

them, until the covers are removed at dinner. A disciple and countryman of Monsieur Blot, has charge of the *cuisine*, and every dish, which comes smoking from under his hand, attests the high order of his attainments, and proclaims him an undoubted *chef*. Here families can enjoy as great freedom as though occupying their own town house, and can live, move, and have their being without being reminded, at every breath they draw, of that poor Mrs. B., who is so sensitive to the slightest noise, and who is, really, in such delicate health. A separate building is allotted to children and nurses, where they can romp and make all the noise they please, disturbing none, and keeping all the row to themselves. A most desirable acquisition to the comfort of those who visit this place for the benefit of the salt water bathing, will be found in a private bath house which belongs to the establishment. This gives Madam LeMare a decided advantage over all other establishments of this kind, and offers to visitors all the attractions of privacy, cleanliness and economy. Croquet grounds and swings are upon the premises, and from the front of the Cottage can be obtained a fine view of the town, surrounding country, and bay.

In leaving Santa Cruz by the main county road, leading to Watsonville, we pass over a substantial covered bridge, recently erected across the San Lorenzo River, at a cost of \$14,000.

Proceeding on this road four miles from Santa Cruz we reach

SOQUEL,

Quite a thriving little town, containing a number of stores, a flour mill, two blacksmith and wagon shops, a tannery, and the works of the California Beet Sugar Co. A Congregational Church suffices to accommodate the religiously inclined.

The California Beet Sugar Co. plants each year 1000 acres of beets. The factory works from seven to eight months each year, the daily consumption of stock amounting to from 50 to 60 tons. The product per year amounts to, approximately, 800 tons of sugar. The company has a paid up cash capital of \$250,000, and holds a lease of its present premises for ten years. For the proper performance of their work, they have two engines of a capacity of 40 horse-power each, four 8 horse-power engines, and 5 steam boilers. They consume 5,000 cords of redwood per year, have a blacksmith and cooper shop, a gas house and a stable which will accommodate twenty horses, besides dwellings for their employees. About eighty men are employed, and the article mostly manufactured is that known as cube sugar.

On the main road, about one and a quarter miles from Soquel, we pass Porter's Tannery. About 25,000 hides are tanned here per year, mostly upper leather, and about 1,400 sides of harness leather. This establishment has a branch at Corralitos, which turns out, per annum, 7,000 sides of sole leather.

Keeping the same road a distance of one mile and a half further we reach

APTOS.

This town is about seven and one half miles East from Santa Cruz, and contains three hotels, one store, a blacksmith and wagon shop. It also contains a school house and a Catholic church.

Aptos is situated at the mouth, and at the junction of the two branches of Aptos Creek. The county road crosses each branch of the creek by bridges of one hundred, and one hundred and twenty feet span, respectively, at a height of fifty feet from the water. The railroad also crosses here, and a depot will be located in the town.

Mr. Claus Spreckels, a gentleman of large means, has recently purchased a ranch of about 6,000 acres, and purposes building a town which shall far excel Santa Cruz.

Aptos has a good wharf. The tide has a rise and fall of six feet, and at half tide there is a depth of about three fathoms of water, allowing vessels of one hundred and fifty tons to take or discharge cargo.

Mr. Spreckels is intending to construct a mile race track here, and is at present engaged in arranging the grounds about his hotel. A fine beach extends to Watsonville, which at low tide furnishes a magnificent carriage-way. Immense quantities of sugar beets are raised in this vicinity.