

with a population of 243, supported by the farming community of the neighborhood. There is a hotel, several stores, shops, saloons, a flour-mill and a tannery.

The next station on our road is Valley Ford, established as a business place in 1860, by Jas. E. Fowler, who is still a resident, and has a population of 65—38 males and 27 females. It is situated on the Estero Americano, a small stream on the line of the North Pacific Railroad, distant twenty miles south-west of Santa Rosa, and equi-distant from Tomales, Bloomfield and Bodega. There is a good hotel, a store and several shops. We next come to Freestone, so-called from the Freestone quarries, in the vicinity, laid out in 1856, having a population of thirty-four, fourteen miles south-west of Santa Rosa. This place is supported by the farmers and lumbermen of the neighborhood. At a short distance from the town are several extensive lumber-mills. At this point there is a good hotel, a general merchandise store, and a blacksmith shop. We are now approaching the Ocean and already begin to feel the change of temperature. Since leaving Bloomfield we have been passing through the great potato region of Sonoma County, and advise all who are fond of potatoes in every style to come here and enjoy this luxury to their heart's content. You can obtain boiled spuds, fried spuds, roast spuds, baked spuds, and spud salad, served in every style, *a la Francaise*, German style or Yankee fashion. The next nucleus of civilization is Bodega Corners, otherwise called Smith's Rancho, seventeen miles south of Santa Rosa, four miles west from Freestone.

Bodega has a population of 214—108 males and 106 females—pretty well assorted in point of numbers. This is quite an important trading point for lumbermen, farmers, stock-raisers and dairymen, and is connected with the interior towns by stage lines. At a little distance from here is Bodega Port, on Bodega Bay, where the produce of the whole vicinity is shipped to San Francisco. At Bodega there are two hotels, three stores, several shops and a livery stable.

We next reach Ocean View, on the ocean side, 23 miles west of Santa Rosa. We have nothing particular to note about this locality, except that there is a good hotel here, and that the sea breeze serves to create a very good appetite.

The next place we come to is Duncan's Mills, 29 miles north-west of Santa Rosa, at the mouth of the Russian River. Here is an extensive lumber-mill, a hotel and one store. This is a shipping point for lumber and produce.

We pass Henry's hotel, 42 miles north-west of Santa Rosa; Plantation House, 50 miles north-west of Santa Rosa—the former a way-house on the road, the latter a way-house prettily situated in a cove of timber, and take a side road toward the ocean, and arrive at Fort Ross, 47 miles north-west of Santa Rosa.

All through this region are numerous dairies, producing large quantities of cheese. The Russians built a fort some 40 miles north of Bodega, in the year 1820, and called it Fort Slawianska—this is now called Fort Ross. The Russians left in the year 1841, and the old fort still exists. There is nothing very noteworthy in its appearance. It is now owned by a private individual, and has ceased to be a fort except in name. We now proceed to Timber Cove, a little roadstead, where lumber and produce are shipped by small coasting vessels to San Francisco. Timber Cove is 45 miles north-west of Santa Rosa.

We next pass Liebeg's grocery, 47 miles north-west of Santa Rosa, and reach Salt Point, on the ocean side, 50 miles distant from Santa Rosa.

At this place there is a hotel and a store—a simple supply station for the farmers and residents in the vicinity.

We stayed here over night, so that we might be enabled to reach the limits of Sonoma County to-day. Starting at 7 A. M., we continue in a north-westerly direction, passing Helmke's Grocery, 50 miles from Santa Rosa, and reach Fisk's Mills, 55 miles from Santa Rosa, just in time for breakfast.

Fisk's Mills is a small settlement, named after an extensive lumber mill which is located here. There is a hotel and a store and several dwellings.

We now continue in the same direction and come to the first town of Mendocino County, Gualala, 70 miles south-west of Ukiah, the County-seat, a description of the same will be found in our notes on Mendocino County.

While in the town of Sonoma we omitted to allude to a large fruit-drying establishment (on the Alden principle) situated on the Santa Rosa road, one mile north of Sonoma. This establishment has been built at an expense of \$15,000, and has a capacity for curing about one ton of fruit per day. Active operations will be begun at once and thus a new branch of industry will be inaugurated. Fruit being very abundant in this neighborhood and the cost of shipping it to market almost too expensive to leave any margin for the grower, this establishment, if successful, will contribute largely to the future wealth of the community.

In conclusion, Sonoma County has enormous resources; her fertile valleys and the diversity of her products are unsurpassed by any in the world. Means of communication in some portions of the County, as in Lake and Napa, are not yet sufficiently rapid and numerous, and her wealth yet lies dormant.

The farming, mining and manufacturing interests are still in their infancy, and await capital and population to develop them and secure for Sonoma the foremost position among the wealthy counties of California. A little time will be required to bring about important changes. Railroads must be built, and what is yet in part a wilderness and forest will teem with prosperity.