

The Berryessa Valley lies at an elevation of 360 feet above the sea, and covers an area of about 36,000 acres, mostly excellent farming lands. The product consists chiefly of wheat, which is grown in enormous quantities; we are told that the shipment of this cereal amounts to over 300,000 bushels per year.

The shape of the valley is oblong, surrounded by mountains, which, for the most part, are covered with timber.

The scenery is very romantic, and among the finest we have yet seen.

There are four school districts in the Valley and two churches, but as we have still a long road to travel, and not being religiously inclined—although this is Sunday—we did not visit the latter.

The sun is already high in the heavens, it is past 11, and, if we desire to reach Napa to-day, it is time to start. In leaving Berryessa Valley we see two roads, the one leading through Putah Canyon at a grade of fourteen feet per mile; the other, a mountain road, rather more difficult to travel, but offering finer scenery to the tourist. We shall take the latter. After a ride of about an hour, we reach Cherry Valley, a pretty spot, nearly three miles long, by about one-half mile in breadth.

The principal product of this locality is wheat, though other grain is also grown. Sheep-raising is also a feature of this neighborhood.

There are two small vineyards in this valley, but not of sufficient importance for us to stop. We now cross a range of hills and enter Capel Valley, which has an area of about 7,000 acres of well watered and very productive land. Capel Creek runs through the entire valley, is never dry, and offers good sport for the angler. There is also plenty of game, but we have had sufficient experience in hunting, for the present, at least, and we shall not indulge in that kind of amusement.

E. H. Bragg is the largest land-owner in this valley, and is by far the most enterprising resident of the whole neighborhood. He has a beautiful farm, yielding large crops of hay, wheat, etc., although his principal pursuit is stock-raising. Quicksilver has been discovered in the range of hills dividing Capel Valley from Foss Valley, but no important developments have as yet been made.

Foss Valley, the next on our road, covers an area of about 2,500 acres, and lies at an elevation of over 1,200 feet above the sea level. This is a sheep-raising community, the farming interest being second in importance. William Clarke is the principal land-owner and stock-raiser of the locality. We had the intention of reaching Napa to-day, but having spent much time in visiting the different places of interest, we gladly accept the kind invitation, politely extended by Mr. Clarke, to stop over night.

The evening was passed in social enjoyment; several young ladies favored us with vocal music, and we concluded that we had really found an oasis in a social desert. We rose early in the morning, and, after having partaken of an excellent breakfast, we will bid adieu to our amiable host and continue on our journey. We now follow a trail leading over a ridge of hills and descend into Wooden Valley, which derives its name from John Wooden, whose acquaintance we had the pleasure of making, and found him by no means wooden John, but, on the contrary, a very active man.

The Valley is circular in form, is well watered, and contains about 2,000 acres of good farming and grazing lands. There is also plenty of timber, consisting principally of oaks. We now cross a ridge of hills in an easterly direction and reach Gordon Valley, named after, and chiefly owned by Nan Gordon, the oldest settler of the locality. We will now continue our travels in a south-easterly direction, passing through numerous small valleys and over the Bald Mountain range, and reach Napa City at 2 P. M. Since leaving Gordon Valley nothing of note has occurred, and to describe the scenery would only be to repeat what we have said before—it is beautiful.

On reaching Napa we are heartily welcomed by our host, John S. Hogan, of the Napa Hotel, and we will now rest until to-morrow, and then make a little excursion in another direction.

We arise very early and intend to visit the Napa Soda Springs, distant about 5 miles from Napa City. The road leads in a northerly direction through Napa Valley, then up the mountain side to an elevation of about 700 feet above the level of the Valley. The scenery is very picturesque and the general surroundings are romantic.

These Springs were first discovered in 1853, but not much was known of them until 1856, when the experiment of bottling the water for shipment to San Francisco and other places was made, and proved very successful. The water holds in solution

Bicarbonate of soda,
Carbonate of magnesia,
Carbonate of lime,
Chloride of sodium,
Sub-carbonate of iron,
Sulphate of soda,
Silicious acid, and
Alumnia.

There is a hotel at the Springs, and numerous visitors and invalids go there in search of health and pleasure.