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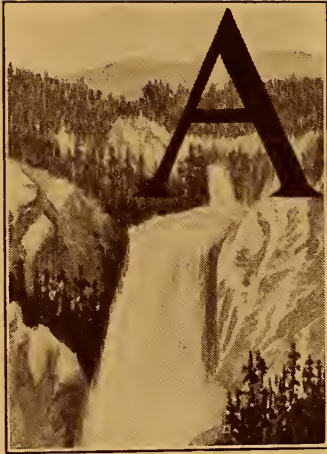


The
SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY

CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin Valley counties association

The
San Joaquin
Valley



VAST plain, oval in shape, two hundred miles long, with an average breadth of sixty miles; situated about fifty miles inland from the Pacific; in the center of California. The San Joaquin Valley is surrounded, excepting on its northern boundary, by mountains. The flanking mountain ranges extend along lines that are parallel or concentric with the coast. At the southern end of the valley the chains converge and unite. A line drawn along the northern end of the valley, if extended east and west, would pass through or near San Francisco, Richmond, Va., Gibraltar, Athens and Smyrna. The southern boundary is on a parallel that runs close to Nashville, Tangier, Damascus, Bagdad and Osaka. This briefly indicates the topography and geographical location of the San Joaquin Valley.

It would be interesting to relate what is known and conjectured regarding the making of this area. In its geological disclosures, the territory is full of interest. This story, however, is too long. The reader will wish, rather, to learn of factors more closely related to human progress, for this valley was created to be the abiding place of people. Its story is one of rapid and surprising transformation. In its pristine condition it disclosed some unattractive aspects, being, for most part, an arid land unvisited by rain during several months of every year. Variety of topography and anomalous climatic conditions are marked characteristics of this valley and its surrounding mountains. Probably its most impressive aspect is the one of vastness, or extent of level area.

The range of mountains that flanks the valley on the east, has a remarkable influence over all local conditions. Approaching this range, the level plain is first interrupted along its eastern rim, by slight undulations, varying just enough to be perceptible. The contours increase gradually and merge into low, rolling hills. Like most of the plain, these hills are bare except for grasses and native herbage. Sparse, low growing shrubbery is found along small channels where streams flow during part of the year. The approach and changes are so gradual that the observer is hardly aware of them until he is among higher hills with long graceful contours, increasing in ruggedness with ever increasing height. Occasionally appears a flat topped table mountain, extending promontory like into the landscape of rounded hills. Irregular patches of scrub oak

and shaparral brush appear on slopes and hillcrests. This is the region known as the foothills. Still farther on, the country becomes more broken. Brook runs and ravines deepen into canyons; and these, in turn, broaden into small valleys, where sycamore, cottonwood, laurel, ash and willow trees mark the courses of streams. Broader valleys are dotted with large picturesque oaks. Surrounding these valleys, higher ridges rise with increasing abruptness and greater density of tree growth. Outcroppings of gray granite begin to disclose the foundations of mighty mountains. Above and beyond, in the distance to the east, is a series of dark blue ridges indicating vast bodies of big timber. Occasionally the blue line dips abruptly where the ridges are parted by a deep canyon through which a high heading river has its course. This forest region comprises an extensive area of picturesque mountains, clothed in sylvan verdure up to an altitude of ten thousand feet. From any eminence within this area we look across richly wooded ranges or down into emerald meadows ribboned with streams. From the midst of this setting and towering above it rises the great range, an overawing chaos of granite Domes, peaks and pinnacles rise in fantastic confusion. Higher crests thrust serrated masses of rock into the sky over fourteen thousand feet above the sea. At intervals of twenty to thirty miles, the granite range is split transversely. Some inconceivable dynamic power has forced its way through cubic miles of rock, delving abysmal chasms six thousand feet deep and baring granite cliffs to their foundations. Into these gulfs dash the waters from higher regions. Snow fed floods of mighty volume pitch over precipitous walls and are atomized in their plunges to lower levels. Where these waters have their sources, winter persists almost perpetually. Snow and glacial ice remain always in the shadowed recesses of the higher range. During winter months, this entire mountain area, from timber region to summits, is one vast white silence. This is the Sierra Nevada, (Snowy Range) the mountain barrier that borders the San Joaquin Valley on the east throughout its entire length.

To revert to reasons is unnecessary; the fact in itself is sufficient: the Sierra Nevada exerts a remarkable influence over climatic conditions. The territory that lies to the west, between the great range and the sea, is blessed with a bland, equable climate, the like of which is not found elsewhere within the temperate zones of the world. To the east of the range, up its precipitous eastern slopes, and for a distance over the summits and down the western side, winter dominates; and here, its most

severe manifestations culminate. As if spent in a final, mighty effort, the elements, met by the warm breath that flows landward from the Pacific, are checked and finally vanquished. While these winter demonstrations are at their height within the alpine regions of the range, oranges ripen in the thermal foothill belt at its base. In the valley, fruit trees blossom and spring verdure decks the fields.

Across the great valley, sixty miles to the west, rises the Mt. Diablo range which is a long spur of the coast chain of mountains. This range is the western boundary of the San Joaquin Valley. In all of its aspects this western range differs from the Sierra Nevada. Its extreme altitude is not over five thousand feet. On its eastern slopes, as seen from the valley, there is a noticeable absence of timber. The hills are undulating rather than precipitous. The most marked difference, however, is the absence of steadily flowing streams. There are creeks that rise suddenly and run torrents while fed by seasonal rains. These subside just as suddenly, and entirely, when the rains cease. Toward the south, the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges converge and unite forming a crescent shaped chain that embraces the upper or southern end of the San Joaquin, separating it from that portion of the state designated as Southern California.

Within this description, there is one vital factor of greatest importance, a factor without which this valley could never have become a great productive area. Heading in the high ranges of the Sierra Nevada, having their sources within the remote regions of eternal snow, are six rivers that flow into the valley, debouching onto the plains at points from thirty to forty miles apart. These six rivers comprise one great system, the main drainage channel of which is the San Joaquin river. To the south of the San Joaquin, Kings River is the only stream the waters of which reach, and form a part of this system. To the north, the Merced, Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Mokelumne all empty into the San Joaquin which flows to the bay of San Francisco, and to the sea. During the season of rainfall, these streams carry volumes of water drained from lower hill areas of the Sierra Nevada range. Were these the sole water resources, the streams would be dry soon after the rains stopped. When the valley and lower hill regions are visited by rains, the higher mountains accumulate snow. With the coming of spring, the rains are done, but, in the deep gorges and timber belts of the mountains, snow has been falling, settling and solidifying all winter. Stored and held in these higher regions are

nearly six thousand square miles of snow and ice upon which nature does not draw until the beginning of the arid summer season. As summer's warmth creeps up the range, the vast accumulations of snow are gradually melted. The waters flow through the channels of the six rivers to the San Joaquin valley. Thus is brought to the valley during its season of no rain, an abundance of needed water. Within this condition is found the one potential reason why the San Joaquin Valley is created an abiding place for people.

Let us picture the valley at a time when the waters of the six rivers flowed uninterrupted to the sea; at the season when the rains are about over. Throughout the vast area no plow has yet disturbed the land. So far as the eye can see there is an expanse of green plains, flanked on the west by purple and emerald hills; on the east by blue and white mountains. Splashes of vivid wild flower colors enrich the level green stretches. In no country of the world is nature's tribute to spring more gorgeous. As the season advances and the rain-given moisture evaporates from the earth, the verdure ripens. Very soon the brown and yellow hues of mature, unwatered vegetation prevail. Long, distant lines of dark timber mark the rivers where water oaks, sycamore and willows thrive in the moist areas. The broad expanses between the rivers are treeless, brown, dusty and dead; and, so they remain until the revivifying rains come again. This was the San Joaquin valley before the first white man saw it; and so it remained for several years after the coming of white men; for the first white man did not come seeking lands. Gold was the lure. True it is that a few, widely scattered settlers knew this land before gold was discovered. Some farming was done in localities where moisture seeped from rivers. Cattle were pastured on the plains during the green season, and in the river bottoms during the dry period. The early Mexican settlers from the Coast Country, knew the value of the river lands and sought, before California became a part of the United States, to acquire large tracts by grant from the Mexican government. The native Indians, who were here before all the rest, built their villages of brush or tule huts near the rivers. To all these people, and to the thousands who came later to dig gold, the potential possibilities of the valley remained, for a long time, unknown. When gold was discovered and people came in numbers, their work was in the hills. The settlements were not in the valley proper. As interest in mining began to wane, some provident people turned toward the land. Before long a second and greater dis-

covery was made. It was found that this arid land needed but one element to make it perennially productive; that one element was water available during the arid season. The waters of six rivers ran uninterrupted to the sea. The diversion and distribution of these waters were the only remaining problems. Irrigation had its beginnings. In the meantime, increasing numbers of people became interested in agriculture and wheat growing became the prevailing industry. Grain crops were sown to mature under the influence of seasonal rains. Uncertainty of results, impoverishment of soil through lax farming methods and continual cropping, together with the demonstrations made on watered lands, all urged the necessity of irrigation. With persistent enterprise, the first canals to be constructed, were enlarged and extended. Wherever the water came, grain was superseded by more valuable production. Every year demonstrated adaptability of new and valuable crops. Variety of production seemed to be unlimited. Specialization in many varieties, resulted in remarkable quality and surprising quantity. A few years of farming under irrigation, fixed the destiny of San Joaquin Valley.

Such, briefly, is the history of the transformation of this valley. About forty-four years have passed since the first irrigation canals were constructed. During this period development and extension of irrigation have been going on steadily. Water from each one of the six rivers has been diverted into canal systems. At the present time, over one million acres of land in the valley are served with water from these streams. Rude dams and headworks that served during earlier years, have been replaced by modern structures of concrete and masonry. This work has been done economically. The cost of original water rights has been comparatively, very low; and the annual maintenance cost, correspondingly low. Kings river irrigates a large part of both Kings and Fresno Counties. Kings County receives water from some lesser streams, also. The San Joaquin waters are used in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. The Merced River serves in Merced County. Two large districts in Stanislaus County, take water from the Tuolumne; another large district in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties is watered from the Stanislaus river. The Mokelumne flows into San Joaquin County and is utilized for a considerable acreage. Underflow from the Sierra Nevada, together with the use of river water for irrigation, creates a ground supply that has been, and is constantly being tapped by wells, from which water flows by hydrostatic pressure, or is pumped by electric, or gas engine power. Probably

there is no other equal area within which nature has provided a more abundant, or more conveniently distributed irrigation supply. The San Joaquin valley stands to day as an example to the world, in the development and scientific use of irrigation.

In considering the climatic conditions that prevail in the San Joaquin, we beg leave to suggest to those who are unacquainted with California—please discard most of your previous experience. Nature, in California, disregards many rules that are, elsewhere, regarded as fixed. North and South, as terms of geographical direction, are respected here, as elsewhere. Climatically, these terms are entirely without honor. At the southern end of the San Joaquin valley and at its northern boundary, likewise at a point, in the interior of the state, two hundred miles north of that boundary, climatic conditions are nearly the same. Go, however, from the sea coast, east across the Coast Range and across the valley to the summits of the Sierra Nevada, and nearly every sort of climate, from sub-tropic to arctic, will be encountered. The country to the west of the Coast Range, possesses a delightfully equable climate. Over this range, in the San Joaquin, there are wider ranges between the extremes of heat and cold. There is also noticeable absence of dampness that prevails along every sea coast. Very low percentages of humidity, especially during the summer months, characterize the climate of the valley. With increasing altitudes in the Sierra Nevada, there are correspondingly increasing lower ranges of temperature, and increasing divergence between the temperatures of day and night. In the higher altitudes temperatures drop below freezing every night. During July, August and September, mid-day temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley, range high. It is, however, interesting to note that increasing temperatures are nearly always accompanied by decreasing percentages of humidity. Perceptible heat is, therefore, very much less than that indicated by the thermometer. Sunstroke and heat prostration are not a menace. Men and animals perform the heaviest of farm work in the fields throughout the hottest months of the year, entirely secure from the dangers that prevail in humid climates. Nights are refreshing; especially so to those who sleep out of doors in the cool dry air. As for the winters in the valley, severe cold is unknown. There are occasional frosts at night; sufficient to drive sap toward the roots of fruit trees and vines during their brief period of dormancy. The foothills, that border the valley on its eastern rim, are remarkably free from frost. This region is known as the thermal belt.

Within this belt, sub-tropical fruits thrive. Oranges ripen and are harvested during November, December and January. Toward the end of February or first of March, almonds and apricots blossom throughout the valley, followed closely by all the other fruit trees. The period from October to April includes the usual rainy season. The actual period of rains, varies slightly in duration, with different years. It should not be supposed, however, that rains continue steadily during this season. Occasionally there may be a week or more during which rainy weather may prevail. For the most part, duration of rain is from one to three days. Frequently, the rains come at night, followed by days of bright sunshine. In the center of the valley the average annual rainfall is about nine inches. Between the center and northern boundary the average increases gradually but perceptibly. With increasing altitude in the Sierra Nevada, there is greatly increasing precipitation. Generally, the weather between rains is delightful. Especially is this true during the California Spring which begins in February. The long period of drought during summer and fall, makes possible the production of many valuable crops that, otherwise, could not be made. Dried fruits and raisins are cured in the open sunshine. Crops of alfalfa hay are cut and cured, and grain is harvested without danger of damage. Figs, grapes, olives, oranges and other fruits that like a warm, dry climate, thrive and mature to perfection. Building construction, in fact, any out of door work can be planned and carried out, without interruption or delay on account of weather. Electrical storms are not frequent. Tornadoes or cyclones are unknown. The annual dormant period of plant life is very short. Animals are not housed up during winter. They feed in open pastures and continue to increase in weight. In no occupations are human activities circumscribed by long periods of enforced idleness on account of weather. The climate of California is unsurpassed. It offers advantages not to be found elsewhere. People who live in the San Joaquin valley, enjoy California climate, which means, all conditions considered, from season to season, and from year to year, more bodily comfort and less hardship than are found in most other parts of the world. The mountains or the sea coast are easily reached from any point in the valley. If temporary change is desired, it may be had in an infinite number of attractive ways.

Since the beginning of irrigation development, the San Joaquin valley has been attracting people; people of foresighted judgment who have sought for themselves and their dependents, the best that could be found.

Following the period when wheat growing was a prime agricultural pursuit, several enterprising individuals began ventures in the culture of fruits and grapes. Many of these efforts were on a large scale. Experience soon demonstrated a valuable fact. Soil and climatic conditions were such that with control of moisture and careful cultural methods, a small piece of land could be made to yield large results. Since the demonstration of this fact, there has been a steady influx of people who have sought small farms. Large tracts within reach of canals were subdivided and taken by settlers in ten, twenty and forty acre pieces. This practice is responsible for the terms "Colonies" or "Colony Tracts" in use throughout the irrigated areas of California. The era of colonization began shortly after the first railroad was constructed through the valley. To be precise, it began in Fresno County where the first diversion of water from Kings river was accomplished. As the boundaries of irrigation development were reached by settlement, canals were extended. Success followed earlier efforts and the diversion of water from other rivers was undertaken. Every district brought under irrigation, attracted settlers. One after another the irrigation enterprises of this valley have become factors in progress and increase of population. Profitable production begat wealth and commerce. Towns that were but tank stations, grew to be cities and more towns sprung up. It has been a great transformation, typical of a western country possessing the potential attributes that attract the highest types of humanity. In the years of progress there has existed a spirit of helpful enterprise. People have labored for profits as people always will. There have been many who at personal sacrifice of time and money, have accomplished much for the common good. Kindly and helpful natural environment has permitted development along such varied lines that to-day, in variety and quality of agricultural and horticultural production the San Joaquin Valley stands unsurpassed. Enumeration may be tedious, but we may venture some contrasting examples. The deciduous varieties of fruits common to northern, semi-frigid climates, grow side by side with such sub-tropical varieties as the orange, grape fruit, and lemon, the fig of Smyrna and the olive of Palestine. Vines from Spain, France and Italy find a home environment together with those native to our northern states. Cereal crops of Egypt and our native Indian corn thrive in adjoining fields. The palm, acacia, and eucalyptus thrive together with the elm, maple, and cone bearing trees, indigenous to alpine and far northern regions. Horticultural authorities

have stated that the valley produces all the known fruits of the world, excepting those of the mild tropics. The catalogs of nurserymen enumerate adapted importations from Japan, China, India, Persia, Turkey, Russia, Australia, Africa, and all the European lands. Plant life from wintry climes seems to benefit by transference to this climate, as do people. The reason for extraordinary growth and productivity of trees and vines and the early maturing of fruit in this valley, is found in the fact of large annual percentages of clear unobstructed sunlight. Water vapor in the atmosphere, lessens actinic value of the sun's rays. Hence in humid climates plant growth and perfect maturing of fruitage are retarded. In evidence of this fact we have a seeming climatic paradox. Citrus fruits ripen in this valley from four to six weeks earlier than at points near the coast, two hundred to three hundred miles south. In the realm of purely agricultural production we find the same wide diversity. While large areas within irrigated districts are taken up by trees and vines, there is yet a great deal of land used for grain. All of the commonly known cereal crops are grown extensively. Dry farming is practiced a great deal but results are problematical, depending upon the amount and distribution of annual rainfall. Such crops as Indian corn, Egyptian corn, Kaffir corn, Egyptian wheat, rice and nearly every known variety of edible beans are irrigated and produced in perfection. Alfalfa is the great forage crop. It grows luxuriantly, yielding heavy tonnage per acre. With widespread production of alfalfa, diaring has grown to be a prominent and very profitable industry throughout the valley. Vegetables in every known variety are grown, and fresh vegetables are had the year through. Aside from the wealth of agriculture and horticulture, lumbering is a prominent industry in the mountain regions. At three points in Fresno and Madera counties flumes sixty to seventy-five miles long, convey rough dimension lumber from mountain saw-mills to mills at transportation points in the valley. In the lower mountains and hills of the Sierra Nevada, especially in Calaveras and Mariposa counties, there are mines yet being profitably operated. Modern methods have made it possible to resume work in ground that was abandoned in the old days. Throughout the mountains there are vast deposits of baser metals that will, beyond doubt, be utilized at some time. One of the greatest sources of wealth has resulted from the development of mineral oil. Located at Coalinga in the southwestern part of Fresno County, and extending several miles along the base of the Coast Range, into Kings County, is one

of the greatest producing oil fields of the world. The value of the annual production of crude oil in this field, exclusive of by-products, is about \$10,000,000 outstripping that of any other single commodity produced in the valley. The production of great quantities of cheap fuel oil, has revolutionized power generating systems and stimulated manufacturing throughout the Pacific coast. To the foregoing list of diverse production may be added granite of exceptionally fine quality, quarried in Madera county, and marble from Calaveras.

In its relative geographical position, the San Joaquin Valley is most fortunately situated. It occupies the center of California and lies between the two great centers of population in the State. San Francisco and adjacent territories about San Francisco Bay, have now a population of a million people. Los Angeles, city and county, together with cities of the south, have nearly as many more. In both of these localities, population is increasing rapidly. The local population of the valley is increasing in equally rapid ratio. There is therefore a constantly increasing demand for the commodities produced. For example: in the distribution of dairy produce, aside from that which is taken locally, the product from the southern half of the valley, goes to Los Angeles; that from the northern half, to San Francisco. Either of these places would gladly take the entire valley output. So it is, also, with many other of the staple food commodities. The valley has not, as yet, produced volume sufficient to fill the immediate demand. With a large territory of proven adaptability, it is indicated that there is room for many more people to engage profitably in the production of these commodities, for which there is an ever increasing demand. Of course, this condition exists for staple food products. With green and dried fruits, table grapes, raisins and wines, the world is our market. The Panama Canal has already accelerated demand by reason of facility in shipments to remote points. Local transportation facilities are adequate. Besides two transcontinental lines of railway and numerous lateral lines, the valley has tidewater connection with San Francisco bay through the city of Stockton. Here, then, is an easily accessible portion of the earth's surface that offers the widest diversity of promising opportunity and, as yet, uncrowded. With a population of about three hundred thousand, this territory produces and sells annually close to \$150,000.000 worth of commodity. Its area is about equal to that of Italy, which has a population of over Thirty Millions.

Considered generally, manufacturing has not, as yet, reached a prominent place in the industries of the valley. It has not kept quite up to the pace of increase in population and local demand. The city of Stockton is one of the principal manufacturing points in the state. Here are located some extensive plants making harvesting machinery, agricultural implements, traction engines, pumping and dredging machinery. There are throughout the valley, packing houses, canneries, and wineries. These are especially prominent in Fresno and Kings Counties where the bulk of dried fruits and raisins are handled. Creameries are numerous and very generally distributed throughout the valley. Stanislaus county leads the other counties of the state in butter production; while Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings and San Joaquin counties are among the heaviest dairy producers in the state. In totality, the production within the eight associated counties of the valley, amounts to three-fifths of the entire production of California.

The development of hydro-electric power has become an important factor in the material progress of the valley. Herein the snow-fed rivers from the Sierra Nevada, come again into prominence. At power stations located on these rivers that are a part of the San Joaquin drainage system, there is generated and transmitted about 70,000 horse power. But a small part of the available water power has been utilized. The rest remains to be developed as may meet the needs of an area within distances of possible transmission.

In its social organism, the San Joaquin valley is made up of ranchers, rural communities, colonies, villages, towns and cities. The list is given in the chronological order of the valley's growth. From the least unit to the largest aggregate, all enjoy modern conditions. The telephone and rural mail delivery are adjuncts to nearly all country homes. A great many have, also, electric power and lighting facilities. The automobile has overcome isolation which was formerly an objection to rural residence. It is indicated by the number of automobiles in use, that the people of the San Joaquin valley appreciate the value of these machines, and, fortunately, can afford to use them. These people work. When it is demanded of them, they work hard. In the time that they devote to work, they are not interrupted by hampering natural conditions. They know that industry in the right direction will bring a sure reward. Their reward consists of better pecuniary returns, less hardship and more comfortable leisure, than can be had in less favored localities.

The public school system of the valley is the best that modern knowledge and methods can devise. No effort nor money are spared in bringing the schools, both country and city, up to the highest standard. The courses afford complete preparation for college. High school pupils are admitted to the University of California, (one of the largest in the world) upon accredited scholarship. Public library systems are extended from centers in county seats, to cover rural districts throughout the counties.

A main, concrete paved, highway has been constructed through the length of the valley. A complete system of roads connecting all points in the valley with this main highway, is assured. In several localities this collateral system has been provided.

Practical and material conditions, utilities, public and individual welfare, are of first importance in the consideration of any country. We would be negligent, however, if we stopped here in this description. No locality possessing only workaday conditions, can be regarded as ideally attractive. Recreation is essential to happiness. A country that requires of its people constant practical effort, except during periods of enforced idleness, is not an attractive place to live. In proportion to the time required for normal accomplishment, the people of the San Joaquin Valley can afford more leisure than is ordinarily possible in many other localities. With this possibility, there are extraordinary opportunities for recreation. If one in a country district, tires of quietude, the attractions of cosmopolitan cities are within easy reach. The hunter or the angler may find the best of sport close at hand. To the lover of scenic grandeurs, the Sierra Nevada is a wonderland unexcelled in the world. Among these mountains are nature wonders, wholly unique, that, insofar as known, do not exist anywhere else. Here, on the western slopes of the range, at altitudes of from five thousand to seven thousand feet, the Giant Sequoia trees grow. Trees that are over thirty feet in diameter and over three hundred feet high. Trees that scientists declare are the oldest living things on earth. In the heart of the Sierra, is Yosemite, nature's supreme marvel of sculptured architecture; a wonderland where stupendous miracles in granite, are combined with meadow gardens of blossoming verdure. Here are the highest waterfalls in the world. Here thousands of people find, every year, rest and recuperation. Yosemite, is the grand canyon of the Merced river. The Tuolumne flows through Hetch-Hetchy, another of the great gorges of the Sierra. The San Joaquin river has its sources among mountains fourteen thousand feet high. The canyon of Kings river and

the region about it, rivals anything else in the world in precipitous heights and depths of granite rocks and in magnificent forests. The sea coast of California, with its beautiful beaches and numerous resorts, offers attractions that draw thousands every year. All of these things are easily accessible from the San Joaquin valley; and all of these things are enjoyed by its people.

The unoccupied spaces in this valley, surrounded by helpful natural environment, and all that has been added by progress and development, are awaiting the coming of more people. There will be found here opportunity for human activity in manifold diverse fields. The present age is one of strenuous endeavor. In every land and every life there are obstacles to overcome. The people who live in the San Joaquin valley believe that they encounter here, fewer obstacles and more benefits than they have found elsewhere. They believe that it is a good place to live.

The foregoing description is intended to be general in its scope. Specific localities are mentioned, but only as they are related to the entire valley. No attempt has been made to go into details regarding specific localities as to their special adaptabilities or opportunities. The earnest enquirer, contemplating residence in the San Joaquin Valley, will wish to know in detail, what opportunities there may be in the different localities and in the different lines of industry that are possible within these localities. Each county that is an integral part of the San Joaquin Valley Counties Association has prepared books setting forth in detail the results obtained through actual practice in the different industries of their localities. Within these books will be found figures covering average and specifically individual returns and results. These books are designed to furnish detailed information to any who may become interested in the San Joaquin Valley as a place of opportunity. Insofar as it is possible to depict, by word and picture, the actual existing conditions, these books are most valuable to the investigating enquirer.

It is hoped, however, that the people who become interested in the San Joaquin Valley and who are impelled to investigate it as a possible place of residence, will go farther than the reading of descriptive matter.

Every effort has been made to convey an impression based upon the actual conditions. The investigator will find, however, that no written description can fully convey the impressiveness of this great valley and its resources. A personal visit with sufficient time for observation, will be the most satisfying method of investigation.

VINEYARD SONG.

We have found our Land of Promise;
We have found the Vale of Pleasure;
 We have chosen with all wisdom our demesne,
In the land of golden poppies,—
Golden oranges and sunlight,—
 In the Valley of the Sunny San Joaquin.

Here the meadow-larks' blithe calling
Heralds morning's dewy splendor,
 When the vines are putting forth their early green;
Where gardens rose-embowered,
Walls wistaria-empurpled,
 In the Valley of the Sunny San Joaquin.

Where the vine and fig-tree flourish;
Where the pomegranate blushes;
 Where the palm and oleander intervene;
Where the wood-dove's tender love song
Breathes its faith and hope and passion,
 In the Valley of the Sunny San Joaquin.

Where the vineyards stretch unending,
Guarded by the white Sierras,
 From whose glacial summits sustenance they glean;
Where the mocking-bird by moonlight
Pours its soul in song melodious,
 In the Valley of the Sunny San Joaquin.

Where the skies are ever smiling;
Where the soil is ever fruitful;
 Where the air is ever sweet and fresh and clean;
In the heart of California,—
California, golden-hearted,—
 In the Valley of the Sunny San Joaquin.

Charles Elmer Jenney.

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