

Colony News

Sunset Letters

Again Westward over plain and mountain to the land of gold, golden fruit and setting sun. How different now from the days of those hardy, courageous pioneers, otherwise known as Forty-niners, who, lured by the glitter of gold, plodded this route with slow moving ox teams amid hostile Indians, savage wild beasts and other dangers unknown.

What would they have thought then, if some inspired prophet had foretold, that even in their life time men would travel this route, which cost them so many weeks of weary toil in three days time, and while thus travelling sleep in comfortable beds and dine in all the luxury of a first class hotel.

Miracles indeed. We are so accustomed to them in these days that nothing short of the resurrection of the dead would surprise any one. Seventy-four hours is the time consumed by the "Vestibled, Limited," over the Chicago and North Western Union Pacific route, while high class dining car service from Chicago to San Francisco makes travelling a luxury indeed.

The passing panorama from the window of the flying train especially while speeding over and down the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, at this time of the year, is of surpassing loveliness and grandeur.

Snow, snow everywhere in all its untarnished whiteness on which the sunlight glistens too bright, indeed for the unpractised eye. While out of its unmarred mass rises the ever green of the Mountain pine and shrub. Great Hills and mountains, depths of valley and canon, white and green, with now and then a rushing torrent whipped into angry foam by the sturdy boulders which obstruct its path. Over all the deep unfathomable azure blue of the sky. A picture which no artist can paint or pen describe.

We pass the last snow bank at 3 p. m., and in just 15 minutes orange groves are in sight, and almond trees in bloom, while the whiteness of the snow gives place to green grass studded with a seeming endless variety of wild flowers. Think of it from February to June in fifteen minutes. Such is California.

Fair Oaks is my destination of course. Nowadays this seems to be the Mecca of California home seekers. In olden times they used to say "See Rome and die," We will now metamorphose the saying into modern form, "See Fair Oaks and live."

When I left Chicago the last admonition I received was, "Do not fail to see Fair Oaks." At Ogden a smart little chap stuck a neat circular into my hand, which admonished me in large type "Stop at Sacramento in the Heart of California and look at Fair Oaks. Call at Edwin K. Alsip & Co., Office No. 1015 4th street, Sacramento, who will take you out free of charge."

When rolling down between Roseville and Sacramento on the train it was pointed out "That over yonder, where those trees are, is located a place called "Fair Oaks," destined to be one of the most attractive in California. Several thousand acres are being planted in fruit, principally citrus fruits and olives. All kinds of fruit grow there. All fruit grown on the American river is noted for its earliness and extra quality, &c., &c."

At Sacramento while supping at a friend's home, I was reminded that the comfortable fire in the grate was from "Fair Oaks wood."

With a loaded camera and an extra package of "Seeds," I propose on the morrow to see Fair Oaks for myself, and if your readers will excuse me for a week until I can look around a bit and develop the "camera shots" I will show them some of Fair Oaks. Until then as they say in Spanish-America, "Adios." A Wandering Tourist.

From Fair Oaks

The following extracts from the report of the annual meeting of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce published in the Sacramento Bee, will prove very interesting and encouraging to the actual purchasers, as well as prospective, in Bonny Fair Oaks:

A SPLENDID OUTLOOK FOR THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

It is Proposed to Push the Fair Oaks Railroad Project—Much Outside Capital is Coming In—What One Colony Has Done.
Last night the Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting, and there was a good attendance of members.

REPORT ON IMMIGRATION.

R. D. Stephens, chairman of the committee on Immigration and lands, read an interesting paper, in which he said that while there had been a great financial depression in California, Sacramento had suffered less than any other locality. He said that this locality had a decided advantage over the southern part of the State because it could raise other crops as well as citrus fruits. Many visitors to Sacramento had expressed the intention of locating here, and he expected a heavy incoming of people in

the near future. There was no hazard now in purchasing land, said he.

Secretary Coleman called attention to the fact that the Postmaster of Sacramento and the secretary of state had received many letters from the east asking about land values and the opportunities for investment.

L. T. Hatfield made the announcement that in July next the Christian Endeavor would hold a convention in San Francisco, and it would bring out 10,000 people from all over the country. An effort should be made, said he, to induce delegates to pay a visit to this city, and some sort of entertainment should be provided for them.

Judge Add C. Hinkson said this was a matter which the city should take some action upon.

FAIR OAKS COLONY.

Editor Wilson, of the Farm, Field and Fireside, and a member of the Howard-Wilson Company, which established the colony at Fair Oaks, was introduced to the meeting. Mr. Wilson said the company was very careful about the people it was bringing here. All applicants were told that there was no opportunity at present for a laboring man, and applicants for land are told that they must have at least \$3,000. Consequently the colony is being settled with people who have means. Mr. Wilson told the Chamber of Commerce that he had come out here to urge the construction of the Sacramento and Fair Oaks railroad. The promise had been made to the settlers that the road would be built, and it was intended to keep that promise. A plan for the construction of the railroad has been agreed upon, said Mr. Wilson, but he was not at liberty to divulge it at the present time. It was contemplated building a fine hotel and putting in a water system at Fair Oaks in the near future. He had been told in Los Angeles that no fruit could be raised up here, but he had learned that earlier and better fruit was raised here than in Southern California, and that a better and cheaper water supply could not be had in any section of Northern California. Mr. Wilson said the Farm, Field and Fireside had upon its list the names of 10,000 people who were looking in this direction for homes. One of the reasons that Sacramento did not receive more visits from sight-seers and home-seekers was because the travelers could not get stop-over tickets on the railroad. An effort should be made, he said, to have that trouble corrected.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

President Steffens read an extended address, in which he reviewed the work performed by the Chamber of Commerce during the past year. The address treated of the sewerage system, the Fair Oaks railroad, street improvement, sidewalks, manufactures and shipping, important enterprises, fruit shipments, and city improvement.

Speaking of the proposed electric railway to Fair Oaks and Orange Vale, Mr. Steffens, among other things, said: "The city's recent progress calls for a suburban outlet of that kind. The rapid growth of Fair Oaks Colony and its likelihood of immediately assuming enlarged proportions by additions and greater development assures the road good returns from its commencement of operations. The road in return will give the colonies a permanency and a needed close communication with the city. This great suburban development will not only give the country more wealth-producing power, but it will increase our population, which will give us more representation in both branches of the legislature, a situation much to be desired."

BUILDING UP THE COUNTRY.

Continuing the address, he said that the leading feature of development in the county has been at Fair Oaks Colony, near Orange Vale and Folsom. The first important excursion thereto from the east arrived in November, 1895. Since that time, a little over a year, it is reported that the colony association has sold 1,952 acres of its lands at an average of a little over \$100 per acre, amounting to about \$200,000.

There has been planted of these lands 1,023 acres, three-fourths thereof being lemons, oranges and olives. This cost \$89,512.20, including the clearing of the land. At present seventy-five houses have been erected and the population living therein numbers 320. Other colonists are daily arriving. It is estimated that in fifteen months this enterprise has added \$350,000 to the wealth of this county.

SPECIAL EXCURSION.

No special excursion arrangements will be made until June 22, 1897, at which time we expect to run a special train and take advantage of the C. E. Convention rates,—\$51.00 round trip from Chicago.—Sleeper one way, \$6.00.

Full details will be sent to all those interested as soon as they are arranged.—Write us to put your name on our Endeavor Excursion list.—

—The time on our special offer made by letter on past due subscriptions has been extended to April 10.

—"The power of a nation to create a demand for money is measured by the volume of business transacted by the people of that nation."—Prof. Favor.

—Our special offer on the Embroidery and Stamping Outfit will last a short time longer. We give the whole outfit free for only one new subscriber with your own renewal.