

Knightsville is a small village having a good hotel, a blacksmith shop and several other buildings, and is supported by the farming community of the vicinity. We passed a very agreeable night in this locality, and fully refreshed from the fatigue of yesterday, continue our journey through Knight Valley.

Knights Valley is a very rich farming and cattle-raising district, and covers an area of about 30 square miles. We cross it in a northerly direction and reach Pine Flat at 10 A. M., distance ten miles, over a good road. The town is situated near the county line and is in the centre of a rich mining district which extends into Napa and Lake counties. A great number of quicksilver mines have been opened in this locality, and to judge from present appearances, it is destined to become the greatest quicksilver-producing district in the world. In the town there is one hotel, two general merchandise stores, five saloons, a number of shops and dwellings. The hotel is kept by Geo. M. Reeves, and contains all the accommodations a good host can offer. Pine Flat is built in a round hollow on the cone of a mountain; the surroundings are very picturesque. From here we continue in a northerly direction and reach the Geysers at 5 P. M. The road from Pine Flat is very mountainous and the scenery on all sides very wild and Alpine-like. The Geysers are a collection of hot springs, situated in a deep canyon, about 1,700 feet above the level of the sea, and, next to Yosemite, are the greatest attraction in California. In this canyon, which is called Pluton Canyon, are over 250 springs, throwing up water of a temperature of 200° to 210° Fahrenheit. The waters differ in color, chemical properties and degree of heat. There are white, red and black springs, also cold springs, iron, sulphur and alum springs.

The Geysers were discovered in 1847, and are visited by a great number of tourists from all parts of the world. The hotel at this point is very good and well managed. From here we proceed in a north-westerly direction through Sulphur Canyon along the banks of Sulphur Creek, toward Cloverdale. The road is very well graded, in good repair, and is one of the best mountain roads in the State.

There are quicksilver deposits and open mines on both sides of the road; the scenery is grand and beautiful. About fourteen miles from the Geysers we cross the Russian River, the principal stream of Sonoma County, and enter Oat Valley, so-called from the large crops of wild oats which the locality produces. The valley covers an area of about 3,000 acres of excellent farming land, well wooded and watered.

One of the principal owners of this valley is J. G. Heald, who also keeps a hotel at the Junction of the Ukiah and Lakeport roads, in the valley. The principal products of the neighborhood are hay, oats and other grains. We continue a couple of miles south-easterly and reach Cloverdale, one of the principal towns of Sonoma County, the present terminus of the North Pacific Railroad and the *only* town in the County where Local Option was defeated.

Cloverdale was laid out in 1859 by J. B. Woods, has since then grown rapidly, and is now the fourth town in importance of the County; it has a population of 489—278 males and 211 females. There are quite a number of business houses, two very good hotels, two churches, one graded school, and societies of Odd Fellows, Masons and Good Templars. It is at the present time a real paradise for saloons, (which were always very numerous), it being the only town of the County where liquor can legally be sold by the glass and where the people are not obliged to purchase five-gallon drinks. There are also two well-appointed livery stables, blacksmith shops, etc., for the accommodation of travelers and visitors. The trade of Cloverdale consists principally of agricultural and dairy products, and is an important shipping point for hay, wool, grain, fire-wood and live stock. The town is very well laid out, the streets are wide and kept in good repair.

The surroundings of the town are very attractive and the climate is very mild, so that all kinds of semi-tropical fruits are raised in large quantities. After having spent an agreeable evening in Cloverdale and enjoyed a good night's rest, we leave at 8 A. M. Our road lies in a southerly direction over rolling hills; and after an exhilarating drive of nine miles, through a thickly wooded district, we reach Geyserville at 9:30 A. M.

Geyserville is a station on the line of the North Pacific Railroad and has a population of 110—47 males and 63 females. There is one general store, one hotel, a blacksmith shop and a saloon. Geyserville is situated in one of the most productive portions of Russian River Valley and is supported by the farmers of the locality. Large quantities of cereals, fruit and hay are shipped from here by railroad. While here we made the acquaintance of Mr. Von Hasslocher, formerly Colonel in the French army. Mr. Von Hasslocher is now a gentleman of leisure, who lives on his income and sought this locality with a view to making it his permanent home. We now proceed in a westerly direction, over foot-hills, and enter Dry Creek Valley. This is also a very productive locality; grain averages about forty bushels to the acre on the bottom lands. In some places the growing grain is so high as to hide the fences. Dry Creek Valley covers about twelve square miles, and is pretty thickly settled by farmers, sheep-raisers, etc. Dry Creek is so-called because of its being dry in the middle of summer; it rises in Mendocino County and empties into Russian River.

Gold has been found along the course of the Creek, but not in sufficient quantities to warrant any serious attempts at mining operations on a large scale. There are also indications of coal, quicksilver and