrated "Planet, Jr." agricultural implements, have their catalogue for 1897 ready for mailing, and will be pleased to send a copy free to any of our readers on receipt of postal card request. Those sending should be sure to give their post office and state as well as name. It is always a pleasure to us to call attention to such goods as the "Planet, Jr." tools, because we know them to be so handy, simple, effectual and durable. This season the makers have added to their list of standard seed drills, wheel hoes, cultivators and potato diggers several new tools, the most interesting being, perhaps, their No. 5 and No. 4 hill and row garden seed drills, fertilizer and pea drill, special horse hoe for beet cultivation and two new combined two-horse cultivators. Send for their catalogue and price list.

—Except for cooking, in my taste, the quality of the Russian apples as a whole is below that of the American sorts for eating raw, but for cooking they cannot be surpassed. The trees can be relied upon to endure our worst winters, and the fruit when the latter would be killed to the snow line, as in the winter of 1884-85. For several years past our winters have been comparatively mild, and many of the trees that were formerly killed have grown up from the ground again and fruited the past season. This is creating a demand for some of the old favorite kinds. This would be well if we knew our late mild winters were to continue, but there is no knowing how soon we may have another series of "test" winters to repeat the disaster of 1884-85, and I am still partial to the Russian varieties for planting in this northern latitude, for they can be relied upon while the others cannot, if history is to repeat itself.—J. B. Mitchell, Cresco, Ia.