

of this lake. Two miles northward are a number of boiling springs, the water of which contains chlorine, soda and boracic acid. Near these hot springs some large deposits of sulphur have been found and have been worked to some extent.

Traces of petroleum were discovered in different parts of the neighborhood, though no borings have been made. In due course of time no doubt capitalists will undertake the working of these different interests and reap lucrative results. We now come to the

GREAT WESTERN QUICKSILVER MINES,

Already alluded to on the first page of our description. The Great Western Quicksilver Mining Company was incorporated August 8, 1872, and is now actively engaged in extracting quicksilver from their mine with great success.

At first a ten ton furnace for the reduction of the ore was erected. This, however, proved insufficient, and one having a capacity of thirty tons was built. The latter is known as the Green Furnace, and is on the most improved principles.

The two furnaces are capable of reducing forty tons of ore per day. All the other buildings on the premises are new and complete in all their appointments. The mine is located in a dense growth of pine, fir, oak and other timber that promises an abundance of timber for the mine, and fuel for the furnaces, for many years to come. Altogether we counted eight tunnels, in different localities, in all of which we saw rich deposits of cinnabar in large bodies. Shafts have been sunk to a depth of 200 feet at the extremities of tunnels Nos. 3 and 8, which are 1,500 feet apart. Specimens of ore were shown us, taken at this depth, which would assay from 60 to 70 per centum. We were politely shown all over the premises and had the pleasure of seeing the whole process of producing quicksilver—the taking of the ore from the tunnels and placing it in the furnaces, the mode of condensing the fumes by means of iron condensers, and, finally, the pure metal run into the flasks. We passed several hours at the mine, and from what we saw conclude that the company is in a very prosperous condition.

In this neighborhood is also the claim of the Columbia Quicksilver Mining Company, said to be very rich; we had not sufficient time to spare and could not visit it.

We also omitted to speak of Soda Bay, which is situated at the base of Uncle Sam Mountain. Here are a number of soda springs. The locality is a beautiful one; the surroundings very picturesque and romantic. Tourists and artists in search of magnificent natural scenery can here gratify their imaginations.

In the southern portion of Cobb Valley are Adams Springs, named after Mr. Adams, the discoverer, and now the property of Whitton Brothers. The accommodations are of a rather primitive nature, and as yet the place is not extensively patronized. The waters are said to possess great curative qualities.

In this connection we will also allude to Sigler Spring, situated six miles west of Lower Lake. The surroundings of the locality are charming and attract numerous visitors. The accommodations are good and the waters are highly recommended for their medicinal properties. Among the small valleys of which nothing is said in our narrative are the following: Scott, Paradise, Bachelor, Morgan, Copsey, Bogg, Gravelly, Hunting, Deer, Dunivan and Little Squaw. They are very small, but a number of them are very pretty; all are very productive and yield large crops of hay and cereals.

When Kelsey and Stone first settled in Lake County, for the purpose of raising cattle, little did they dream that in less than twenty-five short years the locality in which they were would be the point of rendezvous for lovers and admirers of natural beauty from all parts of the Eastern States and California. They were only on the borders of what is now justly termed the "Sanitarium" of the Pacific, combining the mountain scenery of Switzerland with the climate of Italy, and containing more mineral springs than the whole of Europe. Lake County is even now but thinly populated. There are several reasons for this: First, because the advantages of its climate and the richness of its soil are not generally known abroad; Second, the means of communication between it and the adjoining counties is by mountain roads and axle. It is proposed to extend the Napa Valley Railroad from Calistoga into Lake County. It may require difficult engineering and a great outlay of capital, to pass the mountains, but what is this compared to the tunnel under Mount Cenis, or the Hoosac tunnel, lately completed? We have in California men of talent, wealth and enterprise, who will overcome this difficulty. The day is near at hand when the shrill whistle of the locomotive will be heard on the shores of Clear Lake. Then a great future will dawn for Lake County; her valleys will be dotted with numerous villages, her towns become beautiful cities, and her mines bring forth the hidden treasures of the earth. The Mineral Springs will be the renowned Spas of the western world, visited by thousands of invalids from all climes, and the waters will be exported to the four quarters of the globe, to be used by those who cannot come to the source. Pleasure-seekers who usually spend the winter in Italy and the summer in the Pyrenees, will come here to admire the beauties of a country but yesterday a wilderness, to-day inhabited by a thrifty, orderly and intelligent community.