

also taking up their temporary abode at the hotel while building a home on a newly acquired lot. They are interesting and intelligent people, and I am sure will be quite an acquisition to the settlement.

I was also pleased to renew the acquaintance of Mr. Straith, of Chicago, and to make the acquaintance of his good wife. Mr. Straith is one of Chicago's leading business men, and occupies an elegant home in Rogers Park, a suburb of that city. Both he and his wife fell in love with Fair Oaks from the start, and after a close inspection grew quite enthusiastic over its many attractions and advantages. Before leaving he secured twenty acres and a block in the town site. The latter is a charming spot on the river bank. Sometime in the future he intends to retire from active business life and build him a home here, thus to enjoy a well earned competence. I admire a man who has sense enough to know when he has enough, and is wise enough then to retire and enjoy it.

I promised some of my eastern friends who have interests here that I would inspect and report upon their tracts which the company is planting and cultivating for them. I would like in an article of this kind to report upon all, but there are so many that it would take up too much of your valuable space. I will content myself, therefore, with a general review.

The largest holder here is Mr. C. H. Vehmeyer, a Chicago banker. He has sixty acres in trees, thirty in oranges and ten each in lemons, olives and almonds. The tract was planted last year. It has been plowed and harrowed. The young trees look healthy and thrifty and are sending out new shoots. The only exception is in some of the citrus trees planted in a piece of lower ground. Some of them are dead and will have to be replanted. If it were my tract, I would have these lower spots planted to other varieties of fruits. Oranges will not do well in such places. I estimate that 98 per cent of the trees are in a thrifty condition. The condition of the Vehmeyer tract is a fair sample of all last year's planting.

The Watson and Gore tracts of forty acres are planted to equal parts of oranges, lemons, olives and Tragedy prunes. This is a very choice piece of land and the trees are all doing well.

Caroline Wilcox, of Chicago, has a beautiful tract of twenty acres planted to five acres each of oranges, lemons and olives and three acres of almonds. Some of the almonds failed to grow on account of late planting. These have been replaced, however. The trees are well cared for and are making a fine growth.

Rev. B. Fay Mills, the evangelist, has his twenty acres planted, four acres to oranges, one to lemons, six to olives, six to almonds, one and a half to cherries, and the balance to a variety of fruit for home use. The trees are growing nicely.

Mr. Midler, of the Pullman Car Co., has a pretty twenty-acre lot, five of which is in oranges, six in olives, six in almonds, one and a half in cherries, and the balance in home orchard. Mr. Midler also has a lot of palms set out in the road for ornamental purposes. This is a good idea. The palm is very attractive.

The general rule we notice is to plant the olive alongside of the roadways. This will have a very pretty effect. The olive is not only one of the most profitable trees but also one of the most ornamental.

I wonder why more grape fruit is not set out. I think it will prove very profitable. It is as easily grown as other kinds of fruit and commands a much higher price. Messrs. Ruggles, King and Bramhall, of the Michigan Central Railway, seem to be the only parties who are planting this most excellent fruit.

Pomeles should, in my judgment, receive more attention. Rev. J. Galvin, from Chicago, is also an enthusiast on the pomele, and will devote a considerable portion of his twenty acres to its culture.

The young trees at present cost 75 cents each, but I think it will pay to plant them. These excellent novelties are as easily grown as other fruits and command high prices.

When all these trees are grown and in bearing, what a busy place and a Paradise Fair Oaks will be.

A Wandering Tourist.

## Colony News

### Fair Oaks and Christian Endeavor Excursion

Details are nearly arranged for the Special Excursion to Fair Oaks on June 22d next.

Special cars will leave New York, Boston, New Orleans, St. Louis, Ottumwa, Ia., Rock Rapids, Ia., St. Paul, Minn., and other points as parties are organized. We expect to stop at Denver and Salt Lake, reaching California in time to investigate Fair Oaks and the advantages of the "Early Fruit Belt," and then go on to the Convention. Write us to place your name on our Endeavor Excursion list and we will send you rates, particulars, etc., as soon as arrangements are completed.

Have you told your friend, the teacher, about the Olive Growers' Association, or about this Excursion? If not, you should do so at once. This Association provides means to spend the sunset days of life in ease in the Sunset land.

### Sunset Letters--No. 4

Fair Oaks hotel is not a very imposing structure. The original temporary building, with a new wing attached, still does service in that capacity. The company very wisely concluded not to build another until they erect a building which would be a credit to the place. I am informed that such a building is now in contemplation to cost \$25,000. The hotel is the rendezvous, however, of the many transient visitors and owners of chunks of Fair Oaks land who have not yet located on their land, but who have come to inspect the work done for them.

Among the latter we had the pleasure of meeting Gen. J. F. Thompson and his interesting family from Iowa. The General is the owner of thirty acres, twenty-five of which are planted to oranges, lemons and olives. This is his third visit to Fair Oaks. He spent three months here in the late fall and early winter, and the balance of the winter at Pasadena and other places in southern California. He is very emphatic in his preference for Fair Oaks climate, and intends building here in October.

We also had the pleasure of again meeting Mr. Samuel O'Neill from Philadelphia, Pa. They have about forty acres planted to oranges, lemons, olives, almonds and cherries. They have been in California over a year, spending most of that time in the southern part, visiting all the noted resorts of that section of the state. Like Gen. Thompson, they are strongly partial to Fair Oaks. Mr. O'Neill said to me that he had seen no place so beautiful in nature.

Mr. Hawthorne and his family of five from Chicago were