

been organized in the northern part of the county for the appropriation and use of the waters of the Mokelumne river. Active and energetic operations were commenced last summer. A splendid dam of substantial masonry was commenced at the initial point, and prosecuted nearly to completion, when a sudden and resistless flood of water from above partially demolished it. The usual winter rise of the river following, work was necessarily suspended until the water should fall sufficiently to resume. This company will construct about one hundred and thirty miles of canal, which is designed to carry water sufficient for the irrigation of three hundred thousand acres of land. The work, completed, will cost about \$300,000. These two works cannot fail to prove lucrative to their owners, and at the same time add immensely to the aggregate wealth by the enhancement of the taxable value and productive powers of the lands to be affected by them.

The grand West-side irrigation scheme that has been for some years engaging public attention, and which contemplates the appropriation of the water of Tulare lake and its conveyance down the Valley on the west side of the San Joaquin, is now in a fair way to be consummated under the scientific direction of Mr. Hall, who fills the new and responsible office of State Engineer, created by an Act of the last Legislature. This great work, when completed, will irrigate between 70,000 and 100,000 acres in San Joaquin county, west of the river.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

No agricultural county in the State probably can boast of so many pretty, prosperous and enterprising rural towns and villages as can San Joaquin, with communities distinguished for wealth, intelligence, taste, social culture, schools, churches, manufacturies, general industry, and all of the elements and accompaniments of an advanced civilization. Some of these, as Linden, Woodbridge, Lockeford, Waterloo, Farmington, Collegenille and French Camp, are the natural and gradual outgrowth of a steadily increasing general population and development; while others, as Lodi, Lathrop, Banta and Ellis, were artificially brought into existence, as it were, in a night, by the completion of the railroad. But their artificial origin detracts nothing from their permanence, their growth, their enterprise and prosperity, or their usefulness and value as features and parts of the beautiful, proud and happy little "State within a State," San Joaquin County.