

**YUBA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA:
ITS RESOURCES
AND ADVANTAGES**

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Yuba County, California: Its Resources and Advantages by Winfield J. Davis

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WINFIELD J. DAVIS

**YUBA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA:
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AND ADVANTAGES**

YUBA COUNTY


CALIFORNIA

Its Resources and Advantages

BY WINFIELD J. DAVIS, County Statistician

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
YUBA COUNTY AND ISSUED BY THEIR AUTHORITY—A. G.
WHEATON (Chairman), FRED ROBERTS, PHIL. J.
DIVER, DAVID MORRISON, W. J. MELLON

MARYSVILLE

THE APPEAL  COMPANY

1908

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

This publication is issued under the direction of, and by the authority of the Board of Supervisors of Yuba County, California, and presents a conservative picture of conditions as they exist in the County, and incidentally of the Sacramento Valley. Every statement made is dependable.

A. G. WHEATON,

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.



Yuba County

CALIFORNIA



YUBA COUNTY is among the largest in the Sacramento Valley. It has an area of 625 square miles. It was organized by the first Legislature. The great and well known valley, of which the county is approximately the center, comprehends about four thousand square miles of exceptionally fertile land. Through the entire length of the valley flows the Sacramento river, the longest water course in the State. Along its traverse it is fed by other rivers and by numerous creeks. It is navigable from Suisun Bay to Red Bluff, and is traversed by several lines of steamboats that carry an immense tonnage, to and from the sea-board.

Population of Yuba County, census of 1900, 8620. In the seven and more years that have elapsed there has been a considerable increase of population, and, conservatively, the estimate of the number of inhabitants of the county can be placed at 9000, with a corresponding increase in the City of Marysville and the towns.

School Statistics.

Following are the school statistics of the City of Marysville and of the County of Yuba for the year ending June 30, 1908:

Number of census children between five and seventeen years of age—City, 813; County, 1961; total, 1874.

Total number of children of all ages—City, 1027; County, 1403; total, 2430.

Number of teachers, including High School, 54.

Number of pupils enrolled in Grammar and Primary departments, 1188.

Average daily attendance in Primary

grades, 834.

Number of volumes in School Libraries, 14,369.

Number of school houses, 38.

Number of school districts, 37.

FINANCES

Amount paid for teachers' salaries, \$29,951.80.

Contingent expenses, \$5484.02.

Total expenditures for the year, \$35,811.47.

Valuation of school property, \$59,450.

Topography and Soil.

Yuba County is about half valley and half mountainous, with intervening foothills.

It is bounded on the north by Honcut creek, on the south by Bear river, on the west by the Feather river, and on the east by the Sierra Nevada range of mountains. It adjoins the Counties of Sutter, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Butte and Plumas.

The Feather river traverses most of the western boundary tortuously for about twenty-five miles across the rich bottom lands. It is the second largest river in the Sacramento Valley, and is navigable as far up as Marysville.

Bear river, as well as the Feather, rises in the upper Sierras. It passes along the southern boundary of the county and empties into the Feather.

As well the Yuba river and its tributaries has its sources in the upper Sierras, passes through the county about midway and discharges into the Feather at the City of Marysville.

Besides these there are several creeks of importance.

Geological indications prove that in re-

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Log Cabin
Camporville



Logging Team
in the Sierra



Indian Hill
Camporville



Yuba Development Co. Mill
Camporville

mote ages the entire Sacramento Valley and a section of the foothills to the altitude of several hundred feet were portions of the bed of a vast inland sea of lake, and that into this lake the washings of the surrounding mountains were poured to form the present soils, which are made up of all the fertile mineral and vegetable elements in almost inexhaustible quantities. Many analyzes have been made on these soils from the alluvial valleys, the upper lands and the foothills; these analyzes have demonstrated that the soils of the Sacramento Valley are unexcelled for fertility.

Along the borders of the rivers and creeks is a belt of sediment land, partly a clayey, sandy loam, of great depth and unexcelled richness, having a width of a mile or more. This deposit has been formed by the overflowing of streams for countless ages, and has produced a soil as fertile as that of the Valley of the Nile.

Thence to the east is an immense acreage of "red lands," as they are denominated. Much of these lands are now held in large tracts, and are used for grain raising and pasturage, but of late years there has been a tendency on the part of some of the owners to subdivide their holdings into small tracts.

On account of the very reasonable price at which these lands can be acquired splendid opportunities are presented to the home seeker. The United States soil experts have made tests of this soil and with few exceptions have found that with proper attention it is adapted to the raising of peaches, almonds and various varieties of grapes, and with the aid of water tomatoes, vegetables and berries can be made a specialty. The experts express the opinion that the results of their tests develop that this land is peculiarly adapted to the production of the famous Tokay Grape, the elements in the soil specially contributing to the rich iridescent coloring that makes this standard grape so excellent a seller in the markets in the East.

The evidence of the fertility of this land is demonstrated in the yards of the homes in the district, where all kinds of trees, fruits and vegetables are grown in profusion, and of the best quality.

The grain farmer has heretofore manifested a disposition to keep on in the old rut, although it is manifest that a change is gradually coming about that will mean when these lands will be subdivided into small tracts the thrifty farmer will obtain more satisfactory results from the proper cultivation of twenty acres than the large land holder accomplished with four hundred.

Something like 200,000 acres of land that lies to the northeast in the county, extending from a point about ten miles east from the Feather river to almost half way to the summit of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains is the mountainous portion, famous for its mines in the early days and still devoted to that industry and to lumbering and pasturage. In many of the small valleys the choicest of fruit is raised.

Skirting this section lower down is the foothill belt, comprising about 12,000 acres that is now devoted to farming, pasturage and horticulture. This land, as well, is mostly held in large holdings. Much of it is capable of producing excellent fruit and vegetables.

The present chief embarrassment is the lack of transportation facilities, but that will soon be overcome when the additional lines of electric railroads now projected will be constructed. There is an abundance of electrical energy in the county.

In the valley and foothill sections water is abundant a short distance below the surface and it is available for irrigation and domestic purposes by a light lifting power—a gasoline engine, a wind mill or an electric motor.

The foothill section is covered by irrigation ditches. On the north side by the Browns Valley Irrigation District and on the south side by the Excelsior Water and Mining Company's ditches.

Climate.

A comparison of the climatic conditions of the Sacramento Valley with those of the great Riviera and the citrus and olive belt of Northern and Central Italy demonstrates that this valley leads that great winter sanitarium of the world. This valley shows a warmer winter, spring, and yearly average temperature, and about the same summer and autumn temperature as that of the noted citrus belt of Italy, where it is said "perpetual summer exists, skies are blue, and the sun ever shines." The average number of clear days in this valley is 244, being more in a year than for any other inhabited portion of the Northern Hemisphere, except Yuma. The winters are equivalent to spring in Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Central Illinois, Indiana and Southern Colorado.

In an able paper on the climate of California, Judge N. P. Chipman of Red Bluff, Tehama County, gave in substance the following description of that of the Sacramento Valley: In judging of climate there is nothing so misleading and inconclusive as tables of mean annual temperatures. The mean annual temperature here, where there is seldom a frost and rarely a series of hot days, is only about five degrees higher than that of New York, where people perish both from extreme cold and heat. Mean temperature conveys but a slight idea of actual climatic conditions, and does not necessarily imply either high or low temperature in summer or winter. The Siskiyou Mountains connect the Coast Range with the Sierra Nevadas on the north of the valley. This lofty battlement on the north, with that on the east, has much to do in warding off the Arctic



AT THE LUMBER CAMP

currents and deflecting them from the lower valleys. The Coast Range is higher towards the north than in the southern part of the state. It has a height west of the upper Sacramento Valley of 4000 feet. This range is an important factor in affecting the climate of the upper interior valleys by shutting off the cool sea breezes of summer, as well as by modifying the winds of winter. These ocean breezes of summer that blow almost constantly are felt in the Sacramento Valley as they enter at the Golden Gate and follow up the valley. The chief modifier of our climate, however, is the Japan, or great equatorial ocean current, which is deflected northerly and easterly when it meets the coast of Asia. It there divides, and a portion strikes the north-west coast of North America, then turns acutely to the southeast, and flows along the west shore and past California and Mexico. This current has been found to start with a maximum temperature of 88 degrees; at Alaska it is found to be 50.06 degrees; eight hundred miles west of San Francisco, 60.28 degrees; and one hundred miles west, 55.95 degrees. Here is a body of water of an average temperature of 57.59 degrees, and a thousand miles wide, that flows past our shores constantly. Observation shows that from this surface there flows an air current which rarely rises more than two or three degrees above the temperature of the water. This great aerial current that moves with the ocean stream largely determines the climate of California.

The valley climate is characterized by mild winters, warm summers (with occasional hot days), a dry atmosphere, and less rainfall than on the coast. The summers are practically rainless from the middle of May or the first of June to the middle of October or the first of November. The dryness of the atmosphere makes outdoor labor entirely comfortable, even when the thermometer registers 100 degrees—and that is an extreme rarity. The summer nights

are uniformly cool and agreeable, and assure refreshing sleep.

As a sanitarium the Sacramento Valley presents unusual attractions. The healthfulness is remarked by all comers. People from the East and West who come here to reside experience renewed vigor and life. It is an erroneous idea, sometimes entertained, that this mild climate begets that lassitude and indisposition to labor so common to tropical regions. That does not follow here. We engage, indoors and outdoors, in all the occupations found in the temperate zone, and with all the zest and ambition that distinguish the American people elsewhere. Another result of great economic value is that every day in the year is a comfortable working day. This cannot fail to impress the industrious and frugal who wish to utilize their capital, which flows largely in daily earnings. Considering our agricultural interests broadly, there is no dormant or idle season, or a period when consumption eats away production, as in countries where severe cold paralyzes productive effort for half the year, or exhaustive heat restricts in a portion of the other half. Intelligent, diversified agriculture admits of no necessarily idle day, and of no period without the possibility of adding the productive value of a day's work. With factories or the workshops the same is true. Less fuel, less clothing, uninterrupted work for the year, and greater comfort result from an equable temperature. There is for the industrious man of moderate means no more inviting country on the globe than the Sacramento Valley.

Irrigation.

The water supply of Yuba County is unlimited and inexhaustible. The Feather river, the second largest in the Sacramento Valley, flows almost the entire length of the county and forms the most of the western boundary. From it in some of the counties to the north water is diverted to irrigate extensive tracts, but as yet no particular effort has been made to utilize its water for irriga-