

Lying so contiguous to San Francisco, San Mateo County sustains to it the same relation which Orange, N. J., sustains to the City of New York. It is the home of her merchant princes, the men of mercantile bone and sinew, the vitalizing element of Commerce, the exemplars of energy, enterprise and thrift. The men who regulate the monetary pulse, and change at will its throb into a throe, or its throe into a throb.

Here are the private establishments of gentlemen, which rival in the magnificence of their appointments, the castles, chateaus, and manor houses of the nobility of Europe. Money, taste, and skill have lent their aid, which has proved efficacious, rendering the natural beauties so surpassingly lovely that embellishment can proceed no farther, and lend no added charms.

The climate is mild and less humid than that of San Francisco, and the fogs, continually prevalent at the northern extremity of the peninsula, are very rare visitants here.

San Mateo may be considered more fully developed, in all its resources, than almost any County in the State. The Railroad, passing through nearly its entire length, has been one of the developing influences, and probably the greatest one. It placed it in open communication, and made it accessible to a large city already feeling itself cramped for space. This bestowed upon it a large population drawn from the wealthiest circles of the community. With this influx, the demand for land wonderfully augmented its value, and the securing of so much wealth within its boundaries, secured also a rapid development of its resources.

The people of this County are much interested in a projected narrow-gauge railroad, for the early construction of which everything is thought to be favorably disposed.

The proposed route is along the coast, connecting with the projected road from Hollister, for which surveys have already been made as far as Elk Horn Slough, a distance of nearly twenty-one miles. The Salinas and Santa Cruz roads, it is thought, will be certain to connect with this, that is the projected one connecting Santa Cruz with Watsonville, and the one connecting Monterey with Salinas.

The combined interests of these roads, this connection being established, will demand connection with San Francisco.

From the town of Santa Cruz to the boundary of San Francisco County, the entire country is rich in resources, only partially developed. To pave the way toward development, therefore, a road is greatly needed, and the impetus which will thus be given to all the industries, will greatly enrich this region of country, will return an ample interest upon the amount invested, and will, indirectly, prove of benefit to the State.

Here are vast tracts of agricultural land, fertile in the extreme, comparatively little of which will be tilled until some means of exportation is devised, which shall subserve the two ends of economy and expedition.

Timber is also abundant. Large forests of redwood and oak remain untouched, inviting the destroying arm of the woodsman.

Lime rock and granite quarries, also wait for the day of cheap transportation to give their wealth of material to the builder, to be fashioned into homes for the thousands flocking hither.

The lime rock quarries, especially, are favorably located, in close proximity to wood and water, and when the product from this quarter is placed upon the San Francisco market, will no doubt greatly cheapen the needful commodity.

Shipping by water is out of the question, the rate being too exorbitant, from the class of vessels which must be used. Such vessels cannot be employed for this service, as are engaged upon the bay. A greater tonnage is required, and sea-worthy crafts alone can be employed to encounter the ocean storms.

The coast road will not conflict with the interests of the Southern Pacific, nor will the competition preclude the possibility of fair profits to both. Each will tap a section of country abounding in wealth, and there will be sufficient business for each without their trenching, one upon the other.

The passenger travel by this route, too, will be large, the entire line passing through a country abounding in magnificent scenery.