

W. W. MONTAGUE & CO.,
Importers and Dealers in English and American TILE, Encaustic, Glazed, and Plain.
309, 311, 313, 315 and 317 Market Street, San Francisco.

SONOMA COUNTY.

THIS County is bounded on the north by Mendocino County, on the east by Lake and Napa Counties, on the south by the San Pablo Bay and Marin County, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and contains an area of 960,000 acres.

In its topographical formation Sonoma shows a variety of valleys, separated by ranges of mountains and hills, running generally from southeast to northwest. The valleys, so formed, vary very materially, not only in extent but in climatic conditions as well. They are uniformly well watered, the average amount of rainfall being at least one-quarter more than in San Francisco, the rainy season opening sooner and closing later as a rule. The principal valley of the county runs through its entire length, being about fifty miles in length by from three to fifteen miles in width and encloses the great agricultural belt of the county. On the coast proper the famous dairy region of the county is found, the moisture laden breezes from the sea being sufficient to ensure perfect freshness of grasses during the entire year.

The one principal river of the county—Russian—enters Sonoma from the north and flows in a general southeasterly direction for some twenty-five miles when it turns sharply to the west and finds its way through the coast hills to the ocean.

In the northern part of the county are found the great red-wood forests which have made Sonoma famous. Immense wealth of timber has already been made from their limits, but the supply is so large that, as compared with the amount still standing, the district may be fairly said to have only been tapped.

Among its varied productions, taking rank with the most valuable, and, in fact, the one great industry for which Sonoma is best known throughout the whole United States is its wine interest. The annual production exceeds 2,500,000 gallons. The present development is almost entirely restricted to the valley of Sonoma in the southeastern part of the county, which valley is wholly devoted to viticultural interests, and is the pioneer locality of the State in the creation of our wine industry. The planting of the famous "Rhinefarm," owned by Messrs. J. Gundlach & Co., the largest and most important vineyard of the section, dating back as far as 1858.