

San Andreas, a valley near the head waters of San Mateo Creek, is a similar but somewhat smaller valley.

Pillarcitos Creek, in this County, furnishes the greater portion of the water used for domestic purposes in San Francisco. It is conveyed in iron pipes a distance of twenty miles.

The Spring Valley Water Company has constructed extensive works in Pillarcitos Canyon for the purpose of collecting and distributing this water. Their dam has formed a beautiful lake, two miles in length by an average width of about one thousand feet. It is surrounded by precipitous hills, and is a most attractive spot, within convenient distance from San Francisco.

The dam crosses the canyon at a point where it makes a short curve; it is five hundred and forty feet long at the top, and three hundred feet at the bottom; four hundred and fifty feet thick at the base, and twenty feet thick at a height of ninety-six feet. The water inclosed by it is of an average depth of fifty feet, but is nearly one hundred feet in some places.

The quantity of water collected amounts to 1,300,000,000 gallons. Granting San Francisco a population of 200,000, each inhabitant would be obliged to use $17\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per day for one year, in order to exhaust this supply.

This body of water is 630 feet above the level of Montgomery Street, so that by mere pressure the supply can be extended over any portion of the city.

The geological formation in the vicinity of this lake being chiefly granite, lime-stone and indurated slate, the water is generally clear, but to insure purity, it is passed through beds of sand, gravel and charcoal before distribution.

The Corte Madera Water Company's works are located in the foot-hills, about seven miles West of Redwood City, where they collect the waters of Bear Gulch, a branch of the San Francisco. Their reservoir holds 30,000,000 gallons of water, and supplies Redwood City and Menlo Park.

By the census of 1870, San Mateo is accredited with a population of 6,635.

For homestead purposes, this county meets every want.

It will, some day in the future, be densely populated, and the entire character of the county will undergo a change. The city of San Francisco is, and will be subject to continued and rapid growth. The northern portion of the peninsula offers no territorial opportunities; the full tide of overflow must, then, set toward the southern extremity of the peninsula, and San Mateo, from an environ will become a suburb, from a suburb will be merged in the metropolis.

The palatial residences which rear their white walls amidst the fairest of landscapes, will be superseded by the compact structures of the mercantile world. The quiet, dreamy hush of the rural district will give place to the hum and buzz of the business centre. The beautiful lawns and private grounds will be transformed into parks and pleasure gardens, or will subserve the ends of the manufacturer and mechanic.

All this is within the range of the possibilities, and though a long interval of years must elapse first, yet with no calamity, but with the addition of the steady increase of the past few years, a few decades only are necessary to realize the change.