

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Incidents of Travel, Adventures, Etc.

In the year 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese by birth, then in the Spanish service, sailed from a port in Mexico northward, and discovered what is now known as California. He followed the coast and discovered a promontory which he named Cape Mendoza, in honor of the viceroy of Mexico. This headland is now known as Cape Mendocino, and the County we are about to describe was named after it. Mendocino County is bounded on the north by Humboldt and Trinity; on the east by Lake, Tehama and Colusa; on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the south by Sonoma; covers an area of about 4,800 square miles, (being nearly eighty miles long by an average of sixty miles in width), and was organized in 1859. As will be seen, it is much larger than any of the Counties we have described, containing about 2,000,000 acres of land, one-fourth of which is fit for cultivation; the remainder, excepting a small portion suitable for grazing, consists of mountains and forests. It is one of the best watered Counties in the State and one of the greatest lumber and timber districts of California, having immense forests composed of red-wood, fir, and pine, of different species, live oak, maple and laurel trees.

The climate is considerably cooler *and more moist* than that of Sonoma, Lake and Napa Counties; snow falls during winter, but to no great extent. In general, the temperature is equable, the sudden changes occurring in the neighborhood of San Francisco being very rare, and the climate of the whole County is very healthy.

The population numbers 6,591—3,569 males and 3,022 females; and is steadily increasing. The County is divided into 40 school districts, having 42 schools—3 first-class, 11 second, 28 third grade—attended, during 1873, by 1,814 children, 1,810 white and 4 Indian.

The chief resources of wealth are stock-raising, farming and the lumber trade; the latter, by far the most important, furnishes employment to a great number of the male portion of the population. Cereals, potatoes and different kinds of fruit are raised, but not exported in any large quantities except potatoes. In mining, beyond some placer digging in 1864, nothing very important has been done, some ledges of copper, silver and gold-bearing quartz were found, but little to speak of was extracted. Lately a coal vein was discovered, and also some cinnabar deposits located; these being as yet undeveloped, we cannot speak of the probable results.

Numerous mineral springs exist in the County; their reputation, however, has yet to be made. When the means of communication are more rapid and comfortable, and the quality of the waters sufficiently tested, they may also become a source of wealth.

The taxable property of Mendocino County is \$5,250,000.

The Indians, still numerous in Mendocino County, are not over friendly to the whites; they live on a Government reservation containing a large area of good land, and support themselves. They commit no depredations, and, so long as left to themselves and not provoked, are not dangerous.

We will make an excursion through Mendocino County, and besides giving our readers a correct description of all we see as we pass through the different towns, will endeavor to find time for a bear hunt.

Gualala, the point we have reached, as stated on concluding our description of Sonoma County, a very pretty site, situated near the county line, at the mouth of the Gualala River, has a population of 188—123 males and 65 females—and is an important shipping point for lumber, railroad ties and posts. Here is a very large lumber mill, a hotel, a post-office, and several cottages. There is also a ferry at this point to cross the Gualala River. We follow the coast road on Nature's sea-wall, that is to say, on the cliffs girding the Pacific Ocean, and reach Punta Arenas, (Point of Sands) 15 miles north-west from Gualala, and 65 miles southwest of Ukiah, the County-seat.