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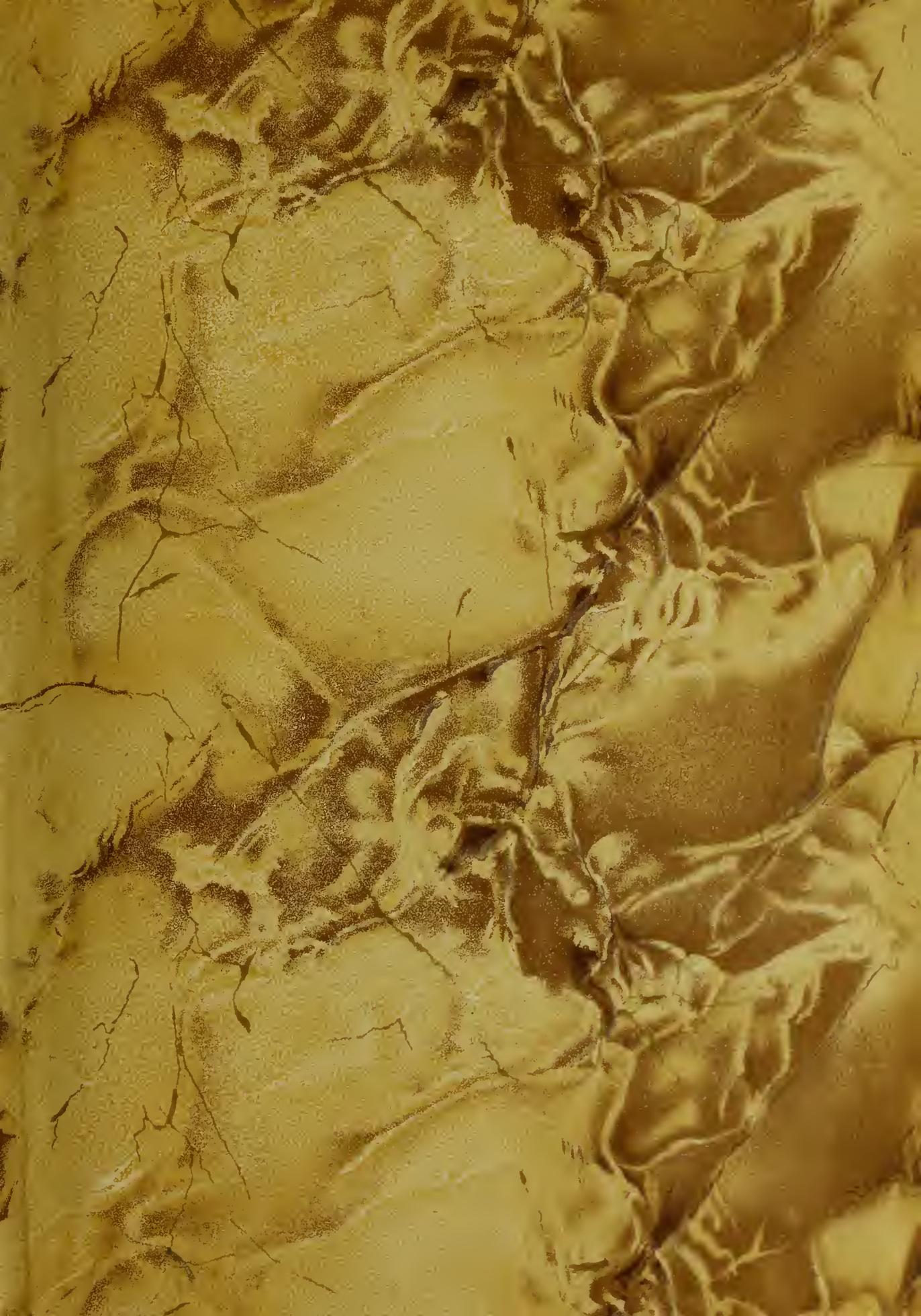
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HISTORY OF
MERCED COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

WITH A

Biographical Review

OF

*The Leading Men and Women of the County Who Have Been
Identified with Its Growth and Development
from the Early Days to the Present*

HISTORY BY
JOHN OUTCALT

ILLUSTRATED
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A HISTORY OF
MERCED COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

BEING

*An Account in Brief Outline of the Period from the
Days of the Spanish Occupation down
to the Present Time*

BY

JOHN OUTCALT

ILLUSTRATED

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1925

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PREFACE

This history of Merced County is presented to the people of the county with some trepidation. I have succeeded in finding out quite a bit about the history of the county and in putting it down here. No one, however, can be better aware than I am that the story is incomplete in many particulars. There is a very large mass of material to examine for the latter part of the county's history—say from the time when Merced became the county seat. The very abundance of the material for this period makes the task a difficult one. For the earlier period, from the organization of the county and earlier down to the moving of the county seat to Merced, the difficulty is of just the opposite kind—the material which is available is often fragmentary, often lacking. In both cases a lack of proportion has sometimes resulted. The treatment of the later part of the county's history, from the time when the raising of grain was well launched down to the present, is necessarily a good deal more sketchy than the treatment of the earlier period. For this no particular apology is offered; I believe the earlier portion needs doing so much more urgently now than this later portion, that I can not feel any regrets for devoting the greater portion of the space to the pioneer years.

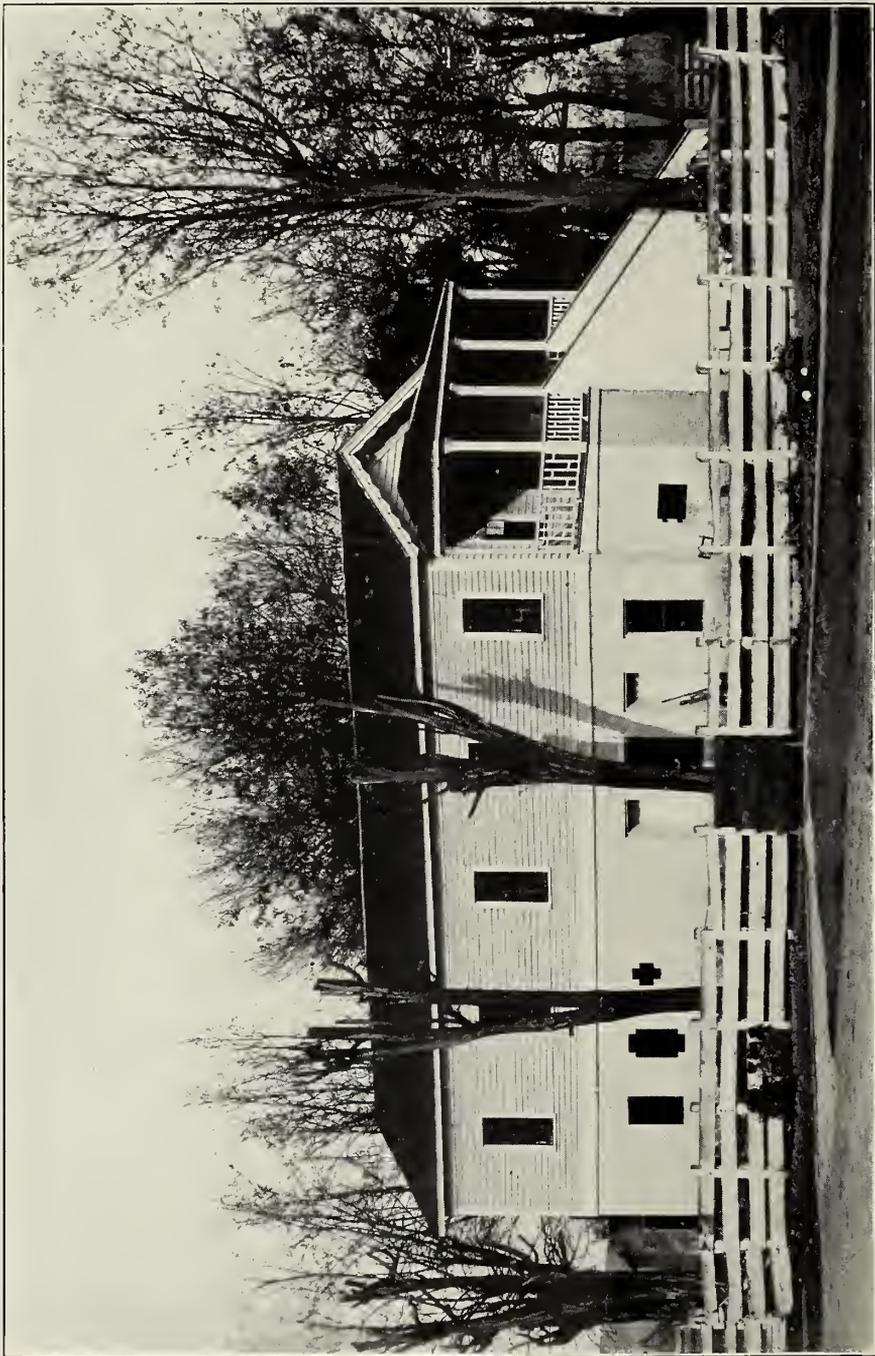
The chapter on the Founders of the County seems to me to be perhaps the one which is most valuable, and at the same time it is perhaps the one which is most incomplete. The list of pioneers there gathered needs to be filled out as completely as the knowledge now held by people still living will permit. I have indulged a hope, as the book has grown, that some sort of county historical society or association may result from it; and if it should result from attempts to supply my omissions and correct my mistakes, it will not on that account be any the less useful.

I can scarcely hope to thank all who have helped me with the work. Henry Nelson, Mrs. John Ruddle, Judge and Mrs. I. J. Buckley, and Mrs. Louisa Stevinson have given valuable information on the early Merced River section; S. L. Givens, Mrs. Penelope Rogers, Jefferson Price, and John Barker, on early days on Bear and Mariposa Creeks; and W. J. Stockton and C. W. Smith, on early West Side history. I am indebted to Charles Rogers, to L. R. Fancher and to O. H. Terrell for information on the early grain days on the East Side; to D. K. Stoddard for matter on early transportation, and also on the location of the first county seat; to Miss Neta Porter, of the county clerk's office, who has searched the records for the material in the chapter on county officers; to Miss Essae M. Culver,

county librarian, and her staff, for many courtesies in obtaining material and for the use of the library; to Gust Johnson, of Hilmar, for information on the settlement of that section; and to C. D. Martin for information on the early history of the Crocker-Huffman canal system. Many others have rendered assistance, for which gratitude is here expressed.

JOHN OUTCALT.

Merced, May 23, 1925.



SNELLING COURT HOUSE, FIRST COURT HOUSE IN MERCED COUNTY

HISTORY OF MERCED COUNTY

By JOHN OUTCALT

CHAPTER I

INDIANS, SPANIARDS, AND MEXICANS

Merced County extends entirely across the San Joaquin Valley, with its greatest length in an approximately east-northeast and west-southwest direction. It is approximately sixty miles long by thirty wide and contains 1907 square miles. On the east it runs up a few miles into the beginnings of the low foothills of the Sierra Nevada; on the west it reaches to the most easterly summit of the Coast Range. Its lowest point, where the San Joaquin River leaves the county to pass into Stanislaus on the north, is less than a hundred feet above sea level. The greater part of the surface is plain, sloping gently down from both west and east to the San Joaquin, which bisects the county into roughly equal West Side and East Side.

Besides the San Joaquin, the principal stream is the Merced, nearly forty miles of the lower course of which lies within the county's boundaries, roughly parallel to and about six or seven miles from the easterly half of the northern border. These two are the only streams which have their sources in the high mountains and therefore have anything like a year-around water supply. On the East Side south of the Merced, Bear Creek, Mariposa Creek, and the Chowchilla River carry considerable water during the rainy season, but run very low or entirely dry during summer and fall. The two first-named head in the Mariposa County hills at an altitude around two thousand feet. The Chowchilla, which forms the boundary between Merced and Madera Counties for something like twenty-five miles, from the eastern foothills to the vicinity of the main State highway up and down the San Joaquin Valley, is somewhat larger and heads somewhat higher, but is also dry during a considerable portion of the year.

Between these streams other smaller creeks of similar intermittent character run down towards the San Joaquin. All, even including the Chowchilla and Bear and Mariposa Creeks, spread out and merge into sloughs as they approach the San Joaquin, so that their lower courses are difficult to trace.

On the West Side similar intermittent streams run down from the eastern summit of the Coast Range to the San Joaquin. They lie for the most part in a region of still smaller rainfall than those of the East Side just mentioned, and run dry even sooner. Of these Los Banos, San Luis, Romero, and Quinto Creeks are the chief.

The Merced reaches the San Joaquin through a depression having bluffs of twenty to forty or fifty feet on each side, and has a considerable river valley of its own, of rich farming land. The smaller streams flow through the lower country through channels which they have cut through the plain, and it is the rule that the land immediately along their sides is higher than that at a distance. They have built up the land near them by successive deposits of silt, like miniature Niles or Mississippis.

Except for a dozen-mile strip of scrub timber and brush along the higher part of the western hill portion, and a quarter mile or less of willow, cottonwood, water oak and lesser growth along the San Joaquin and Merced River bottoms, the county as found by civilized man was practically treeless. It just about reached the beginnings of scrub growth along its eastern boundary, there was here and there a little timber along the smaller creeks, in the southeast especially some scattering water oaks dotted the open country at wide intervals, and along the course of the San Joaquin, extending widely beyond the limits of its bordering trees and bushes, was one of those regions which we see frequently referred to in the early accounts as tulares—a place of tules—its bounds coinciding more or less closely with the part of the San Joaquin's plain subject to annual overflow from the snow waters of early summer.

But on the whole the impression the territory conveyed was that of a treeless plain, across which in the old days of horseback travel it was a long, and in the dry season a pretty cheerless journey. With an annual average rainfall at Merced of between ten and eleven inches, and less than that as we go south and west, it was dry and desolate enough for the several months from the early ending of spring until the fall rains, and we can enter into the feelings of Ensign Gabriel Moraga, redoubtable soldier of Spain and the man who more than any other of his race touches the county's history, which led him to confer upon the river the name afterwards applied as well to the county.

It was in the latter half of September, 1806, when on a punitive expedition against "Gentile" Indians of the Valley who had contracted the objectionable habit of running off horses from around San Juan Bautista and San Jose, that this Spanish pioneer entered what is now Merced County, probably by way of the present route of the Pacheco Pass highway and San Luis Creek. With an expedition of twenty-five men, including Father Pedro Munoz, chaplain and diarist, he crossed the San Joaquin somewhere near where the Santa Rita bridge

now is, crossed and named the Arroyo de los Mariposas not far from its mouth, and proceeding north and northwest, came after a dry and weary ride to the stream which, supposedly because of the refreshment it afforded his men and animals, he named the "River of Our Lady of Mercy."

From the Merced Moraga proceeded further north and successively passed the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Calaveras, and Mokelumne, then turned south and reached the San Joaquin where it flows southwest, now forming the boundary between Madera and Fresno Counties. On the Stanislaus he found the Indian village of Tualamne. At the San Joaquin and again three days later on the Kings—the "Rio de los Reyes," discovered and named by an expedition in the preceding year—Indians told him a tale of white soldiers who had come across the eastern mountains twenty years before and fought a battle. Possibly, Chapman surmises, some not otherwise known and disastrous expedition had formerly been made by Spaniards from New Mexico.

There seems to be no certain record of the name of any Spaniard who entered what is now Merced County before Gabriel Moraga—or even the larger territory which for a brief time was Merced County. Garces and Anza, and Joaquin Moraga, Gabriel's father, at about the time of the American War of Independence, came into the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, but it does not appear that they stayed in it so far north. Gabriel Moraga himself had been on the San Joaquin the previous year. It is said that Los Banos Creek received its name from the Fathers of San Juan Bautista, who were accustomed to cross the eastern Coast Range summit to the rock pools—the baths—near its head, to refresh themselves; but from what we read of the relations with the inland Indians at the time of Moraga's expedition, it seems probable that this was at a later date.

By this year, 1806, Spain had extended her occupation of California practically as far as she was ever to do, with the exception of San Rafael and Sonoma north of San Francisco Bay. For a clear understanding of the situation as it then existed, we must resolutely banish from our minds the present eastern boundary of California. Substantially the eastern summit of the Coast Range marked Spain's most easterly extension of her occupation. The heyday of the missions was soon to pass; and though we find some mention of the Christianization of the Gentile Indians of the great interior valley as the reason for expeditions thither, it is principally to that noble animal the horse that we owe what was done along that line—to the horse and the desire of the Indian, both neophyte and Gentile, to possess him, and to the restiveness of growing numbers of the neophytes, who fled from the discipline of the missions across the mountains to their kin in the San Joaquin Valley to the eastward, and for a third cause, to the fear the Spaniards were coming to have of the

Gentile Indians as corrupters of the neophytes. Mariano Payeras, who became president of the missions in 1815, expressed the opinion that the time had come to heed the Reglamento for founding establishments east of the Coast Range—not merely missions but strong presidios. He says in his biennial report for 1817-1818:

“The object of our ministry being the propagation of the Faith among the Gentiles, and Gentiles no longer existing among the coast mountains, the padres of various missions have attempted to baptize those living in the district called the Tulares. They, however, have never succeeded. The Tulare Indians are inconstant. Today they come, tomorrow they are gone—not on foot, as they came, but on horseback. With such guests, no horse is safe in the northern valley. And the worst of it is that having crossed the Tulare Valley and the mountains that surround it, they kill the horses and eat them. The government has not been neglectful in pursuing such deadly enemies, but little has been effected, because great lagoons surrounded by green tules shelter them from our horsemen. For this reason the padres and more intelligent officers think it needful to form in the Valley of the Tulares a new chain of missions with presidios. . . . If this be not done, the time will come when the existence of the province will be threatened, and a region that up to a recent time has been a center of tranquility will be changed into an Apacheria.”

Payeras writes to the padres in July, 1819:

“The Governor of this province, Don Pablo Vicente de Sola, advises me that he has been informed from the South of the scandalous abuse at certain missions (San Fernando and San Gabriel) of neophyte equestrianism. Neophytes take with brazenness, and in broad daylight, horses even though tied. They load them with women in the public roads. I am reminded by the Governor of the many royal cédulas forbidding Indians to ride and that even your reverences cannot give them permission to own or use a horse, if Law 33 of Book VI, Title 1, of the Recopilacion is observed. . . . In the Tulares (I am told by the Governor) both Christians and Gentiles make their journeys on horseback. Even the women are learning to ride. Fairs are held at which horses stolen from the missions are put up for sale.”

There were three other expeditions besides Moraga's in this year of 1806, but none of them appear to have come near Merced County. Chapman tells us that one set out from San Francisco, but that there is no account of its discoveries surviving. There is but little more of a second which set out from San Diego and seemingly went inland to the north of San Luis Rey. The third, under Lieutenant Francisco Ruiz, with Father Jose Maria Zalvidea as diarist, appears to have come across from Santa Ynez into Kern County to Buena

Vista Lake, reaching its farthest north about the present site of Bakersfield.

Turning south they came on the fourth day, says Chapman, to a place where, years before, the Indians had killed two soldiers—"an allusion to an otherwise unknown expedition." It is interesting to note that this is the second otherwise unknown expedition commemorated by one lone incident, and of course it will not do to conclude too dogmatically that there may not have been others.

The runaway neophytes had taught their wild kinsmen Spanish ways, the use of firearms, and their appetite for horseflesh. The problem therefore combined plans for saving the souls of the Indians and the horses of the Spaniards. Thus the search for mission sites which might serve as a means of defense as well as for the purposes of conversion, became a principal object in Governor Arrillaga's plans in sending out these expeditions.

Moraga confirmed previous accounts as to mission sites and Indians, Chapman tells us, and adds in the next sentence that his diarist Munoz's account mentioned the Merced River as the best location they had found, and spoke favorably of the Kings River, though a presidio would be required. Aside from them there were few promising sites, he says.

From this reference to the Merced, if what Moraga confirmed was what Munoz mentioned, apparently there had been an earlier expedition into the territory of this county, quite conceivably the expedition of 1805.

Richman says that throughout 1806 local troops in search of fugitives, under Moraga and other commanders, ranged the Tulare region from Tejon Pass to the latitude of San Francisco. It is entirely possible, therefore, that others besides Moraga and his men may have reached the Merced that year. It is interesting also to note the early use of "Tulare"—clearly the place of the tules, and as clearly applied to the whole valley.

Summing up the four expeditions in his biennial report in March, 1807, says Chapman, Father-President Estevan Tapis stated that they had visited twenty-four native villages with a total population of fifty-three hundred Indians. Mission sites were few and in any event a presidio would be necessary, he said, because of the remoteness of that section and the great number of Indians who dwelt beyond the regions lately explored. Referring, apparently, to Indians living in the Sierra Nevada, Richman says 192 of the 5300 Indians encountered were baptized.

As to the location of the proposed mission site on the Merced, Eldredge tells us (Vol. II, p. 94) that it was on that stream, near the site of the present city of Merced, and leaves us to make what in-

ferences we can from that. At any rate, none of the plans for establishing missions or presidios in the interior ever materialized.

The only remedy against the Indians of the interior continued to be small military expeditions similar to those of Moraga and the others in 1806. Moraga himself was the most prominent of the leaders, and commanded expeditions all the way from the Colorado to well north on the Sacramento. Chapman tells us that his service sheet of 1820 shows that he had taken part in forty-six such expeditions—"vastly more than the few of which the historians as yet have knowledge." We read of him successively as private, corporal, sergeant, color-sergeant, brevet-lieutenant, and lieutenant. He died at Santa Barbara, June 15, 1823.

In a remarkable expedition in 1808, in which he penetrated apparently about as far north as Butte City, and explored the Sierra rivers from about Stockton to Butte well up into the mountains, he turned south and in the latter part of October "made his customary up-river explorations," Chapman tells us, "of both the Tuolumne and Merced." How extensive these explorations were we can only judge from the fact that it was October 13 when he crossed the Feather River, "certainly not far from Oroville," and that after the long journey southward, the explorations in question and additional travel which involved "crossing the San Joaquin at the mouth of the Merced," and going northward to Pescadero on Union Island, he reached Mission San Jose on October 23.

He touched Merced County again in 1810, when he marched south from the vicinity of Walnut Creek up the west shore of the San Joaquin, and at some point in Merced County turned west along San Luis Creek and went through a pass in the mountains to San Juan Bautista—apparently Pacheco Pass. This was in August. In October of the same year he was back again on a flying trip. Leaving San Jose on the 19th he struck east to Pescadero, next day captured eighty-one natives, fifty-one of whom were women, whom he presently released, crossed to the right bank of the San Joaquin, ranged the country watered by the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced, without, however, capturing any more runaways, and on October 27th reached Santa Clara again.

"Neither on this expedition nor in that of August," says Chapman, "had he found suitable mission sites. Indeed the previously much praised Merced country was now characterized as unsuitable." Do we here possibly get a hint that 1810 was one of those abnormally dry years when the Merced carries only a third or a quarter of its normal flow? It must be confessed that the foundation for such an inference is slight, for the Spaniards had not found sites on ephemeral rivers unsuitable in the coast region.

Perhaps the explanation is to be sought rather in the politico-ecclesiastical situation than in the foibles of nature, for it was just at this time that the plan of mission expansion in the interior was "superseded by the hitherto incidental factors of pursuing runaways, recovering stolen animals, and punishing the Indians who had committed the robberies." That the mission plan was not given up without a struggle is indicated by the fact that an expedition four years later to the vicinity of Lake Tulare made search for a suitable site for one.

The presence of the Russians north of San Francisco Bay now drew attention that way, and the great central valley was somewhat neglected. There seems to have been no important expedition in 1812. In 1813, however, there was one, commanded by Sergeant Francisco Soto. With a hundred Indians from Mission San Jose and twelve soldiers who came from San Francisco by boat, he fought a battle, presumed to have been on the San Joaquin. The story is that there were a thousand Indians against him, of whom many were killed, while the Spaniards lost only one man, one of the mission Indians. Making due allowance for the reluctance of the Spanish chronicler, whoever he may have been, to hew to the strict line of truth, the account probably gives a fair enough idea of how far from formidable the Indians of all this part of the State were.

In 1815 Governor Sola arrived and sent out his so-called "great expedition" into the tulares after runaways. It seems to have consisted of simultaneous expeditions from various points. Accounts of two survive. Sergeant Juan Ortega, with Father Cabot and thirty soldiers, marched from San Miguel into the southern part of the great valley. Sergeant Jose Dolores Pico, commanding the other, with Father Jaime Escudo, started from San Juan Bautista on November 3. Five days later, somewhere near the junction of the Kings and the San Joaquin, he fell upon a village and captured sixty-six Indians, fifty of whom were Christians. Ortega with his party soon after joined him, and they marched to the San Joaquin. It is recorded that on one occasion they saw two hundred and fifty horses, most of them recently killed. They recovered a large band of animals and sent them back to the missions. At Mariposa Slough, the Indians by some artifice misled the Spaniards and enabled a number of renegades to escape. On November 29 Pico reached San Juan Bautista with ten sick soldiers and nine prisoners. There does not seem to have been much foundation for Governor Sola's boast that the "great expedition" had been a pronounced success.

By 1817, after several years of rather slight attention, the Indians had become more troublesome, and Governor Sola sent out three expeditions—one under Sergeant Sanchez, which fought a "great" battle with the Mokelumnes at or near modern Stockton; a

second under Lieutenant Jose Maria Estudillo, which went from Monterey into the Kern country and returned down the Kings and the San Joaquin and turned westward to San Juan Bautista and Monterey; and the third, under Gabriel Moraga, now a lieutenant, against the Mojaves far to the south.

In 1823 the last and one of the greatest expeditions of the Spaniards to the interior marched into the Sacramento Valley to investigate a rumor of a party of Americans or Englishmen some forty or fifty leagues to the north of San Francisco. It was commanded by the famous Luis Arguello, included fifty-nine officers and soldiers, Father Blas Ordaz as chaplain and diarist, John Gilroy as interpreter, and a number of mission Indians. It seems to have found no Anglo-Saxons. Who they were does not appear—most probably Hudson's Bay Company trappers.

Spanish rule gave place to Mexican in that year. Punitive expeditions did not cease under the Mexicans, but internal problems distracted them pretty completely from any plans of founding missions in the interior.

Hittell tells us of one of the Mexican expeditions of several years later:

"In 1839 an expedition of nine soldiers and six rancheros, under the command of Ensign Pedro Mesa, marched against the Tulareños in the San Joaquin Valley with the object of punishing horse-thieves and recovering stolen stock, but soon found that the Indians were much more formidable than they had anticipated. Mesa and six of his men were severely wounded; three were killed; and all might perhaps have lost their lives if a second expedition, consisting of twenty-seven whites and an auxiliary force of fifty friendly Indians, had not marched to their relief."

Seemingly the Indians had been improving in the art of war—perhaps the horse was an aid to them, perhaps they had acquired some of the methods and arms of the whites, perhaps both. Dr. Bunnell's account of the fighting in the Indian war of 1851 in the foothills of Mariposa and Madera Counties bears this out.

The day of the Spaniard and Mexican was drawing near its close. Their numbers had always been insignificant. With the secularization of the missions the neophytes fell away or died off; soldier bickered with priest and priest with soldier. Like all of Spain's attempts at colonization in the new world, the whole occupation was weak in provisions both for industry and for human liberty. A few white men had crossed the Sierras as early as 1819, Payeras says. "There had been some wanderers who had gone from village to village, selling their clothing for food, and making their way to San Jose. One wonders," says Chapman, "who they were!" Whether any of them were Americans it is doubtful if we shall ever know, but even

as early as this it seems about as likely that they should have been Americans as Spaniards. Lewis and Clark's and Pike's expeditions were then more than a decade in the past, and a large fur trade, carried on by as resourceful and venturesome a lot of men as ever lived, had already grown up west of the Missouri.

Up to the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century—to a century ago today—we have no certain records of Americans in the San Joaquin Valley. In the third decade there is the perfectly well established expedition of Jedediah Smith, referred to in the next chapter, who came in 1827, and trapped on a stream supposed to have been the Merced. Other trapping and trading expeditions followed—Americans and Hudson's Bay Company parties—for the next twenty years, but it was only at the end of that time that settlement began, shortly before the discovery of gold.

As we have seen, the troubles of the people west of Pacheco Pass, whom we should now call Mexicans, but who were then known as Californians, continued with the Indians in the matter of horse-stealing, as witness Pedro Mesa's expedition in 1839. The plans for missions and presidios in the interior valley came to naught, and there had been no settlement there by people of Spanish blood. There was a little settlement under the later part of the Mexican regime; there are today on the West Side four large ranches which had their origin as Mexican grants, and a generation ago there were a few ranchitos tucked away in little valleys back among the hills of the east slope of the Diablo Range. Wild cattle and especially wild horses, the overflow of the ranches west of the range, were a heritage which the San Joaquin received from the Spaniards and Mexicans, and many place names from their language survive today.

CHAPTER II

AMERICAN EXPLORERS

The first American arrival which we have a certain record of was that of Jedediah Strong Smith in 1827. He was born in the Mohawk Valley in New York State, in 1798, moved to New Hampshire, came in touch with fur traders in Canada, and was a clerk on a freight boat on the Great Lakes while yet a boy. At the age of twenty he turns up in St. Louis, then the center of Western enterprise, and begins a career as a fur trader and explorer.

After expeditions with David E. Jackson, William Ashley, Andrew Henry, Thomas Fitzpatrick, and others to the upper Missouri and the Yellowstone, and even to Great Salt Lake and the headwaters of the Columbia, he set out in the summer of 1826 to explore the unknown country between Great Salt Lake and the California coast. The expeditions of Lewis and Clark to the Northwest and of Pike to the Southwest had left this vast unknown region between. It is only within the last few years that his work has come to be recognized, or even known.

David E. Jackson and William L. Sublette, at Salt Lake in the summer of 1826, were joined by Ashley and Smith, coming from St. Louis with a supply of goods for the Indian trade. Ashley sold out to the three others, and it was under the direction of the new firm that Smith's expedition was undertaken. New fur fields were the primary object, which necessarily involved exploration, and probably also exploration for its own sake and also, it is believed, the establishment of a station on the Pacific Coast for carrying on the fur trade with China.

They left Salt Lake on August 22, and proceeded southwest to Utah Lake, thence up the Sevier River, across a range of mountains, and down a river which Smith named Adams "in compliment to our President," but which was afterwards called the Virgin after one of Smith's men. Traveling down this stream twelve days, they reached the Colorado, down which he traveled four days more, when he rested and recruited his horses among the Mojaves. Then, he writes: "I traveled a west course fifteen days over a country of complete barrens. . . ." Cleland conjectures that his route followed approximately that of the Santa Fe Railroad; at any rate he crossed the Sierra Madre Mountains through Cajon Pass and on November 27 camped a few miles from San Gabriel Mission.

There was trouble ahead, for the presence of his party in the province was contrary to Mexican law. Leaving his party, Smith went to San Diego to see Governor Encheandia and attempt to obtain passports. These the Governor was not willing to issue on his own responsibility. After nearly a month, with the aid of a present of beaver skins and with the assistance of Captain Cunningham of the hide-and-tallow ship "Courier," he secured papers of a sort; but the best that the Governor would permit him was to return unmolested the way he had come, though he had wished to go north through the settled portions of California.

He returned to San Gabriel, purchased horses from the ranchos around Los Angeles, put his equipment in order, and on January 18, 1827, set out, ostensibly to follow out the letter of Encheandia's permits. But he had no intention of quitting California so directly, and when he reached the eastern mouth of the Cajon, turned northward and entered the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, either through the Tejon or the Tehachapi Pass.

"Traveling leisurely down the valley," says Cleland, "which he found inhabited by large numbers of Indians, very backward in civilization, living only on acorns, roots, grass, and fish, armed only with bows and arrows, but in no way hostile or dangerous, Smith and his men came at length to one of the numerous rivers which flow into the valley from the Sierras. This was probably the Stanislaus or the Merced, but here again the record is too incomplete to fix the matter definitely.

"Smith called this stream the Wimmulche (Wimilche), after an Indian tribe which lived beside it. Here he trapped a short time, finding 'a few beaver, and elk, deer, and antelope in abundance.' He then endeavored to cross the Sierras and return to the Great Salt Lake. Nothing definite is known of the pass through which Smith sought to lead his men on this occasion. He speaks of the attempt having been made across Mount Joseph." The route, Cleland tells us, can only be conjectured, and he cites Harrison C. Dale as the best authority on the expedition and says that his conjecture is that Mount Joseph is Mt. Stanislaus, and that Smith's course lay up the middle fork of the Stanislaus River.

At any rate, they were forced back by deep snow. Leaving the greater part of his party on the Wimilche, Smith with two companions, seven horses, and two mules set out on May 20 for a second trial, and succeeded in crossing in eight days. They lost two horses and a mule in the crossing, and twenty days later, with only one horse and one mule of the original nine alive, and more dead than alive themselves, the three men reached Great Salt Lake.

He met his partners here, tarried a month, then set out, July 13, 1827, with a second expedition of nineteen men to rejoin his

companions on the Wimilche. He followed his old route to the lower Colorado, and here the Mojaves, apparently friendly at first, set upon them when they were separated while crossing the river and killed ten of their number. The survivors, abandoning most of their belongings, arrived after nine days and a half of hardship at San Gabriel again, where Smith left two of his men, obtained such provisions as he could, and set out for the San Joaquin.

The men he had left behind were about out of food; a new stock was necessary for the return journey, and as there was no other way for it, Smith with Indian guides set out for San Jose, which he reached in three days, probably crossing over the Pacheco Pass.

He found Father Duran at the mission there far less obliging than Father Sanchez at San Gabriel, and was imprisoned on a charge of enticing away neophytes. He obtained his release and went to Monterey, and the Governor, whom he sought there, proved to be the same Encheandia whom he had met the previous year in San Diego. For a long time Encheandia threatened to send Smith a prisoner to Mexico, but he was at length prevailed upon by several American ship captains, whose ships were at Monterey, to permit the Americans to secure necessary supplies and leave the country in peace. Smith gave a bond of \$30,000 to insure his departure from the province and was allowed to go. His men meanwhile, being in want, had journeyed north to San Francisco. They obtained food and clothing there, and Smith attempted to secure American and English recruits, but was prevented by the Mexicans. The party then proceeded northward up the "Bonadventure"—the Sacramento—and about the middle of April, 1828, left the river and traveled northwesterly through the Coast Range of what is now Trinity and Humboldt Counties, to the sea.

The route was extremely rough and difficult, and they lost a considerable number of their horses in falls, in fording streams, and in other accidents. From near the mouth of the Klamath to that of the Umpqua they traveled along the coast. Here, before they could reach the headwaters of the Willamette, Indians suddenly set upon their camp, on July 14, 1828, and killed all except Smith himself, Arthur Black, and John Turner. Ignorant of Black's escape, Smith and Turner together proceeded to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Vancouver, where Black had arrived the day before.

Smith did not touch California again. He continued the fur trade and exploration in the Rocky Mountain region until the spring of 1831, when he was killed in an Indian ambush.

James Ohio Pattie and his father Sylvester Pattie, who came into southern California between Smith's first and his second expedition, do not appear to have touched the San Joaquin Valley. After almost incredible hardships and the loss of a number of their men

in a battle with the Indians, the Patties reached civilization in southern California, and found it not too civilized. Governor Encheandia, who had been disturbed by the advent of Smith across the desert, was still more disturbed by this arrival so soon afterwards of a second party of Americans, and threw them into prison, where the elder Pattie, already reduced in strength by the hardships of the trip, died.

The son finally obtained his liberty by the possession of some rough medical skill and a small supply of vaccine on his part and the coming of an epidemic of smallpox. It is related that he vaccinated Mexicans and Indians by thousands all the way up the coast as far as Sonoma. But it does not appear that he extended his medical ministrations to the interior.

These expeditions of Smith and Pattie, small in size as they were, ushered in an important era. They were followed by other trapping and trading expeditions, and they made certain the great overland advance of settlers in the forties both before and after the discovery of gold, and equally certain that California would pass from Mexican to American control.

Ewing Young, a Tennessean, who had been for some years a trader and trapper in New Mexico, in 1829 led the first party to follow Smith and the Patties into California. He turned north without the formality of entering the settled portion of southern California, and trapped the streams of the San Joaquin. Somewhere in this valley or the lower part of the Sacramento he encountered Peter Skeen Ogden's party of Hudson's Bay Company trappers.

Young later crossed over to San Jose and proceeded to southern California. He reached Taos on his return from California in the summer of 1830, and here formed a partnership with William Wolf-skill, a Kentucky trapper with several years experience in the Missouri-Santa Fe-Chihuahua trade. Little came of it; but in the fall of 1831 a partnership consisting of Young, Jackson, the former partner of Smith, and a man named Waldo, sent a combined trading and trapping expedition from Santa Fe to California. Jackson, with eleven men, was to proceed directly to California and purchase a large number of mules to be driven back to Missouri and Louisiana, and he brought five pack animal loads of silver pesos with him for the purpose. Young was to trap on the Gila and the Colorado until the end of the season and then join Jackson in Los Angeles.

They met there about April 1, 1832. Neither had met with the expected success. They returned to the Colorado, whence Jackson was to go on east with his mules while Young returned to trap through central and northern California the following autumn. Jackson lost most of the mules within two days by an Indian attack. Young spent the summer hunting sea otter off the California coast, and in October

left southern California with fourteen men by way of the Tejon for the San Joaquin.

They trapped the Kings, Fresno, and San Joaquin until they discovered that a party of Hudson's Bay men had been before them, and then pushing on to the Sacramento found the rival trappers camped. They crossed to the coast about seventy-five miles north of the Russian settlement at Ross, went up the coast to the Umpqua, and by way of Klamath Lake and the Klamath, Rogue, and Pitt Rivers, circled back to the upper Sacramento, traversed the length of the two great valleys and passed out over the Tejon.

He returned from the Colorado to Los Angeles in 1834, and passed northward up the settled coast portion buying horses, which he drove to market at the settlements on the Columbia. Young settled in Oregon, and continued for many years to make trips into California as a trader in mules and cattle.

We have mentioned the Hudson's Bay Company. They sent a number of trapping expeditions into California, some of which worked the San Joaquin, doubtless including what is now Merced County. The earliest, in 1828, was led by McLeod and guided by Turner, one of the two men who escaped with Smith when the rest of his party was massacred by the Indians. Another expedition, already referred to, under Peter Skeen Ogden, crossed over from the Snake River and spent eight months on the Sacramento and San Joaquin, returning to Vancouver, Cleland tells us, laden down with furs. He mentions a number of others which found the Sacramento and its tributaries, such as the Feather and American, rich in beaver. It does not appear that they came to the San Joaquin.

It is interesting to digress here to remark that a few specimens of the beaver and the antelope, which these early comers found so plentiful, still survive in the county. Over along the Merced River in the vicinity of Snelling and Hopeton, the writer has seen where beavers have been at work. Only three or four years ago two young men there, with the willing consent of the owners of certain small irrigation ditches taking out of the Merced in that vicinity, which were being damaged, and under a special permit from the State Fish and Game Commission, trapped some thirty-five of these animals—perhaps the last instance of beaver trapping that has occurred or will ever occur in the State.

In the southwesterly part of the county in the vicinity of Mercey Hot Springs, a few antelope still linger and are occasionally seen. The writer heard a sheep man there state early in August, 1921, that he had within a few days seen their tracks at the pools where his sheep drank, and within the last six or seven years has talked with at least two men who have personally seen a few of the animals in that region. Within the memory of men not yet middle-aged a small band of

antelope ranged the hills within ten miles to the north and northeast of Merced, and another small band stayed in the southeasterly corner of the county in the vicinity of Raynor's Ranch. Isaac Bird, for many years manager of the Chowchilla Ranch and later president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Merced, told the writer that he had seen antelope between the business section of Merced and where the county hospital now stands; and there is no lack of men still living who remember when they used to be hunted in the Deane Colony and Robla sections.

Elk also used to abound, though they have been all gone for many years. It is said that they used to migrate into and out of the Stevinson Colony section yearly. G. L. Russell, of Lingard, relates that his father told him of seeing a large pile of cast antlers in that vicinity.

In addition to these animals which are wild by nature, these early trappers and explorers found in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys wild cattle and especially wild horses, escapes or descendants of escapes from the Spanish ranchos west of the Diablo Range.

"Multiplication of ranchos and increase of horses," Richman tells us, "led to the expedient of killing the surplus animals. As early as 1784 it had been found necessary to reduce by slaughter surplus cattle at the San Francisco presidio. But horses (mares more especially) were less valuable than cattle, and having increased to vast herds which consumed the mission pasture, and in the San Joaquin Valley roamed hither and yon in squadrons devastating though picturesque, it was ordered in 1805, at the instance of President Tapis, that their number be reduced; and between 1805 and 1810 they were slaughtered by tens of thousands."

Richman refers in a note to a communication dated 1805, preserved in the Bancroft collection, from Mascario de Castro to Arrillaga, San Jose, on the necessity of killing mares, and to a petition of the Russian-American Company stating that immense herds of wild cattle and horses range as far north as the Columbia River, and that an annual slaughter of 10,000 to 30,000 head had been ordered.

Lieutenant Joseph Warren Revere of the United States Navy, an expert horseman, author of "A Tour of Duty in California," 1849, who tells us that he has mounted the noblest of the race in the stables of Mohammed Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, as well as those belonging to other potentates in Syria, Egypt, and Barbary, besides choice specimens of the Persian stock in British India, describes the horse of the Spanish Californian ranchero for us. He tells us it was of Andalusian descent, "beautiful and strong. White, dapple-gray, or chestnut in color, he was full-chested, thin-flanked, round in the barrel, clean-limbed, with unusually small head, feet, and ears, large, full eyes, expanded nostrils, and full flowing mane and tail."

It is interesting to note that this animal, which we thus find so abundant and figuring so considerably in the history of California at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and which in its wild state was of course entirely gone before the beginning of the twentieth, appears not to have been introduced into the present California at the beginning of the eighteenth. Kino, who commanded an exploring expedition to the Gila-Colorado junction in 1701, relates that the Indians there were amazed at the speed of his horses, an animal never before seen by them.

That wild horses were abundant in Merced County in its infancy is well established. Samuel L. Givens, a pioneer of 1852 to Mariposa and Merced Counties, now living at the age of eighty-two on his ranch on Bear Creek about thirteen miles northeast of Merced, relates that there was within his recollection a corral for their capture somewhat further down the creek, probably on the Wolfsen Ranch, with a low fence or wing extending far out away from the creek to guide the animals into the enclosure. And in the minutes of the county for the first year of its existence (1855) it stands of record that certain citizens petitioned the board of supervisors, and the board granted the petition, to impose a license of \$25 a month on each person engaging in the business of catching mustang horses within the county. The board imposed the license and gave the sheriff half of it for collecting it. Evidently there was no great rush to the county seat to pay the license; we may fairly presume that the sheriff earned his money at the job.

But we have wandered beyond the age of the explorers into that of the earlier settlers. It is necessary to go back some twenty years to notice one more early American exploring expedition from across the Sierra Nevadas. This is the one of Joseph Reddeford Walker, who, like Young, was a Tennessean. Walker was one of the lieutenants of that Captain Bonneville whose expedition to the Great West has been chronicled by Washington Irving.

On July 24, 1833, Walker left Bonneville's main command on the Green River, and with thirty-five or forty men started westward to explore the territory beyond the Great Salt Lake. The party passed the lake, struck the headwaters of the Humboldt or Mary's River, followed it to its sink, and crossed the Sierra Nevada. Washington Irving is vague as to their exact course, and Cleland tells us that it is still a matter of conjecture—that some place it by way of the Truckee and others further south, following up the river which now bears Walker's name and so crossing the crest of the divide. This would bring them in by way of the Sonora Pass to the head of the South Fork of the Stanislaus, by the same route by which Smith had crossed to the eastward. Cleland, however, quotes George Nidever, a member of the expedition, to the effect that the route

down the western slope of the Sierras lay "through a valley between the Merced and the Tuolumi Rivers." Walker's tombstone, Cleland notes, bears the inscription, "Camped at Yosemite, Nov. 13, 1833."

A map accompanying Richman's history shows Walker's route cutting approximately through the middle—from north to south—of the present Yosemite National Park, coming in a little north of Mono Lake, where the nearest pass would be the Tioga.

The party reached the San Joaquin Valley, at any rate, traveled southward a short distance, then turned westward to the coast and spent Christmas at Monterey, where the inhabitants proved courteous and diverting hosts. The trappers here got beyond Walker's control and wasted much of Bonneville's substance, so that after some months Walker led them, except some who elected to remain, back into the San Joaquin again. He continued up the Valley to near its southern end and passed out by way of the South Fork of the Kern through the opening since known as Walker's Pass. Possibly exploring the Owens River Valley, Walker proceeded in a general north-easterly course and rejoined Bonneville on the Bear River in Utah.

These early American expeditions established a regular trade route with southern California; they increased the foreign population, so that the number of Americans coming by land rivaled those coming by sea; and they familiarized the settlers of the western American States with the resources and the easy conditions of life in the country west of the Sierra. We have just seen how some of Walker's men chose to remain in California. Some of the free trappers of some of these early expeditions likewise chose to remain behind, it would seem, in the San Joaquin region. W. L. Means, who lives on a ranch in the Merced River bottom a short distance below Snelling, states that when his father, likewise W. L. Means, left the Mariposa mines in 1851 or 1852 to come down into the Robla region some ten or twelve miles southwest of Merced to hunt meat for the market which the mines supplied, he hired amongst others to help him in curing the flesh of elk and antelope a man named McPherson, who had lived for some years among the Mariposa County Indians.

Doubtless among those wild and adventurous spirits there was every now and then one who preferred to stay in this new and pleasing wilderness. It is a reasonable conjecture, though with no very great chance of verification, for the circumstances of their lives would be greatly against any record except word of mouth surviving them. The day of the fur hunter who was also an explorer drew to a close, and the day of the earliest settler approached. From among the first, guides for the last were sometimes recruited—such men as Walker, Kit Carson, and Jim Bridger.

More and more the situation was shaping up for the ultimate taking over of the territory by Americans. Well-grounded indeed was the increasing dread of the Mexican officials regarding the growing numbers within their borders of the citizens of the vigorous young republic to the east. Before we proceed in the next chapter to follow the fortunes of the earliest Americans who came as settlers, it is worth while to remind ourselves here that already these forerunners of the settlers had done as much to occupy the region east of the Coast Range as Spain and Mexico in all their years had done.

CHAPTER III

FIRST AMERICAN SETTLERS TO CALIFORNIA

"The significant work of the overland fur traders," says Cleland, "came to an end about 1840." We shall find settlement by Americans in the San Joaquin Valley—though we cannot say in what now is or ever was Merced County—had already begun before this date.

Anyone who has traveled the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas anywhere from the passes which lead over in the region of Lake Tahoe to as far south as the Stanislaus and the Tuolumne, has very likely been struck with the distant clear-cut peak of Mount Diablo, rising above the lesser hills clear across the San Joaquin Valley. As a landmark it stood without an equal to the weary emigrants from the East after their long and trying journey across more than a thousand miles beyond the then most westerly boundaries of the United States.

At the foot of this mountain, which now gives its name to the meridian and baseline from which nearly all the surveys of the State north of the Tehachapi are reckoned, Dr. John Marsh, an American gentleman of education and ability, had in 1837 purchased the three square leagues of the Rancho Los Meganos. The doctor lived in a small adobe house near the point where he afterwards built "The Marsh Stone House." Here he lived until his death in 1856, and his ranch or Captain Sutter's fort at New Helvetia was the goal of most of the early emigrant parties.

The following letter, which Dr. Marsh wrote to Hon. Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, in 1842, is so illuminative of the period and the situation, that we give it in full:

"Farm of Pulpines, near St. Francisco,

"Hon. Lewis Cass.

Upper California, 1842.

"Dear Sir: You will probably be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from an individual from whom you have not heard, or even thought of, for nearly twenty years; yet although the lapse of time has wrought many changes both in men and things, the personal identity of us both has probably been left. You will, I think, remember a youth whom you met at Green Bay in 1825, who, having left his Alma Mater, had spent a year or two in the 'far, far West,' and was then returning to his New England home, and whom you induced to turn his face again toward the setting sun; that youth who, but for

your influence, would probably now have been administering pills in some quiet Yankée village, is now a gray-haired man, breeding cattle and cultivating grape-vines on the shores of the Pacific. Your benevolence prompted you to take an interest in the fortunes of that youth, and it is therefore presumed you may not be unwilling to hear from him again.

"I left the United States in 1835, and came to New Mexico, and thence traversing the States of Chihuahua and Sonora, crossed the Rio Colorado at its junction with the Gila, near the tidewater of Gulph, and entered this territory at its southern part. Any more direct route was at that time unknown and considered impracticable.

"I have now been more than ten years in this country, and have traveled over all the inhabited and most of the uninhabited parts of it. I have resided eight years where I now live, near the Bay of San Francisco, and at the point where the rivers Sacramento and San Joaquin unite together to meet the tide-water of the bay, about forty miles from the ocean. I possess at this place a farm about ten miles by twelve in extent, one side of which borders on the river, which is navigable to this point for sea-going vessels. I have at last found the far West, and intend to end my ramblings here.

"I perceive by the public papers that this region of country, including that immediately north of it, which until lately was the most completely a terra incognita of any portion of the globe, is at length attracting the attention of the United States and Europe. The world, at length, seems to have become awake to the natural advantages of California and Oregon, and it seems probable that at the same moment I am writing, their political destinies are about being settled, at least for a long time to come. I mention the two countries together because I conceive the future destiny of this whole region to be one and inseparable. The natural conformation of the country strongly indicates it, and a sympathy and fellow feeling in the inhabitants is taking place, which must soon bring about the consummation. California, as well as Oregon, is rapidly peopling with emigrants from the United States. Even the inhabitants of Spanish origin, tired of anarchy and misrule, would be glad to come under the American Government.

"The Government of the United States, in encouraging and facilitating emigration to Oregon, is, in fact, helping to people California. It is like the British Government sending settlers to Canada. The emigrants are well aware of the vast superiority of California, both in soil and climate, and I may add, facility of access. Every year shorter and better routes are being discovered, and this year the great desideratum of a good and practical road for wheel carriages has been found. Fifty-three wagons, with that number of families, have arrived safely, and more than a month earlier than

any previous company. The American Government encourages emigration to Oregon by giving gratuitously some five or six hundred acres of land to each family of actual settlers. California, too, gives lands, not by acres, but by leagues, and has some thousands of leagues more to give to anybody who will occupy them. Never in any instance has less than one league been given to any individual, and the wide world from which to select from all the unoccupied lands in the territory. While Col. Almonte, the Mexican Minister to Washington, is publishing his proclamations in the American newspapers forbidding people to emigrate to California, and telling them that no lands will be given them, the actual Government here is doing just the contrary. In fact they care about as much for the Government of Mexico as for that of Japan.

"It has been usual to estimate the population of Upper California at five thousand persons of Spanish descent, and twenty thousand Indians. This estimate may have been near the truth twenty years ago. At present the population may be stated in round numbers at seven thousand Spaniards, ten thousand civilized, or rather domesticated Indians. To this may be added about seven hundred Americans, one hundred English, Irish, and Scotch, and about one hundred French, Germans, and Italians.

"Within the territorial limits of Upper California, taking the parallel of 42° for the northern, and the Colorado River for the southeastern boundary, are an immense number of wild, naked, brute Indians. The number, of course, can only be conjectured. They probably exceed a million, and may perhaps amount to double that number.

"The far-famed missions of California no longer exist. They have nearly all been broken up, and the lands apportioned out into farms. They were certainly munificent ecclesiastical baronies; and although their existence was quite incompatible with the general prosperity of the country, it seems almost a pity to see their downfall. The immense piles of buildings and beautiful vineyards and orchards are all that remain, with the exception of two in the southern part of the territory, which still retain a small remnant of their former prosperity.

"The climate of California is remarkably different from that of the United States. The great distinguishing difference is its regularity and uniformity. From May to October the wind is invariably from the northwest, and during this time it never rains, and the sky is brilliantly clear and serene. The weather during this time is temperate, and rarely oppressively warm. The nights are always agreeably cool, and many of the inhabitants sleep in the open air the whole year round. From October to May the southeast wind frequently blows, and is always accompanied by rain. Snow never falls

excepting in the mountains. Frost is rare except in December or January. A proof of the mildness of the winter this moment presents itself in the shape of a humming-bird, which I just saw from the open window, and this is in latitude 38° on the first day of February. Wheat is sown from October until March, and maize from March until July. As respects human health and comfort, the climate is incomparably better than that of any part of the United States. It is much the most healthy country I have ever seen or have any knowledge of. There is no disease whatever that can be attributed to the influence of the climate.

"The face of the country differs as much from the United States as the climate. The whole territory is traversed by ranges of mountains, which run parallel to each other and to the coast. The highest points may be about six thousand feet above the sea, in most places much lower, and in many parts they dwindle to low hills. They are everywhere covered with grass and vegetation, and many of the valleys and northern declivities abound with the finest timber trees. Between these ranges of mountains are level valleys, or rather plains, of every width, from five miles to fifty. The magnificent valley through which flow the rivers of St. Joaquin and Sacramento is *five hundred miles long*, with an average width of forty or fifty. It is intersected laterally by many smaller rivers, abounding with salmon.

"The only inhabitants of this valley, which is capable of supporting a nation, are about a hundred and fifty Americans and a few Indians. No published maps that I have seen give any correct idea of the country, excepting the outline of the coast.

"The Bay of San Francisco is considered by nautical men one of the finest harbors in the world. It consists of two principal arms, diverging from the entrance in nearly opposite directions, and each about fifty miles long, with an average width of eight or ten. It is perfectly sheltered from every wind, has great depth of water, is easily accessible at all times, and space enough for half the ships in the world. The entrance is less than a mile wide, and could be easily fortified so as to make it entirely impregnable. The vicinity abounds in the finest timber for ship-building, and in fact everything necessary to make it a great naval and commercial depot. If it were in the hands of a nation who knew how to make use of it, its influence would soon be felt on all the western coast of America, and probably through the whole Pacific.

"I think it cannot long remain in the hands of its present owners. If it does not come into possession of Americans, the English will have it. This port in their hands, what will Oregon be worth to the United States? They loudly threaten to get possession of Cuba as an offset against Texas. Will they not be quite as likely to obtain California, as an offset against Oregon? A British ship of war was here

last summer, whose captain was a brother of Lord Aberdeen, and one of her lieutenants a son of Sir R. Peel. The gentlemen declared openly that this port would soon belong to them. This I take to be only a slight ebullition of John Bullism; but that they want this port, and will have it if possible, there can be no doubt, a consummation most earnestly and ardently to be deprecated by every American. I hope it may direct your views to take an interest in this matter.

“The agricultural capabilities of California are but very imperfectly developed. The whole of it is remarkably adapted to the culture of the vine. Wine and brandy of excellent quality are made in considerable quantities. Olives, figs, and almonds grow well. Apples, pears, and peaches are abundant, and in the southern part oranges. Cotton is beginning to be cultivated and succeeds well. It is the finest country for wheat I have ever seen. Fifty for one is an average crop, with very imperfect cultivation. One hundred fold is not uncommon, and even one hundred and fifty has been produced. Maize produces tolerably well, but not equal to some parts of the United States. Hemp, flax, and tobacco have been cultivated on a small scale, and succeed well. The raising of cattle is the principal pursuit of the inhabitants, and the most profitable.

“The foreign commerce of Upper California employs from ten to fifteen sail of vessels, mostly large ships. Somewhat more than half of these are American, and belong exclusively to the port of Boston. The others are English, French, Russian, Mexican, Peruvian, and Hawaiian. The French from their islands in the Pacific and the Russians from Kamtschatka, and their establishments on the northwest coast, resort here for provisions and live stock. The exports consist of hides and tallow, cows, lard, wheat, soap, timber, and furs. There are slaughtered annually about one hundred thousand head of cattle, worth \$800,000. The whole value of the exports annually amounts to about \$1,000,000. The largest item of imports is American cotton goods. The duties on imports are enormously high, amounting on most important articles to one hundred and fifty per cent on the original cost, and in many instances to four or five hundred. Thus, as in most Spanish countries, a high bounty is paid to encourage smuggling. Whale ships visit St. Francisco annually in considerable numbers for refreshments, and fail not to profit by the facilities for illicit commerce.

“California, although nominally belonging to Mexico, is about as independent of it as Texas, *and must ere long share the same fate.* Since my residence here, no less than four Mexican governors have been driven from the country by force of arms. The last of these, Micheltorena, with about four hundred of his soldiers and one hundred employes, were driven away about a year ago.

"This occurred at the time that the rest of the nation was expelling his master, Santa Ana, although nothing of this was known here at the time. The new administration, therefore, with a good grace, highly approved of our conduct. In fact, the successive administrations in Mexico have always shown a disposition to sanction and approve of whatever we may do here, from a conscious inability to retain even a nominal dominion over the country by any other means. Upper California has been governed for the last year entirely by its own citizens. Lower California is in general an uninhabited and uninhabitable desert. The scanty population it contains lives near the extremity of the Cape, and has no connection and little intercourse with this part of the country.

"Upper California has a productive gold mine, and silver ore has been found in many places. A mine of quicksilver has been very lately found in this vicinity, which promises to be very valuable.

"I know not, since you have been so long engaged in more weighty concerns, if you take the same interest as formerly in Indian affairs, but since I have supposed your personal identity to remain, I shall venture a few remarks on the aborigines of California. In stature the California Indian rather exceeds the average of the tribes east of the mountains. He is heavier limbed and stouter built. They are a hairy race, and some of them have beards that would do honor to a Turk. The color similar to that of the Algonquin race, or perhaps rather lighter. The visage, short and broad, with wide mouth, thick lips, broad nose, and extremely low forehead. In some individuals the hair grows quite down to the eyebrows, and they may be said to have no forehead at all. Some few have that peculiar conformation of the eye so remarkable in the Chinese and Tartar races, and entirely different from the common American Indian or the Polyneesian; and with this unpromising set of features, some have an animated and agreeable expression of countenance. The general expression of the wild Indian has nothing of the proud and lofty bearing, or the haughtiness and ferocity so often seen east of the mountains. It is more commonly indicative of timidity and stupidity.

"The men and children are absolutely and entirely naked, and the dress of the women is the least possible or conceivable remove from nudity. Their food varies with the season. In February and March they live on grass and herbage; clover and wild pea-vine are among the best kinds of their pasturage. I have often seen hundreds of them grazing together in a meadow, like so many cattle.

"They are very poor hunters of the larger animals, but very skillful in making and managing nets for fish and fowl. They also collect in their season great quantities of the seeds of various grasses, which are particularly abundant. Acorns are another principal article of food, which are larger, more abundant, and of better quality

than I have seen elsewhere. The Californian is not more different from the tribes east of the mountains in his physical than in his moral and intellectual qualities. They are easily domesticated, not averse to labor, have a natural aptitude to learn mechanical trades, and, I believe, universally a fondness for music, and a facility in acquiring it.

"The Mission of St. Joseph, when in its prosperity, had one hundred plough-men, and I have often seen them all at work in one field, each with his plow. It had also fifty weavers, twenty tanners, thirty shoe-makers, forty masons, twenty carpenters, ten blacksmiths, and various other mechanics. They are not nearly so much addicted to intoxication as is common to other Indians. I was for some years of the opinion that they were of an entirely different race from those east of the mountains, and they certainly have but little similarity. The only thing that caused me to think differently is that they have the same Moccasin game that is so common on the Mississippi, and what is more remarkable, they accompany it by singing precisely the same tune! The diversity of language among them is very great. It is seldom an Indian can understand another who lives fifty miles distant; within the limits of California are at least a hundred dialects, apparently entirely dissimilar. Few or no white persons have taken any pains to learn them, as there are individuals in all the tribes which have communication with the settlements who speak Spanish.

"The children, when caught young, are most easily domesticated, and manifest a great aptitude to learn whatever is taught them; when taken into Spanish families, and treated with kindness, in a few months they learn the language and habits of their masters. When they come to maturity they show no disposition to return to the savage state. The mind of the wild Indian, of whatever age, appears to be a *tabula rasa*, on which no impressions, except those of a mere animal nature, have been made, and ready to receive any impress whatever. I remember a remark of yours some years ago, that "Indians were only grown-up children." Here we have a real race of infants. In many recent instances when a family of white people have taken a farm in the vicinity of an Indian village, in a short time they would have the whole tribe for willing serfs. They submit to flagellation with more humility than the negroes. Nothing more is necessary for their complete subjugation but kindness in the beginning, and a little well-timed severity when manifestly deserved. It is common for the white man to ask the Indian, when the latter has committed any fault, how many lashes he thinks he deserves. The Indian, with a simplicity and humility almost inconceivable, replies ten or twenty, according to his opinion of the magnitude of the offense. The white man then orders another Indian to inflict the punishment, which is received without the least sign of

resentment or discontent. This I have myself witnessed or I could hardly have believed it. Throughout all California the Indians are the principal laborers; without them the business of the country could hardly be carried on.

"I fear the unexpected length of this desultory epistle will be tedious to you, but I hope it will serve at least to diversify your correspondence. If I can afford you any information, or be servicable to you in any way, I beg you to command me. Any communication to me can be sent through the American Minister at Mexico, or the Commanding Officer of the Squadron of the Pacific, directed to the care of T. O. Larkin, Esq., American Consul in Monterey. I am, sir, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"John Marsh.

"Hon. Lewis Cass."

A careful reading of this letter, an immersion of himself in it so far as possible, will do much to put the present-day reader back in that period, only eighty-two years distant in point of actual time, yet so remote in all its factors from the age in which we live. We are in a time when the western boundary of the United States was the Rocky Mountains, and what it is even harder to remember when the eastern boundary of California was the so-called Diablo Range, the most easterly of the Coast Range summits. The country between was of course claimed by Spain, and after 1823, by Mexico in her turn; but the weakness of the whole scheme of Spanish colonization stands out in the practically nothing which either had done to actually take it, or even to find out what it was like.

The Spaniard and the Mexican had done something to give place names to the streams and other geographical features of the region; but already the enterprising Gringo, heir to another and a far more effective idea of colonization, had done more to subject it than the top-heavy centralized system of the Dons had been able to accomplish in more than three centuries.

It is apparent from Dr. Marsh's letter that he was a man of both education and intelligence, which makes it all the more interesting and significant to note some of the limitations of his information, in the face of his statement that he had been pretty well all over the country. Perhaps the two most glaring inaccuracies are his six thousand feet as the maximum altitude of the mountains, showing familiarity with the Coast Range but not much with the Sierras, and his naïve estimate of the wild Indian population as probably a million and perhaps double that number—a figure several times as large as that which scholars now assign as the Indian population of the entire continent in the aborigines' palmiest days. Gabriel Moraga was in all probability the man who had found out more than any other about

the interior up to that time, and the very cursory nature of some of his explorations has already been suggested. It was hardly to be expected that Dr. Marsh should have more knowledge of the country than he displays, after a residence of some five years in it.

It is interesting to note that the northern and southeastern limits which he mentions when estimating the Indian population are the present northern and southeastern boundaries of the State, but there is nothing in the estimate to indicate very definitely how far east he considered the country he was describing extended. The present eastern boundary of the State was never heard of until the first constitutional convention in 1849, when its location was the cause of no little argument. He clearly means to include materially more country than that which the Spaniards and the Mexicans had reduced to actual occupation; he knew, of course, though inexactly, of the existence of the Sierra Nevadas, the most likely natural limit, and beyond that we cannot go from his letter.

He mentions a party of fifty-three wagons and as many families which arrived "this year," and as he writes under date of February 1, 1842, and the parties, starting invariably in the spring or early summer, arrived as invariably in the fall, he is most likely referring to what was the first company which history has clearly written down among those who come entirely as settlers—the Bartleson-Bidwell expedition, which reached his ranch November 4, 1841.

Though there is no reason to believe that any member of the Bartleson-Bidwell party reached Merced County, their story may fairly be told here as typical of the stories of other similar parties, of which it was the first. There had been a good deal of advertising of California in the United States. Dr. John Marsh's letter quoted above is only one sample of a considerable number, from one source and another, which received a wide publicity among a people decidedly likely to be stirred by them. Richard Henry Dana, to mention only one other, in "Two Years Before the Mast," first published in 1840, has the following paragraph:

"Such are the people who inhabit a country embracing four or five hundred miles of sea-coast, with several good harbors; with fine forests in the north; the waters filled with fish, and the plains covered with thousands of head of cattle; blessed with a climate than which there can be no better in the world; free from all manner of diseases, whether epidemic or endemic; and with a soil in which corn yields from seventy to eighty fold. In the hands of an enterprising people, what a country this might be!"

In Platte County, Missouri, in the months preceding the spring of 1841, the Western Immigration Society was organized, with a good deal of enthusiasm, for the purpose of enlisting recruits and providing a systematic program for an expedition to this wonderful

country. A trapper named Robidoux, recently returned from the coast, who, says Cleland, appeared to be a 'calm, considerate man,' so impressed his Platte County hearers that he was asked to speak before a large assembly of settlers. He described California as a land of 'perennial spring and boundless fertility.' Several hundred people from several of the western States were signed up; but a reaction set in, with landowners and merchants, alarmed at the idea of a wholesale exodus of their people, throwing more or less cold water on the enthusiasm which had been kindled. Many drew back. Of the sixty-nine who gathered at the appointed rendezvous at Sapling Grove, in what is now eastern Kansas, in May, 1841, only one, a young man named John Bidwell, from Ohio, had signed the original pledge of the Emigrant Society.

None of the party were experienced mountain men. "We knew," says Bidwell, "that California lay west, and that was the extent of our knowledge. Some of the maps consulted, supposed to be correct, showed a lake in the vicinity of where Salt Lake now is; it was represented as a long lake, three or four hundred miles in extent, narrow, and with two outlets, both running into the Pacific ocean, either apparantly larger than the Mississippi River."

So prevalent, says Cleland, was this conception of western geography, that Bidwell was advised to take tools along with which to construct canoes for the navigation of one of these rivers from Salt Lake to the Pacific!

Poor leadership added to their troubles. John Bartleson, of Jackson County Missouri, had been elected company commander, to prevent the withdrawal of himself and his supporters and the breakup of the company. Fifteen women and children intensified the problem. Each member supplied his own equipment—wagon, animals, provisions, arms. The animals were a mixed bunch of horses, mules, and oxen; the provisions were limited to essentials. Money was almost entirely lacking. They went from Westport, the present Kansas City up the Platte far north to the vicinity of the present town of Pocatello, then called Soda Springs. The party split here, part going further north. Less than half of the sixty-nine, including one woman, Mrs. Benjamin Kelsey, with her little daughter, started southwest for California. Their journey was one of unbroken hardships across the Utah and Nevada deserts; their party became separated when Bartleson with eight others on horseback struck out by themselves. They were united again, well along in September, on the Walker River, or, as they called it, the Balm—recalling in this appreciative naming of the stream the circumstances under which Gabriel Moraga had named the Merced thirty-five years earlier.

They slaughtered their remaining oxen, jerked the meat, and went up the Walker River and over the summit of the Sierras to the

headwaters of the South Fork of the Stanislaus. They became entangled in the gorges of this stream; food was so scarce that they were forced to eat crows, wild cats, and anything else they could get. One member of the party became separated from the rest and turned up later at Sutter's Fort. Their animals could scarcely travel; they dragged themselves wearily down across the foothills, discouraged by the idea that they must still cross the range they could see to the westward in order to reach California. Bidwell tells how they came to the San Joaquin:

"When morning came the foremost of the party waited for the others to come up. They had found water in a stagnant pond, and what was better, they had shot a fat coyote, and with us it was anything but mule meat. As for myself, I was unfortunate, being among those in the rear and not aware of the feast in the advance. I did not reach it in time to get any of the coyote except the lights and the windpipe. Longing for fat meat and willing to eat anything but poor mule meat, and seeing a little fat on the windpipe of the coyote, I threw it on the coals to warm it and greedily devoured it.

"But halcyon days were at hand. We turned directly to the north to reach what seemed to be the nearest timber. This was at a distance of ten miles or so, which in our weakened condition it took us nearly all day to travel. It brought us to the Stanislaus River at a point not far from the foothills. Here the rich alluvial bottom was more than a mile wide. It had been burned over, but the new grass was starting up and growing luxuriously, but sparsely, like thinly sown grain. But what gladdened our eyes most was the abundance of game in sight, principally antelope. Before dark we had killed two of them and two sand hill cranes, and besides there was an abundance of wild grapes. Still we had no idea that we were yet in California, but supposed we had yet to cross the range of mountains to the west."

With the guidance of a friendly Indian, however, they came in a few days to Dr. John Marsh's ranch at the foot of Mt. Diablo. They reached it on November 4, 1841, after having been six months on the way. Marsh secured passports for them from General Vallejo, though Bidwell did not get his until he had been in the San Jose jail for three days, without food and much annoyed by fleas. It was merely an official oversight, soon set right.

"Northwest America," Richman tells us ("California under Spain and Mexico," page 270), "including what is now Washington, Oregon, and Montana, was the field of the Hudson's Bay Company. Relations between the latter and Alta California were friendly, even cordial. The Company never encroached, and early in 1841 an

agreement was made with Alvarado whereby its trappers might operate along the Sacramento."

Captain Johann August Sutter had already established himself at New Helvetia, the present Sacramento, in 1839. Sutter objected to the agreement mentioned. That he felt himself pretty strongly established in the country is indicated by a letter which Richman gives at length, warning the Mexican government "to explain these ignorant people," he puts it, "what would be the consequence if they do injure me, the first french freggate who came here will do me justice."

Alarm amongst the Mexicans at the increasing influx of Americans was growing. On July 4, 1842, President Santa Ana issued instructions to Governor Micheltorena that from and after a date to be fixed by him no individuals belonging to the United States were to be admitted to his department. The Mexican counsul at New Orleans, as early as January 9 of the same year, had written to the Minister of Relations that the American Government had expressed a determination to acquire territory for a naval station on the Pacific coast between the Columbia River and Guayaquil. He advised that Americans be denied admission to the territory and that all such as were domiciled without passports be expelled. On May 7, the same official called attention to statements in the New Orleans papers that thirty American emigrants who had reached California without passports had at first been arrested but later set free and given passports—referring to the Bartleson-Bidwell party.

On October 2 of the same year, Juan N. Almonte, Mexican representative at Washington, wrote to his government: "There can be no doubt that of the thousand families that this year have emigrated from the States of Arkansas and Missouri, and the Territories of Tova (Iowa?) and Wisconseis in the direction of Oregon, more than a third part have gone with the intention of establishing themselves in Alta California. . . . I infer that the objects of these emigrants are not pure, and that there is involved a project that time will disclose. This I communicate to the end that the comandante-general of the department may be forwarned, not losing sight of the fact that this scheme of emigration may be in consonance with plans that the Texans some time since entertained concerning that beautiful land."

There appears to have been real cause for his alarm. In 1843, of some 800 emigrants to the Northwest, the Hastings party (thirty-six strong) and the Chiles-Walker company (about fifty) came to California, the first in one division from Oregon, and the second in two, one by way of Fort Boise and New Helvetia, and the other by Owens River and Lake, the Tulares, and Gilroy's Rancho, where the present town of Gilroy stands. The latter therefore probably

passed through part of the present Merced County, most likely crossing the Diablo Range by Pacheco Pass.

"In 1844 three companies came," Richman tells us, "one twenty-five strong, under Lieutenant John C. Fremont by way of the Carson River; a Kelsey contingent (thirty-six strong) by a route not definitely known; and the Stevens party (over fifty strong) by way of Truckee and Bear Rivers—line of the modern railway."

In 1845 Richman mentioned six or seven parties, totaling perhaps 250 persons. One, under Green McMahan, included James W. Marshall, the discoverer of gold, and came from Oregon. Among the others were the Sublette party, the Grigsby party (including William B. Ide of Bear Flag fame), the Fremont-Walker party, and the Lanford W. Hastings party. All of these except the one from Oregon came in by the routes of the Sacramento or lower San Joaquin, except the Walker party, which came by way of the Owens River and Lake.

Parties become yearly more numerous. We have shown enough to correct the idea, sometimes held, that immigration from across the plains was negligible before the discovery of gold, and enough also to give some notion of the haziness of the ideas about California and especially about the route to it. These things of course were among those which the early pioneers of this county shared with the rest.

An incident which occurred about this time illustrates the extent to which the more energetic American had taken over the work of the region and the extent to which the easy-going Mexican government acquiesced in it, besides giving us another look at the Indian situation and, most important for our purpose, touching Merced County directly. In 1845, after the surrender of Micheltorena, Pio Pico, resolved to put a stop to horse-stealing depredations, made a compact with Captain John Gantt and Dr. John Marsh to attack the rancherias of the lower San Joaquin and of the Merced Rivers, and to deliver the captives to "Senor Sutter." Pio Pico, on his part, organized a movement further south. What the result of either expedition was, we are not told.

Some idea of how the number of Americans by this time in California compared with the number of Spaniards or Mexicans—Californians, as they were then called—is given in Dr. Marsh's letter in the statement of the Spanish population which he there makes. The number was exceedingly small. Richman (page 226), says that under Sola, the last of the Spanish governors, who became also the first of the Mexican governors, the State Secular, which in 1779 could claim a total white population of about 500 persons, and by 1783 not over 1000, could in 1820 claim 3270, of whom

about 700 were soldiers. The number of the neophytes at the missions he puts at the last date at 20,500, a gain of 7000 since 1800. In 1820 he puts the number of cattle, horses, mules, and sheep at 349,882 head, a gain of 162,882 since 1800; the agricultural products (wheat, barley, corn, beans, and peas) at 113,625 bushels annually, a gain in annual production over twenty years before of 57,625 bushels.

The neophytes were dying off. In 1800 the death rate had equalled 50 per cent of the baptisms; by 1810 it had risen to 72 per cent, and by 1820 to 86 per cent.

It was what to us now must appear an almost unbelievably small, as well as a decadent province, which in the ripeness of time was soon to be displaced by the beginnings of an American State.

CHAPTER IV

JOHN C. FREMONT

That interesting and romantic figure of the history of the West, John C. Fremont, touches the history of Merced County in two ways—he passed through the territory now embraced in the county's boundaries in 1844 when he was on his way back to the East again on his famous "pathfinding" exploring expedition of that and the previous year, and he was for a number of years the owner of what is now familiarly called the Mariposa Grant, which was one of the class called "floating grants," which was finally permanently located in the present Mariposa County, but which earlier had been located on the rich plains land in the vicinity of the present town of Le Grand in Merced County.

After a first expedition in 1842 whose chief work was, from a geographical standpoint, the careful surveying of the route through the South Pass of the Rockies and the detailed knowledge acquired of those mountains, and from a historical standpoint, the stimulus it gave to travel to Oregon and California—a four months' expedition—Fremont, under the authority of Colonel Abert of the Topographical Engineers, organized a second expedition to explore the West. The object was to connect his explorations of the previous year's expedition with those made by Lieutenant Wilkes along the Pacific Coast in 1841.

He left the junction of the Kansas and the Missouri Rivers May 29, 1843, with thirty-nine men. The expedition was well armed and equipped, and took along with it a twelve-pound mountain howitzer, from the United States arsenal at St. Louis—which, by the way, it developed the War Department disapproved of, and which was retained to them only by the independence and ready wit of Fremont's wife, Senator Benton's daughter, Jessie Benton Fremont.

After various wanderings with which we are scarcely concerned—Kit Carson and Alexander Godey joined them at St. Vrain's Fort on the South Platte—they went to Fort Hall, where the trails to Oregon and to California parted company. Some of their scouts fell in with part of the Chiles company under Joseph Walker near here, bound for California by way of Mono Lake and Walker Pass. They went on into Oregon, to Walla Walla, The Dalles, and Fort Vancouver, at which latter place the courteous Hudson's Bay Company commander, Dr. McLoughlin, made them warmly welcome.

Instead of returning the way they had come, Fremont planned to work further south, into the Great Basin, then very little known. He wanted to investigate Klamath Lake, from which the Sacramento was supposed to flow, to search for Mary's Lake, supposed to lie between the Great Salt Lake and the Sierras, and to explore the mythical Buenaventura River, appearing on many authoritative maps of the time as flowing from the Rocky Mountains to San Francisco Bay. Cleland gives at the front of his "American Period" a facsimile of part of a map of the British Royal Geographer of 1824 showing the Beunaventura and a good deal more of the entirely imaginary geography of those times.

The return journey was begun November 25, 1843, with twenty-five men in the party—some had been sent home from Fort Hall. They had more than a hundred riding and pack animals, and several head of cattle, driven along for food. They followed the route Fremont had laid out until after the middle of January. Then they came into unknown country, and travel grew increasingly difficult. There was no Mary's Lake, no Beunaventura River, to be found. Food grew scarce; their animals were exhausted or badly lamed. The men themselves lost spirit.

Fremont, in the face of these difficulties, determined to abandon the route previously laid out, and to cross the Sierras to the Sacramento. The passage of the mountains was accomplished with great difficulty. They had to abandon the howitzer, which had been dragged along so far. They made rough snowshoes, and sleds to carry their baggage, and the men went ahead and beat down a trail through the deep snow so that their enfeebled animals could get through. They suffered from snow-blindness, from shortness of food. Two men lost their reason, one permanently. A third was separated from the company for several days. They reached the western slope of the Sierras on February 20, 1844, and Sutter's Fort on March 6.

Fremont's journal tells the story. The following extensive quotation carries them south through the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys:

"We continued on our road through the same surpassingly beautiful country, entirely unequalled for the pasturage of stock by anything we had ever seen. Our horses had now become so strong that they were able to carry us, and we traveled rapidly—over four miles an hour; four of us riding every alternate hour. Every few hundred yards we came upon a little band of deer; but we were too eager to reach the settlement, which we momentarily expected to discover, to halt for any other than a passing shot. In a few hours we reached a large fork, the northern branch of the river, and equal in size to that which we had descended. Together they formed a

beautiful stream, 60 to 100 yards wide, which at first, ignorant of the nature of the country through which that river ran, we took to be the Sacramento.

"We continued down the right bank of the river, traveling for a while over a wooded upland, where we had the delight to discover tracks of cattle. To the southward was visible a black column of smoke, which we had frequently noticed in descending, arising from the fires we had seen from the top of the Sierra. From the upland we descended into broad groves on the river, consisting of the evergreen, and a new species of a white-oak, with a large tufted top, and three to six in feet diameter. Among these was no brushwood; and the grassy surface gave to it the appearance of parks in an old-settled country. Following the tracks of the horses and cattle, in search of people, we discovered a small village of Indians. Some of these had on shirts of civilized manufacture, but were otherwise naked, and we could understand nothing from them; they appeared entirely astonished at seeing us.

"We made an acorn meal at noon, and hurried on; the valley being gay with flowers, and some of the banks being absolutely golden with the Californian poppy (*eschscholtzia crocea*). Here the grass was smooth and green, and the groves very open; the large oaks throwing a broad shade among sunny spots.

"Shortly afterwards we gave a shout at the appearance, on a little bluff, of a neatly built abode house, with glass windows. We rode up, but, to our disappointment, found only Indians. There was no appearance of cultivation, and we could see no cattle; and we supposed the place had been abandoned. We now pressed on more eagerly than ever; the river swept round a large bend to the right; the hills lowered down entirely; and, gradually entering a broad valley, we came unexpectedly into a large Indian village, where the people looked clean, and wore cotton shirts and various other articles of dress. They immediately crowded around us, and we had the inexpressible delight to find one who spoke a little indifferent Spanish, but who at first confounded us by saying there were no whites in the country; but just then a well-dressed Indian came up, and made his salutations in very well-spoken Spanish. In answer to our inquiries he informed us that we were upon the Rio de los Americanos (the River of the Americans) and that it joined the Sacramento River about ten miles below. Never did a name sound more sweetly! We felt ourselves among our countrymen; for the name American, in these distant parts, is applied to citizens of the United States. To our eager inquiries he answered 'I am a vaquero (cowherd) in the service of Capt. Sutter, and the people of this rancheria work for him.' Our evident satisfaction made him communicative; and he went on to

say that Capt. Sutter was a very rich man, and always glad to see his country people. We asked for his house. He answered that it was just over the hill before us; and offered, if we would wait a moment, to take his horse and conduct us to it. We readily accepted this offer.

"In a short distance we came in sight of the fort; and passing on the way the house of a settler on the opposite side (a Mr. Sinclair), we forded the river; and in a few miles were met, a short distance from the fort, by Capt. Sutter himself. He gave us a most frank and cordial reception—conducted us immediately to his residence—and under his hospitable roof we had a night of rest, enjoyment, and refreshment, which none but ourselves could appreciate.

"The next day, March 8th, we encamped at the junction of the two rivers, the Sacramento and Americanos; and thus found the whole party in the beautiful valley of the Sacramento. It was a convenient place for the camp; and, among other things, was within reach of the wood necessary to make the packsaddles, which we should need on our long journey home, from which we were further distant now than we were four months before, when from the Dalles of the Columbia we so cheerfully took up the homeward line of march.

"Captain Sutter emigrated to this country from the western part of Missouri in 1838-39, and formed the first settlement in the valley, on a large grant of land which he obtained from the Mexican government. He had, at first, some trouble with the Indians: but, by the occasional exercise of well-timed authority, he has succeeded in converting them into a peaceable and industrious people. The ditches around his extensive wheat-fields; the making of the sun-dried bricks of which his fort is constructed; the plowing, harrowing, and other agricultural operations, are entirely the work of these Indians, for which they receive a very moderate compensation—principally in shirts, blankets, and other articles of clothing. In the same manner, on application to the chief of a village, he readily obtains as many boys and girls as he has any use for. There were at this time a number of girls at the fort, in training for a future woolen factory; but they were now all busily engaged in constantly watering the gardens, which the unfavorable dryness of the season rendered necessary. The occasional dryness of some seasons, I understood to be the only complaint of the settlers in this fertile valley, as it sometimes renders the crop uncertain. Mr. Sutter was about making arrangements to irrigate his lands by means of the Rio de los Americanos. He had this year sown, and altogether by Indian labor, three hundred fanegas of wheat." (Note: A fanega is about two and a half English bushels.)

"The fort is a quadrangular adobe structure, mounting twelve pieces of artillery (two of them brass), and capable of admitting a

garrison of a thousand men; this, at present, consists of forty Indians in uniform—one of whom was always found on duty at the gate. As might naturally be expected, the pieces are not in very good order. The whites in the employ of Capt. Sutter, American, French, and German, amount, perhaps, to thirty men. The inner wall is formed into buildings, comprising the common quarters, the blacksmith and other workshops; the dwelling-house, with a large distillery-house, and other buildings, occupying more of the center of the area.

“It is built upon a pond-like stream, at times a running creek communicating with the Rio de los Americanos, which enters the Sacramento about two miles below. The latter is here a noble river, about three hundred yards broad, deep and tranquil, with several fathoms of water in the channel, and its banks continuously timbered. There were two vessels belonging to Capt. Sutter at anchor near the landing—one a large two-masted lighter, and the other a schooner, which was shortly to proceed on a voyage to Fort Vancouver for a cargo of goods.

“Since his arrival, several other persons, principally Americans, have established themselves in the valley. Mr. Sinclair, from whom I experienced much kindness during my stay, is settled a few miles distant, on the Rio de los Americanos. Mr. Coudrois, a gentleman from Germany, has established himself on the Feather River, and is associated with Capt. Sutter in agricultural pursuits.

“An impetus was given to the active little population by our arrival, as we were in want of everything. Mules, horses and cattle were to be collected; the horse-mill was at work day and night, to make sufficient flour; the blacksmith’s shop was put in requisition for horse-shoes and bridle-bits; and pack-saddles, ropes and bridles, and all other little equipments of the camp, were again to be provided.

“The delay thus occasioned was one of repose and enjoyment, which our situation required, and, anxious as we were to resume our homeward journey, was regretted by no one. In the meantime, I had the pleasure to meet with Mr. Chiles, who was residing on a farm on the other side of the river Sacramento, while engaged in the selection of a place for a settlement, for which he had received the necessary grant of land from the Mexican government.

“On the 22nd we made a preparatory move, and encamped near the settlement of Mr. Sinclair, on the left bank of the Rio de los Americanos. I had discharged five of the party; Neal, the blacksmith, (an excellent workman, and an unmarried man, who had done his duty faithfully, and had been of very great service to me,) desired to remain, as strong inducements were offered here to mechanics.

“Although at considerable inconvenience to myself, his good conduct induced me to comply with his request; and I had obtained

for him from Capt. Sutter a present compensation of two dollars and a half per diem, with a promise that it should be increased to five, if he proved as good a workman as had been represented. He was more particularly an agricultural blacksmith. The other men were discharged with their own consent.

"March 24.—We resumed our journey with an ample stock of provisions and a large cavalcade of animals, consisting of 130 horses and mules, and about 30 head of cattle, five of which were milch-cows. Mr. Sutter furnished us also with an Indian boy who had been trained as a vaquero, and who would be servicable in managing our cavalcade, great part of which were nearly as wild as buffalo, and who was, besides, very anxious to go along with us. Our direct course home was east, but the Sierra would force us south, about 500 miles of traveling, to a pass at the head of the San Joaquin River. This pass, reported to be good, was discovered by Mr. Joseph Walker, of whom I have already spoken, and whose name it might therefore appropriately bear. To reach it, our course lay along the valley of the San Joaquin—the river on our right, and the lofty wall of the impassable Sierra on our left.

"Taking leave of Mr. Sutter, who, with several gentlemen, accompanied us a few miles on our way, we traveled about 18 miles, and encamped on the Rio de los Cosumnes, a stream receiving its name from the Indians who live in its valley. Our road was through a level country, admirably suited to cultivation, and covered with groves of oak trees, principally the evergreen oak, and a large oak already mentioned, in form like those of the white oak. The weather, which here, at this season, can easily be changed from the summer heat of the valley to the frosty mornings and bright days nearer the mountains, continued delightful for travelers, but unfavorable to the agriculturalists, whose crops of wheat began to wear a yellow tinge from want of rain." (Associates of Sutter, dependents of his, members of some of the parties which had arrived during the preceding three years, or who were these wheat-raisers?—ed.)

"25th.—We traveled for 28 miles over the same delightful country as yesterday, and halted in a beautiful bottom at the ford of the Rio de los Mukelemnes, receiving its name from another Indian tribe living on the river. The bottoms on the stream are broad, rich, and extremely fertile, and the uplands are shaded with oak groves. A showy lupinus, of extraordinary beauty, growing four to five feet in height, and covered with spikes in bloom, adorned the banks of the river, and filled the air with a light and grateful perfume.

"On the 26th we halted at the Arroyo de los Calaveras (Skull Creek), a tributary to the San Joaquin—the previous two streams entering the bay between the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. This place is beautiful, with open groves of oak, and a grassy sward

beneath, with many plants, in bloom, some varieties of which seem to love the shade of trees, and grow there in close small fields. Near the river, and replacing the grass, are great quantities of ammore (soap plant), the leaves of which are used in California for making, among other things, mats for saddle-cloths. A vine with a small white flower (melothria?), called here la yerba buena, and which, from its abundance, gives name to an island and town in the bay, was to-day very frequent on our road—sometimes running on the ground or climbing the trees.

“27th.—To-day we traveled steadily and rapidly up the valley, for, with our wild animals, any other gait was impossible, and making about five miles an hour. During the earlier part of the day, our ride had been over a very level prairie, or rather a succession of long stretches of prairie, separated by lines and groves of oak timber, growing along dry gullies, which are filled with water in seasons of rain; and, perhaps, also, by the melting snows. Over much of this extent the vegetation was sparse, the surface showing plainly the action of water, which, in the season of flood, the Joaquin spreads over the valley.

“About one o'clock we came again among innumerable flowers; and a few miles further, fields of the beautiful blue-flowering lupine, which seems to love the neighborhood of water, indicated that we were approaching a stream. We here found this beautiful shrub in thickets, some of them being 12 feet in height. Occasionally three or four plants were clustered together, forming a grand bouquet, about 90 feet in circumference, and 10 feet high; the whole summit covered with spikes of flowers, the perfume of which is very sweet and grateful. A lover of natural beauty can imagine with what pleasure we rode among these flowering groves, which filled the air with light and delicate fragrance. We continued our road for about half a mile, interspersed through an open grove of live oaks, which, in form, were the most symmetrical and beautiful we had yet seen in this country. The end of their branches rested on the ground, forming somewhat more than half a sphere of very full and regular figure, with leaves apparently smaller than usual.

“The California poppy, of a rich orange color, was numerous today. Elk and several bands of antelope made their appearance.

“Our road was now one continued enjoyment; and it was pleasant riding among this assemblage of green pastures with varied flowers and scattered groves, and out of the warm, green spring to look at the rocky and snowy peaks where lately we had suffered so much. Emerging from the timber, we came suddenly upon the Stanislaus River, where we hoped to find a ford, but the stream was flowing by, dark and deep, swollen by the mountain snows; its general breadth was about 50 yards.

"We traveled about five miles up the river, and encamped without being able to find a ford. Here we made a large corral, in order to be able to catch a sufficient number of our wild animals to relieve those previously packed.

"Under the shade of the oaks, along the river, I noticed erodium cicutarium in bloom, eight or ten inches high. This is the plant which we had seen the squaws gathering on the Rio de los Americanos. By the inhabitants of the valley it is highly esteemed for fattening cattle, which appear to be very fond of it. Here, where the soil begins to be sandy, it supplies to a considerable extent the lack of grass.

"Desirous, as far as possible, without delay, to include in our examination the San Joaquin River, I returned this morning down the Stanislaus for 17 miles, and again encamped without having found a fording-place. After following it for eight miles further the next morning, and finding ourselves in the vicinity of the San Joaquin, encamped in a handsome oak grove, and, several cattle being killed, we ferried over our baggage in their skins. Here our Indian boy, who probably had not much idea of where he was going, and began to be alarmed at the many streams which we were rapidly putting between him and the village, deserted.

"Thirteen head of cattle took a sudden fright, while we were driving them across the river, and galloped off. I remained a day in the endeavor to recover them; but finding they had taken the back trail to the fort, let them go without further effort. Here we had several days of warm and pleasant rain, which doubtless saved the crops below.

"On the 1st of April, 1844, we made 10 miles across a prairie without timber, when we were stopped again by another large river, which is called the Rio de la Merced, (River of our Lady of Mercy.)" (Note: If Fremont meant to measure the ten miles from the Stanislaus, the river which he thought was the Merced was evidently the Tuolumne.) "Here the country had lost its character of extreme fertility, the soil having become more sandy and light; but for several days past, its beauty had been increased by the additional animation of animal life; and now, it is crowded with bands of elk and wild horses; and along the rivers are frequent fresh tracks of the grizzly bear, which are unusually numerous in this country.

"Our route had been along the timber of the San Joaquin, generally about eight miles distant, over a high prairie.

"In one of the bands of elk seen to-day, there were about 200; but the larger bands, both of these and wild horses, are generally found on the other side of the river, which, for that reason, I avoided crossing. I had been informed below, that the droves of wild horses were almost invariably found on the western bank of the river; and the danger of losing our animals among them, together with the wish

of adding to our reconnoissance the numerous streams which run down from the Sierra, decided me to travel up the eastern bank.

"2nd.—The day was occupied in building a boat, and ferrying our baggage across the river; and we encamped on the bank. A large fishing eagle was slowly sailing along, looking after salmon; and there were some pretty birds in the timber, with partridges," (quail, presumably) "ducks and geese innumerable in the neighborhood. We were struck with the tameness of the latter bird at Helvetia, scattered about in flocks near the wheat-fields, and eating grass on the prairie; a horseman would ride by within 30 yards, without disturbing them.

"3rd.—To-day we touched several times the San Joaquin River—here a fine-looking tranquil stream, with a slight current, and apparently deep. It resembled the Missouri in color, with occasional points of white sand; and its banks, where steep, were a kind of sandy clay; its average width appeared to be about eighty yards. In the bottoms are frequent ponds, where our approach disturbed multitudes of wild fowl, principally geese. Skirting along the timber, we frequently started elk; and large bands were seen during the day, with antelope and wild horses. The low country and the timber rendered it difficult to keep the main line of the river; and this evening we encamped on a tributary stream, about five miles from its mouth." (Note: This is evidently the Merced, and the place where they crossed would be about at the Stevinson ranch. Elsewhere the longitude of this encampment on a "large tributary of the San Joaquin" is given as 120° 58' 03" West.)

"On the prairie bordering the San Joaquin bottoms, there occurred during the day but little grass, and in its place was a sparse and dwarf growth of plants; the soil being sandy, with small bare places and hillocks, reminded me very much of the Platte bottoms; but, on approaching the timber, we found a more luxuriant vegetation, and at our camp was an abundance of grass and pea-vines.

"The foliage of the oak is getting darker; and everything, except that the weather is a little cool, shows that spring is rapidly advancing; and to-day we had quite a summer rain.

"4th.—Commenced to rain at daylight, but cleared off brightly at sunrise. We ferried the river without any difficulty, and continued up the San Joaquin. Elk were running in bands over the prairie and in the skirt of the timber. We reached the river at the mouth of a large slough, which we were unable to ford, and made a circuit of several miles around." (Probably the mouth of Bear Creek at the John Dugain ranch.) "Here the country appears very flat; oak-trees have entirely disappeared, and are replaced by a large willow, nearly equal to it in size. The river is about a hundred yards in breadth, branching into sloughs, and interspersed with islands. At

this time it appears sufficiently deep for a small steamer, but its navigation would be broken by shallows at low water. Bearing in towards the river, we were again forced off by another slough; and passing around, steered towards a clump of trees on the river, and finding there good grass, encamped. The prairies along the left bank" (the Miller & Lux ranches now) "are alive with immense droves of wild horses; and they had been seen during the day at every opening which afforded us a view across the river. Latitude, by observation, $37^{\circ} 08' 00''$; longitude $120^{\circ} 45' 22''$." (Note: This is $30''$ —about half a mile—south, and $22''$ west, of the southeast corner of the San Luis Ranch quadrangle and the southwest corner of the Turner Ranch quadrangle of the topographical map of the U. S. Geological Survey.)

"5th.—During the earlier part of the day's ride, the country presented a lacustrine appearance; the river was deep, and nearly on a level with the surrounding country; its banks raised like a levee, and fringed with willows. Over the bordering plain were interspersed spots of prairie among fields of tule (bulrushes), which in this country are called tulares, and little ponds. On the opposite side, a line of timber was visible which, according to information, points out the course of the slough, which at times of high water connects with the San Joaquin River—a large body of water in the upper part of the valley, called the Tule Lakes." (Evidently Fresno Slough). "The river and all its sloughs are very full, and it is probable that the lake is now discharging." (On the contrary, probably at this season of heavy melting snows water was flowing from the river into the lake.) "Here elk were frequently started, and one was shot out of a band which ran around us. On our left, the Sierra maintains its snowy height, and masses of snow appear to descend very low towards the plains; probably the late rains in the valley were snow on the mountains. We traveled 37 miles, and encamped on the river. Longitude of the camp: $120^{\circ} 28' 34''$, and latitude, $36^{\circ} 49' 12''$."

"6th.—After having traveled fifteen miles along the river, we made an early halt, under the shade of sycamore-trees." (Native sycamores on the San Joaquin?) "Here we found the San Joaquin coming down from the Sierra with a westerly course, and checking our way, as all its tributaries had previously done. We had expected to raft the river; but found a good ford, and encamped on the opposite bank, where droves of wild horses were raising clouds of dust on the prairie. Columns of smoke were visible in the direction of the Tule Lakes to the southward—probably kindled in the tulares by the Indians, as signals that there were strangers in the valley."

It is hard to realize that this strange world in which Fremont and his men thus made reconnaissance of the unknown streams, and

where they found herds of elk and antelope, great droves of wild horses, and numerous tracks of grizzly bear, is our own Merced County only eighty years ago—within the lifetime of a considerable number of people still living. The course of history was to move rapidly in the decade following Fremont's trip. Within less than four years Marshall was to make in the gravels of that same Rio de los Americanos down which Fremont and his men came to Sutter's fort, the discovery which brought the gold rush. Within two or three years the United States was to become the owner of California, within little over six it was to be a State, within seven Mariposa County was to be created, and within eleven, Merced County. Much of this Fremont could not dream, and some that he knew he could never tell. One of the most interesting things in all our country's history would be to know just what conversations there were between Fremont, the "Pathfinder" to California, and his illustrious father-in-law, Senator Benton, about the part which the former was to play in the swift drama of the next few years after this expedition. We have seen Dr. John Marsh's letter of 1842, with its warning to one high in the country's administration, that the plum was ripe and ready to fall, and that both England and Russia were waiting for it.

That Fremont, even in this early expedition—even in the very casualness and apparent lack of premediated purpose in his coming into California at all—may have been here to keep a weather eye on the situation is not unlikely. That this was the chief purpose of his later expedition is practically certain. But the United States could not offend a friendly nation. Mexico was the owner of the territory; our government could not say to her that we stood ready to take it when she could hold it no longer; and from the very nature of the case no scratch of a pen put to paper any of Fremont's instructions on this subject, so that the realm is left one of pure speculation.

A few weeks before Fremont and his men crossed the "large tributary of the San Joaquin" near the present Stevinson ranch, on February 29, 1844, Manuel Micheltoarena, Governor of the Californias, granted to ex-Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado ten sitios de granado mayor, or Spanish square leagues, within the limits of the River San Joaquin, the Snow Mountain, the Merced River, and the River Chanchillas. The Snow Mountain is of course the Sierra Nevada, and the Chanchillas is only another spelling for the Chowchilla. The grant was made in consideration of patriotic services performed. From the fact that Governor Micheltoarena made a good many grants during the forties, after settlers from the United States had begun to come into the territory, we may infer without stretching the probabilities very far that the grants were also made on the tacit condition of further patriotic service yet to be rendered; in short, that the Governor had reached the conclusion that the

Mexican government would have a better chance of holding the land against the invaders if it was the private property of Mexican citizens than if it was part of the public domain. There were several other conditions attached to the grant to Alvarado: he was to build a house within a year, and it was to be inhabited; he was to cause the ten square leagues to be surveyed, which of course implied that he was definitely to locate it within the large limits named; he was not to alienate nor mortgage it.

On February 10, 1847, Alvarado sold and conveyed his interest to John C. Fremont. Fremont's claim, based upon the grant to Alvarado and this conveyance to him, was confirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Fremont against the United States, in 1854. From the report of that case it is pretty obvious that Alvarado had never selected his particular ten leagues or surveyed it or built the required house. The grant was not confirmed to Fremont without dissent—two justices, Catron and Campbell, dissented. The majority of the court, however, concurred in the opinion written by Mr. Chief Justice Taney, later of Dred Scott fame, and Fremont was confirmed in the ownership of the grant. "Las Mariposas, the Mariposa Estate," says Hittell, "or Fremont Grant, as it was sometimes called . . . was represented by its owner and until the decadence of the mines was believed to be one of the most valuable bodies of land belonging to a single individual in the world."

It is understandable enough that Fremont did not allow anything to creep into the record in the case before the Supreme Court about it, but as a matter of fact he had made apparently two starts to locate the grant down in the valley lands of the San Joaquin Valley. The first attempt appears to have been to locate it in the vicinity of Stevinson, near the junction of the Merced with the San Joaquin. We have found nothing of record about this attempt, though there is still Fremont's Ford across the San Joaquin between the mouth of the Merced and the site where Dover was later to have its short existence. The other attempt to locate the grant on the lands of the valley was made in the vicinity of Le Grand and Plainsburg. Oldtimers out there will tell you that there used to be more or less uneasiness felt because they feared this attempt made a cloud on their titles, but of course this has long since passed away. The most definite record left of this attempt is to be found on the township plat of Township 8 South, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The township lines of this township were surveyed in 1852 and 1853, and the section lines in 1854. In the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 10, in that township, on the south bank of Mariposa Creek, or the Mariposa River as it is there designated, appear the representation of a house, and the words "Fremont's Ranch." The land, on the 1919 county map drawn by

G. E. Winton, stands in the name of G. B. Stanford, as to the northeast quarter of the section, and of W. C. and C. L. Dallas as to the other three-quarters. This detail, in the interior part of the township, and therefore probably not mapped until 1854, is probably not to be understood as meaning that at that time Fremont owned or claimed to own the ranch, but that there was a building there which with the locality around it was generally known in the vicinity as "Fremont's Ranch" because Fremont had earlier made some start at locating his grant there. Perhaps he had built this house in fulfillment of the condition in Alvarado's grant that he must build a house. It was simply the name of that particular place, apparently, just as one might still hear oldtimers speak of Snelling's or Snelling's Ranch, long after the latter place had passed from the ownership of the Snelling family.

It is pretty obvious that Fremont must have made his final location in the present limits of Mariposa County where the grant is now located, at a pretty early date, and the convincing proof of that is the fact that he successfully held it against the miners who claimed against him, which he could hardly have done if their rights had ripened very far. Also there could have been but one reason for "floating" the grant, as it is sometimes spoken of, from the fine lands of the valley to the foothills, and that reason was the discovery of gold. Sometime between the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, and the very early history of the gold rush, in all probability, was when Fremont took such steps as he did take to locate the grant in what is now Merced County. He probably built the house on Mariposa Creek; just as probably, with all his multifarious affairs, he never occupied it very much, but probably he did occupy it, and probably that made him the first American inhabitant of what afterwards became Merced County. He is the only one, so far as we can very well discover now, whose reason for coming antedates the gold discovery, unless it may have been some such as the hunter McPherson, who worked for William L. Means in his hunting business at Robla in 1851, and who we are told had lived for some years with the Indians—and who, evidently, had therefore dropped out of one of the earlier trapping expeditions of Jedediah Smith or his successors.

CHAPTER V

MOTHER MARIPOSA

Chapter 15 of the California Statutes of 1850 was "An Act Subdividing the State into Counties and establishing the Seats of Justice therein." It was approved February 18, 1850. Section 1 read: "The following shall be the boundaries and seats of justice of the several Counties of the State of California until otherwise determined by law":

Section 28 was as follows: "County of Mariposa.—Beginning on the summit of the Coast Range at the southwest corner of Tuolumne County, and running thence along the southern boundary of said county, to the summit of the Sierra Nevada; thence along the summit of the Sierra Nevada to the parallel of thirty-eight degrees of north latitude; thence due east, on the said parallel, to the boundary of the State; thence in a southeasterly direction, following said boundary, to the northwest corner of San Diego County; thence due south, along the boundary of San Diego County, to the northeast corner of Los Angeles County; and thence in a northwesterly direction along the summit of the Coast Range to the place of beginning. The seat of justice shall be Agua Fria."

There were twenty-seven counties established under that act. Mariposa, as will be seen, stretched from the Coast Range to the State's eastern boundary, and from substantially the northern boundary of Mariposa and Merced Counties as they are at present to San Diego and Los Angeles Counties. More than a dozen of the counties of to-day have taken all or a part of their territory from the original Mariposa.

To understand how the line could hit the northwest corner of San Diego by following southeast along the eastern boundary of the State, we need to remember that there was then no San Bernardino County, and to read the first clause of the description of the boundary of San Diego County in the same Act—"Commencing on the coast of the Pacific, at the mouth of the creek called San Mateo, and running up said creek to its source; thence due north to the northeast boundary of the State . . ." San Diego County took in all of the State south and east of that line. San Mateo Creek, mentioned in the description, is not far from the present Orange-San Diego border; it is a short creek, and its head is between $117^{\circ} 20'$ and $117^{\circ} 30'$ west. The line passing due north from its head would apparently have passed about two miles west of the city of San Bernardino, or about twenty-three miles west of the San Bernardino meridian.

South of Mariposa there were only San Diego and Los Angeles; up along the coast came Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Clara, Branciforte (soon to become Santa Cruz), Contra Costa, and San Francisco. Seventeen of the original twenty-seven counties lay north of Mariposa and the Bay, and perhaps as graphic an illustration of the distribution of population in the State at that time is found in the fact that in the vote upon the question of adopting the State constitution of 1849, Mokelumne Hill cast more than twice as many ballots as Los Angeles.

By an act passed April 25, 1851, the early act and the acts amendatory of it were repealed, after redividing the State into counties and providing for seats of government. This act made some slight changes in the description of the boundary of Mariposa County in its southern part, and provided: "The seat of government shall be at such place as may be chosen by the qualified electors of the County at the next general election."

Agua Fria, the first county seat, has vanished almost completely off the face of the earth. It was situated well up towards the head of Agua Fria Creek, which the State highway to Mariposa now crosses on the fine concrete bridge at Bridgeport, four miles below Mormon Bar. Some five miles up the creek from this bridge was the former county seat. Mariposa soon succeeded it as the seat of justice, but Agua Fria flourished during the mining days.

Carson City, another town which is no more, was a flourishing Mariposa County town of the mining days.

If we look at the original counties lying north of this huge Mariposa of 1850 in the Sierra Nevada—Tuolumne, Calaveras, El Dorado, with Nevada and Placer added in 1851, Sierra in 1852, and Amador and Plumas in 1854—we shall realize, from Mariposa's large extent southward alone, that this was near the limit of the Southern Mines.

Population had flowed into the Sierra foothills in thousands in 1849 and 1850. Sonora's population, Hittell says, was 5000 before the end of 1849; sometimes up to 10,000 on Sundays—a statement which gives us a pretty clear idea of both the amount of population in the mining camps and its transitory character.

"Hornitos," we quote Hittell again, "twelve or fifteen miles west of Mariposa, was one of the richest localities for placer mining as well as one of the largest and most attractive towns in the southern mines. . . . One spot, . . . Horseshoe Bend, . . . had . . . four hundred miners in 1850."

North of the Merced River, Coulterville flourished. Below Horseshoe Bend on the river, a few miles above Merced Falls, there was a rich camp below Barrett's, the ruins of which the hawker on the Yosemite Valley train now points out, and tells tourists about through his

megaphone. You may judge that it was rich from the depth to which the ground was worked back into the steep canyon sides, and you may see the dry-laid walls of its old ditch along the south side of the river across from the railroad. A portion of this old ditch wall has recently been torn out in the work of stripping the side hills preparatory to pouring the concrete of the big Exchequer Dam of the Merced Irrigation District.

Just above Hornitos, which originally was largely Mexican in population, was the American town of Quartzberg. It was later abandoned and the population moved to Hornitos. S. L. Givens, now over eighty and a resident on his ranch on Bear Creek a few miles below the Mariposa County line since pioneer days, states that two present residents of Merced County attended school as children at Quartzberg—himself, and Mrs. J. J. Stevinson of the Merced River, who was a daughter of that Cox who gave his name to Cox's Ferry and the Cox Ferry bridge on the Merced.

A rather vivid idea of early Mariposa County in some of its aspects is to be had from Dr. Lafayette Houghton Bunnell's book on "The Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851." Bunnell begins with an account of how he first saw El Capitan during the winter of 1849-1850, "while ascending the old Bear Valley trail from Ridley's ferry, on the Merced River."

James D. Savage, a trader, in 1849-1850 was located in the mountains near the mouth of the South Fork of the Merced, Bunnell tells us, some fifteen miles below Yosemite Valley. He was engaged in mining for gold and had a party of native Indians working for him. Early in 1850 a band of Yosemite Indians attacked his trading post and mining camp. They claimed the land in the vicinity and tried to drive Savage off. Bunnell says their real object was plunder. Savage and his Indians repulsed them, but he came to regard the neighborhood as dangerous, and "removed to Mariposa Creek, not far from the junction of the Aqua (sic) Fria, and near the site of the old stone fort."

Bunnell wrote his book about 1880, and whether he meant that the "stone fort" was old in 1850 or not until 1880 is not altogether clear. If it was old in 1850, we have no account of how it had come to be there long enough at that early date to merit such a description. This location would be perhaps two miles south of the highway bridge across Agua Fria Creek already referred to.

Savage soon built up a prosperous business. He had a branch further south, in what is now Madera County, in charge of a man named Greeley. Savage had several Indian wives. From them he learned that the Indians were planning a general uprising to drive the whites from the diggings. Savage went to the Bay to purchase a stock of goods and took along two of his wives and a chief called

Jose Juarez, to show him how many whites there were, with the idea of convincing him and the other Indians of the hopelessness of their plans.

But they were not convinced and rose against the miners as they had planned. The war extended far south. A battalion of two hundred mounted men was formed at Agua Fria, what was lacked to make the quota being made up by a party which Major Savage brought over from Cassidy's Bar on the San Joaquin. Another battalion was organized for Los Angeles. These bodies were organized in response to a proclamation by Governor McDougal, occasioned by the growing depredations of the Indians. The Agua Fria portion of the Mariposa Battalion had already fought a battle in the mountains with the Indians.

The outbreak began after a conference immediately following the return of Savage and Jose Juarez from San Francisco. One of Savage's men, known as "Long Haired Brown," brought him word at Agua Fria shortly after that his trading post on the Fresno had been attacked and all the inmates killed except Brown himself. Shortly afterwards a report was circulated that Savage's post on Mariposa Creek had been attacked and everybody there killed; Savage himself soon appeared at Quartzberg, however, and corrected this rumor. He sought aid from personal friends at Horseshoe Bend. At Quartzberg, Mariposa, and Agua Fria the miners were little moved by the reports. However, besides Greeley, two other men of Savage's, Stiffner and Kennedy, were killed. Shortly after came the news of the murder of Cassidy and four others on the San Joaquin. From another attack an immigrant who had just arrived escaped to Cassidy's Bar with a broken arm, and this and his hard-ridden and panting horse excited some sympathy among the settlers, and roused the community.

After the attack of the Yosemite Indians upon Savage's camp on the lower South Fork, Col. Adam Johnston, a special agent representing Governor Peter H. Burnett, came into the country to look the situation over, and upon his return to San Jose, then the capital of the State, reported to the Governor on January 2, 1851, as follows:

"Sir: I have the honor to submit to you, as executive of the State of California, some facts connected with the recent depredations committed by the Indians, within the bounds of the State, upon the persons and property of her citizens. The immediate scenes of their hostile movements are at and in the vicinity of the Mariposa and Fresno. The Indians in that portion of your State have, for some time past, exhibited disaffection and a restless feeling towards the whites. Thefts were continually being perpetrated by them, but no act of hostility had been committed by them on the person of any individual which indicated general enmity on the part of the Indians,

until the night of the 17th December last. I was then at the camp of Mr. James D. Savage, on the Mariposa, where I had gone for the purpose of reconciling any difficulty that might exist between the Indians and the whites in that vicinity. From various conversations which I had held with different chiefs, I concluded there was no immediate danger to be apprehended. One the evening of the 17th of December, we were, however, surprised by the sudden disappearance of the Indians. They left in a body, but no one knew why, or where they had gone. From the fact that Mr. Savage's domestic Indians had forsaken him and gone with those of the rancheria or village, he immediately suspected that something of a serious nature was in contemplation, or had already been committed by them.

"The manner of their leaving, in the night, and by stealth, induced Mr. Savage to believe that whatever act they had committed or intended to commit, might be connected with himself. Believing that he could overhaul his Indians before others could join them, and defeat any depredations on their part, he, with sixteen men, started in pursuit. He continued upon their traces for about thirty miles, when he came upon their encampment. The Indians had discovered his approach, and fled to an adjacent mountain, leaving behind them two small boys asleep, and the remains of an aged female, who had died, no doubt from fatigue. Near to the encampment Mr. Savage ascended a mountain in pursuit of the Indians, from which he discovered them upon another mountain at a distance. From these two mountain tops, conversation was commenced and kept up for some time between Mr. Savage and the chief, who told him that they had murdered the men on the Fresno, and robbed the camp. The chief had formerly been on the most friendly terms with Savage, but would not now permit him to approach him. Savage said to them it would be better for them to return to their village—that with very little labor daily, they could procure sufficient gold to purchase them clothing and food. To this the chief replied it was a hard way to get a living, and that they could more easily supply their wants by stealing from the whites. He also said to Savage he must not deceive the whites by telling them lies, he must not tell them that the Indians were friendly; they were not, but on the contrary were their deadly enemies, and that they intended killing and plundering them so long as a white face was seen in the country. Finding all efforts to induce them to return, or to otherwise reach them, had failed, Mr. Savage and his company concluded to return. When about leaving, they discovered a body of Indians, numbering about two hundred, on a distant mountain, who seemed to be approaching those with whom he had been talking.

"Mr. Savage and company arrived at his camp in the night of Thursday in safety. In the meantime, as news had reached us of

murders committed on the Fresno, we had determined to proceed to the Fresno, where the men had been murdered. Accordingly on the day following, Friday, the 20th, I left the Mariposa camp with thirty-five men, for the camp on the Fresno, to see the situation of things there, and to bury the dead. I also dispatched couriers to Agua Fria, Mariposa, and several other mining sections, hoping to concentrate a sufficient force on the Fresno to pursue the Indians into the mountains. Several small companies of men left their respective places of residence to join us, but being unacquainted with the country they were unable to meet us. We reached the camp on the Fresno a short time after daylight. It presented a horrid scene of savage cruelty. The Indians had destroyed everything they could not use or carry with them. The store was stripped of blankets, clothing, flour, and everything of value; the safe was broken open and rifled of its contents; the cattle, horses and mules had been run into the mountains; the murdered men had been stripped of their clothing, and lay before us filled with arrows; one of them had yet twenty perfect arrows sticking in him. A grave was prepared and the unfortunate persons interred. Our force being small, we thought it not prudent to pursue the Indians farther into the mountains, and determined to return. The Indians in that part of the country are quite numerous, and have been uniting other tribes with them for some time. On reaching our camp on the Mariposa, we learned that most of the Indians in the valley had left their villages and taken their women and children to the mountains. This is generally looked upon as a sure indication of their hostile intentions. It is feared that many of the miners in the more remote regions have already been cut off, and Agua Fria and Mariposa are hourly threatened.

“Under this state of things, I come here at the earnest solicitations of the people of that region, to ask such aid from the State government as will enable them to protect their persons and property. I submit these facts for your consideration, and have the honor to remain,

“Yours very respectfully,

“Adam Johnston.

“To His Excellency, Peter H. Burnett.”

Colonel Johnston's report had the desired effect; as a result, it was, that Burnett's successor, Governor McDougal, issued the proclamation already mentioned, which led to the mustering in of the Mariposa Rangers.

The men on the Fresno had been killed on December 17, 1850, and buried on December 20. On January 6, 1851, Major Burney, sheriff of Mariposa County, assembled a strong posse to go in pursuit of the Indians whom Colonel Johnston had thought too strong

for his small party. He caught up with them on January 11. Major Burney had been elected captain of a company formed the previous May, with J. W. Riley as first lieutenant and E. Skeane as second lieutenant, and numbering seventy-four men. In a letter to Governor McDougal on January 13, 1851, Burney describes his pursuit of the Indians on the 11th. They had but few provisions, and not enough pack horses. But they marched, and the day after starting "struck a large trail of horses," writes Burney, "that had been stolen by the Indians. I sent forward James D. Savage with a small spy force, and I followed the trail with my company."

They came upon an Indian sentinel, and being discovered, rushed to the village and arrived almost as soon as the sentinel. Burney ordered the Indians to surrender; some seemed disposed to do so, but others fired on the whites. Burney's men fired and charged into the village. "We killed from forty to fifty," he says, and burned the village. Six of Burney's company were wounded, two mortally, Lieutenant Skeane and a Mr. Little. This fight seems to have been in the vicinity of Fresno Flats in the present Madera County.

The campaign was completed with a battle at "Battle Mountain," which Burney describes as "a watershed of the San Joaquin," where the whites stormed a stockade of the Indians and dispersed them.

The campaign was carried on through the early months of 1851. Major Savage, with leaders like Boling, Kuykendall, Chandler, and with Dr. Bunnell as a member of the expedition, proceeded against Chief Tenaya and chased him into Yosemite in March. His band, seemingly made up of outlaws from several tribes from both sides of the Sierras, was dispersed; and after a hard campaign, the greater part of them were brought out to a reservation which had been set aside in the lower foothills near the Fresno. A campaign was waged against the Chowchillas in the region where Burney had fought his battles, and they were finally pretty well rounded up and brought in.

Dr. Bunnell does not seem to mention what is now Merced County beyond the statement that the Indians had removed their women and children from the Valley, and the further statement that he and someone else, when the pursuit was being organized, went to Snelling's Ranch for horses, which seemingly they had at pasture there. This was in 1851. As we shall see later, the Snelling family did not arrive on the Merced River until the fall of that year. Dr. Bunnell is evidently applying a name which he knew in 1880, when he wrote, to the place they visited in 1851.

The number of Indians involved in these fights is not a thing that can be determined very exactly; but where the number involved in any one fight is given, it does not exceed a few hundred.

We have not found where the Americans as settlers or miners came in contact with any large numbers of Indians. It is said,

though, that previous to 1833 they were very numerous. The author of a history of Merced County published in 1881 by Elliott & Moore quotes Kit Carson as saying that in 1829 the valleys of California were full of Indians, but that when he again visited the State in 1839 they had mostly disappeared. He also quotes a Colonel Warner (Walker?) as saying "I have never read of such a general destruction of a people by any angel, good or bad, or by plague or pestilence, as that which swept the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin in the summer of 1833."

Warner (?) is quoted as saying that he traveled through the valleys in 1832 and that the Indians were much more numerous than he had ever seen on a similar area elsewhere. He describes another trip the following year, when they found whole villages wiped out or deserted by their few remaining survivors, when the dead came so far to outnumber the living that the latter could not either burn or bury the corpses. Cholera, it is said, was the terrible scourge which thus reduced the Indian population to a small remnant of its former numbers.

County Auditor S. E. Acker, who lived most of his life on the West Side of the county, informs us that there are in the vicinity of Los Banos a number of rather shallow circular excavations several yards across, which are attributed to the Indians. Whether they were perhaps where their temescals, or sweat-houses, were erected, or served some other purpose, they seem to indicate an Indian population there. Whether the population was permanent, or moved between the valley and the mountains as cold weather in the latter or floods made desirable, we can only conjecture. It is to be noticed that in the passage from Fremont's journal referring to his passage through the county in 1844, he does not mention seeing any Indians in what is now Merced County.

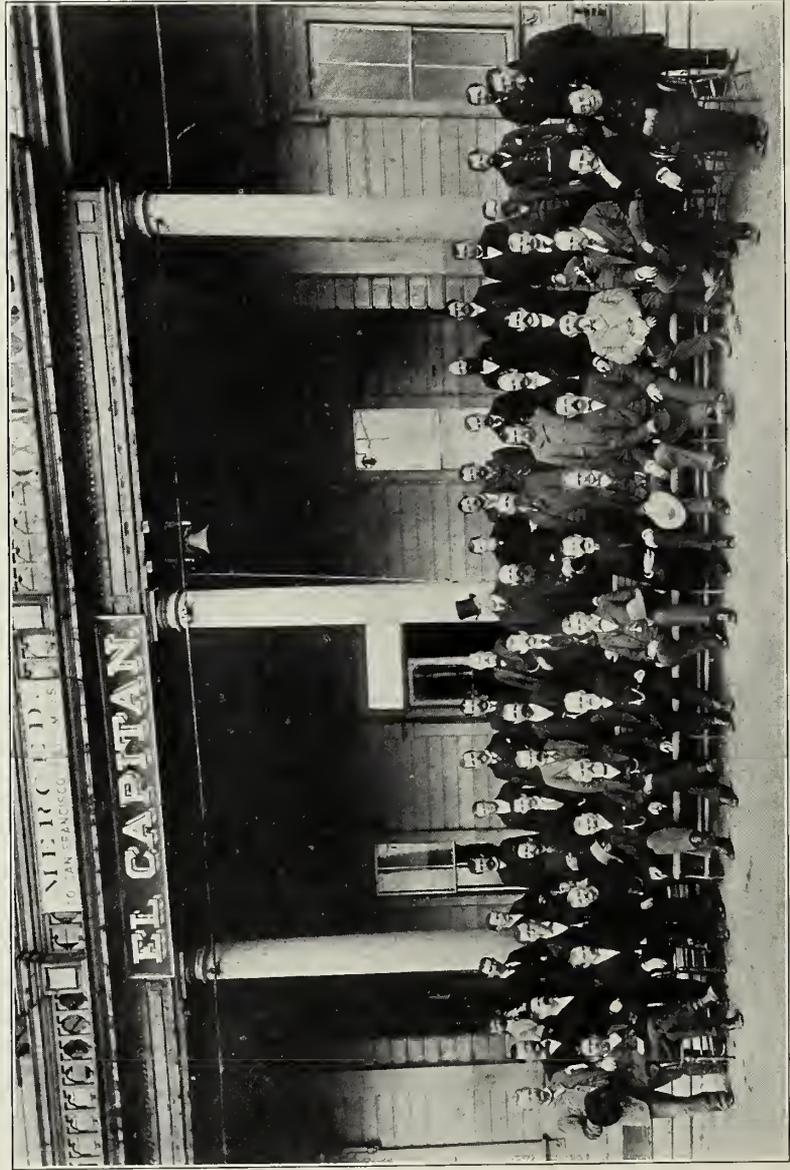
We have digressed from Mariposa County. The space available will not permit us to go into the history of mining in that county. Mining, with the exception of recent dredging along the Merced between Snelling and Merced Falls, hardly touches Merced County, except in the secondary sense that it was overflow from the population of miners and those who served them in the Mariposa hills who peopled early Merced.

The two counties are closely connected by several interests. Yosemite and the roads and the railroad which lead to it furnish one of the chief. Another is in the fact that within Mariposa County lies the watershed—some thousand square miles—from which the water is collected into the Merced River, and which will shortly be impounded at the Exchequer Dam to irrigate Merced County lands. In the power developed from the streams in Mariposa County is found a third. Cattle and sheep men who range their stock in the Valley in

Merced in the winter time drive it to the mountains, many of them in Mariposa County, in the summer. In the Mariposa mountains many inhabitants of Merced find summer recreation. The logs for the Yosemite Lumber Company's mill at Merced Falls come from the Mariposa County mountains. And in addition to these bonds of union, many of the people who have helped to make Merced came originally from Mariposa. Such names as Kocher, Olcese, Barcroft, Givens, Garibaldi, and a lot of others will readily occur to anyone who knows the two counties.

It is with reluctance that we turn from Merced's mother county with no more than such brief and inadequate mention, for it is a story by itself worthy of a volume.





SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE. JANUARY 1, 1895

CHAPTER VI

THE FOUNDERS OF THE COUNTY

We know that Merced County was created by the Act of April 19, 1855, organized by an election held May 14 and the votes of which were canvassed May 19, and that the first board of supervisors held their first meeting at the Turner & Osborn Ranch on June 4. But anyone who is at all curious about the matter will want to know how it came about that there were here along the Merced River and the creek bottoms of the eastern part of the county in this spring of 1855 enough people to organize a new county. That is probably the most difficult question in all the county's history, at this distance in time, to attempt to answer with anything like completeness.

It is a matter of history that Stanislaus County was formed in 1854, and it is also a matter of history that an attempt was made—and failed—to include the settlements along the Merced in that county. These settlements apparently that early had a consciousness of being a separate entity. The census of 1850 gave Mariposa County 4379, and that was for the county which extended from the Coast Range to the State's eastern boundary, and from approximately the present northern line of Mariposa and Merced to the vicinity of San Bernardino. The 1860 census gave a greatly reduced Mariposa County 6243. Tulare, Merced, and Fresno had been carved off before 1860; and this figure is the highest which any federal census gives to Mariposa. It is probable that her greatest population, some time in between these two censuses, must have exceeded the 1860 figure, and exceeded it a good deal. Old-timers will tell you that there were 5000 people in Agua Fria and its twin town of Carson City when these mushroom towns were in their brief prime.

How many people there were in Merced County when it was formed it is not possible to tell with exactness. So far as we have found, there was then no minimum population requirement, as there is now, for the formation of a new county. Perhaps as good a line as we can get on the population of the county at the time of its formation is to be had from the 1857 assessment roll. There were 277 names on that roll. On the 1925 roll there are 11,998. The county's population according to the federal census of 1920 was 24,576; it may perhaps be 30,000 now. If it is, that is two and a half population for each name on the assessment roll; and if we take that as a basis, we should get for the 277 names on the 1857 assessment roll a population of a little less than 700. The 1860 federal census gave Merced County

1141. If the county had gained, say, 450 in the three years from 1857 to 1860, it seems likely that it may have gained 200 or 300 in the two years from 1855 to 1857; and if it had, then the population at the time of its organization would have been between 400 and 500. That is perhaps as close a conjecture as can be made now.

Whatever the exact number may have been, when did it come into the territory which came to be Merced County, and who were these few hundred founders of the county. There is, in the fragments we can now find of the answer to that question, more romance than in anything else in the county's history; and we can find only fragments. Since the death of John Ruddle on February 1, 1925, there are alive, so far as we can find, just a dozen people who may fairly be called pioneers of the time of organization. John Ruddle was the dean of these founders; he was ninety-four years old on October 17, 1924. The twelve now living are: Mrs. Louisa Stevinson, of the Merced River; Mrs. Jane Morgan, of Santa Cruz; Henry Nelson, of Merced; Samuel L. Givens, of Bear Creek; William C. Wilson, of Le Grand; Mrs. Penelope Rogers, of Le Grand; George Powell, of Merced; Mrs. Modest Sensabaugh, of San Francisco; Mrs. Mary Buckley, of Snelling; George Barfield, of Merced; George P. Kelsey, of Berkeley; and Samuel R. Murray, of Fresno Flats.

Of these, George Powell did not actually live in the county at the time of its organization, but drove stage and was in and out of it. Mrs. Rogers just missed being in the county at the time of its organization. She was on the Merced River near Merced Falls before the organization, moved into the Mariposa hills, and moved back to the vicinity of the first county seat, the Turner & Osborn ranch, the latter part of the summer of 1855. Samuel R. Murray, son of Charles Murray who had the bridge, ferry, and mill at Merced Falls, was born at that place just a little prior to the organization of the county. He lived there until he was thirty-two, and has since lived near Fresno Flats, in what is now Madera County. His son is Superior Judge Stanley Murray, Madera County. Charles Murray and his wife were of course here before 1855.

Along in 1852, 1853, and 1854, quite a large proportion of the townships of the county were surveyed; in a good many of them the section lines were surveyed within a year or so after the township lines. On these plats appear a considerable number of houses, fields, ditches, fences, and other works of man, including a number of roads. It should be understood, in reading the plats, that the object of the surveyor was primarily to show the township and section lines, and that such culture as is shown was marked where the lines ran across or near it, for the purpose of showing more clearly where the lines ran.

Taking the successive rows of townships from north to south and following them across the county from west to east, we find Township

4 South, Range 12 East (all of course Mount Diablo Meridian and Base Line) surveyed, township lines in 1853 and section lines in 1854; Kirkpatrick's house in the southwest quarter of Section 2; a field in parts of 2, 3, 10, and 11; Silas Hall & Co.'s house in the southwest quarter of 13; another field near that; the Mariposa stage road passing these two houses; and a trail running across from northwest to southeast. In 4/13, surveyed same time, there are Morley's house in the southwest quarter of 5, Dry Creek in the southeast corner of the township, A. Forbes' house in the southeast quarter of 34. In 4/14 are a road from Knight's Ferry to Snelling, a road from Snelling to Dry Creek, and three fields, no owners' names. Part of the township boundaries were surveyed in 1854, the balance of the survey in the sixties. The Merced River appears in the eastern part of 4/15; no culture.

In 5/13, surveyed in 1853 and 1854, the Merced River appears in the southern part; there are five large fields; Ruddle & Barfield's house is in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of 23, Eagle-son's house in the northern part of the northwest quarter of 22, D. C. Clary's house in the northeast quarter of 32, south of the river; and there are several ditches, fences, and other works of man. This township has two east of it and three west of it. In 5/10 are two roads; in 5/11 there is a mustang corral in the northwest part of the northwest quarter of 27, near the present Cortez; and in 5/12 there is a road from "Merced to Tuolumne" running northerly and southerly nearly across the western third, there is one other road, there is the Merced River in the southeast corner, there is Rector's fence about a quarter of a mile north of the south township line crossed by the line between sections 34 and 35, and "Neal's fence" about an eighth of a mile from the south township line crossed by the line between sections 35 and 36. All three of these townships were surveyed in 1853 and 1854. In 5/14 the Merced River appears in the north half. On the north side of the river are Hempstead's house in the northeast quarter of 12, Rammel's house in the northwest quarter of 12, Schroeder's house in the southwest quarter of 2 (Schroeder was Peter Fee's predecessor), two fields just below the site of Snelling, another about a mile further down, W. W. Jackson's field in the southwest quarter of 18 and the northwest quarter of 19, and there are roads and ditches on both sides of the river. This township was surveyed in the fourth quarter of 1853. Going down from towards Merced Falls, 5/15 shows Phillips' Ferry near the line between sections 3 and 4, Nelson's house on the forty line near the center of the southeast quarter of 4 on the north side of the river, Young's store on the south side of the river about a mile downstream, Young's house on the north side in the northwest of the northwest of 9, and Young's Ferry between his house and store. Wilson's house

is on the north side of the river in section 7 about a mile and half west of Young's house. Wilson's field and another field are shown; and the road to Fort Miller leads from Young's Ferry, and the Stockton and Mariposa road and Stockton and Mariposa turnpike lead from Phillips' Ferry. There is a house in the southwest quarter of 25, south of the river. The township was surveyed in 1853.

Going back to the West Side of the county again for the sixth row of townships south, 6/9 shows the San Joaquin and part of the lower Merced, the road to Hill's Ferry down the north side of the Merced, Blair & Co. (house, apparently) on the east bank of the San Joaquin in 34, Belt in the southeast quarter of 35, and Gitky in 36 about a mile up the Merced from Belt. The survey was made in 1853. In 6/10 the Merced River runs along the south side. There is the road along the north side of the river; and on the south side of the river in the Chedister Bridge vicinity are two places, apparently small houses, in the east half of 35, marked "Odon," and a little further up in the southeast quarter of 25, "Francesio Bustemento." The township was surveyed in the fourth quarter of 1853. Going on up through 6/11, we follow the river about through the middle of the township. There is a road along each side, and there is a fence in the west half of 30. No houses or fields shown. Also surveyed in fourth quarter of 1853, as was also 6/12. The latter's northwest corner is crossed by the river. On the north side of the river are "Wm. Greene and French Enclosure" in the northeast of the northeast of 7, and the enclosure of Fruit & McSwain between 4 and 5. South of the river are Neagle's fence between 7 and 18, and the enclosure of Neill & Co. between 1 and 2. Nothing but trails is shown on 6/13, surveyed in 1852 and 1853. Dry Creek, a pond, and some short stretches of road appear on 6/14, surveyed in the fourth quarter of 1853. Along the western side of 6/15 appear the Black Rascal Hills, and further east Black Rascal Creek, and near the eastern side Burns Creek. Also near the eastern side is the Fort Miller road, and in the northwest quarter of 12, "Howard," doubtless the ranch house of Captain Howard and his brother. The survey was made in late 1853 and early 1854. The road from Stockton to Fort Miller appears in 6/16, and Howell in the northeast quarter of 30, Mullan in the northwest of 29, a field and a house in the northwest of the northwest of 19, and a house in the southeast of the southeast of 32. Same date for the survey.

Orestimba Creek appears in 7/8, Peth's house in the southeast quarter of 19 on the south side of the creek, a road in 5, and a trail in 36. The east boundary of the township was surveyed in 1853, the rest of it in 1859. The San Joaquin and the mouth of the Merced appear in 7/9. Hill's Ferry is shown between 3 and 4 near their south line, with a fence, a garden, and a windmill. There are roads to Hill's Ferry from the southwest and the southeast. There is a

pasture in the north part of 25 on the west bank of the San Joaquin. Most of the township lines were surveyed in 1853, the rest of the work in 1859. Along the south side of the Merced in 7/10 are Stone & Hammond about the west line of 6 (apparently Mahlon Stone), "Stephenson" field in the northeast quarter of 6, Lapee in the northwest of the northwest of 4, McManns in the northwest of the northeast of 4, Turner & Beaver in the southwest of the northwest of 3, with a field extending downstream, and a public road along the south side of the river. Turner is doubtless W. C. Turner, pioneer of 1852, and "Stephenson" means Stevinson. It seems to be a favorite mistake even yet to misspell the name of the particular pioneer family. It is correctly spelled with a "v" and an "i," and in view of the tendency to spell it otherwise, it may not be out of place to state that Mrs. Louisa J. Stevinson herself is authority for that. The commonest error is to change the "i" to an "e," but the more glaring error of "Stephenson" occurs in the big relief map recently installed in the ferry building at San Francisco. That applies to the town; both the name of the town and the name of the family is "Stevinson." The San Joaquin River runs nearly west in this township and there is a small house in the northwest quarter of 32 on the right bank. Most of the township lines were surveyed in 1853, part of the south and southwest in 1859 and 1870, and the section, segregation and meander lines in 1870. Nothing shows in 7/11, surveyed late in 1853. Bear Creek appears in the southeast corner of 7/12. Hadden & McFaden's shows on the south bank in the southwest of 36. Surveyed in the fourth quarter of 1853. The creek, divided into several sloughs, appears in 7/13, and in the northwest quarter of 22 on the north side of the main creek is Richardson's. Surveyed in 1852 and 1853. This "Richardson's" was approximately three miles west of the present court house, and a little further north. On 7/14, surveyed in 1853 and 1854, where a large portion of Merced is now, appear Bear Creek and another creek and two sloughs, and there are three or four forties along the creek marked, which presumably were claimed to hold water-holes. Further up the creek in 7/15, "Cockenall's house" and field are shown in the southwest quarter of 17, on the north bank. Givens' house is in the northwest quarter of 15, on the south bank, T. Givens in the southeast quarter of 10, south bank, Reed in the northwest quarter of 12, Harrison's field in the northeast of 12. Surveyed in 1853 and 1854. The Fort Miller road and Miles Creek are shown in 7/16, a field in 16 and 17, Cunningham in the northeast of 16, Cunningham's field in the southeast of 9 and the southwest of 10, Keener (in Mariposa County) in the northwest of 10, and on Owens Creek, Owens in the southwest quarter of 23. Surveyed in 1853 and 1854.

Going back to the West Side on the next row south, Las Garcas and Quinto Creeks appear on 8/7, and in the northern part branches of Orestimba Creek. There are two grain fields in the northwest quarter of 1; there is Hubbel's corral on Oat Gulch in the southeast quarter of 10; there are a sheep corral in the southeast of 14, another corral in the northwest of 15, Miles in the southeast of 22, Worthy's in the southeast of 23, Mrs. M. Walker in the northeast of 24, a road to Hill's Ferry down Las Garcas Creek, a cabin and two corrals in the northwest of 36, and a road from Las Garcas to Quinto Creek. The south boundary was surveyed in 1858, part of the north in 1859, the rest of the north in 1874, the remainder of the work in 1880. The next three townships going east were surveyed so largely after the organization of the county that it is hardly likely any of the culture except a road or two date back that far, and there are no works of man on 8/11. Bear and Mariposa Creeks enter the east side of 8/12, but there are no works of man. The "Mariposa River" and Owens Creek appear in 8/13, surveyed in 1852 and 1853. In 8/14 the township lines were surveyed in 1852 and 1853 and the section lines in 1854. Owens Creek runs through the northern part, the north slough of the Mariposa through near or a little north of the middle, the middle slough a mile or two further south, and the main or south slough a little south of that. On the middle slough is a house, Houghton, in the northwest of 13, and a field between 14 and 23. In the southwest of the northwest of 23, a house marked "Turner" marks the place which afterwards for a few months was the county seat. In the southwest of the southwest of 22 is Derrick. A considerable number of oak trees are shown on the middle and south sloughs. Deadman's Creek appears near the south edge of the township. The next township east, 8/15, was surveyed, township lines in 1852 and 1853 and section lines in 1854. Still more oaks are shown along the "Mariposa River." Pieces of road show in the northeast quarter of 1, in the northeast of 3, and in the northwest of 6. Along the north side of the main or south branch of the Mariposa are houses as follows: Lovejoy in the southwest of 18, Cooper in the southwest of 17, Rogers in the northeast of 15, Fitzhugh in the southeast of 11, Vance in the northwest of 13. On the north side of the north branch in the southwest quarter of 9 is Swan's house. The Fort Miller road runs the northeast corner of 8/16. The township lines were surveyed in 1852 and 1853, the section lines in 1854. McDermot's house is shown just south of the Mariposa and west of the Fort Miller road in the northeast quarter of 2. Fremont's Ranch is shown on the south side of the Mariposa in the southwest of the northeast of section 10. There is a field of perhaps 25 or 30 acres in the southern portions of 16 and 17. Deadman's Creek is shown. The next township east, 8/17, had its south and west boundaries surveyed in 1853,

and its north and east and section lines in 1855. "Beagle's" (Bieghle's) house is shown in the northeast of the northwest of 19. The Stockton and Fort Miller road, which became the Merced-Mariposa division line in 1855, enters this township in section 7 and leaves it at 36. The house of the Antelope Rancho is shown on the south side of Deadman's Creek in the northwest of the southeast of 17. Dutchman's Creek is shown. Passing on out of Merced County, we find in 8/18, surveyed in 1853 and 1856, the town of Buchanan and a copper smelting works in the northeast quarter of 33, south of the Chowchilla River.

Township 9 South, Range 7 East, was not surveyed until 1858 and 1859; it shows Quinto and Romero Creeks. The east line of 9/8 was surveyed in 1853, the rest in 1858 and 1859. There is a road along the north side in 3 and 4, a house on the south side in the southeast of 8, and a road to Hill's Ferry in 36. There is no culture in 9/9. In 9/10, surveyed, township lines in 1853 and 1854, and section lines in 1861, appear the road to Visalia in 2 and 1, and part of the Santa Rita Grant in 1, 12, and half of 13. No culture appears on the next six townships east. In 9/17, surveyed in the first quarter of 1854, appears Warren's barley field, south of the Chowchilla, in the southwest quarter of 2 and the northwest of 11.

The San Luis Gonzaga appears in part on 10/7, but no houses or fields. Not surveyed until 1858 to 1878. In 10/8, surveyed, part of east township line in 1854, balance in 1858 and 1859, appear the overland stage road and the telegraph line, going northeasterly, vicinity of San Luis ranch house. In 10/9 appears the San Luis and Stockton road. There are also several houses, but the township was resurveyed in 1886, after surveys in 1853, 1854, and 1858, and these are probably not early, except perhaps the "old s. corral," in the southeast of 34. No culture is shown on the next four townships running easterly.

A number of houses and roads are shown in townships 11 and 12 south, but so much of the surveying was done later, a good deal of it during the seventies, that it is doubtful if any of the culture dates back to the fifties.

Very briefly, then, there are shown on these surveys, before the county was organized, houses and other works of man all along the Merced from Merced Falls to the San Joaquin, down Bear Creek towards where Merced now is, and Richardson's about three miles further down, down Mariposa Creek to the Central Pacific and the State Highway, with three houses further down. On the West Side, Hill's Ferry, the San Luis Ranch, the roads to Stockton and to Visalia; but on account of the later dates of the greater part of the surveys, perhaps nothing else that we dare assert, on the authority of the surveys, was there in 1855.

We turn now from geography to biography. If we except the very slight and soon abandoned start towards settlement which appears to have been made by John C. Fremont, in all probability before that date, the first settlement by Americans in what is now Merced County appears pretty conclusively to have been made by John M. Montgomery and Col. Samuel Scott in the fall of 1849. The sketch of Scott in the 1881 History, which was published in the year of Scott's death, says he "in 1849 came to Merced, then Mariposa County, and entered into the stock business." This sketch tells of his partnership with Montgomery. The sketch of Mr. Montgomery in the 1905 History and Biography, says: "In the fall of 1849 Mr. Montgomery, with Samuel Scott, located in probably the first settlement in what is now Merced County, being but a short distance below the present site of Snelling." Both men were born in Kentucky, Scott in 1809, Montgomery in 1816, and they came to California in 1847, to Monterey, and engaged in business there until the discovery of gold drew them across the Coast Range to the Merced River. Mr. Montgomery does not appear to have done any mining. His sketch in the 1905 History says he hauled freight instead; and after he and Scott had located on the Merced, he engaged in farming and stock-raising. We have seen how he appears to have been the richest man in the county in 1857; and later, up to the time of the beginning of grain-raising on a large scale about the end of the sixties, he was called the money and cattle king of Merced County. Mr. Montgomery returned to Missouri in 1852 and married Elizabeth Armstrong. On their return to California in 1854 their daughter Mary, now Mrs. I. J. Buckley, was born in the month of June at the sink of the Carson, in what was then part of Utah Territory. Mr. Montgomery established his family in the home on Bear Creek which he had made ready before he went East, and which in more recent years is known as the Wolfsen Ranch.

Montgomery and Scott, when they arrived on the Merced River in the fall of 1849, camped, it is said, under one of the large water-oak trees which serve so greatly to beautify and give character to the river bottom all the way from Merced Falls to the San Joaquin. The place was a short distance north of the present Cox Ferry bridge, on the left-hand side of the road leading from the bridge out to the paved county highway which leads from Hopeton to Snelling. The tree was standing, up until a few years ago, but has now fallen and disappeared. A short distance up the river from where the gravel pit is now located from which the gravel for the Exchequer Dam is being obtained, still stands a house known as "the old Montgomery house." It is not on its original site, however. The large brick house just at the lower edge of Snelling was of course much later; we read elsewhere of when Mr. Montgomery built it about the end of

the sixties. Colonel Scott's farm on the Merced came to be called "Baluerte," and was a splendid estate alone in the late sixties, where the owner appears to have dispensed a hospitality very characteristic of the old South. Mrs. Rowena Granice Steele made the place the scene of a romance, "Baluerte," and it figured in another book or two which she also wrote. The place is what is now known as the Cook & Dale place. Colonel Scott's operations on the Merced were interrupted, after his arrival with Montgomery in 1849, by a period of mining, at Placerville, El Dorado County, among other places.

Montgomery and Scott and Dr. David Wallace Lewis established a house of entertainment which was the beginning of Snelling, in the spring of 1851, Steele tells us in the "Argus" of June 18, 1870—early in the spring, he says. The place was kept by Dr. Lewis. It was first a brush tent, but shortly Dr. Lewis built what was afterwards known as Snelling's Hotel. The Snelling family arrived in the fall of 1851, Steele says, and purchased the property.

Meanwhile, in September, 1850, Dr. Joshua Griffith settled on the Merced. The biographical sketch of him in the 1881 History says that when he settled on the Merced there were only three other men on the river; namely, Samuel Scott, J. M. Montgomery, and James Waters. Montgomery and Scott are names well known, but the name of James Waters soon disappears, so far as we have been able to find. The sketch of W. C. Turner in the 1881 History says that James Waters was the leader of the party with which Mr. Turner came to California—from Salt Lake to Los Angeles, at least. The party was at Salt Lake in September, 1849, and came on to Los Angeles. They came over the Tejon Pass and to Fort Miller, and, says the sketch, "Here resting a few days, they went to a place called Fine Gold Gulch and did some prospecting. From there they went on to Mariposa County." Mrs. Louisa Stevinson is the only person, so far as we have been able to find, who knows of James Waters now; and from her we learn that he owned the place where James J. Stevinson settled on the lower Merced in August, 1852. Stevinson bought him out, and presumably Waters moved away from this vicinity.

The 1881 History tells of a "Strange Meeting on the Merced," relating that "Joseph Griffith" and "William Hawkins" both were members of the Ashley expedition, it says in 1823. This was the Ashley who was a partner of Jedediah Smith, who led a party through the San Joaquin Valley in 1827. There is in the 1881 book a short sketch of John Hawkins, which states that he settled on the Merced about three miles from its mouth in June, 1852, and established Hawkins' Ferry, and died in 1858, leaving a widow, three sons, and four daughters. The sketch of Joshua Griffith says that Griffith went to Missouri in 1820 (he was born in Pennsylvania in 1800 and moved to Ohio in 1810), and that "Here he met John Hawkins, and these

two finally found themselves settled on the Merced River in 1852.”

Judge James Wood Robertson, a Mississippi man, came to California by way of Mexico and by ship to San Francisco in the summer of 1849; mined in Tuolumne County, at Jacksonville; returned to Stockton when the rainy season began; and reached the old California Ferry on the Merced River, afterwards known as Young's Ferry, in January, 1850, where he remained until summer. “In the fall of 1850,” says the sketch about him in the Elliott & Moore history, “he took a trip to the northern mines. The next winter and summer he tried mining at Canyon Creek, near Georgetown, El Dorado County, but returned again in 1857 to the Merced River, and has remained there ever since. In 1855, on the organization of the county, he was elected Assessor . . .” From the context, it seems probable that the “1857” was a misprint for 1851.

N. B. Stoneroad, an Arkansas man, came across the plains to Los Angeles and up the coast to San Jose, where he arrived during October, 1849. He left San Jose on November 1, 1849, for the Mariposa County mines, came by way of Pacheco Pass, and arrived at Agua Fria in the latter part of the month. He mined at Agua Fria for several months, then established a store at Horseshoe Bend, on the Merced River, in what will be a part of the Exchequer reservoir when the dam now under construction is completed. In October, 1850, he moved to Garota No. 2 in Tuolumne County and kept a store there for a year, and then in the fall of 1851 returned to Arkansas, from which State he returned during the summer of 1852 across the plains by the southern route, with the loss of their stock, which was driven off by Indians west of El Paso. He reached Mariposa County again in the fall of 1852, mined during the winter, and in the spring, with his father and three other gentlemen, formed the partnership of Stoneroads, Cathey, McCreary & Kelly. Cathey and McCreary drew out the next spring, and Stoneroad & Kelly continued the business until 1860. They had a tract of land, bought in 1853, about five miles southeast of Plainsburg. Stoneroad continued in the cattle business until the late sixties, when grain-raising began to take up the range, and then went to grain-raising himself, on two sections on Mariposa Creek. He raised a lot of sheep also in this and Fresno Counties, and in 1876, with two brothers, George W. and Thomas, and William Dickenson, his brother-in-law, drove 10,000 sheep to New Mexico, where they bought a tract of land and went into the sheep business. N. B. Stoneroad, however, continued to live on his ranch in this county. His wife, whom he married in 1867, was a daughter of Gallant D. and Isabella Dickenson, and was also an early pioneer, a member of the party who crossed the Sierras in 1846, just a few days ahead of the Donner party. Mrs. F. H. Farrar is a daughter of Mrs. Stoneroad, by a former marriage with a man named Peck.

Eleazer T. Givens, born in Kentucky in 1828, came to California across the plains by way of St. Louis and Salt Lake in 1849. He came to the southern mines in 1850; working first on Coarse Gold Gulch, in what is now Madera County, and later on Auga Fria and Whitlock's Creeks in Mariposa County. It was on October 11, 1850, that he went hunting a grizzly with three other men. One of them, named Childs, and Givens, wounded the bear, and later came up with it in the chaparral, where it attacked Givens. He lost half his scalp and was otherwise badly bitten before Childs succeeded in killing the animal. This ended Givens' mining. In 1851, after recovering from his wounds, he returned to Kentucky, to his father's home. His parents came to California in 1852. He himself married Miss Martha Pratt of Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1853, and they returned to California, to the old Texas Ranch, or Texas Tent, between Hornitos and Indian Gulch, then owned by his father. In 1854 he settled on Bear Creek and in 1856 on Mariposa Creek. It was on this latter ranch, then the Turner & Osborn ranch, where the first county seat was located in 1855. The ranch is still owned by Mr. Givens' children.

William C. Turner, a Missouri man, settled on the Merced River in September, 1852. He crossed the plains in 1849, and from Salt Lake the party, under the guidance of James Waters, came on to Los Angeles, and then north over the Tejon Pass and to Fort Miller and Fine Gold Gulch. Mr. Turner reached Sherlock's Creek in Mariposa County, December 8, 1849, and remained in Mariposa County until 1852, when he came to the Merced River.

W. L. Means, born in Alabama in 1827, arrived in San Francisco by way of Mexico in August, 1850. He came to Don Pedro Bar, and then to the Mariposa County mines, first on the Merced River and later at Agua Fria. In 1851 he came down to the present Robla, on Bear Creek about ten miles west of Merced, and went to hunting elk and antelope to supply meat to the mines. He built the adobe house at Robla. To help him he had several Indians hired, and a white man named McPherson, who had lived a number of years among the Indians, presumably a member of one of the earlier trapping parties who had chosen to remain in California.

Col. Archibald Stevinson, a Kentuckian, and his son, James J. Stevinson, born in Missouri, came to California in 1849. James J. arrived early in the year, and mined at Mormon Gulch, Tuolumne County, in April and May of that year. For three months thereafter he acted as agent for Colonel Jackson at Jacksonville on the Tuolumne River. Then his father arrived from Chihuahua, Mexico, and the two in November, 1849, entered into partnership in a storekeeping venture. The Elliott & Moore history says they remained there until August, 1852, but E. W. Stockird says his grandfather left there

in 1850 or 1851. At any rate J. J. Stevinson located on the Merced River on August 1, 1852, and A. Stevinson on September 23 of the same year. J. J. Stevinson, on December 27, 1855, married Miss Louisa Jane Cox, daughter of Isom J. Cox, who conducted Cox's Ferry across the Merced. Mrs. Stevinson has already been mentioned as one of the few pioneers remaining who date their residence here from before the County's organization.

Erastus Kelsey settled on his farm near Merced Falls in 1853. He was born in Oneida County, New York, in 1827. He crossed the plains, and arrived at Sacramento on August 18, 1849. He joined the Quincy Mining Company in 1849, and then, in November of the same year, settled on a ranch on the west side of the Sacramento in company with Joel D. Nichols, J. W. H. Campbell, and a man named Shryer, under the firm name of Nichols, Campbell & Co. The next April, with Nichols and Campbell, he went to Auburn and Spanish Flats and again went to mining. He returned east, to Illinois, in the fall of 1850, married Miss Malinda Powers in 1851, and returned to California in 1852. Four sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey: Charles, George P., Horace G., and Arthur L. Kelsey.

William Nelson, born in New Hampshire in 1812, came to California in 1849 from New Brunswick around the Horn. With his wife and his son, Henry, he arrived in San Francisco in May, 1850. He mined for two years, and then went to Humboldt Bay in the winter of 1852 on the steamer Santa Clara, which he converted into a sawmill for Ryan, Dupp & Co. He had learned the trade of a millwright in the East. After several months in the Humboldt Bay section, he returned to San Francisco in the fall of 1852 and built a flour mill on Jackson Street, which he ran for three months. In 1854 he came to Merced Falls and built the flour mill which started the business of thirty-nine years in that line there conducted by him and his son, Henry, whom he took in as a partner in 1866, when the son was twenty-two years of age. It was in March, 1854, that Mr. Nelson came to Merced Falls. In 1867 the Nelsons took part in organizing a company and building a woolen mill adjoining their flour mill. Both were destroyed by fire in 1872, and the rebuilt mills were burned in 1893.

Henry Nelson, the son mentioned, is one of the earliest pioneers of the county now living. He married Miss Lola A. Lawrence in 1870. One son and four daughters were born to them: William N., Lola, Almah, Inez, and Etta. After 1893, when the Nelson & Son's second mill was burned, Henry Nelson helped run the Ruddle mill on the south side of the river below Snelling, which has only recently been torn down. During his milling days he hauled flour to the market in the mining country from Sonora to Coarse Gold. Mount Ophir, where John C. Fremont was a customer, Mariposa, and Princeton,

now called Mt. Bullion, are among the places he mentions to which his flour team went. Mr. Nelson recalls the beginning of the town of Merced and relates that after the burning of their mill in 1872, Merced's first year of existence, their team being short of work in the way of hauling flour, he brought it over here and for two months that summer hauled wheat from the ranches out in the present Tuttle section to the new warehouse here for shipment. He made two trips a day with two wagons, carrying 10,000 and 7,000 pounds respectively. In this grain we see the reason for the coming of the railroad and the moving of the county seat from Merced River bottom to the plains. Henry Nelson has been a resident of Merced for a number of years and up to the end of 1924 was actively engaged in the real estate and insurance business. A few months ago he retired from business on account of being troubled with neuritis. Mrs. Nelson died in May, 1925.

Thomas Claiborne Deane, born in Kentucky in 1826, came to California by the southern route in 1849. He lived in what was then Mariposa County until the formation of Merced, and engaged in stock-raising. In the sketch of him in the 1881 History we read that he was one of those who encouraged cotton-raising in the county, and that there were then between 2500 and 3000 acres of cotton in Merced County. Henry Nelson recalls that Mr. Dean was known as "Claibe" to his intimates.

Whether that interesting early figure, James Capen Adams, known as "Grizzly Adams," was ever in what is now Merced County, we cannot tell; but he tells in his *Life*, written by Theodore Hittell and published in San Francisco, we believe in the sixties, of coming down from the mountains and outfitting at a place called Howard's Ranch, and then returning to Strawberry in Tuolumne County. He hunted on the Merced River in the mountains, and tells of killing and capturing alive grizzly bears there.

Thomas Price came to this county on August 25, 1854; it was of course then a part of Mariposa County. He was an Arkansas man, and came across the plains in 1853. He seems to have been one of the comparatively few who did not follow mining. He went to stock-raising at once, and in 1855 went to Texas and bought a drove of cattle and drove them here. This is one of the recorded cases of driving stock out from the East. Whether his Texas cattle would classify in the 1857 assessment roll as "American" or "Spanish," we may wonder, but the presence of considerable numbers of "American" stock cattle by that year shows that numbers of others must probably have driven cattle here across the plains.

Samuel L. Givens, one of the pioneers who came prior to the formation of Merced County and who is still living, came with his parents from their former home near Caseyville, Kentucky, by New Orleans

and the Isthmus in 1853. They arrived at San Francisco February 2 of that year, and at the Texas Ranch near Hornitos five days later. Two older brothers, Eleazer T. and Robert Robinson Givens, the former already mentioned, had come out in 1849 for the first time. Other brothers were Tom and John; and there were four sisters: Matilda L., who died in 1853; Jane R., Mrs. D. M. Poole, of Stockton; Catherine D., Mrs. A. J. Gregory, of Mariposa; and Mary Richards, Mrs. Eli E. Thrift, of Stockton. Mr. Givens lives on his ranch on Bear Creek, twelve or thirteen miles above Merced; and while the Texas Ranch was the family home, they had a stock ranch within what is now Merced County, on Bear Creek, since the early fifties. A man named M. O. Barbour formerly owned the S. L. Givens place. A short distance down Bear Creek from Mr. Givens' place, J. M. Montgomery lived in 1857, on the present Wolfsen place; and Mr. Givens relates that there was in that vicinity, in the creek bottom, a corral for the capture of wild horses, with a long "wing" fence running out into the plains to turn them towards the corral. A low fence was sufficient to turn them, he states. The Mexicans used to catch the horses here. Until 1867, Mr. Givens himself rode a horse which J. B. Cocanour caught between the Montgomery Ranch and Lone Tree in 1854. He recalls that he went through Pacheco Pass twice in the early days: once in 1858, on his way to college at Santa Clara, when he was about fifteen years old, and a second time in 1869, in pursuit of some horse-thieves who had run off some horses from the Texas Ranch. These two trips were on horseback. He relates that when he was on his way across in 1858, as a boy, he remembers a stage drawing up at the San Luis Ranch, a four-in-hand, with four men and four women passengers, Castilians, the women as fine-looking as he ever saw, with black eyes and very fair skins. We are indebted to Mr. Givens for some information about the early surveys in the county. Jack Hays was United States deputy surveyor and ran the township lines in 1853. A man named Reed afterwards surveyed the sections. General J. W. Bost and Richard Thomas surveyed Mr. Givens' place.

E. W. Healy, born in New York State in 1820, crossed the plains from Illinois in 1853. At Salt Lake he left his party to join J. M. Montgomery's train—this was not, of course, Mr. Montgomery's first trip—and came through with him to his ranch on Bear Creek, where they arrived August 14, 1854. Healy mined in Mariposa County during the dry winter of 1854-1855. He barely made expenses, and returned to work for Mr. Montgomery in 1856.

Alexander George Black, while not a pioneer of Merced prior to the county's formation, yet crossed the county in the year of its formation. He came around the Horn to San Francisco from Boston in 1853, farmed two years in the Pajaro Valley, and then came across the Pacheco Pass to Mariposa County in 1855, hauled lumber for

Clark's sawmill, and in 1856 built a stable at Hornitos, and afterwards kept a grocery store and teamed until 1865.

Henry Clay Daulton, a pioneer of Fresno County since 1858, also fails to qualify as a pioneer of Merced prior to 1855, but his story must be mentioned briefly. He came to California in 1850 and mined in the vicinity of Hangtown and Coloma. In 1852 he returned home; in 1853 again he started west, having hired out to Thomas Hildreth at New London, Missouri, to drive an ox team across the plains for fifteen dollars a month. They brought a heavy train of cattle and sheep, left New London May 17, 1853, came by way of Salt Lake, and reached Los Angeles November 24 of the same year. He came to Fresno County, to the part that is now Madera County, from Los Angeles in 1858. The Daulton Ranch, one of the best-known in Madera, and Daulton Station in the foothills on the railroad to Raymond, perpetuate his name.

Thomas Givens, a brother of Eleazer T. and Samuel L. Givens, while he came with his father's family to the Texas Ranch in 1853, appears hardly to have qualified as a resident of Merced County before its organization. He mined in the Mariposa hills for a few years, and in 1858 went to Santa Clara County and began farming there, and then shortly afterwards came back to the San Joaquin Valley and located in this county.

Edward Wheaton Buffum and Nathaniel Stephenson Stockton, the former a New Hampshire man and the latter from Alabama, came to Mariposa County in the summer of 1854 and went into partnership, built a water ditch to supply the miners, and operated that for several years, and also a stock ranch about four miles from Hornitos, raising cattle, horses, mules, hogs, and goats, notably Angora goats. They also had a ranch in Merced County, in the country out towards Plainsburg, but apparently not early enough to qualify them as pioneers from before the formation of Merced County.

The Merced Express of April 3, 1880, published what the owners, W. P. Stoneroad & Co., say they believe to be "a complete list of the old settlers of Merced County who now [1880] reside in this county, and who came to California previous to" the admission of the State into the Union on September 9, 1850. We have no way of knowing how many of these pioneers were in this county when it was formed, except as we gather the information elsewhere. The list follows:

Aiken, William R., Mississippi
 Blackburn, J. C., Ohio
 Bennett, P. B., Ireland
 Bost, J. W., Mississippi
 Carroll, Patrick, Ireland

Chapman, Joseph, Maryland
 Chamberlain, A., New York
 Clough, A. W., New Hampshire
 Cargile, Thomas B., Kentucky
 Chandler, R. T., Georgia

Cox, Isom J., Tennessee	McCreary, W. A., Alabama
Cocanour, J. B., Pennsylvania	McFarlane, N., Tennessee
Chapman, Harry, New York	McFarlane, John L., Tennessee
Dean, T. C., Kentucky	Nelson, William, New Hampshire
Dickenson, Samuel, Missouri	Openheim, Ben., Germany
Dickenson, G. W., Missouri	Ostrander, H. J. New York
Dowst, W. B., Massachusetts	O'Donnell, John, Ireland
Evans, Charles E., Louisiana	Peck, James B., New York
Fee, Peter, Norway	Peak, L., Illinois
Griffith, Joshua, Pennsylvania	Powell, George W., Texas
Gardenhire, F., Pennsylvania	Russell, George, Connecticut
Goldman, M., Prussia	Rogers, G. W., New York
Givens, E. T., Kentucky	Robertson, J. W., Mississippi
Herne, Levi, Missouri	Ruddle, John, Missouri
Hulse, A. W., New York	Reynolds, Rube, Georgia
Howell, W. L., Pennsylvania	Rolfe, Nelson, Virginia
Hicks, James E., Missouri	Stoneroad, N. B., Alabama
Hayes, George, Maine	Spears, S. K., New York
Huffman, C. H., Louisiana	Stevinson, James J., Missouri
Halstead, G. W., New York	Stevinson, Col. A., Kentucky
Ivett, John, England	Smith, Edward H., New York
Ingalsbe, Albert, New York	Scott, Samuel, Kentucky
Jones, J. Y., Virginia	Steele, Robert J., North Carolina
Johnson, Thomas, Ireland	Turner, George, New York
Kibby, James, New York	Thurman, M. H., Tennessee
Kelsey, Erastus, New York	Thurman, Eli, Tennessee
Keys, John, Virginia	Turner, Nicholas, Tennessee
Kahl, Adam, Pennsylvania	Tyson, Ed. H., North Carolina
Larkin, Frank, New York	Turner, W. C., North Carolina
Leggett, T. A., New York	Wilson, L. P., New York
Montgomery, J. M., Kentucky	Wheat, Job, New York
Marsh, J. B., Massachusetts	Ward, George W., Missouri
McErlane, Hugh, Ireland	Yates, Adam, New York

Henry Nelson remembers many of these and has knowledge of quite a number of them being here when the county was formed. William R. Aiken, afterwards county assessor, he thinks was here that early. A. W. Clough was here that early. So were Isom J. Cox and J. B. Cocanour, and T. C. Dean. W. B. Dowst, father of Deputy Sheriff D. D. Dowst, now a resident of Merced, was here that early. Henry Nelson remembers that when he first came to Merced Falls in March, 1854, Mr. Dowst was the driver of the stage on which he came from Stockton. He remembers Peter Fee, but Fee was not in this county but at Mount Ophir in 1855. This is the Peter Fee, a native of Norway, who did live in this county, a

short distance above Snelling, a little later, and whose diary we have for the years 1858 to 1862 inclusive. About W. L. Howell, Nelson remembers well that he lived on Dry Creek, and that he went to school with Mark Howell, W. L.'s son, in the fifties. James E. Hicks he thinks was here as early as 1855.

George Hayes was not in the county at the time of its organization. He was a resident on the Merced River, however, earlier. He took up a ranch on the Merced River in 1852, near Snelling. He had first come to California in August 1849. He was a native of Maine, where he was born in 1820. Soon after he took up the ranch near Snelling, his wife came out from the East, and they began keeping hotel in Mariposa. Their hotel was the Mariposa Hotel, and Henry Nelson remembers that he stayed there once as a boy, and that Mr. Hayes treated him very kindly. After living in Mariposa County until 1877, during part of which time he had charge of the county hospital there, Mr. Hayes came to Merced County and took charge of the Merced County Hospital, which was located at that time up Bear Creek from Merced.

C. H. Huffman, Mr. Nelson recalls, was not in the county when it was formed. He was in Stockton, had "the finest mules in the country," and used to haul from Stockton to Mariposa and through the southern mines.

G. W. Halstead came to a farm about a mile below Snelling in 1854. John Ivett, and Albert Ingalsbe, and also Dan Ingalsbe were here when the county was formed. The Ingalsbes came in 1854. James Kibby was here, near Merced Falls, in 1855. "We bought his place," Mr. Nelson says. "It joined us down the river. George was born there." George, son of James Kibby, who is G. W. Kibby, present county treasurer, was born, he himself says, about a mile above Snelling in 1858.

John Keys was here as early as 1855. He drove team in the early days, which was how Nelson became acquainted with him. Later he lived at Keys Grove on the San Joaquin. Frank Larkin was an early resident on Dry Creek, probably as early as 1855. McFarlane was on Dry Creek also as early as 1855. Mr. Nelson recalls this, and Mrs. John Ruddle informs us that John McFarlane was a member of the party with which her husband came out from Missouri in 1849. Mrs. Ruddle's mother was a McFarlane and Mrs. E. G. Rector was another.

Nicholas Turner was here as early as 1854 or 1855, Henry Nelson recalls. Mrs. Ruddle tells us that in 1854, when John Ruddle went back to Missouri and drove out two hundred and fifty cattle, he was accompanied to California by his brother-in-law, Pleasant Henderson, and "Pleas's" brother, Jim Henderson, and that Jim Henderson's wife was Nicholas Turner's daughter. L. P. Wilson was here as early

as 1855. He lived on the Castle Bluff Ranch before Spears and Odel. Job Wheat was here pretty early; and George W. Ward was on Dry Creek, Nelson thinks, as early as 1855.

John Ruddle, until his death recently (February 1, 1925) the oldest of the county's living pioneers, was born October 17, 1830, and came out across the plains with an ox team from Missouri to California in 1849. In the party, as has been mentioned, was John McFarlane. Basil Delashment was another, and still another was a man named Boatwright. Mr. Ruddle mined in Mariposa County in 1849. In 1852, when his parents came out from Missouri, he came down to the country below Snelling, and he and his brother Allen settled on the place known commonly in later times as the Stockird Ranch, now owned by Carlon and Silman.

Allen Ruddle was killed in 1853, supposedly by the notorious Joaquin Murietta and Three-Fingered Jack. Mrs. Ruddle tells how he remarked that he was tired of sitting on boxes, and took three yoke of cattle and a wagon and a quantity of gold, money or gold dust, and started one morning for Stockton to buy some furniture. His team came home with the wagon about dusk the same day, and the following day they found his body, with bullet holes in it, along the old road that leads up over the bluff to the north from the river bottom, about four or five miles below Snelling. The spot was between the old Buckley stone house and a ford on Dry Creek, just about north of Hopeton. So far as we are informed, this killing of Allen Ruddle was the only murder by Joaquin Murietta in Merced County; and the evidence connecting him with that, Mrs. Ruddle states, was wholly circumstantial.

We have already told how John Ruddle returned to Missouri in 1854 and drove out a herd of two hundred and fifty cattle, and that Pleasant and Jim Henderson were members of his party on the return. The cattle were American stock, Mrs. Ruddle tells us, and she remembers how, after her arrival in 1859 (she married Mr. Ruddle in 1860), they drove up some of the cows and made butter and cheese. Her mother made the cheese, the first home-made cheese in the county, and found a ready market for it. They had ten or twelve cows to milk. It is interesting to note that in all the ninety-four pages which remain of the assessment roll of 1857, although there are thousands of cattle mentioned, only once is a "cow" mentioned. One wonders whether this indicates that cows—milk cows—were scarce, or perhaps merely that the assessor had occasion only this once to use the singular of "cattle."

Mrs. Ruddle did not come out until 1859; but her brother, William Jefferson Hardwick, called "J," came out in 1854 at the age of eighteen, in the employment of a man named McPhatridge, who drove

out a herd of cattle from Missouri. McPhatridge had been in California before. Mrs. Ruddle thinks he settled at Santa Rosa.

The Hardwick party took just two weeks short of six months to make the trip from Missouri across the plains, and they were two days and a half in crossing the Platte, where they had to go over on a raft and swim their cattle. The Indians were massacring emigrants before and behind them, but their party was not attacked. One day they came to where there were several ox-yokes and some smoothing irons on the ground, a wisp of long light-colored hair on a sage bush, and five newly made graves. A head-board on one of the graves bore the name of one of these five murdered by the Indians—Amanda Melvina Johnson. By a strange coincidence, Mrs. Ruddle's aunt and her sister, both members of her party, both bore the name of Amanda Malvina—Mrs. E. G. Rector, and Amanda Malvina Hardwick. They wrote their names, with the date, and left them beside the dead girl's grave for other emigrants to see. The party in crossing the desert traveled a day and a night and came to an alkali water-hole, where their cattle were so thirsty that they crowded in and drank and could not be whipped away. Quite a number of them died from drinking the poisoned water. There were a lot of other cattle from other parties which had perished in the same way.

Antone Lagomarsino, a Forty-niner, who mined in Tuolumne and near Agua Fria, settled on the Merced River adjoining the Scott place, the present Cook & Dale place, in 1852, and followed the business of market-gardening. His family moved to Merced in 1878, but he himself remained on the river until his death.

John W. Morgan and Lee Hamlin built in 1852 the first flour mill on the Merced River, at the place where the mill known as the Ruddle Mill stood until only a few years ago. This was known as the Lee Hamlin Mill. Mr. Morgan and his wife, after some years, sold out on the river and moved to Santa Cruz, and Mrs. Morgan is living there now at the age of ninety. She was Jane Pitzer before her marriage, and her brother was D. K. Pitzer, the father of Mrs. William Adams of Merced.

Mrs. Sensabaugh, the widow of J. B. Sensabaugh (who was sheriff in 1865) and mother of A. T. Sensabaugh of Merced, was in her girlhood Modest Walling; she was a niece of John Ruddle, and came out to the Merced River with her mother and a party of other relatives of Mr. Ruddle at the age of twelve years, in 1854. Mrs. Sensabaugh now lives in San Francisco, and was eighty-three years of age in February of the present year (1925).

George P. Kelsey, second son of Erastus Kelsey, now living in Berkeley, presents a case to argue about, as to whether he is entitled to be called a pioneer of the county from the time of its organiza-

tion. The act creating the county was approved April 19, 1855, the election on the organization was held on May 14, the vote on that election was canvassed on May 19, George Kelsey was born on May 25, and the first meeting of the board of supervisors and the first court were held on June 4, all in 1855. Charles Kelsey, eldest son of Erastus Kelsey, was born before the organization of the county; he is no longer living.

In the Le Grand section live two pioneers of the days before the county was organized, Mrs. Penelope Rogers and William Cyrus Wilson. They came out in the same party in 1852, from Missouri. G. W. Rogers was Mrs. Rogers' husband. Alfred Harrell was her brother-in-law, and William Johnson was another brother-in-law, and William Johnson was W. C. Wilson's uncle. They all came in the same party. William Johnson lived on what was afterwards the Adam Kahl place. He owned part of the land where the Plainsburg cemetery now is, and built an adobe house near the site of the town. Johnson left the county, Jefferson Price thinks, in 1876, and went to Texas. He was a cattle-raiser here in this county, and his nephew, W. C. Wilson ("Billy" Wilson), worked for him.

Mrs. Rogers' family remained about a year in Los Angeles, then came to Stockton, and after a short time to Merced Falls. From Merced Falls they went in 1853 to the Elkhorn Ranch in the present Mariposa County; and in 1855 they came down to near the Turner & Osborn ranch, which that summer enjoyed its brief term as the county seat of Merced County. They did not come down until towards the latter part of the summer, and therefore were not actually in the county at the exact time of its organization.

Mrs. Rogers' father was Isaac A. Ward. Ward bought a settler's right from a man named Derrick (we have already seen the name on the township plat). Ward sold to a man whose name, Mrs. Rogers recalls, was something like Atwater, and this man sold to Healy. G. W. Rogers went back to Missouri in 1853 and returned in 1854 with a bunch of cattle. He rode an iron gray horse for years that he caught out of a band.

David Eason Lewis, a pioneer of the Plainsburg section, missed being here when the county was organized by about a year; he arrived in the county in May, 1856.

Captain Nicholas Turner settled on Mariposa Creek two and a half miles east of Plainsburg, apparently in 1854. He was born in Tennessee in 1802 and married Keziah McClure in 1826. He came to California in 1848, went back in 1851, came out again in 1853, and returned to Missouri in 1856 and drove out a band of cattle. He led several emigrant trains out from the East. His son Joseph L. Turner, born in Missouri in 1838, came out to California in 1853;

and presumably it was on this trip of his father that the latter brought his family out with him.

James Cunningham, born in County Londonderry, Ireland, in 1824, followed the sea a number of years. He arrived in San Francisco in February, 1852, as captain of the clipper ship *Canada*. The crew all deserted and went to the mines. Captain Cunningham, with several months' pay unpaid, and practically "broke," became one of a party of five that went to the Yuba River. He mined there for nearly two years, but meanwhile made two trips on horseback to Mariposa County. On the first trip he located a mining claim on Mariposa Creek; on the second he found that somebody had jumped it. From Captains Smith and Renwick he bought 320 acres of land and a growing crop of barley for \$1000. This appears to have been late in 1853 or early in 1854. This land was the nucleus of the present Cunningham Ranch. When Captain Cunningham arrived, his nearest neighbors were seven miles away, both on the north and on the south.

John Boyd Cocanour was one of the earliest pioneers of the county. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1813; he arrived in San Francisco August 12, 1850, by way of Panama. He spent a very short time in the mines and then went into the cattle business in what later became the eastern part of Merced County. He kept 8000 to 10,000 head of cattle during the days before the grain farmers came; in 1872 he sold out his cattle and went to farming. He was one of the founders and stockholders of the woolen mill at Merced Falls. With J. M. Montgomery, he was amongst those who took part in the Madera lumber flume enterprise. Like Mr. Cunningham, who precedes him here, and Mr. Barfield, who follows him, he was one of the county's supervisors; he was supervisor for fourteen years.

William J. Barfield, who was a brother-in-law of John Ruddle, a native of Georgia, was a pioneer of the county, and one of the three members of the first board of supervisors. We find "Ruddle & Barfield's House" on the township plat of Township 5 South, Range 13 East, which was surveyed in 1853 and 1854; Mr. Barfield was established there and engaged in farming well before the county was organized. As has been said, his son, George Barfield, is also a pioneer of the county; he was born at his father's place on the Merced River in January, 1855.

Elbridge Gerry Rector was born in Tennessee in 1816. He went to Texas in 1835, served in the Mexican War, and came to California, to Mariposa County, in 1849. In 1853 he went to farming on the Merced River. He and E. T. Givens circulated the petition for the organization of Merced County, and Mr. Rector was the county's first county clerk, and was afterwards sheriff.

George W. Halstead, Sr., and George W. Halstead, Jr., were both pioneers of the county. The father came to the Merced River bottom in 1854 and preempted a tract of land which he farmed until 1867. George W., Jr., was thirteen when he came to the Merced River with his father. George W. Halstead, Sr., first came to California in 1849. He worked in the mines a year, returned East in 1850, and two years later brought his family out. They lived in Stockton until 1854.

B. F. Howell was a pioneer of 1853 and one of the organizers of the county.

John Loftus Ivett and William Penrose came to the Merced River and bought a squatter's claim to 160 acres of land for \$300. Ivett was a native of England and was born in 1823. He came to the United States when he was eighteen. He was established in Wisconsin in 1851; in that year he set out for California. He came around the Horn, and from San Francisco walked with several other Englishmen to Mariposa County. Ivett and Penrose's place on the Merced River was first known as the Blue Tent, later as the Bluff Ranch.

John W. Sharp was not quite a pioneer of Merced County, but he was located at Hill's Ferry in 1855; he worked for a Mr. Wilson there for a number of years. He was a native of Virginia, born in 1835. After working for Wilson he worked for John McPike. In 1874 he bought a ranch of his own on Orestimba Creek, and raised sheep until 1880, and then cattle.

Harvey J. Ostrander, born in Madison County, New York, in 1825, was one of the very early pioneers of the county, and one of those most prominently identified with its history. He came to California in 1849 overland through Mexico; walked with a partner, driving a pack horse, from San Luis Obispo to the Tuolumne; mined there; and turned up on the Merced in the fall of 1850, took another partner, and bought and sold beef cattle for two years. In 1853 he bought a steam flour mill at Stockton and set it up on the Merced River. He was a pioneer in irrigation, and a pioneer in opening up the plains to farming. During the war he raised the Stars and Stripes on a flag-pole in his yard on his place near the Merced River, on July 4, 1862, and kept them flying during the rest of the war.

John P. Murry helped J. M. Montgomery drive out a drove of cattle from Missouri in 1853; he had come to California the previous year, and returned to Missouri with Mr. Montgomery. He remained in Montgomery's employment until 1855, and then went to Tulare County.

John L. McFarlane was a pioneer to California in 1849, to Stanislaus County in 1850, and to the Dry Creek section of Merced County in 1854. He was born in Alabama in 1826. In California

he married Hannah Peeler, who crossed the plains from Missouri with her parents in 1854 and settled in Merced County.

John Phillips, a native of England, crossed the plains in 1849, tried mining a short time, then established Phillips' Ferry across the Merced at a point which was taken, upon the organization of Merced County, as marking the boundary between it and the parent county of Mariposa. He returned East in 1851 and brought out his family the next year and settled at the ferry.

A. W. Clough, the father of the late County Assessor A. G. Clough, was a pioneer to California in 1849, and after mining several years, followed blacksmithing at Hornitos and also at Phillips' Ferry. He married Tirza Phillips, daughter of John Phillips. Whether Mr. Clough was established at Merced Falls before the county was organized is uncertain.

Charles S. Peck, born in Buffalo, New York, in 1834, came to California in 1852, following two brothers, James and John, who had come out in 1849. Frank Peck, a fourth brother, joined his brothers in 1853, on the Merced River apparently. At any rate Charles S. was there. He built the first stone building in Snelling, and we are told that he then went to Mariposa County and mined for six years and then returned East in 1859. In that year he married Adaline, daughter of Peter Cook, of Genessee County. His son, James F., was born in Buffalo in January, 1860. That spring the family returned to California and located at Snelling.

Out on Mariposa Creek near the Mariposa line were John and "Paddy" Bennett, here very early. The latter kept the Union post office, where the road from Stockton to Fort Miller crossed Mariposa Creek.

Dr. J. W. Fitzhugh was a pioneer of the county before its organization. He settled with his family on Mariposa Creek. We have seen that the early survey of the townships shows his name. The place was what afterwards became the Burchell place. Henry Nelson tells of the Fitzhugh ox team bringing wheat to Nelson's mill when he was a boy. Dr. Fitzhugh was the first county judge, and it was he who held court at the first county seat. Dr. Fitzhugh was a native of Kentucky; like many other early pioneers to the county, he came here from Missouri. He was on the Merced River near Snelling as early as 1851.

General John W. Bost, who married Dr. Fitzhugh's daughter, was born in North Carolina and came to California from Mississippi. He arrived in Merced County in 1852, while still a very young man. He held the positions of county surveyor, county clerk, assemblyman, and surveyor-general.

In the old cemetery out near the foot of the bluff above Snelling as one goes out the road to Dry Creek, there are preserved the names

of several members of the Snelling family and a few others. The greater number of the bodies formerly interred there have been removed to other places of burial, and the cemetery is unfenced with the exception of the Snelling family plat. Outside of this fence are three marked graves. The names and dates on the headstones are: C. Ann Duckwall, born April, 1838, died August 8, 1859; Ricardo G. Lambert, native of London, died November 8, 1871, aged 42 years; and Mary Elizabeth, daughter of D. A. and N. K. Jamison, died November 7, 1864, aged 2 years, 5 months, 1 day. Inside the fence are: Dr. J. W. Goodin, died January, 1859, aged about 35 years; Frances C. R. Bludworth, born June 5, 1862, died April 26, 1873; Frances Bludworth, the beloved wife of Wm. N. Neil, died April 1, 1876, aged 35 years, 7 months, 9 days; William S. Snelling, died December 5, 1858, aged 37 years; Sarah A. White, died Oct. 5, 1852, aged 35 years; Charles F. Bludworth, native of La., died Dec. 7, 1869, aged 39 years; B. Snelling, native of La., died Nov. 29, 1858, aged 66 years; Abiah T. Snelling, died Oct. 10, 1853, aged 10 years and 11 months; Thomas B. Hill, born Nov. 12, 1819, died Dec. 31, 1868. There are footstones bearing the following initials: W. S. S., A. T. S., S. A. W., B. S., F. C. R. B., and C. F. B.

This Dr. J. W. Goodin was presumably one of the six men who figured in the shooting which Peter Fee so briefly chronicles: "Three men kild in Snelling." Charles F. Bludworth was the county's first sheriff; and Frances Bludworth, his wife, who afterwards married William Neil, was born a Snelling. Whether Thomas B. Hill was a pioneer we cannot tell; his headstone bears the dates of his birth and death and Masonic and Odd Fellows emblems.

Charles V. Snelling, who we presume lived later than those of his family who rest here, was the man who deeded to the county the site for its first court house and jail; the deed stands of record among the first deeds recorded in the county. A member of the sixth generation of the Snelling family in Merced County is now living in Merced, aged about two years.

CHAPTER VII

ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARIES

An act to create the County of Merced, to define its boundaries and to provide for its organization, was passed by the legislature and approved April 19, 1855, and is as follows:

"The People of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

"Section 1. There shall be formed out of the southwestern portion of Mariposa County a new county to be called Merced.

"Section 2. The boundary of Merced County shall be as follows: Beginning at a place on the San Joaquin River known as Converse's Ferry, thence along the main road leading to a place on the Merced River known as Phillips' Upper Ferry, thence in a straight line to the southeast corner of Stanislaus and southwest of Tuolumne counties, thence along the line dividing Mariposa and Stanislaus counties to the western corner of the same, thence southeastwardly along the western boundary of Mariposa County to the corner of Tulare and said county of Mariposa, thence along the dividing line of Tulare and Mariposa counties to the road leading from Converse's Ferry on the San Joaquin river to Visalia in Tulare county, thence in a straight line to the place of beginning.

"Section 3. The seat of Justice shall be at such place as may be determined by the qualified electors of the county at the election for county officers, as provided by this Act.

"Section 4. There shall be an election held for county officers, and to determine the county seat in said county of Merced, on the second Monday in May of the present year, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.

"Section 5. At the election mentioned in the preceding section there shall be chosen a Board of Supervisors consisting of three persons, one County Judge, one County Attorney, one County Clerk who shall be ex-officio County Recorder, one Sheriff, one County Surveyor, one Assessor, one Treasurer, one Coroner and one Public Administrator, also a place to be the seat of justice.

"Section 6. A. Stevenson, Wm. Neal, W. J. Barfield, Charles V. Snelling, John McDermot, Samuel Lovejoy and C. F. Bludworth are hereby appointed and constituted a Board of Commissioners to designate the election precincts in said county of Merced for the said election, and to appoint the Inspectors and Judges of the several precincts as designated; to receive the returns of election and to issue certificates of election to the persons entitled to the same.

"Section 7. The laws of a general nature now in force regulating elections in this State, shall apply to the election ordered by this Act, except that the above Board of Commissioners herein appointed shall designate the election precincts, appoint the Inspectors and Judges of election, receive the returns of election, issue the several certificates to the persons elected, and declare what place receives the highest number of votes for county seat.

"Section 8. Said Board of Commissioners shall hold their first session for the transaction of business at the house of James A. Neal & Co., in said county.

"Section 9. The said Board of Commissioners shall meet on the Monday two weeks previous to the election. At such meeting said Board shall appoint one of their number President, and one as Clerk. A record of their proceedings shall be kept; the attendance of a majority of the members of the Board shall be necessary for the transaction of business; at the said meeting the Board shall designate the precincts of the county and appoint Inspectors and Judges of such precincts, and give notice at each of the said precincts.

"Section 10. Sealed returns from the officers of election may be delivered to any member of said Board. The said Board shall meet on the fifth day subsequent to the election at the house of James A. Neal & Co., and the returns shall then be opened and read, and under their direction, and in their presence a tabular statement shall be made out, showing the vote given at each precinct of the county, for each person and for each of the offices to be filled at the election, and also the entire vote given for each person, and in the county for county seat, and for what place or places cast. The statement made out by such Board, shall be signed by its President and Clerk. The place for which the highest number of legal votes shall be found to have been cast, shall be the county seat. The persons having the highest number of legal votes for the several offices to be filled shall be declared elected, and the President shall immediately make out and send or deliver to each person chosen, a certificate of election signed by him as President of the Commissioners, and attested by the Clerk.

"Section 11. The County Judge shall qualify before the President of the Board, and enter upon the discharge of the duties of his office on the day succeeding the meeting of the Board as provided in the preceding section. The persons elected as county officers as provided in this Act shall qualify before the County Judge within ten days thereafter, and enter upon the discharge of their duties.

"Section 12. The President of the Board shall transmit without delay a copy of the tabular statement prepared as provided for in section tenth to the Secretary of State. The election returns of the county and a duplicate tabular statement shall be furnished to and

retained by the County Judge of the county until the person elected as Clerk of said county has qualified and entered upon his duties, after which they shall be filed in his office.

“Section 13. The County Judge chosen under this Act shall hold office for four years from the next annual election for members of the Assembly, and until his successor is elected and qualified; the other officers elected under this Act shall hold their respective offices for the term fixed by law, commencing from the next annual election for members of the Assembly.

“Section 14. The County Judge shall receive for his services such sum annually as shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors, not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars, to be paid in the manner provided by an Act to fix the compensation of County Judges and Associates of the Court of Sessions, approved May 17th, 1853.

“Section 15. The county of Merced for representative purposes shall be and remain a portion of Mariposa county as now fixed, until otherwise provided by law.

“Section 16. The county of Merced for judicial purposes shall be attached to and form a part of the Thirteenth Judicial District.

“Section 17. The Board of Supervisors of Merced county shall have power to levy a special tax, not to exceed fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of valuation of the taxable property of said county, to be assessed and collected as other taxes, and the fund arising from said special tax shall be applied solely to the erection of a jail and court house for said county.

“Section 18. The Board of Supervisors of Merced county shall appoint two Commissioners to meet a corresponding number of Commissioners appointed in like manner by Mariposa, for the purpose of ascertaining and settling the amount of indebtedness the said county of Merced shall assume and become responsible for, of the debts of the said county of Mariposa, and when ascertained and certified to by said Commissioners or a majority of them to their respective counties, the Board of Supervisors of Merced county shall cause to be issued by the County Treasurer in favor of the county of Mariposa the sum so agreed upon payable out of any money that may come into the Treasury of Merced county.

“Section 19. All township officers chosen at the general election for Mariposa county whose districts by this Act may be included within the present limits of Merced county, shall continue to hold their respective offices for said county of Merced, during the term for which they were elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

“Section 20. The Clerk and Recorder of Mariposa county upon application by any person and payment of the fees, shall furnish certified copies of all deeds or other papers recorded in their offices.

wherein the subject matter of such deed or other papers are situated in Merced county.

"Section 21. All actions pending or proceedings in the nature of actions, whether original or on appeal, civil or criminal, that were commenced by a party or parties now residing within the limits of Merced county, shall be disposed of by the tribunals and officers having jurisdiction of the same in Mariposa county upon the organization of said Merced county.

"Section 22. It shall be the duty of the County Surveyor under the instructions and direction of the Board of Supervisors to survey and mark the lines and boundaries of Merced county in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and for said services he shall receive such compensation as may be allowed by law.

"Section 23. Twenty per cent of all moneys received in the County Treasury of Merced county shall be set apart as a sinking fund to liquidate the debt due from Merced county to Mariposa county, and shall be paid over by the Treasurer of Merced county to the Treasurer of Mariposa county, every three months, and the Treasurer of Merced county shall take his receipt therefor."

There are several chapters to the story of Merced County's boundaries, and we may as well depart from the strict chronological order long enough to trace them here.

It will be noticed that the place of beginning designated in the second section of that act approved on the eightieth anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, and just quoted, was "a place on the San Joaquin River known as Converse's Ferry." If we should look for clues to this old ferry in the vicinity where the boundary line of Merced County now crosses the San Joaquin, we should be disappointed. It was located in the vicinity of the present-day Friant and the old Fort Miller, about twenty miles north of where Fresno now stands, and where the San Joaquin debouches from the foothills into the plains.

From that point the boundary followed "along the main road leading to a place on the Merced River known as Phillips' Upper Ferry," about where the bridge now crosses at Merced Falls. It is interesting and instructive to note the location of these early roads. For two reasons they avoided the lower valley country and kept along the lower edge of the hills. One reason was that the bulk of the early population—in the mining days—was in the hills. The other reason was that it was not so far to a solid bottom in winter by that route, either on land or when fording streams, as further out in the big valley. In the absence of rock-filled and hard-surfaced roads and of bridges, it was the only practicable route. The boundary proceeded "thence in a straight line to the southeast corner of Stanislaus and southwest of Tuolumne."

The changes which have taken place in the county boundaries will be most conveniently noticed in their chronological order. Before arriving at the 18th of April, 1855, when Merced County was created, however, it becomes necessary to notice the boundary as it had theretofore existed between Mariposa County and Tuolumne and the portion of Tuolumne which in 1854 became Stanislaus, across the San Joaquin Valley.

The Act of April 23, 1851, and the preceding Acts of February, 1851, and of 1850: The Act of April 23, 1851, which by its terms repeals previous acts, describes the portion of the southern boundary of Tuolumne east of the San Joaquin River as proceeding from the "summit of the Sierra Nevada to the dividing ridge between the Tuolumne and the Merced rivers; thence following the top of said ridge down to the plains at a point seven miles below the mouth of the Merced River." In Dr. Owen C. Coy's "Guide to the County Archives of California," this line, both on the map of Tuolumne and those of Stanislaus and Merced Counties, is marked as a straight line—the portion of it across the plains, that is, the part which concerns Merced County; that is to say, a straight line between the corner common to Mariposa, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced on the east, and a point on the San Joaquin River seven miles below the mouth of the Merced on the west.

From this point on the San Joaquin, the boundary followed up the San Joaquin to the mouth of the Merced and ran "thence in a due southwest direction to the summit of the coast range."

After Merced County was created, the first change that took place in its boundaries, and the greatest of all changes in them, came from the cutting off of about three-fifths of Merced's original territory in 1856, to go into the newly created "Fresno" County. The act creating Fresno County, as it is there spelled, is in the Statutes of 1856 at page 183; and the portion of Section 2 describing the portion of its boundary which separated it from Merced was as follows: "Beginning at a point where the Stockton Road to Millertown crosses the Chowchilla, known as Newton's Crossing; thence down said stream, on the north side, with the high water mark to the sink of the same at the lower molt of cottonwood timber; thence south forty-five degrees west to the south boundary of Merced County." This so-called south boundary of Merced County referred to is obviously what we should be more likely to call the west boundary, for "Fresno's" boundary then proceeds down along the summit of the Coast Range.

Knowing as we do that the northerly bank of the Chowchilla is accepted as the boundary between Merced and its neighbor on the south, it is obvious to anyone who has seen the Chowchilla spread out over a mile or so in width that high-water mark does not refer

to flood water. The "sink of the same at the lower molt of cottonwood timber" is in the northeast quarter of Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 14 East, about two-thirds of the way from the main Valley Highway to the San Joaquin, and about five miles in a straight line from the river.

An act of the legislature approved March 8, 1866, provided for the surveying of the northern and eastern boundaries of Merced County and gave it a considerable addition of territory at the expense of Stanislaus—which Stanislaus got back again in 1868. The Act of 1866, Sections 2, 3, and 4, provided:

"Sec. 2. The Board of Supervisors of Merced County are by this Act authorized, whenever in their judgment the same may be necessary, to appoint some suitable person, who shall be a good practical surveyor, to survey and mark out the boundary lines of Merced County as in this Act hereinafter provided, and such appointment may be made at any regular or special meeting of said board.

"Sec. 3. The person so appointed shall commence at the southwest corner of Tuolumne County, and southeast corner of Stanislaus County, and northwest corner of Mariposa County, and run south seventy (70) degrees west to the summit of the coast range of hills; and the line so run shall be the northern boundary of Merced County and the southern boundary of Stanislaus County.

"Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the person appointed by section two of this Act to commence at the point designated in section three as the place of beginning of the northern boundary of said County of Merced, and run on a straight line to a point known as Phillips' Old Ferry, on the Merced river; thence across said river in a straight line to the eastern line of the Stockton and Millerton Road; thence along the eastern line of said road, as traveled in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, to a point known as Newton's Crossing, on the Chowchilla River; and the line so run shall be the eastern boundary of Merced County."

Section 5 provided: "The person running said lines shall, at the end of each mile, and at the end of every angle in said line, erect lasting monuments of earth or stone; said monuments shall, if made of earth, be at least six feet in diameter at the base, and shall be at least two feet in height; and if made of stone, shall be at least four feet in diameter at the base and at least two feet in height."

The remainder of the act provided that the surveyor should file plats and field notes with the county surveyor and the county clerk, for his compensation and bond, and that he should enter upon the performance of his duties as soon as practicable after receiving his appointment, and repealed conflicting acts and parts of acts. The act by its terms took effect from and after its passage.

On February 13, 1868, there was approved an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An Act to Define the Boundary Line Between Merced and Stanislaus Counties," as follows:

"The people of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

"Section 1. The permanent boundary between the Counties of Stanislaus and Merced shall be as follows: Beginning at the monument established by A. G. Stakes, County Surveyor of Stanislaus County, at the southwest corner of Tuolumne County and the southeast corner of Stanislaus County; thence in a straight line to a point on the San Joaquin River, seven miles below the mouth of the Merced River; thence up the center of the San Joaquin River to the mouth of the Merced River; thence in a due southwest direction to the summit of the Coast Range of mountains.

"Sec. 2. Within ninety days after the passage of this Act the County Surveyors of the Counties of Stanislaus and Merced shall survey the boundary line established in the preceding section, and shall mark said line with good and substantial monuments at the end of each mile and at every angle of said line.

"Sec. 3. The expense of surveying said boundary line shall be paid in equal portions by the Counties of Stanislaus and Merced.

"Sec. 4. Section three of an Act entitled an Act to confer certain powers upon the Board of Supervisors of Merced County, approved March eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

"Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect from and after its passage."

Section 3934 of the Political Code as enacted March 12, 1872, when the codes were adopted, defines the boundaries (and gives the county seat) of Merced County as follows:

"Merced. Beginning at northwest corner, being southwest corner of Stanislaus as shown on survey and map of A. J. Stakes, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight; thence northeasterly, on southern line of Stanislaus, as described in section three thousand nine hundred and thirty-three, to common corner of Tuolumne, Mariposa, Merced, and Stanislaus, as established in said section; thence southeasterly, by direct line, being western line of Mariposa, to Phillips' Ferry, on Merced River; thence southeasterly, on line of Mariposa, being line shown on "Map of Mariposa County," to Newton's crossing on Chowchilla Creek, forming southeast corner; thence down the northern side and on high-water mark, being on line of Fresno, to the lower clump of cottonwood timber at the sink of said creek; thence south forty-five degrees west, to the eastern line of Monterey, on summit of Coast Range, forming southwest corner; thence north-

westerly, by said summit and line of Monterey and Santa Clara, to place of beginning.

“County seat—Snelling.”

We note in this that the word “molt” has been changed to the better known “clump,” and also that high-water mark on the north bank of the Chowchilla is specified.

The Code commissioners’ note accompanying this section of the Political Code states that it is “based on Stats. 1855, page 125, Sec. 2; Stats. 1856, p. 183; Stats. 1865-66, p. 172, Sec. 2; Stats. 1867-68, p. 56, Sec. 1.”

The preceding section (3933) referred to in 3934, describing the boundary of Stanislaus, after arriving at the southwest corner of Stanislaus and northwest corner of Merced according to Stake’s survey of “July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight,” proceeds, “thence northeasterly, on line as established by said last-named survey, to the junction of the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers; thence down the San Joaquin seven miles; thence in a direct line a little north of east to a monument established by A. J. Stakes, being on the summit of the ridge between Merced and Stanislaus, and marking common corner of Tuolumne, Merced, Mariposa, and Stanislaus,” etc., merely tracing in the opposite direction, it appears, the line established by the Act of February 13, 1868, already quoted.

The western boundary, in all the descriptions so far, has followed the summit of the Coast Range—meaning and accepted as, of course, the most easterly summit, the summit of the range specifically named the Diablo Range. San Benito County had been created on February 12, 1874; and on March 11, 1887, section two of the act creating it was amended, making changes in its boundaries so that they took in certain land from Fresno and Merced Counties. The portion of the San Benito boundary, as thus modified, which lay between it and Merced County is described as follows: “northwest in a straight line to the northeast corner of township fourteen south, range nine east; thence in a straight line northwesterly, running toward the northeast corner of township thirteen south, range seven east, to a point where said line intersects the present boundary line between the Counties of San Benito and Merced; thence along the present boundary line between the Counties of San Benito and Merced to the northeast corner of San Benito County and southeast corner of Santa Clara County.” The portion from the last semicolon describes the unchanged portion of the boundary between the two counties; what precedes it, the changed portion. The effect was to move the southwest corner of Merced County several miles to the eastward of its former location.

On May 23, 1919, an act was passed by the legislature purporting to repeal Sections 3909 to 3958 of the Political Code and enact new

sections of those numbers, adding eight new counties to Chapter I of Title I of Part IV of the Code and changing the boundaries of certain existing counties. The counties were arranged alphabetically in the chapter, each having a section, and Merced County's section was 3932. No change was attempted in Merced County's boundaries from what they had been previously, and therefore the county is not affected by the decision of the Supreme Court in *Mundell vs. Lyons*, 182 Cal. 289, in holding the new act unconstitutional. This was done on the ground that it was in conflict with Article XI, Section 3, of the State constitution, reading: "The legislature, by general and uniform laws, may provide for the alteration of county boundary lines and for the formation of new counties." The matter was brought before the court by a petition for a writ of mandate by a man who under the old order had been a resident of Ventura County, but who under the new act, if it was valid, became a resident of Los Angeles County. He had applied to the registrar of voters of Los Angeles County to be registered, and had been refused, whereupon he brought the action to compel the registrar to register him. His right to registration in Los Angeles County of course depended upon whether he was a resident of that county, and that in turn upon whether the act in question was constitutional. Justice Olney, who wrote the opinion, concurred in by the other six justices, held that it was a special act, or a lot of special acts joined together, and that the legislature did not have the power to change a county boundary by special act.

Since the Act of 1919 had purported to repeal the old sections about all the counties as well as to enact the new, the legislature in 1923 passed an act, approved May 16, reestablishing the old boundaries (Statutes of 1923, page 326).

As has been pointed out, however, neither the Act of 1918 nor consequently this Act of 1923 changed the boundaries of Merced County. The last change made in them was that made in 1887, when San Benito took a small portion of territory from the southwest corner.

A chapter in the history of the boundary between Merced and Stanislaus Counties which has not been mentioned, was written in the decision in the case of *People vs. Henderson*, decided in 1870. It arose over the question of whether the seven miles down the San Joaquin River from the mouth of the Merced should be measured in a straight line or following the meanders of the San Joaquin. The county surveyors of both counties had surveyed it, together with the resulting line from the point so determined to the northeast corner of Merced County, but while the Stanislaus County surveyor took the meanders of the San Joaquin, the Merced County surveyor took the straight line. P. Henderson had some land between the two lines

east of the San Joaquin thus surveyed. He was assessed in both counties. He paid his taxes in Stanislaus County, and this action was brought to compel him to pay in Merced County. Merced County lost out and the court upheld the seven-mile line along the meanders of the San Joaquin.

We have now mentioned the various changes which have been made by law in the boundaries of Merced County. It remains to notice briefly the surveying of these boundaries and their actual location on the ground. Section 22 of the act creating the county provided that it should be the duty of the county surveyor of the county, under the instructions and direction of the board of supervisors, to survey and mark the lines and boundaries of Merced County in accordance with the provisions of the act. There appears to be no record in existence of the survey. Taking the eastern boundary, we do find a report made by Mark Howell, county surveyor, July 31, 1872, of a survey of this boundary made in May of that year. It is clearly apparent from his field notes that there had been a previous survey, for he refers many times to mounds. It will be recalled that the Act of 1866 required that the supervisors appoint some suitable person to survey this boundary, as well as the one between Merced and Stanislaus, and to mark it at each mile and each angle with monuments of a size prescribed. Most probably these are the mounds Howell's survey refers to.

The Merced-Stanislaus boundary has been the subject of more surveys than any of Merced's other boundaries, what with the frequent changes made by law and all. There are on file in the county surveyor's office the field notes of a survey of that portion of this line between the mouth of the Merced River and the Coast Range made in 1856 by Silas Wilcox, county surveyor of Stanislaus County.

There are two reports in 1868 on the Merced-Stanislaus line. The first was made May 10, and was of a survey made by John W. Bost, assistant county surveyor. Bost and his chief, William G. Collier, report on this. It is approved and accepted by the board of supervisors. Then on August 4 we find a report by Collier that he met with the county surveyor of Stanislaus County April 2, 1868, for the purpose of surveying the line between the two counties, and that they were unable to agree on that portion of the line east of the San Joaquin. Here we see cropping up the same difference which led to the case of *People vs. Henderson*, already referred to, where the point in dispute was whether the line running seven miles down the San Joaquin from the mouth of the Merced should follow the meanders of the former or go straight. Collier reports in this report on the survey of the portion of the boundary west of the San Joaquin, on which the two surveyors did agree.

The county surveyor of Stanislaus at that time was seemingly that same A. G. Stakes whose survey is adopted by the legislature in the Act of 1868. The Merced-Stanislaus County line was re-survey in 1913 by A. E. Cowell and E. H. Annear, county surveyors of Merced and Stanislaus Counties respectively, under orders from their respective boards of supervisors, in order more definitely and plainly to locate and mark the line.

In 1873 A. T. Herrmann, county surveyor of Santa Clara County, and George H. Perrin, deputy county surveyor of Merced County, made and reported upon a survey of the line between these two counties along the summit of the Diablo Range. Their report was filed August 5, 1873. The report shows that they were engaged for ten days on the job, and took levels to determine the direction the water would run and thus to locate the watershed which is the boundary.

In 1887 C. D. Martin surveyed and reported upon the line between Merced and San Benito following the modifications of that line made by the act of the same year, which we have already referred to. His report was filed June 28, 1887. It is interesting to note that he had as chainmen Hilend Worden and F. Flourney, and as teamster Joseph Carmichael.

The county's southern boundary has not shifted back and forth because of changes in the acts concerning it, as has the northern, but it has given its share of trouble. William G. Collier surveyed it southwestward from a certain tree in "the lower molt of cottonwood timber" mentioned in the act creating Fresno County, in 1866, and eastward from the same tree in 1869. Whether we may assume from this that Newton's Crossing had already become difficult of location cannot be determined from the reports. The fact that Collier had a certain tree in the "molt" to start from would seem to indicate that there must have been earlier surveys, as indeed there must, but there seems to be no record of their survival.

Collier's field notes, filed August 6, 1866, on the "S. W. Boundary" start his line off as follows: "Beginning at a cottonwood tree in front of and twenty-five feet from the old Kelley Ranch house, which I marked M. C. & F. C., Var. 16° E." From this he works the line out following a southwest course.

There is among the Merced County surveyor's records a transcription made on typewriter and bound in a cover bearing A. E. Cowell's name, of the old field notes of William G. Collier's survey from this same tree up the Chowchilla River and reported by him to the board of supervisors February 1, 1869. The notes appear to be incomplete; they begin somewhat to the west of the tree, in fact, and we reach it thus, taking the notes from the beginning as they

now stand: "Thence we ran S. $48\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ E. 195.41 ch. to a cottonwood tree about 2 feet in diameter standing in about the center of the lowest cottonwood grove on the Chowchilla River and directly in front and about twenty feet distant from the mansion house of the Kelley ranch; thence S. 57° E. 23.50 chs. up to fork of the river . . ." There is also a report by Collier on this survey. It is interesting to observe in these field notes that Collier reports: "From Station 28 J. M. Montgomery's house bears S. $52\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ E."

The last course given—the margin of the paper is a little torn away—reads: "N. $77\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E. 7.55 chs. to Station No. 213, R. W. P. set in center of ro . . . Newton's Crossing of the Chowchilla River." The "R. W. P." is of course a red wood post. There was evidently a road there then.

But this corner at Newton's Crossing is giving trouble during the last year or two. The county surveyors of Madera and Merced County have been working on it, and it isn't worked out yet. They find by going back to the nearest monuments they can locate on this line to the west, and to the nearest they can locate on the Mariposa line to the north, and then following out the last courses of the two lines from these nearest monuments, that they arrive, not at one point, but at two. Coming eastward on the Madera boundary they reach a point somewhat to the north and east of the one they reach by coming south on the Mariposa line, and both points lie to the southward of the Chowchilla. The matter has been brought to the attention of the attorney general, but the difficulties presented are largely of fact rather than of law, and a solution remains to be found.

The portion of the southern boundary southwestward from the often mentioned cottonwood tree has been recently resurveyed. Since the portion of the Merced-Stanislaus boundary west of the San Joaquin has been described as starting at the northwest corner at the stake set by A. G. Stakes in 1868, every straight line in the county's boundary has been determined by a fixed point at each end except this one on the southwest. It is the only line of constant bearing in the whole of the county's boundary, striking out from the cottonwood tree as it does, not to hit another fixed point, but to hit a line, at its other end. It is the only rhumb line, as the surveyors designate it. Some three or four years ago the county surveyors of Fresno, Madera, and Merced Counties, under direction of their several boards, got together at the old Chowchilla Ranch, took the testimony of Isaac Bird, for many years the superintendent of the ranch, and of G. A. Howell, then superintendent, as to the location of the corner cottonwood, fixed that point, and set deputy Edgar C. Smith of Fresno County and Deputy L. A. Bacheldor of Merced County

at the job of resurveying the line southwestward from the point so fixed to the San Benito line, and also for a short distance southeastward to connect up with the north bank of the Chowchilla, which as far back as Collier's survey of 1869 could not be traced entirely to the cottonwood clump where the tree had been fixed upon. They pursued their labors with some interruptions, surveying the lines out carefully and marking them with substantial monuments. In July, 1924, the results of their labors, in the shape of a report and map for each of the three counties affected, were filed and approved by the respective boards of supervisors of the three counties.

One other report with reference to the southern boundary needs to be mentioned. It was filed May 8, 1873, by Mark Howell, agent to settle county boundary line between Merced and Fresno Counties. The report has a certificate of Henry Descom, clerk of the Fresno County board, attached, to the effect that the Fresno board have made an order accepting the proposition made by the Merced board to adopt the surveys made in 1866 and 1869 by William G. Collier and already referred to, as the surveys of the Merced-Fresno boundary, and that they are to pay Merced County \$881.22 for copies of the maps and field notes. The report was thus certified by the Fresno clerk May 7, 1873, and accepted by the Merced County board May 8, 1873.

With reference to the actual organization of Merced County there is very little remaining of record. We see in the Act of April 18, 1855, Section 4, that the election to elect county officers and choose a county seat is to be held on the second Monday in May. This was the 14th. The board of commissioners appointed by the act were to meet on the Monday two weeks previous to the election, which would be April 30, at the house of James A. Neil & Co. in said county. The board, by Section 10, was to meet five days subsequent to the election, which would be Saturday, May 19, to canvass the ballots and make a tabular statement of the vote cast and prepare and deliver certificates of election to those elected. So far as the records now in existence in the county are concerned, the only proof we have that they performed these things at the times specified is found in the fact that on June 4, 1855, the new board of supervisors of the new county, consisting of G. H. Murray, William J. Barfield, and S. L. Kelly, with E. G. Rector, clerk, met and held their first official meeting. It was a special session.

There is nothing in the minutes of the meeting or of later ones, or in any existing county records, telling us directly what place was chosen as the first county seat, or even that a place was chosen at the election of May 14, 1855, for the purpose, though we are constrained to believe that one was chosen. The place of the earliest

meetings, until Snelling's Ranch was chosen not long afterwards, was on the ranch of Turner & Osborn, on Mariposa Creek, the place which afterwards became the E. T. Givens place, and the exact spot is situated to the right of the valley highway and the Central Pacific Railroad as one goes south; that is to say, it is down Mariposa Creek from the highway and railroad. The distance from the highway and railroad, by the shortest straight line, is approximately a mile and a half.

D. K. Stoddard, of Merced, supplies us with the following statement in writing, signed by J. W. Givens and O.K.'ed by E. V. Givens, both sons of Eleazer T. Givens, which Mr. Stoddard and others obtained in 1917 on behalf of the local Native Sons lodge, which had named a committee to identify and mark the spot:

"The court house tree stood in Sec. 23, T. 8 S., R. 14 E., where first county court was held 1855.

"The tree was killed in winter of 1868-69 by an accumulation of sediment or mining debris caused by floods, and was cut down and made into stove fuel in 1869.

"Land on which tree stood in 1855 was owned by Turner & Osborn—Geo. Turner was afterwards Treasurer of Merced County.

"Aug. 2, 1917.

(Signed) J. W. Givens.

"O. K.—E. V. Givens."

Mr. Stoddard informs us that the location of the tree was on an old channel of Mariposa Creek, considerably to the south of the present channel. The creek's course has been changed, he suggests, by the building of the Santa Fe Railroad. It apparently followed the old course when the Central Pacific was built, for the reason that there is a bridge across it large enough for the entire creek and much larger than now needed for the little flow in the old course. This old course runs out entirely a very short distance below where the tree was located, and has been pretty well plowed in and filled up. The portion of the Givens ranch on which the tree stood is that marked on the county map of 1919 as belonging to Constance Givens, and the old creek channel appears from this map to cross Constance Givens' land in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 23.

Mr. Stoddard informs us that John Ruddle, who until his death on February 1, 1925, was the oldest living pioneer of Merced County of 1855 or earlier, and who lived in Merced and was ninety-four years of age on October 17, 1924, was present as a young man of twenty-five when the first court was held.

The following are the minutes of the first meeting of the board of supervisors of the county, held at this first county seat on June 4, 1855:

"Minute Docket Bord of Supervisors For the County of Merced,
"June 4, A. D. 1855.

"At a special meeting of the Bord of Supervisors June the 4th, A. D. 1855, all the members being present, G. H. Murry was appointed Chairman of the Bord.

"It was then moved and carried that the Bord, in accordance with an Act of the legislature of the State of California passed April 20th, A. D. 1855, making it the duty of the Bord of Supervisors to township the County and to appoint township officers.

"The Bord then proceeded to township the County, viz.: To comprise two townships, viz., commencing at the N. E. corner of the County, thence with the boundary line of said county and the Mariposa County to a point half way between the Mariposa Creek and Bear Creek, thence south at an equal distance from said creeks to the San Joaquin River, thence on a strate line to the summit of the Cost Range of Mountains, the boundary line of said county. All the teritory laying N. W. of said boundary line to form Township (Number One No. 1), the remaining teritory South East to form Township (Number Two No. 2).

"It was then moved and caried the Bord proceed to appoint Township officers to fill the unexpired of vacancies in said offices.

"The Board then proceeded to appoint Wm. Finch and William Wall Justices of the Peace for Township Number Two No. 2) and M. Stockard Justice of the Peace for Township Number One . . .

"It was then ordered by the Bord that notice be given the appointed Justices of the Peace to come forward, give bond and qualify as the law directs.

"Said notices was then given as per order.

"The Board then proceeded in conformity with the aforesaid Act of the Legislature, A. Stevenson and George Turner Commissioners on the part of Merced County to meet a similar Bor on the part of Mariposa to apportion the debt due the County of Mariposa by the County of Merced.

"Notices was then sent to the said appointed commissioners.

"The Bord then proceeded to levy the amt. of taxes to be assessed and collected on every one hundred dollars of property assessed in this County, viz., Fifty cents for public buildings, Sixty cents for State, and Ten cents for school fund, and Three Dollars Poll Tax.

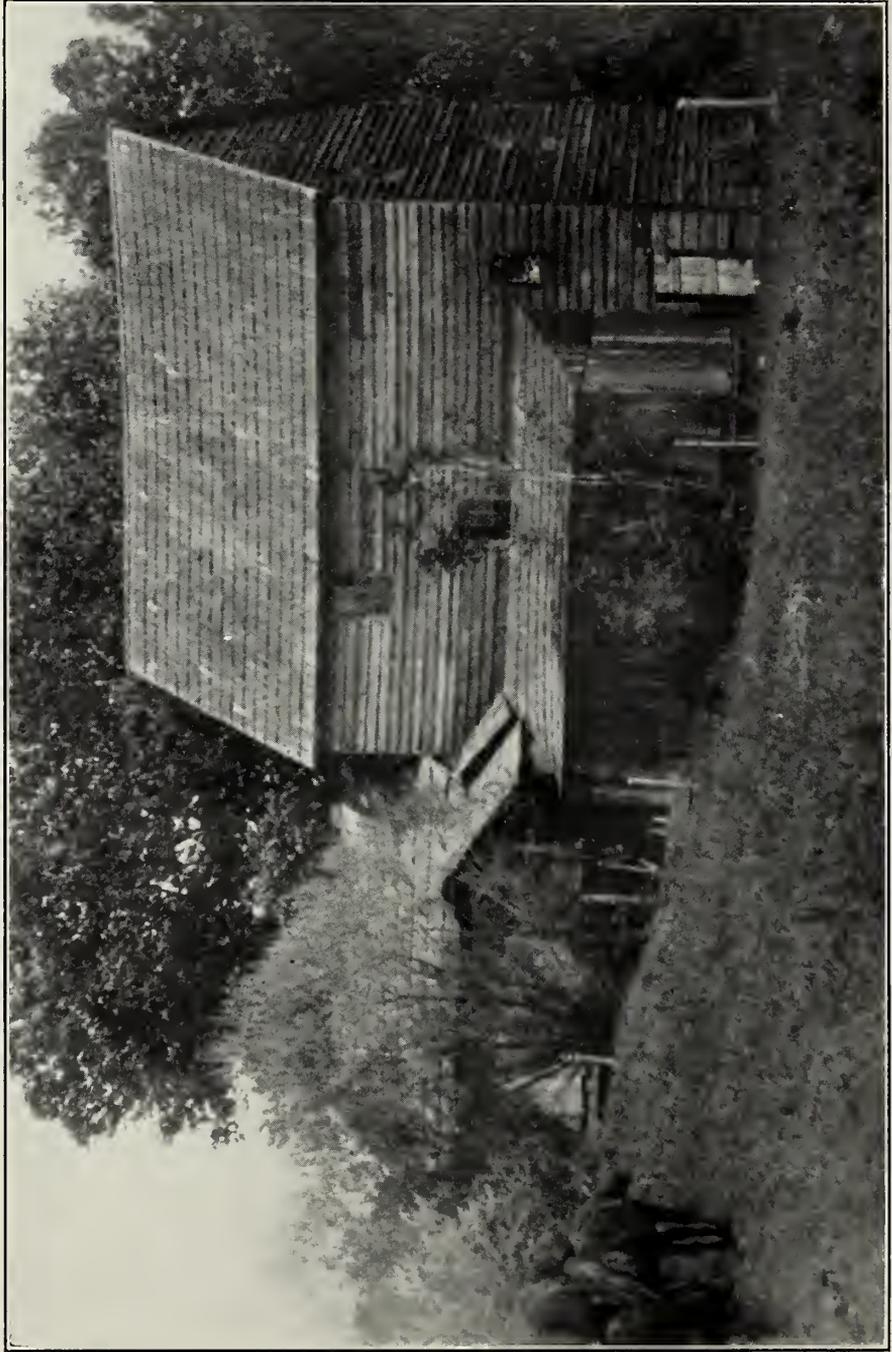
"Given under my hand June 4th, A. D. 1855.

"Test: E. G. Rector, exofico G. H. Murry, Charmn. of Brd.
Clerk of Bord of Supervisors, of Supervisrs, M. C."
M. C.

The minutes of the early meetings in "Book A" appear to have been copied; there is in existence a smaller book, from which the

above minutes were copied, and we judge that this book was the one used until the county seat had been moved to Snelling's Ranch and the new court house built there and occupied, in 1857. It is significant that the date of the first meeting, as given in "Book A," is June 4, 1857, an evident error for 1855, and the most likely year for a person to have made that mistake would of course have been 1857. The small book seemingly continued to be used as the book of original entry until later than 1857, for some meetings at least, the minutes then being copied into the larger "Book A."

The first county seat proved inconvenient in location, being difficult of access. We find very early in the minutes that there is an election called to vote on the location of the county seat again, and at this election Snelling's Ranch won out and the county seat was moved there. Oldtimers sometimes still add the apostrophe and "s" and speak of the second county seat and the site of the first court house as Snelling's.



MURRAY'S MILL

CHAPTER VIII

THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 1857

It seems difficult to imagine a more uninteresting sort of book than an assessment roll, and yet a number of interesting things about the early history of Merced County may be gleaned with a considerable degree of certainty from the earliest extant assessment roll of the county. An examination of the early county records which remain shows many gaps; they are clearly apparent in the ranks of the yearly assessment rolls; it is perhaps a fair estimate to say that not more than one for every half dozen years of, say, at least the first three decades, survives. Presumably an earlier assessment list, or perhaps two of them, than this one of 1857, once existed, but apparently they exist no longer.

The 1857 list is a small book, written in long hand, apparently by the assessor as he carried it about with him from place to place in his work. The arrangement of the names in it, which may be described as geographical, according to the residence of the person assessed, bears out this conjecture that he did so carry the book about and make the entries on the ground. Certainly the arrangement is not alphabetical, and no other system of arrangement is so strongly suggested by it as the one mentioned.

Pages 1 to 90 are present, then come 107 and 108, and then 117 and 118. These ninety-four pages of long hand are what is left—these and an index, apparently complete, of a dozen pages more. The index permits the names which were on the missing pages to be supplied, and shows that the book originally contained 122 pages in all.

The total number of persons whose assessments remain in the book is 190, and the total number in the index is apparently 277, with perhaps some allowance to be made for double indexing of the names of partners.

The location of the real estate goes so far to show what parts of the county were settled and what were not, that it is deemed worth while to give at least the name and the description of the land of every landowner assessed. Such additional portions will be included as appear to afford help towards reconstructing in the imagination of the present-day reader the times of 1857; and in the main the peculiarities of style in the original will be here preserved, especially as regards variant spellings and abbreviations.

H. Aldrich is assessed for improvements in the town of Snelling, \$500; stock on hand, \$400; tools, \$60; total, \$960. Note the absence of the lot on which the improvements were located. We shall find that land was unbelievably cheap; \$1.25 an acre on the East Side, 50 cents an acre on the West Side, seem to be the prevailing valuations, except in the case of one lawyer who has an acre "on" somebody's farm, assessed for \$25.

William S. Snelling: Improvements in Snelling, \$500; 1 town lot, \$40.

C. F. Blutworth (first sheriff): 160 acres of land on Bear Creek adjoining Cocanour's Ranch, \$200. Seventeen hogs, 3 work horses, 17 stock horses, improvements on ranch, county scrip, personal property and two lots, Nos. 7 and 8, Block 2, Range 2, bring the total to \$2620.

Benjamin H. Moore: 4 work horses, \$790; 127 acres land, Sec. 36, T. 5 S., R. 13 E., west qr., situated on the Merced River, \$158.75; improvements on same, \$100; personal property, \$1113; total, \$2161.75.

L. W. Talbott: 1 law library, \$100; accounts, \$100; 1 desk and table, \$10; 1 dog, \$4.

George Turner: 3 work horses, \$300; personal property, \$225.

Charles S. Peck: 1 work horse, \$75; county scrip, \$900; dog and trowel, \$1. One wonders why the invidious distinction between this and Talbott's dog, even without the trowel.

Rector & Turner: 320 acres situated on Mariposa Creek bounded as follows: northeast by Givens, north by Johnson, south by the plains, west by Ward; of the value of \$400; improvements, \$100; 35 tons hay, \$1050; other personal property, \$200; total, \$1750.

George P. Lake: Improvements in town of Snelling consisting of one wagon shop, \$500; tools and stock on hand and accounts, \$600; total, \$1100.

William Sparks: Improvements in the town of Snelling consisting of two blacksmith shops, \$1200; stock of iron on hand, \$30; accounts standing out, \$2000; blacksmith tools, \$150; total, \$3380.

Charles Penright: One horse, work, \$50, raised to \$60.

Lash & Clark: 320 acres land situated on the Merced River bottom and bounded as follows: north by the plains, south by Hawkes ranch, E. by Bird's claim, west by Post's ranch, of the value of \$400; improvements on same consisting of one house, \$50; total, \$450.

William Lash: 17 tons hay, \$340.

Note the land descriptions. Very little surveying had yet been done of subdivisions of sections.

Henry Stokes: 320 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and bounded as follows: on the east by the claim of W. B. Akin, south by McClelen, west by Givens, and north by the plains, \$400; 8 work horses, \$840; improvements on land, \$200; 3 stock horses, \$100; 6 head of beef cattle, \$300; 2 tons hay, \$40; 1 pistol six shooter, \$25; total, \$1545.

John Baker: 6 work horses, \$360; 50 head of stock cattle, \$750; total, \$1110. Reduced on stock cattle, \$150; total, \$960. In the minutes of the board of supervisors we find where they reduced the valuation on stock cattle, first Spanish, from \$15 to \$12 a head.

Charles A. Starr: 160 acres of land described as follows: being the S. west Qr. Sec. 2, Township 5 S., Range 14 E., situated on the Merced River, value \$200; farming utensils, \$12; household and kitchen furniture, \$5; poultry, \$5; 1 ton hay, \$30; 1 bull dog, \$5 (without a trowel, too); improvements on land, \$5000; money on hand, \$5; total, \$5262. Less \$500; total, \$4762. This was about a mile and a half above Snelling, on the left of the road. Query: What were these valuable improvements?

James G. Johnson: 3 work horses, \$180, raised from \$100; 7 stock horses, \$140; 1 watch, \$25; 1 buggy, \$20; 1 wagon, \$30; total, \$405.

John Ware: 2997 pounds barley, \$90.

W. B. Grimshaw: 160 acres land, being South East Qr. of Sec. 3, Township 5, Range 14 East, situated on the Merced River, value of \$200; improvements on same, \$300; 2 oxen, \$100; 1 mule, \$75; 4 stock cattle, American, \$80; farming utensils, \$50; household furniture, \$200; 1 wagon, \$50; total \$1055. 1200 bushels barley added by correction of assessor, \$840; total, \$1895.

Christ Mugler: 160 acres land, being South East Qr. of Sec. 2, Township 5 South, Range 14 East, situated on the Merced River, value \$200; improvements on same, \$1000; 3 work horses, \$180; 2 stock cattle, American, \$50; 1 stock horse, \$50; 1 wagon, \$50; 750 bushels barley, \$525; farming utensils, \$25; house and kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$2130. Reduced on improvements, \$500; total, \$1630.

F. B. Myers: 1 work horse, \$75; 1 chest carpenter's tools, \$50; 600 bushels barley, \$420, 4 tons hay, \$80; total, \$625.

Hempstead & Ivit: 320 acres land, fractions 3 & 4 of the Northeast Qr. of Northwest Qr. of Sec. 7 and South East Qr. South West Qr. of Sec. 6, Township 5 South, Range 15 East, etc. (other fractions Secs. 12 and 1, same township and range), situated on the Merced River, value \$400; improvements on same, \$1000; (etc., \$4235 in all).

W. F. Wilson: 1 mustang, \$30; money on hand, \$50; notes, \$42; accounts, \$50; total, \$172.

L. P. Wilson: 160 acres, being the northeast of Sec. 7, Township 6 S., Range 15 East, situated on the Merced River, \$200 (and personal property, several items); total, \$1720.

John Hyner: 4 stock horses, \$150.

John W. Mack: 160 acres land, being north half of north west Qr. of Sec. 8, and the south half of south west Qr. Sec. 5, Township 5 South Range 15 East, \$200; with personal property bringing total to \$1725.

M. P. D. Stone: 2 work horses, \$200; money on hand, \$600; total, \$800.

Charles Murray: 160 acres land, \$200 (location blank); improvements on same, \$12,000 (probably a bridge or ferry); 9 work horse, \$675; 51 stock cattle, American, \$1020; 9 head sheep, \$36; 20 goats, \$80; household furniture, \$300; goods on hand, \$600; 6 hogs, \$18; 1 ton hay, \$35; total, \$14,964. Murray is among the first half dozen (of those whose names we have) of the county's richest men at this time. (Page 13 of the original.)

William Nelson is assessed for 287 acres land, being north half and fractions 3 & 4 of the south west Qr. of Sec. 4, and fraction 1 in Sec. 9 and south west 40 of north east Qr., and fractions 1, 2 & 3 of Sec. 8, Township 5 South, Range 15 East, \$358.75; improvements on same, \$4500; 8 oxen and 500 bushels barley, \$800; 45 stock cattle, Spanish, \$900; 8 hogs, \$20; 35 goats, \$80; 4 stock horses, \$120; 1 mule, \$50; wagons and farm utensils, \$500; household furniture, \$250; total, \$7578.

T. W. T. Young: 120 acres land, 40 acres of which lies on the south side of the Merced River, being the fraction of the northwest Qr. of Sec. 9, Township 5 South, Range 15 East, also 80 acres of which lies back of the fraction northwest Qr. of Sec. 9 (etc.), valued at \$150; improvements on same, \$5000; 2 stock cattle, American, \$60; 2 work horses, \$120; 15 stock horses, \$300; 25 tons hay, \$500; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 1 watch, \$25; 1 wagon, \$25; house and kitchen, \$100; total, \$6865.

D. W. Lewis: 1 work horse, \$500; 1 medical library and medicine, \$150; \$650 in all.

John Phillips: 80 acres land lying on the Merced River and bounded as follows: north by Murray, south by the hills, east by the hills, west by Young, valued at \$100; improvements on same, \$1500; 3 work horses, \$150; 5 stock horses, \$150; 8 oxen, \$400; 4 stock cattle, American, \$80; house and kitchen furniture, \$100; 2 wagons, \$150; 1 buggy, \$50; 7 tons hay, \$140; 300 bushels barley, \$210; total, \$3030.

R. B. Hall's assessment offers some evidence that the lawyer was considered legitimate prey for the assessor; he has the only land, not a town lot, assessed at over \$1.25 an acre in the whole county.

It is "1 acre of land situated on the farm of William Nelson on the north side of the Merced River and valued at \$25." He also has improvements on same, \$375; 1 law library, \$200; house and kitchen furniture, \$25; 1 broken watch, \$10; 1 horse and mule, \$100; total, \$735.

Jacob Ritter: 2 work horses, \$150; 1 wagon, \$75; money on hand, \$50; total, \$275.

Howard & Brother have 920 acres land situated on Burns Creek and described as follows (no description), \$1150; improvements on same, \$1000; 8 work horses, \$460; 71 stock horses, \$1720; 2 stock cattle, \$40; 300 bushels barley, \$210; 100 bushels wheat, \$100; 1 miscellaneous library, \$50; household and kitchen furniture, \$100; 30 hogs, \$120; 3 guns, \$50; total, \$5000. Evidently Howard & Brothers, raisers chiefly of horses, were of intellectual and sporting tastes.

William Murray: 160 acres of land described as follows (no description), \$200; improvements on same, \$100; 2 hogs, \$10; household and kitchen furniture, \$25; 25 tons hay, \$500; \$835 in all.

Nelson Howeth: 160 acres land adjoining Cunningham and bounded as follows: on the south by Cunningham, north by the hills, east by the hills, and west by the plains, \$200; improvements on same, \$300; 2 work horses, \$130; 1 wagon, \$40; accounts, \$30; 4 tons hay, \$80; 200 bushels barley, \$140; house and kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$970.

Cunningham & Brother: 320 acres land situated on Miles Creek bounded as follows: north by Howeth's, south by plains, east by the hills, west by the plains, and valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$800; 2 work horses, \$120; 6 stock horses, \$150; 35 stock cattle, Spanish, \$525; 900 bushels barley, \$630; 100 bushels wheat, \$100; 1 wagon, \$100; farming utensils, \$60; household furniture, \$20; 30 tons hay, \$600; 1 gun, \$10; total, \$3515.

McDermott & Laughlin: 320 acres land, Township 8, Range 16 East, Section 2, situated on Mariposa Creek, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$3000; 6 mules, \$1000; 17 stock horses, \$510; 1 jack, \$130; 15 stock cattle, Spanish, \$225; 150 bushels barley, \$105; 1 wagon, \$100; 2 guns, \$40; farming utensils, \$5; household and kitchen, \$50; money on hand, \$500; 9 hogs, \$20; total, \$6085.

James Johnson: 160 acres land situated on Damerons Creek commencing at the line of Mariposa & Merced Counties and running one mile down said creek, valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$500; 5 work horses, \$250; 15 stock cattle, \$270; 35 tons hay, \$700; house & kitchen, \$25; in all, \$1945.

William F. Newton: 160 acres land situated on the north side of the Chowchilla and valued at \$200; improvements on the same,

\$1200; 3 work horses, \$120; 12 head stock cattle, American, \$240; 15 tons hay, \$300; house and kitchen furniture, \$200; \$2260 in all. Evidently the owner of Newton's Crossing, the southeast county corner.

I. B. Helms: 36 stock cattle, American, \$720; 1 mule, \$60; 2 tons hay, \$40; 300 bushels barley, \$210; household and kitchen, \$40; total, \$1070.

Robert H. Gilham: Money at interest, \$1000.

Stoneroad Kelly & Co.: 320 acres land, being the northwest Qr. Sec. 17, Township 8 South, Range 16 East, and the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of Southeast Qr. Sec. 18, Township 8 South, Range 16 East, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$300; 14 work horses, \$840; 2 stock horses, \$40; 1052 stock cattle, Spanish, \$15,780; 1200 pounds barley, \$36; accounts, \$39; guns and pistols, \$50; 1 wagon, \$75; 17 stock cattle, American, \$340; 5 tons hay, \$100; total, \$18,000. Note the barley, the first instance so far where it is measured by the pound instead of the bushel. Note also the discrepancy between this assessment at 3 cents a pound and the others at 70 cents a bushel.

Arthur Tombs: 32 stock cattle, Spanish, \$480; money on hand, \$140; 2 work horses, \$100; 2 stock horses, \$50; total, \$770.

E. J. Stearns: 2240 acres land, being Sec. 10, Township 8 South, Range 16 East, Sec. 9, . . . 17, . . . , and 15, . . . \$2240; improvements on same, \$500; 7 work horses, \$420; 3 stock horses, \$125; 11 stock cattle, American, \$220; 50 stock cattle, Spanish, \$660; total \$4165.

I. F. Bedford: 1 work horse, \$60; money on hand, \$1100; total, \$1160.

Allen Helms: 5 work horses, \$500; 300 oxen, \$1500; 30 stock cattle, American, \$740; money at interest, \$1500; money on hand, \$1000; 2 wagons, \$150; 300 bushels barley, \$210; 6 hogs, \$18; house and kitchen furniture, \$100; guns and pistol, \$60; total, \$5778.

Nicholas Turner: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek bounded as follows: north by the plains, south by Helms Ranch, east by Kelly & Stoneroad, M. F. Turner, valued at \$200; 5 work horses, \$300; improvements on land, \$40; 6 oxen, \$300; 45 stock cattle, American, \$900; 650 bushels barley, \$455; 1 wagon, \$40; 2 tons hay, \$40; household & kitchen furniture, \$30; money at interest, \$1500; total, \$4165.

Thomas Anderson: 2 work horses, \$100; 6 stock cattle, American, \$120; 300 bushels barley, \$210; 2 tons hay, \$40; 1 gun and six shooter, \$27; household & kitchen furniture, \$30; \$527 in all.

Turner & Brother: 320 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and bounded as follows: on the east by Nicholas Turner Ranch, on the south by the plains, on the north by the plains, on the west by Dameron's ranch, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$400; 5

work horses, \$500; 3 colts, \$40; 6 work oxen, \$300; 26 stock cattle, American, \$520; 1200 bushels barley, \$840; notes and accounts, \$400; house and kitchen furniture, \$30; 1 wagon, \$40; total, \$3470.

Henry Helms: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and bounded as follows: north by Nicholas Turner Ranch, south by the plains, east by the plains, west by the ranch of Turner & Brother, valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$500; 3 work horses, \$300; 1 colt, \$20; 18 stock cattle, American, \$360; 400 bushels barley, \$280; notes, \$340; 2 hogs, \$8; 1 wagon, \$50; house and kitchen furniture, \$50; 2 tons hay, \$40; gun and pistol, \$50; total, \$2198.

Nathaniel Grodivan: 2 work horses, \$80; 10 mustang colts, \$50; notes, \$300; 20 tons hay, \$300; total, \$750. We come now to a new handwriting in the book—a fine, possibly feminine hand. "Wagon" is spelled by this writer with two "g's," for a time, afterwards with one. Note also the hay at \$15 a ton instead of \$20, possibly indicating that Grodivan, with his mustang colts but no land, may have cut some wild hay in the plains.

Isaac H. Ward: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek bounded as follows: north by Wm. Johnson, south by the plains, east by Turner & Rector, west by the plains, \$200; improvements, \$400; 6 work horses, \$300; 38 beef cattle, \$950; \$1850 in all.

Givens & Nelson: 320 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek, east by McClellan, north by the plains, south by the plains, west by Turner & Rector Ranch, \$400; improvements, \$400; 4 stock horses, \$320; 12 stock cattle, \$240; 50 stock do., Spanish, \$750; 40 tons hay, \$800; 21 hogs, \$50; gun and pistol, \$55; \$2995 total.

John C. C. Russell: 3 work horses, \$150; 1 mule, \$50; 4 work cattle, \$200; 66 American stock cattle, \$1320; 1 waggon, \$20; \$1740 total.

Wm. Johnson: 160 acres land situated on the north slough north side of Mariposa Creek bounded as follows: north by the plains, south by Turner & Rector Ranch, west by the plains, east by the plains, \$200; improvements, \$250; 10 work horses, \$500; 30 stock do., \$600; 75 stock cattle, American, \$1500; 125 stock cattle, Spanish, \$1725; 10 beef cattle, \$250; notes, \$150; 2 waggons, \$100; house & K. F., \$70; 1 watch, \$50; 1 pistol, \$25; total, \$5420.

Robert L. McClellan: 160 acres land situated on the south side of Mariposa Creek bounded as follows: east by Hazelton, west by the plains, north and west by the plains (this is correct), \$200; improvements on the same, \$100; 6 work horses, \$500; 32 beef cattle, Spanish, \$800; 88 stock do., \$1320; 150 bushels, \$105; 12 tons hay, \$240; 1 waggon, \$125; gun and pistol, \$30; total, \$3420.

George Cummings: 5 work horses, \$300; 5 stock do., \$150; 110 do. cattle, \$1650; notes, \$1100; barley, \$40; total, \$3240.

Samuel Lovejoy: 2 mules, \$200; 600 bushels barley, \$420; gun & pistol, \$30; total, \$650.

James Morse: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek, valued at \$200; 1 horse, \$50.

N. S. Hazleton: 480 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and undescribed, valued \$600; improvements, \$400; 4 work horses, \$270; 20 American stock cattle, \$400; 50 Spanish do. do., \$750; 700 bushels barley, \$490; 1 waggon, \$30; money on hand, \$135; household & K. F., \$40; total, \$3115.

Wall & Brothers: 6 work horses, \$300; 100 beef cattle, \$2500; pistol, \$40; money on hand, \$1200; total, \$4040.

M. L. Madison: Money on hand, \$600.

Wm. Wall: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek undescribed, valued \$200; improvements, \$300; 1 mule, \$80; 4 stock cattle, \$80; 700 bushels barley, \$490; money on hand, \$500; notes, \$250; 1 waggon, \$25; household & K. F., \$10; total, \$1935.

Edward Hunter: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and described as follows: N. E. Qr. Sec. 15, Town 8 South, Range 15 East, valued \$200; 15 stock horses, \$300; 2 work do. \$150; 16 stock cattle, \$240; 1 waggon, \$125; notes, \$600; household & K. F., \$100; 1 watch, \$100; total, \$1815.

Rogers & Harold: 320 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek, being the North E. Qr. and S. W. of Sec. 15, Township 8 South, Range 15 East, valued \$400; improvements on same, \$500; 6 work horses, \$400; 3 colts, \$80; 6 work oxen, \$300; 164 American stock cattle, \$3300; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 20 tons hay, \$400; 2 waggons, \$150; 1 gun & pistol, \$40; house & K. F., \$75; 8 hogs, \$40; total, \$6385; threshing machine, \$250; total, \$6635.

Wilcox & Cormack: 320 acres land, being in the north east Qr. and South East of Section 10, Township 8 South, Range 15 East, valued at \$00; improvements, \$300.

Wilcox & Graham: 4 work horses, \$240; 9 work oxen, \$450; 20 Spanish stock cattle, \$300; 2000 bushels barley, \$1400; 1 waggon, \$100; notes, \$150; 3 tons hay, \$60; 1 gun, \$15; household & kitchen, \$10; total, \$2750.

David Swann: 160 acres land, being (in) Section 9, Township 8 South, Range 15 East, valued at \$200; improvements . . . , \$300; 6 work horses, \$300; 2 colts, \$12; 60 Spanish stock cattle, \$900; 1 waggon & harness, \$50; 200 bushels barley, \$140; household & kitchen furniture, \$10; 1 ton hay, \$20; total, \$1932.

John Julin: Money and accounts, \$155; 1 horse, \$70; total, \$255.

C. C. Overton: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek and undescribable, valued at \$200; improvements . . . , \$400; 6 work horses, \$750; 3 colts, \$100; 6 work cattle, \$300; 22 American stock

cattle, \$440; 50 hogs, \$150; 300 bushels barley, \$210; 1 waggon, \$100; 3 guns, \$20; H. & K. Furniture, \$100; poultry, \$10; total, \$2780. Note the poultry and the high-class horses and colts.

Robt. L. Green: 4 stock cattle, \$80.

Bullard & Jopling: 320 acres land situated on Miles Creek and undescribed, valued at \$400; 400 bushels barley, \$280; improvements, \$100; total, \$780.

Wm. M. Jopling: Notes, \$360.

G. T. Bullard: 3 work horses, \$150; 2 work cattle, \$100; accounts, \$40; total, \$290.

J. M. DeSpain: 320 acres land situated on Miles Creek and undescribed, valued at \$400; 1 note, \$50; 200 bushels barley, \$140; 1 waggon, \$40; improvements, \$50; total, \$680.

Dyer & Hadley: 160 acres land situated on Owens Creek undescribed, valued at \$200; improvements . . . , \$250; 6 work horses, \$600; 1 waggon, \$100; 100 bushels barley, \$70; 160 hogs, \$480; 5 tons hay, \$100; money on hand, \$120; accounts, \$25; household & K. Furniture, \$82; total, \$2027.

Jones & Walker: 320 acres land situated on Owens Creek and undescribed, valued at \$400; improvements . . . , \$150; 2 work horses, \$100; 2 work oxen, \$100; 1 waggon, \$40; 700 bushels barley, \$490; money on hand, \$40; household & K furniture, \$10; total, \$1330.

Wm. Freeman: 1 work horse, \$50; 4 work oxen, \$200; 1 waggon, \$40; 10 tons hay, \$200; 1 note, \$600; total, \$1090.

E. R. Hunt: 160 acres land situated on Owens Creek and undescribed, valued at \$200; 1 mule, \$50; 900 bushels barley, \$630; total, \$880.

Thomas Hopkins: 1 horse, \$75.

Boling & Brothers: 320 acres land situated on Miles Creek and undescribed, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$600; 500 bushels barley, \$350; 10 tons hay, \$200; household & kitchen furniture, \$10; total, \$1560.

Carpenter & McKinney: 320 acres land situated on Miles Creek and undescribed, valued at \$400; improvements . . . , \$300; 6 oxen, \$300; 20 stock cattle, \$300; 15 beef cattle, \$600; money on hand, \$1000; notes, \$600; household & K. furniture, \$50; 3 tons hay, \$60; 1 pistol, \$30; 7 work horses, \$350; total, \$3990; 600 bushels barley, \$420; total, \$4410.

Alfred Wilson: 160 acres land, being the Southwest Qr. of Sec. 17, Township 7 south, range 16 east, situated on Miles Creek, valued at \$200; improvements, \$400; 4 work horses, \$240; 3 colts, \$35; 600 bushels barley, \$420; 1 wagon (the handwriting is still the same, but the spelling is reformed), \$50; money on hand, \$100; 2

guns, \$10; house hold & K. Furniture, \$20; an unspecified item, \$160; total, \$1635.

F. C. Hathaway: 240 acres land situated on Miles Creek (in) Section 17, Township 7 South, range 16 east, valued at \$300; improvements, \$600; 3 work horses, \$150; 4 colts, \$50; 5 work oxen, \$250; 20 American stock cattle, \$400; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 1 wagon, \$50; 10 tons hay, \$200; 5 hogs, \$15; house hold & K. furniture, \$50; total, \$2765.

David Arnott: 160 acres land situated on Bear Creek bounded as follows: north by the plains, south by the plains, east by Miller, west by Mudgets ranch, valued at \$200; improvements . . . , \$300; 6 work horses, \$360; 7 stock do., \$210; 2 work oxen, \$100; 6 beef cattle, Spanish, \$180; stock do., \$960; money on hand, \$100; 1 wagon, \$100; 12 tons hay, \$240; 800 bushels barley, \$560; total, \$3310.

H. T. Miller: 160 acres land situated on Bear Creek bounded as follows: the claim of Arnott's on the north & south, northeast by Hammond & Cantor & west by Arnott's, valued at \$200; improvements, \$50; 3 work horses, \$180; 2 stock cattle, \$30; 7 tons hay, \$140; 300 bushels barley, \$210; total, \$810.

Mudgett & Bro.: 320 acres land situated on Bear Creek and bounded as follows: north by the plains, south by the plains, east by Arnott's, and west by Reid's Ranch, and valued at \$400; improvements, \$400; 40 stock horses, \$900; 400 bushels barley, \$280; 25 tons hay, \$500; guns and pistol, \$40; household and K. furniture, \$30; 1 wagon, \$100; total, \$2650.

A. C. Robinson: 1 horse, \$70; gun and pistol, \$19; total, \$89.

S. B. Read & Bro.: 160 acres land situated on Bear Creek and bounded as follows: East by Mudget's, west by Rop & Hale, south & west by the plains, valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$600; 2 work horses, \$120; 3 colts, \$50; 9 work oxen, \$450; 15 stock cattle, \$225; 100 bushels barley, \$70; 30 bushels wheat, \$30; 1 wagon, \$100; 10 tons hay, \$200; gun & pistol, \$20; household & K. furniture, \$50; total, \$2115.

Given & Son: 480 acres land situated on Bear Creek and undescribed, valued at \$600; improvements on same, \$500; 50 American stock cattle, \$1000; 300 Spanish do., \$4500; 5 work horses, \$300; 4 colts, \$160; 5 tons hay, \$100; 1 six shooter, \$20; 1 wagon, \$40; 25 hogs, \$75; household & K. furniture, \$30; total, \$7345.

Ross & Hale: 320 acres land, being the N. E. Qr. & S. E. Qr. of Sec. 11, Township 7 South, Range 15 East, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$1000; 5 work horses, \$300; 1 stock do., \$30; hogs, \$300; 1 wagon, \$150; 500 bushels barley, \$350; 5 tons hay, \$100; 200 bushels wheat, \$200; household & kitchen furniture, \$20; 1 miscellaneous library, \$30; total, \$2880.

Thos. J. Price: 160 acres land situated on Burns Creek and undescribed, valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$500; 5 work horses, \$375; 6 colts, \$120; 4 work oxen, \$200; 150 American stock cattle, \$3000; 200 bushels barley, \$140; 1½ ton hay, \$30; money on hand, \$1000; H. & K. furniture, \$250; 1 gun & pistol, \$15; total, \$5830.

A. J. Gregory: 160 acres land, being S. W. Qr. of Sec. 18 S., Range 14 East, valued at \$200; improvements on same \$300; 2 American stock cattle, \$40; 3 stock horses, \$100; total, \$640.

James Karnes: 160 acres land situated on Burns Creek and undescribed, valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$300; 7 work horses, \$420; 9 colts, \$150; 9 work cattle, \$450; 20 American stock cattle, \$400; 25 Spanish do., \$375; 5 beef cattle, \$200; 20 tons hay, \$400; 250 bushels barley, \$175; 1 wagon, \$50; 1 note, \$70; H. & K. F. & pistol, \$60; total, \$3150.

John Slinkard: 1 horse, \$75; 3 beef cattle, \$150; 9 stock do., \$180; money & notes, \$495; total, \$900.

W. W. C. Edwards: 2 horses, \$120; notes, \$1400; total, \$1520.

M. W. Graham: 320 acres land bounded north by River Merced, east by Foreman, south by the hills, west by Wheat & Jenkins, \$400; improvements on same, \$500; 2 work horses, \$200; 20 stock do., \$500; 75 Spanish stock cattle, \$1125; 4 tons hay, \$80; 1 waggon, \$150; accounts, \$25; household & kitchen furniture, \$20; total, \$3000.

R. B. Graham: 1 horse, \$40; 4 tons hay, \$80; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; total, \$820.

C. J. Prescott: 1 lot situated in the town of Snelling and bounded as follows (no description given), \$40; 1 horse & lumber, \$130; accounts \$200; 1 gun & pistol, \$30; total, \$400.

Louis Bundy: 190 acres land bounded north by the hills, east by Hempstead, south river, west Muggler, \$237; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 800 bushels do., \$560; improvements, \$1200; 8 work horses, \$600; 2 tons hay, \$40; 2 wagons, \$50; threshing machine, \$400; house hold & K. furniture, \$5; 1 gun, \$10; 1 reaper, \$100; total, \$3902. Reduced two hundred bushels barley at seventy cents, \$140; total, \$3762. Note: The entry about the reduction appears to be in the handwriting of E. G. Rector, the first county clerk, indicating that the supervisors made the reduction.

Andrew Forney: Money & notes, \$1200.

James Perrin: 10 work oxen, \$500; 1 wagon, \$75; money on hand, \$30; notes, \$930; accounts, \$150; 1 horse, \$30; total, \$1715.

Erastus Kelsey: 150 acres land S. ½ of N. W. Qr. of Sec. and fractions 5 & 6 of S. ½ of N. W. Qr. of Sec. 8, Town 5 South, Range 15 East, valued at \$193; improvements on same, \$400; 3 work horses, \$180; 9 stock cattle, \$180; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 18

tons hay, \$360; 1 reaper, \$50; 1 wagon, \$10; 1 note, \$50; farming utensils, \$10; house hold & K. furniture, \$20; total, \$2153.

Kellott & Karrens: 1 house & lot, \$400; stock & tools on hand, \$350; total, \$750.

N. D. Phelps: 1 work horse, \$65; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 1 note, \$140; 1 pistol, \$25; total, \$930; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 200 bushels wheat, \$200; 8 tons hay, \$160; total, \$1990.

James Kibbe: 160 acres land bounded on the east by Chas. Murry, south by W. Nelson, west by L. P. Willson & north by the low hills, valued at \$200; improvements on the same, \$300; 5 stock horses, \$200; 40 bushels barley, \$28; house hold & K. furniture, \$25; total, \$753.

John H. Foreman: 160 acres land bounded north by the river, east by Shirley, south by Graham, west by Graham, \$200; improvements on same, \$400; 4 work horses, \$240; 5 American stock cattle, \$100; 2 tons hay, \$40; 1 wagon, \$200; 4 hogs, \$10; farming utensils, \$20; house hold & K. furniture, \$50; total, \$1260.

D. C. McCroskey: 1 work horse, \$95; medicine, \$130; accounts, \$40; total, \$265.

F. E. Quivis: 300 acres land, being the Northwest Qr. of Sec. 9 and the southwest Qr. of Sec. 4, Township 5 South, Range 14 East, \$375; improvements, \$800; 3 work horses, \$230; 2 colts, \$80; 1 wagon, \$60; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 5 American stock cattle, \$100; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$2255.

E. G. Rector: 3 lots Nos. 1, 2, & 3, Block 3, Range 3 North of the base line situated in the town of Snelling, \$85; improvements, \$300; goods on hand, \$250; lumber, \$350; accounts, \$712; 1 horse, \$150; total, \$1847.

O. G. Poultney: County scrip, \$3338; notes, \$469; accounts, \$30; total, \$3837.

E. E. Bragg: 1 horse, \$100; 1 chest tools, \$60; total, \$160.

G. W. Holstead: 160 acres land, being the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the north east Qr. and the northeast Qr. of northwest Qr. and Southwest Qr. of northeast Qr. of northwest Qr. of Sec. 8, Township 5 south, range 14 east, \$200; improvements, \$600; 2 work horses, \$200; 6 stock horses, \$180; 400 bushels barley, \$280; 2 tons hay, \$40; 7 stock cattle, American, \$140; 1 note, \$100; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$1790.

John H. Webster: 3 work horses, \$300; 2500 bushels barley, \$1750; 2 tons hay, \$40; notes, \$500; 1 wagon, \$10; money on hand, \$600; total, \$3200.

S. L. Bayless: 1 horse, \$50; 250 bushels barley, \$175; total, \$225.

Larkin Belson: Notes, \$625; 400 bushels barley, \$280; total, \$905.

Sarah J. Smith: 143 acres land, being a fraction of Sec. 21, Township 5 South, Range 12 East, \$178; improvements, \$100; total, \$278.

Samuel Scott: 320 acres land situated on Merced River and undescribed, \$400; improvements, \$1000; 11 work horses, \$950; 12 stock horses, \$240; 20 stock cattle, American, \$400; 570 do. do., Spanish, \$8550; 6 work oxen, \$300; 30 beef cattle, \$900; notes, \$550; 3 wagons & 1 carriage, \$220; 10 tons hay, \$200; firearms, \$10; house & kitchen, \$20; farming utensils, \$20; total, \$13,760.

Thomas Hardaway: 250 bushels barley, \$175.

William Prothero: 1 horse, \$30.

A. B. Thornton: 160 acres land bounded north by Scott, east by Scott, south by the river, west by Gregory, \$200; improvements, \$400; 4 work horses, \$240; 400 bushels barley, \$280; 6 tons hay, \$120; 1 note, \$20; farming utensils, \$25; 1 wagon, \$80; total, \$1365.

W. W. Jackson: 70 acres land, being a fraction of the northwest Qr. of Sec. 19, Township 5 South, Range 14 East, \$87; 2 work horses, \$120; 400 bushels barley, \$280; 1 wagon, \$40; 1 ton hay, \$20; 100 bushels wheat, \$100; total, \$647.

Pleasant Henderson: 320 acres land bounded as follows: north by public lands, south by Barfield & Ross, east by Ross, west by Thompson, \$400; improvements, \$300; 5 work horses, \$200; 18 stock cattle, American, \$360; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 125 do. wheat, \$125; 1 wagon, \$50; firearms, \$10; 6 tons hay, \$120; house and kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$2175.

Charles W. Smith: 303 acres land, being fraction of Sec. 21, Township 5 south, range 15 east, \$378; improvements, \$400; 4 mules, \$240; 9 stock horses, \$180; 12 stock cattle, American, \$240; 14 hogs, \$42; 1 wagon, \$50; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 6 tons hay, \$120; H. & Kitchen furniture, \$50; farming utensils, \$25; total, \$2425.

Thomas Eagleson & Mother: 320 acres land, being the southwest Qr. of Section 15 and the northeast Qr. of Section 16, Township 5 south, range 13 East, \$400; improvements, \$1200; 6 work horses, \$450; 3 stock do., \$60; 8 stock cattle, American, \$160; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; money on hand, \$100; notes and accounts, \$100; goods on hand, \$1500; 1 wagon, \$100; 15 hogs, \$50; 1 reaper, \$50; 1 buggy, \$75; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$4975. One thousand dollars of the above property is exempt from taxation on account of the widow.

Erastus Eagleson: 1 gold watch, \$125.

E. E. Hewitt: 1 lot in the town of Snelling, being No. 4, Block 3, Range 3 north of the base line, \$25; improvements, \$800; 1 work horse, \$75; 1 buggy, \$100; money on hand, \$200; goods on hand, \$500; house & kitchen furniture, \$100; total, \$1800.

Samuel H. P. Ross: 450 acres land, being the northeast Qr. of Sec. 23 and the southeast Qr. of Sec. 22, and a fraction of the northeast Qr. of Sec. 26, Township 5 South, Range 13 East, \$568; improvements, \$700; 6 horses, \$300; 7 stock cattle, American, \$140; 1 wagon, \$75; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 6 tons hay, \$120; notes and accounts, \$150; house & kitchen, \$25; total, \$2778.

T. C. Dean: 250 acres land, being the southwest Qr. of Sec. 22 and the northwest Qr. of Sec. 17, Township 5 south, range 13 east, \$312; improvements, \$500; 5 horses & mules, \$400; 7 stock cattle, American, \$140; 350 bushels barley, \$245; 1 note, \$46; 25 hogs, \$75; farming utensils, \$20; total, \$1863.

William B. Thompson: 160 acres land, being the northwest Qr. of Sec. 22, Township 5 South, Range 13 East, \$200; improvements, \$250; 2 work horses, \$150; 4 stock horses, \$100; 6 stock cattle, American, \$120; 350 bushels barley, \$245; 1 wagon, \$50; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total \$940.

William D. Haralson: 2 mules, \$200; 400 bushels wheat, \$400; 1 wagon, \$125; 2 tons hay, \$40; farming utensils, \$15; total, \$780.

Berry Roberts: 1 colt, \$15; 1 wagon, \$125; total, \$140.

E. I. Thomas: 2 mules, \$170.

William Dunn: 1 mule, \$65; 1 note, \$300; total, \$365.

D. C. Clary: 145 acres land bounded as follows: north by the Merced River, east by Dunn, south by public land, west by Griffith, \$180; improvements, \$400; 3 work horses, \$200; 1 colt, \$15; notes, \$56; accounts, \$375; total, \$1226.

Samuel M. Brown: 160 acres land, being the northeast Qr. of Sec. 27, Township 5 South, Range 13 East, \$200; improvements, \$200; 4 mules, \$400; 600 bushels barley, \$420; 100 bushels oats, \$100; 100 do. wheat, \$100; 7 stock cattle, \$140; 8 hogs, \$24; farming utensils, \$12; house & kitchen furniture, \$5; total, \$1601; 8 tons hay, \$160; total, \$1761. Note that this is the first reference to oats.

H. P. Bales: 1 horse, \$35.

Samuel R. Gwin: 640 acres land, being a part of Sections 28 & 29, Township 5 south, range 13 east, \$800; improvements, \$800; 440 bushels barley, \$308; 800 bushels wheat, \$800; 400 do. oats, \$400; 5 wagons, \$350; 12 work horses, \$1200; 8 stock cattle, American, \$160; 40 tons hay, \$800; 1 reaper, \$200; farming utensils, \$50; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$5918.

Ashley Roberts: 6 work horses, \$400; 1 wagon, \$100; total, \$500.

Lewis Snook: 800 bushels barley, \$560. (Then in E. G. Recor's handwriting) Reduced 200 bushels, being 600 bushels, \$420.

N. D. McCoy: 1 work horse, \$100; 800 bushels barley, \$560; farming utensils, \$14; total, \$674.

Spencer Cursell: 160 acres land bounded as follows: north by Gwin & Curtiss, east by Gwin, south by Haralson & Stephens, west by Reynolds, \$200; improvement, \$300; 4 mules, \$400; notes & accounts, \$450; money on hand, \$100; 2 wagons, \$150; 3 tons hay, \$60; farming utensils, \$25; house & kitchen furniture, \$20; total, \$1705.

A. Bunch: 140 acres land bounded as follows: north by the plains, east by Reynolds, south by Neill, west by Judd, \$175; improvement, \$150; 2 mules, \$160; 1 wagon, \$80; 18 stock cattle, American, \$320; 275 bushels barley, \$190; 2 tons hay, \$40; farming utensils, \$15; house & kitchen furniture, \$20; total, \$1150.

David Slinkard: 2 stock horses, \$125; accounts, \$100; total, \$225.

William Ingram: 2 horses, \$100.

R. R. Reynold: 160 acres land, being the southeast Q. of Sec. 30, Township 5 south, range 15 east, \$200; improvement, \$500; 5 work horses, \$450; 2 colts, \$50; 18 stock cattle, American, \$360; 7 do. do., Spanish, \$105; 2 wagons, \$175; 800 bushels barley, \$560; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$2450.

Samuel H. Curtiss: 320 acres land, being the southeast Qr. of Sec. 31 and southeast Qr. of Sec. 32, Township 5 south, range 15 east, \$400; improvement, \$300; 6 work horses, \$450; 34 stock cattle, American, \$680; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 100 bushels wheat, \$100; 1 wagon, \$100; 2 tons hay, \$40; house & kitchen furniture, \$30; total, \$2660.

Ingalsbe & Brother: 640 acres land, being southeast & southwest Qr. of Sec. 16 and the northeast Qr. of Sec. 20 and a fraction of Sec. 17, Township 5 South, Range 13 east, \$800; improvement, \$1000; 2 horses, \$100; 21 stock horses, \$420; 6 tons hay, \$120; 2400 bushels barley, \$1680; notes and accounts, \$1000; house & kitchen furniture, \$30; total, \$5430.

William B. Akin: 2 mules, \$200; 200 bushels barley, \$140; 250 do. wheat, \$250; 60 do. oats, \$60; farming utensils, \$15; total, \$665.

L. F. Hopwood: 1 horse, \$20.

Chico Degoria: 4 work horses, \$200; 10 stock horses, \$120; 5 jack asses, \$100; total, \$420.

George B. Foster: 1 mule, \$75; money on hand, \$60; total, \$135.

Joshua Griffith: 172 acres land, being fraction 6 of Sec. 29 and fraction 8 of Sec. 30 and fractions 1 & 2 of Sec. 32 and the northeast Qr. of 31, Township 5 south, range 13 east, \$215; improvement, \$1000; 12 mules & horses, \$720; 17 stock horses, \$340; 80 do. cattle, Spanish, \$1200; 160 bushels wheat, \$160; 160 bushels barley, \$112; 2 wagons, \$100; farming utensils, \$20; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; total, \$3927.

John B. Hale: 160 acres land bounded as follows: north by Merced River, south by plains, east by Chandler, west by Dunn, \$200; improvement, \$200; 2 work horses, \$120; 225 bushels barley, \$157; 200 do. wheat, 200; 2 wagons, \$150; house & kitchen furniture, \$30; total, \$1057.

William Cozine: merchandize, \$150.

I. T. J. Cain: 3 work horses, \$240; 1 note, \$80; money on hand, \$80; 1 gold watch, \$100; total, \$500.

John Laughlin: 160 acres land, being fractions of the northwest Qr. of Sec. and southeast Qr. of Sec. 35, \$200; improvement, \$200; 4 mules, \$400; 1 horse, \$40; 300 bushels barley, \$210; 100 do. wheat, \$100; 1 wagon, \$75; farming utensils, \$20; H. & Kitchen Furniture, \$10; total, \$1255; 8 stock cattle, \$160; total, \$1405.

Bird Strickland: 320 acres land, being the southwest Qr. of Sec. 7 and the northwest Qr. of Sec. 18, Township 5 south, range 14 east, \$400; improvement, \$500; 4 work horses, \$240; 1 colt, \$40; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 170 do. wheat, \$170; 1 wagon, \$40; house & kitchen furniture, \$10; 5 stock cattle, American, \$100; total, \$2200.

Wheat & Jenkins: 588 acres land bounded as follows; north by Merced River, east by Graham, south by the plains, west by Ostrander, \$735; improvement, \$900; 9 work horses, \$720; 4000 bushels barley, \$2800; 1 threshing machine, \$660; 1 reaper, \$100; 2 wagons, \$200; farming utensils, \$40; 4 tons hay, \$80; house & kitchen, \$100; total, \$6495.

Thomas Hockerby: 160 acres land situated on Dry Creek adjoining I. N. Ward's Ranch, unsurveyed, \$200; improvement, \$600; 600 bushels barley, \$420; 40 do. wheat, \$40; farming utensils, \$25; house & kitchen furniture, \$15; fire arms, \$10; 2 tons hay, \$40; total, \$1350.

James Thorp: 100 acres land situated on Dry Creek adjoining Hockerby and unsurveyed, \$125.

John McFarlane: 160 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$200; improvement, \$700; 5 work horses, \$800; 11 stock cattle, American, \$220; 100 bushels barley, \$700; 20 do. wheat, \$20; 30 tons hay, \$600; farming utensils, \$30; H. & kitchen furniture, \$100; total, \$3370.

Hildreth & Dunphey: Improvement, \$140; 300 stock cattle, American, \$6000; 1000 do. do., Spanish, \$15,000; 50 horses, \$2500; 25 stock horses, \$500; total \$24,150.

W. B. Taylor: 160 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$200; improvement, \$400; 3 work horses, \$275; 4 stock cattle, American, \$80; 330 bushels barley, \$231; 70 do. wheat, \$70; 5 tons hay, \$100; 1 wagon, \$50; farming utensils, \$20; house & kitchen furniture, \$50; fire arms, \$20; total, \$1496.

B. F. Howell: 120 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$150; improvement, \$700; 2 miles, \$300; 2 stock horses, \$50; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 20 do. wheat, \$20; 1 wagon, \$20; 12 tons hay, \$240; farming utensils, \$6; H. & Kitchen furniture, \$60; total, \$2206.

Enoch Moore: 100 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$125; improvement, \$1500; 6 work horses, \$360; 3 stock horses, \$100; 12 work & beef cattle, \$560; 90 stock cattle, Spanish, \$1350; 6 do. do., American, \$120; 700 bushels barley, \$490; 25 do. wheat, \$25; accounts & firearms, \$140; 5 tons hay, \$100; 2 wagons, \$350; 1 carriage, \$50; farming utensils, \$30; house & kitchen furniture, \$100; total, \$5400; 1 miscellaneous library, \$20; total, \$5420.

Ramsaur & Co.: 600 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$750; improvement, \$700; 1 horse, \$40; 8 work oxen, \$400; 12 stock cattle, American, \$240; 1200 bushels barley, \$840; 25 tons hay, \$500; 1 wagon, \$50; farming utensils, \$60; house & kitchen, \$40; total, \$3620.

Alfred Burton: 160 acres land situated on Dry Creek and unsurveyed, \$200; improvement, \$700; 1 mule, \$150; 6 stock cattle, American, \$120; 400 bushels barley, \$280; 2 tons hay, \$40; farming utensils, \$15; house & kitchen furniture, \$30; total \$1535.

Truman Vaughn: 160 acres land situated on Mariposa Creek under fence and known as Vaughn's Ranch, \$200; improvement, \$50; 2 mules, \$140; 2 stock horses, \$60; 200 bushels barley, \$140; total, \$590.

Frank Binkley: 160 acres land bounded as follows: north by the plains, east by Willcox, south by Rodgers & Harald, west by Wall, \$200; improvement, \$500; 3 stock horses, \$120; 6 work oxen, \$300; 15 stock cattle, American, \$300; 800 bushels barley, \$560; H. & Kitchen furniture, \$75; fire arms, \$20; total \$2075.

Madison Marler: Notes & accounts, \$260.

B. Delashmutt: 160 acres land, being the north west Qr. of Sec. 24, Township 5 South, Range 15 East, \$200; improvement, \$300; 4 work horses, \$240; 6 stock horses, \$120; 600 bushels barley, \$420; 50 do. wheat, \$50; fire arms, \$20; farming utensils, \$10; house & kitchen furniture, \$20; total, \$1380.

Richard Johnson: 600 bushels barley, \$420; 1 six shooter, \$20; 50 bushels wheat, \$50; 1 note, \$10; 2 tons hay, \$40; total, \$540.

David Daugherty: 60 acres land under the enclosure of John Hawke, \$75; 1 horse, \$50; 4 tons hay, \$80; total, \$205.

Hamlin & Lyons: 120 acres land, being the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest Qr. of Sec. 16 and east $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 17, Township 5 south, range 14 east, \$150 (this is the way the description is given though obviously a mistake; probably we may assume that the land was in the sections named); 6 work horses, \$360; improvement, \$500; 250

bushels barley, \$175; 400 do. wheat, \$400; 1 wagon, \$100; 1 grist mill, \$2000; total, \$3685.

John Hawke: 160 acres land bounded as follows: north by Bird Negro, east by Jackson, south by the river, west by Delashmutt, \$200; 8 work horses, \$800; 800 bushels barley, \$560; 1 wagon, \$100; money on hand, \$100; notes, \$130; farming utensils, \$10; 1 six shooter, \$25; total, \$2325.

John F. Shirley: 160 acres land, being the northwest Qr. of Sec. 12, Township 5 south, range 14 east, \$200; improvement, \$300; 4 mules, \$400; 1500 bushels barley, \$1050; 1 wagon, \$50; 8 stock cattle, Spanish, \$120; 1 note, \$300; farming utensils, \$30; house & kitchen furniture, \$10; total, \$2460.

L. B. Harbour: 100, being fractions of Sec. 12, \$125 (this is certainly sketchy); improvement, \$400; 5 horses & mules, \$400; 700 bushels barley, \$490; 50 do. wheat, \$50; 1 wagon, \$70; farming utensils, \$10; house & kitchen furniture, \$20; total, \$1565.

Phillip Ropp: 1 mustang, \$25.

Thomas W. Whitney: 2 colts, \$50; 1 wagon, \$25; accounts, \$500; 1 six shooter, \$20; house & kitchen furniture, \$5; total, \$400.

Nelson Boulton: 2 stock horses, \$50; accounts, \$300; total, \$350.

Arch Pruitt: 120 acres land, being fraction of the south east Qr. of Sec. 30, township 5 south, range 13 east, \$150; 4 work horses, \$200; 68 beef cattle, \$1300; 6 stock horses, \$120; 1 six shooter, \$20; total \$1790.

Brent & Crittenden: 4444 acres land, being one undivided league of the tract known as La Panoche Grande y Los Carilitos, valued at fifty cents per acre, \$2222.

Antonia Montoya: 160 acres land, \$200; improvement on same, \$200; 7 horses, \$280; 4 work oxen, \$200; 32 Spanish stock cattle, \$480; 250 bushels barley, \$175; total, \$1535.

Juan Portia: 3 work horses, \$120; 125 bushels barley, \$88; total, \$208.

G. Warcia: 125 bushels barley, \$88.

Alonzo Dean: 20 acres land bounded on the north by the Merced River, south by the hills, east by Montoya, west by the river, \$25; 3 work horses, \$150; improvement, \$50; farming utensils, \$20; 1 six shooter, \$15; total, \$260.

R. Leon: 1 horse, \$50.

Cyrus Lopez: 2 horses, \$80; 2 work oxen, \$100; 100 bushels wheat, \$100; 60 bushels barley, \$42; total, \$322. One wonders if the assessor didn't get Lopez' first name wrong; it seems a queer combination, this of Cyrus with Lopez.

Lewis Espenosa: 1 jack ass, \$30; 40 bushels wheat, \$40; 50 bushels barley, 35; total, \$105.

Conceson Eukis: 2 work horses, \$80.

Lewisiana Bogore: 10 horses, \$300; 2 jack asses, \$60; 30 bushels barley, \$21; total, \$381.

The three names just preceding afford further evidence that the Spanish was too much for the assessor, just as the place names which we have retained from the language in California often prove too much for visitors from the East.

Alex. Forbes: 17,776 acres land, this track of land known as La Panoche Grande y Carisalitos, \$8888. This and the Brent & Crittenden assessment, totaling between them 22,220 acres, obviously constitute the present Arburua Ranch on the West Side, called Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisalitos, and having an area, according to the county map of 1919, of 22,175.34 acres.

Juan Frana: 1 horse, \$30.

Farrens & Hickman: 275 acres land bounded on the north by the Merced River, west by Mr. Cox's ranch, south by the plains, & east by Richardson's Ranch, valued at \$343; improvements on same, \$800; 12 horses & mules, \$900; 1250 bushels barley, \$875; 10 stock horses, \$200; solvent debts, \$500; 1 wagon, \$200; house hold & K. furniture, \$50; 2 six shooters, \$30; total, \$3898.

Stephens & Haraldson: 105 acres land situated on the Merced River and bounded as follows: (no description), valued at \$150; 26 tons hay, \$390; 130 bushels wheat, \$130; total, \$650.

F. B. Brown: 1 mule, \$100; 1 colt, \$20; total, \$120.

Wm. Porter: 12 oxen, \$600; 1 wagon, \$300; 1 horse, \$50; 1 note, \$300; 1 six shooter, \$20; total, \$1270.

Moses Dameron: 320 acres land on Mariposa Creek bounded north by public land, east by M. F. Turner, south by Fitzhugh, west by public land, \$400; improvement, \$300; 7 work horses, \$420; 8 work oxen, \$400; 9 stock cattle, Spanish, \$135; 1000 bushels barley, \$700; 5 tons hay, \$80; 2 wagons, \$100; farming utensils, \$20; 1 reaper, \$150; house & kitchen, \$10; total, \$2715.

John M. Montgomery: 640 acres land, being the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of south east Qr. of Sec. 17 and north $\frac{1}{2}$ of the west Qr. of Sec. 20, township 7 south, range 15 east, the balance being undescribed, \$640; improvement, \$2000; 28 work horses, \$2520; 122 stock do., \$3660; 150 beef cattle, \$5250; 650 American stock cattle, \$13,000; 2200 Spanish do., \$33,000; 1700 sheep, \$5100; 60 hogs, \$180; 3 wagons, \$300; 40 tons hay, \$900; money on hand, \$540; notes and accounts, \$1950; 1 reaper, \$200; farming utensils, \$50; house & kitchen furniture, \$100; fire arms, \$30; 3000 lbs. wheat, \$90; total, \$69,510.

H. J. Ostrander: 160 acres land, being north east Qr. of Sec. 16, township 5 south, range 14 east, valued at \$200; improvements, \$400; 2 horses, \$250; 1 cow, \$25; 50 bushels barley, \$35; 3 tons

hay, \$60; 1 wagon, \$250; farming utensils, \$20; house hold & K. furniture, \$10; 1 six shooter, \$5; total, \$1255.

Augustus Jones: 160 acres land undescribed situated on Merced River & valued at \$200; improvements on same, \$500; 10 work horses, \$1250; 8 stock do., \$160; 8 tons hay, \$80; 287 stock cattle, \$4305; 1300 bushels barley, \$910; 1 six shooter, \$25; total, \$7430.

Bludworth & Moore: 320 acres land, being tract No. 1, 2, & 3, Sec. 9, and the south east Qr. and south half of north east Qr. of Sec. 4, township 5 south, range 14 east, valued at \$400; improvements on same, \$6000; 1 mule, \$80; 23 stock cattle, \$460; 11 hogs, \$33; 1 work ox, \$50; 1 cart, \$15; accounts, \$800; house hold & kitchen furniture, \$500; farming utensils, \$30; total, \$8368.

This is the first assessment on page 118, the last page of the book now in existence. The last assessment on that page has been crossed out; it is to Varmew Westcott, and is as follows: 80 acres land bounded north by public lands, south by same, east by same, west by same, \$100; improvement, \$100; 4 work horses, \$240; 3 American stock cattle, \$60; 27 Spanish do., \$405; 7 hogs, \$21; 1 wagon, \$200; 1 reaper, \$50; money on hand, \$102; accounts, \$75; house & K. F. & far. utensils, \$25; total, \$1378. The word "house" occurs on two or three lines out of place, and may have furnished the reason for crossing out the assessment. We find in the index "V. Westcott, page 119," the next page after this.

The names which were on the twenty-eight missing pages of the assessment roll of 1857, which may be gathered from the index, are as follows:

J. R. Bube	Antonia (sic) Espanosa
W. W. Brown	R. S. Eaton
B. P. Brown	David Erans
Wm. Byers	Ernst Fass
G. G. Belt	A. Frazier
C. M. Blair	John Fruit
Barfield & Ruddle	I. W. Fitzhugh
Thomas Bird	W. F. Freeman
Jos. Bertine	Peter Fee
John Burkhead	Gould & Steinberg
Boledo & Co.	Thomas Givens
Bird & Son	Heely & Brother
Dan Baldwin	W. C. Hoge
A. Cortner	C. M. Hoge
William Dennis	H. D. Hoeder
Alex Dunn	John Hawkin
Santez Duran	John James
——— Davis	F. F. Lether

Alex Manarr	James Rigsby
John Montozo	John Rhodes
Harvey Martin	Robles & Brother
McSwain & Sons	C. A. Richardson
J. O. McGahey	A. Stevinson
R. C. May	J. J. Stevinson
E. J. McDade	Mahlon Stone
Miguel Mora	W. R. Smith
Neill & Brother	Joel Smith
J. R. ONeal	R. L. Swope
A. J. Paige	Geo. M. Somers
Geo. W. Prother	Silvester & Bell
Geo. W. Patrick	W. C. Turner
Phillip Simon	B. Triplit
H. B. Porter	I. N. Wiliford
Post & Lord	I. N. Ward
W. R. Price	William Wilson
Francisco Pacheco	

CHAPTER IX

EARLY DAYS IN THE COUNTY

The assessment roll of 1857 tells us a number of interesting things, and some of them are important in the early history of the county. Perhaps the most striking thing of all is the light it gives us upon the location of the population at that time. When we consider that this population was for the most part located in two main groups, one stretching down the Merced River from Merced Falls to about the Ingalsbe place, according to the pages that are extant, and including Neill, Cox, W. C. Turner and the Stevinsons as the index shows, and the other along the creeks from Bear and Burns Creeks south to the Choychilla, and stretching out from the edge of the hills to, say, not more than half-way to the San Joaquin (except for the Cocanour and Bludworth places in the vicinity of the present Robla), the conclusion is strongly forced upon us that the population was, as we should have expected, probably largely an overflow from the mines in the Mariposa hills.

On the West Side we find the Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisalitos, some 22,220 acres, assessed; we find Hildreth & Dunphey assessed for a lot of stock, though for no land, but the inference is probable that they were on the Santa Rita Ranch, later, we know, owned by Hildreth & Hildreth, and still later acquired from them, along with their "H & H" brand, by Miller & Lux; and we find Francisco Pacheco named in the index, and Juan Perez Pacheco was one of the grantees of the San Luis Ranch, one of the Mexican grants, which still exists, stretching from the western edge of the level San Joaquin Valley lands on to the pass which now bears Pacheco's name, and across it out of Merced County. In addition there are a number of Spanish names, a few assessed for land, and it is probable that a portion at least of these were on the West Side. However, if we may take the fifty cents an acre of the Panoche Grande y Los Carrisalitos Rancho assessment as a standard of valuation for the West Side lands, they may not have been. It is a pity we have not also the assessment on Pacheco's San Luis Ranch to check by. There may perhaps have been an unconscious tendency on the part of the assessor to assess the larger land tracts a little lower. We notice, for example, that John M. Montgomery's 640 acres on Bear Creek and E. J. Stearns' 2240 acres near the present Le Grand are assessed at a dollar instead of the almost universal (for the East Side) dollar and a quarter. The smaller holdings were

practically all bottom land, and where a tract ran to greater size there was more chance for the inclusion of some less valuable plains. We can only guess.

And we must guess with some caution. For example, one might conclude, from the fact that there is half a dozen or more times as much barley on the roll as there is wheat, that more barley than wheat was raised. One familiar with the conditions might guess better than this, and he would be supported by facts which do not appear in the assessment roll. The assessment was taken in the spring; barley was used for horse feed; the wheat crop, which was really much larger than the barley crop, was planted before the assessment was taken, and the crop was grown, harvested, and marketed and out of the way before the next assessment. Even the seed wheat was not on hand but in the ground. Henry Nelson, who came to Merced Falls in March, 1854, and was in the flour mill business with his father from the fifties on—his own experience in that line ended only in 1893—is authority for the statement that there was much more wheat than barley raised.

Cattle are obviously the most important product. We find a majority of the Spanish stock cattle, assessed usually at \$15 a head—Texas longhorns, Mr. Nelson says. He relates that in 1859 he and two other young fellows rode over from Merced Falls to a rodeo just down Bear Creek from J. M. Montgomery's ranch—the present Wolfsen Ranch, about eleven miles in a straight line up Bear Creek from Merced, and about four from the Mariposa boundary—and that there were 10,000 or more cattle at the rodeo. It is significant that the Mexican official known as Juez de Campo, or "judge of the plains," was retained by the Gringo successors of the Mexican, and we can read in the early minutes of the county where four citizens were appointed by the board of supervisors as such. The minute entry is found on page 25 of minute Book "A," and it was at the session of May 5, 1856: "The Board then appointed John Sylvester, John Ruddle, Jr., S. R. Dehart, and Bates Dehart, Judges of the Plains." The De Harts were West Siders.

But though the Spanish cattle were numerous, there were a good many American cattle. Not a few had been brought across the plains. We find quite a number of work oxen, valued pretty uniformly at \$50 each. That oxen continued to be used for some time in the county is evidenced by the fact, related by Mrs. Dora Shillington, a deputy county clerk today, that her mother, Mrs. Joseph Heacox, of the Robla neighborhood, now in her fifties, came here at the age of one year from San Francisco in an ox cart.

John M. Montgomery is assessed for 1700 sheep—the only sheep on the roll. It is probable, however, that the Panoche Ranch was used for sheep; it is noteworthy that the two assessments covering

that ranch (4444 acres to Brent & Crittenden on page 87, and 17,776 acres to Alex Forbes on page 89) are the only property assessed to these owners. The usual practice nowadays would run sheep on this West Side hill range in the early spring, and drive them to other pastures as the grass failed, and this would most likely occur before the time of assessment in the spring. Very likely it so occurred in 1857.

An interesting study which would throw some light on how people lived in those days would be to work out the total assessments on the three items of "farming utensils," "house & kitchen furniture," and "fire arms." The two former were almost unbelievably small in amount and valuation, the last nearly always present. Henry Nelson states that nearly every man carried a six-shooter, and relates that on his return from one trip from their mill up to the vicinity of Sonora and Columbia, he had two with him because he had left one behind on a former trip and was bringing it home. He did not make the last trip up without going armed again. Whether he ever had occasion to use a revolver himself or not, he was at least present in Snelling one day in the late fifties when three men were shot. This is probably the same occurrence referred to in Peter Fee's diary early in 1858, where he states in one line that three men were killed in Snelling.

It is noteworthy that pretty much everything was assessed, including money on hand, accounts, notes, money at interest, and three dogs. But, query: Weren't some dogs missed? This assessment of dogs, even though there are only three mentioned, and most of the canine population must have been missed, still indicates that the system, born no doubt of the county's stern necessities, was to assess pretty much everything. We have noted that money on hand, money at interest, notes, and accounts, were not overlooked. We note also that so far as we can judge, the personal property was assessed at what was probably a lot nearer its full market value than is the usual practice in assessing today. The fact that these were the days when the fabulous mining prices prevailed—or occasionally occurred, for it is doubtful if the extremely high prices which we sometimes hear of ever really prevailed in the sense of being the usual run of things—may lead us to concede that some of the values may have been higher than the assessments. We nowadays must look of course at the personal property; we shall find it quite impossible to put ourselves back in our imaginations sufficiently into a time so different from our own as to understand the land values of what was in actual time only two-thirds of a century ago.

We have seen how J. M. Montgomery, easily the richest man of the county in 1857, with nearly 5000 head of stock, was assessed for only 640 acres of land—at one dollar an acre! We note that

about three-quarters of this one section is located, and is the ranch, or part of it, now well-known as the Wolfsen Ranch. The balance was on Bear Creek, but otherwise undescribed. Old-timers remember that Montgomery had a water-hole on Bear Creek just about where the city of Merced now stands, and it seems that he owned forty acres of land to control the water-hole. It is probable that the other three forties not described may be similarly accounted for. In 1862 he patented 240 acres where Merced now is.

With the taking up and claiming in actual ownership of land only along the creeks and the river, which we have already observed; with this taking up of the water-holes; with Henry Nelson's description of the rodeo which he attended just below Montgomery's ranch about 1859, where there were 10,000 cattle; and with the cattle trains which we have seen John Ruddle and McPhatridge and others bringing across the plains, we have a fairly sound basis on which to reconstruct the order of things in those early times. We have seen that only townships and sections were surveyed in the fifties; and we have seen in the 1857 assessment roll that except along the river—and it is the Merced which in those days is “the river”—scarcely any land is described except by giving the names of the adjoining owners and the stream it is located on. Of Montgomery's 640 acres on Bear Creek about three-quarters is described by section, township, and range; but it is almost, if not quite, the only piece so described except the land on the Merced River. As early as 1857 the foundations are already well laid for the bitter war which was waged later between the cattle men, long monarchs of pretty much all they surveyed of this unsurveyed public land, and the new wheat-raisers who ten years later began to come into power. In fifteen years we shall see them strong enough to wrest the county seat from Snelling and put it in the new town on the new Central Pacific Railroad, and this too in a three-cornered race in which both Merced and Livingston received more votes than Snelling.

We must bear in mind, however, the fact that from the beginnings the settlements which crept down from the hills fell into two groups, the one along the river and the other centering around what was afterwards to be Plainsburg, along the creeks further to the south. That the settlements along the creeks counted up to a good deal is shown, perhaps as clearly as by anything else, by the fact that the line dividing the county into two townships was drawn, not with the river settlements constituting the whole of one township and the creek settlements the other, but half-way between Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek, with Bear and Burns Creeks at the least grouped with the river settlement. It seems easily possible, therefore, that had the first county seat been located somewhere near Plainsburg, as a lot of people think it was, instead of pretty well down to the west-

ern edge of the creek settlements, there might never have been a second county seat at Snelling and a third at Merced.

There was no Plainsburg then; from the 1857 assessment we learn of town lots only in Snelling, and there were not many assessed even there. Merced Falls could not be called a town, Henry Nelson says; there were only about half a dozen families. There were the Nelsons, who ran their flour mill; there was Charles Murray, just above them, who had a ferry and later a bridge; above Murray was John Phillips, with the ferry which was taken as the point for the new county's boundary to cross the Merced River; and on an acre of land on William Nelson's farm was R. B. Hall, the lawyer, with his family. Hopeton, at first called Forlorn Hope, consisted of seven or eight buildings, a church, a blacksmith shop, and about four dwellings—about as it is today. There was no town on the West Side, there was none on the railroad—and no railroad for it to be on, and not to be any for fifteen years.

The next towns which were to come into existence had hardly been thought of yet, and have been all but forgotten now. It is a reasonably safe guess that one couldn't find three pupils in the biggest geography class in the county today who ever even heard of Dover or Chester, and the name of Hill's Ferry is saved from as complete oblivion only by the fact that there is still a Hill's Ferry bridge. These little towns along the San Joaquin existed only for the period during which the river was an avenue of commerce; and that period did not begin until there was something bulky and heavy to transport, which meant almost entirely grain, and it ended when the East Side got its railroad in 1872 and the West Side its line in 1889. And that year 1889 was thirty-four years after the organization of the county and thirty-five before today.

Towns were extremely few and extremely small. Life was frugal to a degree with which we of the present day are not familiar, even the least wealthy of us. Two "miscellaneous libraries"—a term which appears to have been the classification for everything but lawyers' and doctors' libraries—are all that were assessed in 1857. Libraries are heavy to move by ox team in a six months' trip across the plains. We do learn from other sources that Samuel Scott had a considerable library in his fine place in the Merced River bottoms, but the date may well have been, and probably was, considerably later than 1857.

We have already commented on the very small assessments on household and kitchen furniture. They ran somewhere about the same as the usual assessment for firearms (scarcely more), which were most commonly six-shooters. And farming "utensils" were evidently very few and very simple, for the assessments on them are also exceedingly small. These "utensils" obviously did not include

such large implements as reapers and threshing machines, for we find them separately assessed. At least three threshing machines at this date afford some basis on which to estimate the extent of grain-raising; Nelson's flour mill at Merced Falls, with its market in the mining country in the hills from Sonora to Coarse Gold, affords us another.

One who reads the assessment roll of 1857 can hardly fail to be struck with the fact that the names make a far different list from, say, the index to the last great register—different in the character of its names, that is. To be sure, many of the early names still persist, but it is in what is not on the early list rather than in what is on it that we find the difference. With the exception of a very few Spanish names—which the English-speaking new-comers sometimes wrestled with in vain, as we have seen—the names are practically all American of the sort that were brought from England. Swedish, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, and Japanese names, which we have now, are conspicuous by their absence. Even the Irish for the most part are missing; they came, most of the early ones, in the late sixties, when the country was beginning to bloom forth as a great grain field and the no-fence law was but a few years in the future. There was a Thornton on the roll, located on the Merced River, but County Clerk P. J. Thornton, whose father came here in the late sixties, does not know of him; he was of another family. For the most part, it may be said that the early pioneers were of the same stock which found the country east of the Appalachians crowded and unduly civilized at the time of the American Revolution, and sought elbow room in that other Far West two thousand miles to the eastward of this one along the Sierra foothills.

The liberal display of firearms on the 1857 assessment roll seems to have been necessary against both man and beast. Peter Fee records in his diary, under date of January 23, 1858: "Three men kild at Snellings. Snow"; and Henry Nelson was in Snelling when the shooting occurred, and recalls that Charles Bludworth, the first sheriff, was one of three whom three others attacked, and that the attackers lost two and the attacked one man. It is related of Dr. Joshua Griffith that he successfully defended himself against two Mexicans and shot them both. Judge E. N. Rector recalls hearing his father tell of a hunt for a grizzly near the Neil Ranch. A party of men were after a big bear with dogs, and routed him out of a tangle of briars. The bear came out cuffing right and left at the dogs, and the men retreated hurriedly before him—all but "Bill" Neil, who was mounted on a mule. It was not Bill, but the mule, which stood its ground. Neil was ready and anxious to get away from there; but the mule stood still before the oncoming bear and pointed his long ears at it. The mule was slower than its rider in

reaching the conclusion that almost anywhere else was a better place than in front of that bear. When the mule did reach a conclusion, it agreed completely with the one his rider had already arrived at; and he turned and bolted, with Neil sticking earnestly in place.

We have seen how the assessment roll indicates the location of the bulk of the population near the Mariposa County line. We must bear in mind that the main avenue of travel north and south in those days was what is commonly called the old Millerton Road, which ran from Stockton out eastward to the foothills and then followed the edge of the hills down by way of Knight's Ferry, Merced Falls, and Newton's Crossing to Millerton. Millerton was the first county seat of Fresno County, and took its name from the early Fort Miller; the location was where the San Joaquin debouches from the foothills, near the present little town of Friant. This old road was the boundary line between Merced and Mariposa Counties from Merced Falls to Newton's Crossing. It would scarcely be correct to say that this was the main avenue of travel up and down the San Joaquin Valley, for it was not to the Valley so much as to the foothills that travel was bound. Travel out across the Valley, what little there was of it, was difficult on account of sand, mud, and swollen streams. The obstacles offered by the streams tributary to the San Joaquin on the Sierra Nevada side, which Fremont had brought so forcibly to his attention in the spring of 1844, continued to be serious until the railroad came, at least. County Clerk P. J. Thornton relates that in the late sixties his father hauled the lumber from Stockton which was used in building the house, or a part of it, which still stands on the Alfarata Ranch, and that he went from Stockton to Banta and crossed to the West Side, and then came down that side of the San Joaquin where the road avoided the rivers of the East Side, and crossed back again at Dover above the mouth of the Merced.

It was with the foothill country that the people of the new county in the plains had most of their dealings. We have seen that Nelson's flour mill found most of the market for its product there, and we have seen also how W. L. Means earlier hunted elk and antelope in the vicinity of Robla and sold the meat at the mines. In addition we have found that many of those who were the earliest pioneers of this county came first to the mines of Mariposa, and down here later.

We have an interesting document of the first decade of the county's history in the diary of Peter Fee. Fee was a Norwegian by birth. We have seen his name in the list which the Merced Express published in 1880 of the then Merced County residents who had been in California since its admission to the Union on September 9, 1850; and we have Henry Nelson's recollection that Fee lived at Mt. Ophir in 1855. His diary covers the five years from 1858 to 1862 inclusive, and early in that period he moved to the Merced River a

short distance above Snelling. We learn from Fee's statements in the diary that he himself was born in 1818. He refers several times to G. Fee, evidently his father, born in 1786, who clearly lived with Fee and his family. In one place he records that G. Fee built a fence around a haystack.

The incidents of Peter Fee's life, recorded from day to day during these five years, give us many glimpses of how and where people lived in the Merced County of that time, and in Mariposa also. It is the record of a man of untiring industry. He has a page of "Rules copied from the ancient Fee family journal" in the front of the book, the second of which reads, "Never be idle; if your hands can't be usefully employed, attend to the cultivation of your mind"; and he lived up to that maxim faithfully. The diary is too long to be given in anything like its entirety; but it is well worth making generous selections from. He gives two pages to a month, and almost always merely one line to a day. At the top of each page is written the year and the month, and down the left the day of the month and the day of the week, the latter abbreviated.

"On "Januari 1, F., P. Fee & Forbes went to Mariposa. 2, Sa., Fee went to Mersede and back. Frbs Barly 200 lb. 3, S., Fee visit Mt. Ophir. Forbes left. 4, M., Fee left for Coltervill, staid at Youngs." This is the whole of the first four days. He was necessarily brief; he abbreviated. His spelling indicates a man who learned English after he was grown up.

The "Mersede" which he refers to here he mentions a number of times; of course it could not be the present town, for this was something like fourteen years before the town came into existence. He clearly means the river, and in one place he has it: "Went to the Mersede at Young's." Young's is also frequently referred to. Young had a ferry across the Merced River. Henry Nelson remembers it and the sign which directed travelers from the road between Merced Falls and Snelling to it. It was located about a mile and a half below Merced Falls, just about where the Merced Irrigation District diverting dam, formerly part of the Crocker-Huffman system, is now. The sign was at a point on the S. K. Spears Ranch where the road forked, and read "T. W. T. Young's Ferry. Nearest and Best Road to All Parts of the Mines South of the River Merced." The sign was there for a number of years. The building of bridges later put the ferries out of business. In the early minutes of the board of supervisors there are rather numerous references to Young's and Phillips' ferries and Murray's bridge; their rivalry is recorded in the attempts made by each to prevent his competitors from getting their licenses to operate. The board heard them all and granted them all licenses, in spite of the imposing array of counsel with which

they came before the county fathers—granted them all licenses and set the amount of the bonds they had to give, and also fixed the rates they were allowed to charge. Phillips's Ferry we have already heard of as the place where the county boundary line crossed the Merced River; Murray's was only a short distance below Phillips's; both were above Young's.

We'll follow Peter Fee right through the month of January, 1858. The first four days have been given. On the 5th "Fee & Forbes campt at Newyears diggins." On the 6th, "do. & do. do. on the Colterville Turnpike." On the 7th, "do. & do. staid at the mill. comensed loading." On the 8th, "do. & do. campt at pino blanco." On the 9th, "do. & do. do. at the Ducth Range." On the 10th (which was Sunday), "do. & do. laid by." On Monday the 11th, "Forbes turned over. campt on a mountain." The next day "Fee & Forbes hunted cattle campt in the snow." On the 13th they "campt on the Newyears diggens," obviously on their way home again. They went back after the freight left the next day, and the day after "staid at Young's." On Saturday the 16th they "campt at Texas Tent." Texas Tent, or the Texas Ranch, was the home ranch of the Givens family towards Indian Gulch from Hornitos. On the 17th they "turned out at Corbitts T. went home. This was Sunday. The next day they "brought the loads home." Apparently Fee still lived at Mt. Ophir. He refers early in the diary to the Norwegian Tent, where he lived, and there are numerous references to a lawsuit with Star & Grimshaw, which he won, and which was about the place on the Merced River; and he soon moves down to this place.

On the 19th "rested the chattle," and then there is a little picture writing, a small rectangle with diagonals, which we come to learn means a letter. This was a letter "from McKinley." On January 20 we read "G. Fee 72 years." On the 21st it "raind ould day." It frequently rains "ould nite." These entries are given verbatim, not with any idea of making fun of Fee's spelling, but rather as thus retaining better the atmosphere of the times which makes them of interest. That generation, which had not always learned to spell, laid the foundations of the schools which gave their children and grandchildren more educational advantages. On the 22nd "Fee & Forbes brought their load of castings to Dr. Granvoinet. Rained and snow." On the 23rd is the item already quoted: "Three men kild at Snellings. Snow." Henry Nelson says: "I was at Snelling one day when three men were killed. Dr. Goodin, who lived at Fitzhugh's Ranch, was killed on one side and two others on the other." On the 24th Fee "drove the chattle to the Valley & home." On the 25th, "Fee workt on the Wagon wheels." On the 26th, "do. do. & went to Mposa." For the remaining days of the month there are a lot of ditto abbreviations—referring to the wagon wheels, and on

the 31st the additional entry (it was Sunday), "Fee & Forbes wisit Mount Ophir."

There is a great deal of mention of places up through the hills. On the very next day after Fee and Forbes went to Mount Ophir, we read that they went to Sebastopol, which is the more modern Bootjack. Mormon Bar, Bear Valley, Princeton, are frequently mentioned, Lewis further south every now and then, Chowchilla occasionally, Sonora, Knight's Ferry now and then. All through the country where the bulk of the population then lived and the bulk of the business was carried on, Fee went with his team. Largely the animals were oxen; whether altogether, we can hardly tell from the diary. He had horses, and he had a buggy; his horses may have been only for riding and buggy use.

The diary records various steps in a lawsuit which Fee had with Star and Grimshaw about the farm above Snelling where he lived. We read on March 3, 1858, "the case set for Thursday the 11th." Judge Creanor had arrived the day before; it was apparently at Sonora, for he went there February 28 and on March 1 engaged H. P. Barber to attend to the case for \$300. On the 16th, verdict for 320 acres and \$1 damages. The matter drags for a considerable time and he finally is put into possession of the property. He records that he moved down from "the Norwegian Tent."

His daily life well illustrates the industry, the varied activities, and the self-reliance imposed by necessity, of the pioneer. He was teamster, farmer, stock-raiser, carpenter and general mechanic. Witness such entries as these: "Hauled wood, worked on the wagon, worked on the bråke, made two mailboxes, brought Polly's calf home, the twin catts born, made an oxyoke, worked on the erigation ditch, went to the mill (he hauled a good deal of lumber from various sawmills in Mariposa County), ploughed the garden, planted turnips, peas and beans."

He did a considerable amount of work for Col. J. C. Fremont, who was then living on his grant at Las Mariposas. On the lower part of the last page for May, 1858, he records: "Fee hould during the mount for Col. J. C. Fremont 7233 ft. of lumber from McNeals mill to Fremonts, \$144.66; for houling of 12,000 shingles, \$24.00; for houling of 1275 ft. lumber to Mersede, \$19.02—\$187.69. Paid cash to D. Clark for shingles, 12,000, \$96—\$283.68. Paid the 17th July by Fremont." He records several times that Fremont passed, that he went below, and so on.

On July 26, 1858, he writes: "Fee born 40 years ago, 1818," and adds, evidently referring to the rules from the ancient family journal of the Fees, "Truht, Temperance." This quirk of reversing the order of the "th" in English words occurs often—usually he writes "wiht."

Frequently we find that he put in a part of a day, a day, sometimes more, hunting cattle, which is eloquent of the unfenced condition of the range in those days. He records where he attended this and that and the other man's rodeo, and found one, two, or more head (of his own). The cattle he hunted were sometimes his oxen—he records it so sometimes—and this is sometimes when he is away on a trip with his team.

He makes brief record, necessarily afterwards some time, of important world events. He did this with the opening events of the Civil War, but the war soon apparently outran the scope of his little book. Opposite the regular daily entry on August 6, 1858, he notes "Telegraphic cable landed," and at the end of this month's record he amplifies this to "The telegraphic cable landed at Trinity Bay."

On the 10th of this same August (Tuesday), "Fee went to Campmeeting at Cathes Valley," and found it evidently worth while, for the following Sunday, "Fee & Mrs. Fee went to Campmeeting." He and his wife go visiting—chiefly on Sundays, for he is too busy on other days—sometimes as far away as Auga Fria; and he frequently records the visits of neighbors to them.

On the new State's eighth birthday he records that "Fee and Granpar workt on the Arastras," and ditto the next three days. They put in about seven more days at this job by the end of the month. "Granpar" was his father evidently; he refers to him sometimes as G. Fee, and we are told that he was born in 1786. Fee notes his birthday several times through the dairy, and on one occasion notes that he was sick and that they had to send to Hornitos for medicine for him.

The name Grandpa suggests that the Fees had children. We make out at least two sons, apparently; but we cannot always be sure, from the very brief mention. On September 24, 1859, he records that Charley was very sick and that they waited on him all night; and the next day Charley died and was "buried in the east corner of the field. Rev. Bonsel said the funeral servis."

From July 9 to 15 we read of what was apparently a small revolution that Fremont had on his hands. The record is as follows for the week:

"9 Fr. The Pinetree jumped by a mob. werry warm. 10 Sa. Fee & Mrs Fee wisit Fremonts Famelie. 11. S. Great exitement in Bearvaly. 12. M. Inlisting volenters for protektion of F. property. 13. Ti. Fee hould wood. 14 W. The dificulty at Pinetre settled & the Miners & Setlers left the mine. 15. The Miners & Setlers trial in Mariposa." There was prompt justice in those days at any rate. On the 19th: "Went to Mariposa. Dst. Court convened. Fremont comensed work at the Pine Tree Mine."

He records usually the number of feet of lumber he hauled. We have seen this in the statement of the account with Fremont. The figures there indicate \$20 a thousand for the lumber, which was probably the purchase price at the mill plus hauling. It seems pretty high for hauling, and the account states expressly that Fee paid cash for the shingles, and that Fremont afterwards repaid him.

When the Banner, the first newspaper in Merced County, was started, Fee hauled the press from some earlier plant further north. It is sometimes stated that the press came from Waterford; Fee's evidence, while it does not absolutely show this to be incorrect, makes it appear very strongly that it came from Knight's Ferry. The entries about the matter from the 27th of June to the 2nd of July, 1862, are as follows: "27 F. Hoed in the garden. Engaged to houl the press. 28. Sa. Started. Staid at Dr. Both at Toaleme. 29. S. Arived at Nights Ferry, 5 horses. 30. M. Loaded, started across river. Got a buggy from Linstad for a horse. Staid at Dingley. Harry Linstad Baker & Salon in Nights Ferry. July 1 Ti. Staid and swopt oxen with Dingley. 2 W. Staid Gallops. Arrived and unloaded at Snellings & went home."

Fe records the flood of January, 1862, which washed away the hotel and other buildings at Snelling, and which, Henry Nelson recalls, washed away the bridges at Merced Falls, so that when he returned from a trip to the mines south of the river he had to take his wagon over on a little ferry boat and lead his mules across one at a time behind a row boat. Fee's entries about the flood begin on January 5, Sunday, and continue for eight days. The entries are as follows: "5, S. Raind and storm. 6, M. Raind old day. 7, Ti. Removed the hay. 8, W. Workt on the bulkhead; rain. 9, Th. The bulkhead broke away with the flod . . . 10, F. The wather rose op to the house 5 o'clock A. M. 11, Sa. The river rose over the road took up the barn sable & workhouse. Mrs Fee at Muglers. 12, S. The river faling; Wilson got out of the tree."

It took more than a flood to disarrange Fee's methodical and industrious habits. On the 9th, while the flood was in progress, he records, "Letter (represented by a rectangle) to Perley, received Starr's answer"; and on the day after "Wilson got out of the tree," Fee "workt on the coral."

The Wilson referred to was L. P. Wilson, whose name appears in the list of pioneers published in the Express in 1880, and who was known to his intimates as "Hookie" Wilson. Henry Nelson remembers the incident of his being in the tree, and relates that Wilson and Chris Mugler, both of whom lived a little up the river from Fee's place, on the north side, had received a distress signal from someone on the south side, and set out in a boat to the rescue. The boat proved leaky, and Wilson, who had been a sailor and didn't like

leaky boats, climbed out into a tree. Mugler and the boat landed further down. Nelson saw Wilson in the tree, where he had to stay all night, so that he must have landed there the same day when Fee's barn, stable, and workhouse washed away, and when Mrs. Fee was at Mugler's—evidently for safety. J. C. James tells of this flood of 1861 and 1862 as it conducted itself further down towards the San Joaquin. His brother, Captain Jones, had a ranch down near the lower Tuolumne. The cattle were marooned on the higher spots of land, the chickens driven to high perches, and the men had to build a board bulkhead to protect an adobe house from being reduced to mud. At Snelling the flood washed away Judge Fitzhugh's house and several other buildings and changed the course of the river.

Fee was a pious man. It was his habit, after 1858, to sum up each year in a few words. In 1859 he writes: "The past year has proved sucesful to the Fee Famelie, God be praised." At the close of 1860, "The past year has been a favereble to the Fee Famelie; a large crop of grain was harvested." The entry at the close of 1861 doubtless refers in part at least to the war: "By loking back on 61 and will be remembered as a dark and trubblefild year, but my hope is to God that Truth and Temprans will triumph in 62." He closes 1862 and the book with the words, "Notwithstanding the disaster of the flod 1862 has been a blesset year, Amen."

There may have been more exalted names on the list of the county's pioneers than that of Peter Fee, but it is questionable if there was any whose life story touched more phases of the local history of his time, or more truly represents those times to us, than the story set forth in the dairy of this versatile, hard-working Norwegian-American pioneer.

From what we have seen from these two documents, the assessment roll of 1857 and Fee's diary of from 1858 to 1862, we can get a very fair insight into the life of the early days of the county, in many of its aspects. Scarcely too much emphasis can be laid upon the very close connection which existed between the new county, with its activities creeping out into the big plain of the San Joaquin, and the mother county in the hills. The new county was creeping out into the big plain of the San Joaquin, it is true; but its markets, its associations, the former dwelling-places of many of its people, a large part of its social connections, and numberless other bonds were across the line. The activities of the two counties were different in character from the beginning, from the very nature of their topography; but in many most important respects they formed one community. The very line which divided them politically from 1855 on, the Stockton and Millerton Road, the main (indeed the only) artery of travel between north and south, was a bond of union rather than a barrier.

We see in the early minutes of the Merced supervisors how road after road was laid out, and how the great majority of them were to connect the westward-creeping settlements of this county with this main road and the country on the other side of it. We have seen how T. W. T. Young's sign advertised his ferry as the best route to the southern mines. We have seen how Fee, after he moved down from Mount Ophir, still found a great part of his employment in teaming in the hills or between them and the valley; how W. L. Means, following the business of hunting near Robla, found his market at the mines; and how many of those who settled in this county had first tried their luck in the search for gold—indeed there were so many of them of whom this was true that it may be said to have been the rule rather than the exception. We have seen how the first county seat under the oak tree on Mariposa Creek was early abandoned because it was difficult of access; it was indeed almost on the western frontier of settlement, too far from the Stockton and Millerton Road to be convenient. If the West Side, the west three-quarters of the county, in fact, was not entirely uninhabited, it was almost so; and the notions about it were pretty vague. There is in the first book of the records of deeds in the county recorder's office a deed to an undivided one-half of an eleventh interest in the San Carlos and New Idria quicksilver mine, supposed, the deed recites, to be in Merced County; and this was after the creation of Fresno County in 1856, which event put New Idria miles and miles beyond Merced's most southerly boundary.

It is difficult to grasp the small scale on which the county affairs were conducted—as must necessarily have been the case with a population numbering perhaps scarcely two per cent of what it is at present. We read in the early minutes how the county auditor was paid \$125 a year for his services, the clerk of the board \$250, the clerk of the court of sessions \$4 a day, and the assessor \$337.50 for making the first assessment, which took him forty-five days. There were but two judicial townships; each had two justices of the peace and two constables, but this liberal allowance of officers was apparently due rather to the number of miles to be traveled than to the number of cases to be tried. Their duties were apparently not onerous; we find that Thomas Eagleson, who was one of the constables, was also a road overseer, and it is fair to infer that the two offices left him with time to run the ranch near Forlorn Hope which was assessed to himself and his mother.

Travel was, to us in these days of paved highways and automobiles, almost unbelievably slow; Peter Fee takes the best part of a week in midsummer of 1862 in making the trip to Knight's Ferry and returning with the printing press, though we do have to deduct the one day when he stopped over and "swopt oxen with Dingley."

In view of the difficulties of travel, it is surprising how much of it there was.

There were the little landholdings along the river (and "the river" in those days is used synonymously with "the Merced"), something like about forty-two sections on the East Side on the ninety-four pages we have left of the original 122 of the 1857 assessment roll—about six by seven miles, if we had it all in one compact rectangle. "The plains," unsurveyed, without private owners, rich with grass, were the range of thousands of cattle—Spanish stock cattle improved already with the intermixture of "American stock cattle" sprung from the beginnings of great herds which such men as Montgomery, Ruddle, and McPhatridge drove across the Rockies and the Great American Desert and the Sierras to these new pastures.

Even this early the county had become a great stock county, growing towards that leadership in this industry which enabled a well-informed stockman to say within the last year or two that there are more cattle shipped from the region within a radius of twenty-five miles of Merced than from any other equal area in the world. If the county was growing towards eminence in this respect, it was also growing towards a peck of trouble. The free range could not last, and when the public lands of the plains began to be taken up with the beginning of the grain-raising days—the beginning of raising it away from the river and creek bottoms—there was a big readjustment to be made, and a bitter fight to be waged between the grain-farmers, who wanted the part of the land they desired to work, and the stockmen, who wanted all of it as they had had in the past.

It is the cattle industry which explains such assessments as the several we have seen, where men were assessed for nothing but one horse; these were doubtless cowboys, vaqueros, or whatever they called them. The cattle business also, we have seen, was responsible for the largest assessments—such as J. M. Montgomery's and Hildreth & Dunphey's, which are still in the book, and doubtless including the Stevinsons, whose names now appear only in the index.

As was the case in the mines, though to a lesser degree, men outnumbered women; those who came first were for the most part young single men. Many went back after a few years for wives; but it was a matter of a few years before the majority of them established families. We see in the minutes of the supervisors in February, 1856, that William Nelson presented a petition asking the board to divide the county into school districts, and they did it—did it very simply, too, for with the existing lines bounding the county and dividing it into two judicial townships, it was necessary for them to draw but one new line for the purpose. The line is described as follows: "Commencing at Samuel Scott's ranch, thence north to the county line, and from said ranch south to No. Two Township line." Three

school districts were the result, Judicial Township Number One being divided by this line into District Number One, east of the line, and District Number Two, west of it, and Township Number Two forming school district Number Three. William Nelson was appointed by the board the county's first superintendent of common schools. This was on February 7, 1856. On October 7 of the same year, in an enumeration of voting precincts for a coming election, we find one of them described as "School House, M. C." The "M. C." is possibly Merced County; we find the board's minutes frequently signed So-and-so, chairman board of supervisors, M. C. But M. C. might also mean Mariposa Creek and perhaps it should so read. Query: Was there only the one schoolhouse in the county on October 7, 1856? If there was only one, we should rather have expected it to be at Snelling; and there is a Snelling precinct in the list, which seems to dispose of that supposition. Incidentally, this is the first reference we have seen of the name of the first permanent county seat written without the apostrophe and "s."

This list of precincts, numbering just a dozen, is interesting. With the inspectors appointed for the election, they are as follows: Ward's Ranch, J. N. Ward; Young's Ferry, T. W. T. Young; Snelling, L. W. Talbott; Forlorn Hope, E. Eagleson; Howard's Ranch, R. S. Howard; Montgomery's, J. M. Montgomery; Neill's Ranch, Wm. Neill; Thornton's Ranch, S. March; Brown & De Hart, P. B. Brown; Hildreth's Ranch, John Hildreth; School House, M. C., Wm. Wall, Sr.; Johnson's Precinct, J. Johnson. We can locate most of these places, and their location gives us another slant on the interesting question of where the population was at that time. Ward's Ranch was on Dry Creek; Young's Ferry, about where the Merced Irrigation District diverting dam is on the Merced River; Snelling, where it is now; Forlorn Hope is now Hopeton; Howard's Ranch, by the 1857 assessment roll, is described as 920 acres of land on Burns Creek; Montgomery's was at the present Wolfsen Ranch on Bear Creek; Neill's Ranch, on the Merced River at Arundel, is well known now, to all who have been in the county a dozen years, as the Shaffer Ranch; Thornton's Ranch was 160 acres bounded on the east and north by Samuel Scott and on the south by the Merced River.

The remaining four precincts offer difficulties. At Brown & De Hart's Ranch, P. B. Brown is named as inspector. In the 1857 assessment roll there is the name of B. P. Brown in the index, but his assessment is torn out. The De Harts were West Siders.

In the chapter on the assessment roll we have suggested that Hildreth & Dunphey were on the Santa Rita Ranch west of the San Joaquin. However, on that roll the three assessments preceding and the four following Hildreth & Dunphey's all contain land, and it is all on Dry Creek, and we have already pointed out that apparently the

assessments were made as the assessor traveled from one settler to the next. Hildreth & Dunphy are assessed for no land in 1857; it may well have been that Hildreth lived on Dry Creek in this October of 1856, even if we were correct in assuming that the 1857 assessment, chiefly of live stock, was on the Santa Rita.

William Wall, Sr., is the inspector named for the precinct designated as "School House, M. C." There is a William Wall assessed in 1857 for 160 acres of land situated on Mariposa Creek and undescribed. There are also Wall & Brothers; but they are not assessed for any land, and we therefore have no clue to where they lived.

With reference to Johnson's Precinct, J. Johnson, Inspector, there is a James G. Johnson assessed in 1857, but not for any land, and there is a James Johnson assessed for 160 acres of land situated on Dameron's Creek, commencing at the line of Mariposa and Merced Counties and running one mile down said creek. The assessment before this Johnson's is McDermott & Laughlin's in Section 2, Township 8 South, Range 16 East; and the one following it is William Newton's at Newton's Crossing of the Chowchilla. This suggests that "Dameron's" may have been a mistake for "Deadman's"; but the name is very clearly written "Dameron's," and moreover the name Dameron is present on the roll, for Moses Dameron is assessed for 320 acres on Mariposa Creek, bounded north by public land, east by M. F. Turner, south by Fitzhugh, west by public land.

Taken all in all, we are again impressed with how almost entirely the population was close to the eastern boundary of the county. With reference to the schoolhouse, if the William Wall on the assessment roll is the same as the election inspector, that structure would appear to have been in the region of Mariposa Creek. When one finds later that the Pioneer school district was one of the first four, he is led to wonder if it was not probably the first of all; out along these creeks the population was probably nearer one hundred per cent a farming population than even along the river, and perhaps there one should expect earliest to find school children and a school.

Incidentally, the Howard mentioned appears to have been the brother of the Captain Howard who died only recently in Portland at the age of over ninety, and who took part in the pursuit and killing of Joaquin Murietta. That is, Captain Howard was the "Howard" of Howard & Brother. The Captain's name was William. The R. S. Howard who was the inspector for the election in 1856 was apparently the "Brother." Henry Nelson recalls that when quite a small boy he accompanied his father with their team and a load of flour on a trip from their mill south, and that they "got stuck" at Howard's Ranch. The ranch was far enough up Burns Creek, he says, so that it was on the main Millerton Road.

We have seen what must have been pretty nearly the first start of schools in the county; and it may be mentioned in this connection that Henry Nelson attended three different schools along the river, one at Merced Falls and the others a little further down, but all above Snelling.

We have a little information also on early churches and preachers. Mrs. John Ruddle relates that when her party arrived in 1859, there were a South Methodist presiding elder and preacher at Snelling. The preacher was Rev. S. W. Davies, and the presiding elder's name was Blythe. Mrs. Ruddle also states that Rev. McSwain, Christian Church preacher, was here, and she believes had been here several years. Their house looked as if it was getting old when she first saw it, she recalls, and she was there in 1860. This was Rev. Daniel McSwain, sometimes known as Uncle McSwain. Mrs. Mary J. Little, who came here in 1862, and who passed away at an advanced age less than a year ago at her home below Snelling, came out with the same party in which Daniel McSwain returned to California after coming back to Missouri after his sister-in-law and her children. His brother had died, and Daniel McSwain brought the family to California. The name McSwain is a familiar one in the history of the county. Children of those children who came out in 1862 live here still. The name is commemorated in McSwain Bridge, across the Merced near Cressey, and in the McSwain school district; and we shall encounter it in the county's history later.

We have seen that Peter Fee hauled the press for the first newspaper in the county from Knight's Ferry and delivered it at Snelling on the second of July, 1862. Something over seven years had then passed since the organization of the county and the first meeting of its court and supervisors under the oak tree on Mariposa Creek. Perhaps the beginning of this first paper, the Banner, is as good a landmark as any to mark the close of this chapter on the early life of the county.

CHAPTER X

A CROSS-SECTION OF MERCED COUNTY LIFE IN 1865

When the new county was ten years old, on May 13, 1865, P. D. Wigginton and J. W. Robertson issued the first number of the Weekly Merced Herald. This was not the first newspaper which the county had had. Almost three years earlier, in July, 1862, Robert J. Steele and his wife, Rowena Granice Steele, started the county's first paper, the Banner, which led a rather stormy existence for a time during the Civil War. One "Hall, alias Pierce," issued a few numbers of the Merced Democrat—a very few. Wigginton and Robertson were both lawyers; you may read their professional cards in the columns of their paper, the earliest files of a Merced County paper, so far as we can learn, which are now preserved. In addition, Robertson was county judge and Wigginton was district attorney. They ran the paper as partners for a few months; but Wigginton sold out his interest to his partner along in the fall, and Robertson conducted it alone, with a man named Kennedy as assistant editor.

From the columns of the Herald we have gathered the following hodgepodge, which taken together gives us a pretty accurate and vivid picture of life in and around Snelling at that time. Little would be gained by very much of an attempt at classifying the items; probably, on the contrary, the impression will be truer if they are allowed to follow one another pretty much as they have been gathered. It is fitting enough that we should start off with a political item, and it goes without saying that it will be Democratic. It is from the Herald of June 24, 1865; and we may add that the headlines are in such small type that they would cause the soul of William Randolph Hearst the most poignant anguish:

"Apportionment of Delegates.—The Democratic County Central Committee, at their meeting on Saturday the 10th instant, made the following apportionment of delegates to the County Convention which each precinct is entitled to in Merced County. They also fixed the 15th day of July, for the primary election, and set the 22nd day of July as the time for holding the County Convention. Snelling is entitled to 5 votes; Stevenson's (sic), 2; Neill's, 2; Forlorn Hope, 4; Murray's, 2; Hail's, 1; Mariposa Creek, 2; Anderson's, 2; San Luis Ranch, 1; Beighle's, 1; Dry Creek, 1."

Note that the item is only two weeks old; those were leisurely days in journalism. Note also the location of the precincts, and what it indicates about where the population was—and where it

wasn't. Snelling and Stevinson's are familiar now. Neill's Ranch was afterwards the Shaffer Ranch, where the Oakdale Railroad crosses the Merced River; Forlorn Hope was Hopeton; Murray's was at Merced Falls; Dry Creek, north of the Falls and Snelling; Hail's Ranch, somewhere out Lone Tree way; Mariposa Creek, in the Plainsburg country; Anderson's, apparently somewhere down along the San Joaquin in the Mariposa Island region; San Luis Ranch, on the West Side out towards Pacheco Pass; Beighle's Ranch, out about where the Phenegar stone house stands, next to the hills east of Le Grand.

From the issue of July 15, 1865: "New Masonic and Odd Fellows Hall.—The Masons and Odd Fellows of this vicinity have rented the upper story of Mr. Myers' building, on the corner of Main and Second Streets, and are completing and finishing a lodge room, to be used by both orders. The lodge room is 41 by 22 feet, with anterooms of about 9 feet square. There is plenty of windows for thorough ventilation—and the floor of the lodge is covered with oil cloth matting, which will make it at once commodious and pleasant. We learn that both the orders named have petitioned to the proper authorities for dispensations, and intend to commence 'work' in their mystic rites in Snelling as soon as their petitions are responded to. There are a good many members of both these orders in this vicinity, and the establishment of lodges here will be a matter of accommodation to the brethren who cannot attend lodge meetings at a distance."

"No Accounting for Tastes.—It is said that the only portion of the procession in San Francisco on the Fourth of July that elicited the cheers or plaudits of the spectators were the negroes. At several points—Russ House, for one—the women waved their handkerchiefs, and showered bouquets on the sooty sons of Africa. All of these demonstrations were received as a matter of course, and Cuffee seemed less excited than his fair admirers. Verily, there is no accounting for tastes."

Then here is a quotation from the Mariposa Gazette, with the Herald's retort discourteous, from the issue of August 5:

"The 'Democratic' party in Merced County held a convention last week. A county ticket was filled out, mostly composed of new men—but few of the old officers being renominated. There may be an effort to break party lines, and run a People's ticket in that county. 'Democracy' has become rather oppressive, and is but another term for humbug.'—Mariposa Gazette.

"If the Democratic Party of Merced County 'knows itself,' and we think it does, it will not be humbugged into anything of the kind. We are not a bolting party; that article is monopolized by the blacks just now."

Immediately following the preceding: "Mariposa Republican Nominees.—The Republican Convention of Mariposa County was held on the 29th ult. The nominees are: For Assembly, J. W. Wilcox; Sheriff, J. D. Crippen; Clerk, E. B. Rollins; Treasurer, Charles Peregoy; District Attorney, E. C. Hartman; Assessor, J. D. Tate. Some of these candidates might stand a show of election if they were on the right side, but as it is, it is doubtful."

August 5: "Election of School Trustees.—We see, by a posted notice, that there is to be an annual election today for three School Trustees for this (Jackson) district . . . The polls are to be open at the Court House between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock P. M."

"A Strong Ticket.—The Democracy of Tuolumne have placed at the head of their ticket J. M. Mandeville, and followed it up by placing Prentice Mulford on as one of the candidates for Assembly. Mandeville is the old 'war horse' of Democracy in Tuolumne. . . . Mulford (Dogberry) is a young man of genius, which will not be denied by many of our readers who have read some of his witty sarcasms in the columns of the Herald. He will do honor to a seat in the Legislature, and is just such a man as ought to be there at the coming session to lift some of the Abolitionists 'out of their boots' when they bring up the negro suffrage bill, which of course will be done. We cannot speak from the card as regards the balance of the ticket, but if they have filled it up with such men as Mandeville and Mulford, there can scarcely be a doubt about its triumphant success. Such men cannot be beaten where there is so small odds against them as there was last year in good old Tuolumne."

In the same issue the Herald comments as follows on the Republican ticket nominated in San Joaquin County: "Altogether the ticket is a very weak one, and might be easily beaten if there was an organization in the county opposed to the Republicans."

"The Democrats of Siskiyou have nominated a full ticket." (Two are mentioned by name.) "If they are a fair sample of the ticket, the Democracy of Siskiyou are in luck. We take it for granted that they will elect it."

"We see stated that the Sonora and Mono Wagon Road is now in excellent condition. A letter to the Independent (Stockton) says it is expected there will be 'considerable ore shipped over this road from Blind Springs, Montgomery, and other districts. For four or six animal teams, the road cannot be surpassed by any transmontane road in the State.'"

Same issue: "Two weeks ago an attempt was made to fire the Chinese portion of Mariposa. The Gazette says: 'Late at night a Mexican applied for admission to one of the hovels, with which the town abounds, and being refused, he pulled a bottle from his pocket and scattered the contents on the house. He then applied a match

and started for the bushes.' ” Thus did the Gazette, in one brief item, affront the yet to be incarnated souls of Brisbane, Volstead, and Mr. Babbitt.

August 12: “Hon. Schuyler Colfax passed through Snelling on Friday last on his way to Yo Semite. He will start on the return trip tomorrow, stop at Hornitos and make a speech on Monday next, will be in Stockton on Tuesday and remain there until Wednesday afternoon. He will have the freedom of the city at Stockton, take a brandy toddy with Mayor Gray, kiss Gen. Cobb, hug the members of the Council, take a squint at the girls, shake hands with the military boys and firemen, and leave on the four o'clock boat for San Francisco. It is supposed he has the precinct of Yo Semite all right for the Presidency, and he may carry Hornitos should his speech be well received.”

In the same issue, after news items about Democratic conventions in Stanislaus and Mariposa Counties and an intended one in Sacramento County, the Herald says: “Let us give the Abs. their quietus in this section of the State. It can be done easy.”

Same issue: “D. A. Jamison, R. R. Leak, and John H. Foreman elected school trustees of Jackson district” (Snelling).

“Trustee Election at La Grange.—On Saturday last, an election came off at La Grange, Stanislaus County, for one School Trustee. The election was warm and strongly contested. It resulted in the choice of John Williams.”

There were notices of two camp-meetings: The M. E. Church, South, on Gwinn's Ranch, on the Merced River, adjoining the old camp ground, near the residence of T. J. Hardwick, commencing on the 24th and will include the fourth Saturday and Sunday in August. All are invited to attend.

“Persons expecting to remain on the Camp Ground over night, will please bring their bedding. J. H. Neal, P. C.”

“Camp Meeting.—A camp meeting under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, commenced on Mariposa Creek on Thursday last. We understand that several good preachers are on hand. Today and tomorrow a large crowd will no doubt be in attendance. Quite a number have gone from this neighborhood.”

“The three cornerstone of the Copperhead platform—Jeff Davis, Mrs. Surratt, and Wilkes Booth. Its means of gaining success—assassination, arson, and treason.—Mariposa Gazette.

“The Gazette's platform is slander; the three cornerstones of its party's platform are deception, lying, and stealing. The main dependence for success—negro suffrage.”

“Mariposa Democratic County Convention.—The Democratic Convention of Mariposa County met on Saturday last and nominated the following ticket. Assemblyman—T. F. Jenkins; Sheriff—J. W.

Adams; Dist. Attorney—J. M. Corcoran; Clerk—Angevine Reynolds; Recorder—Geo. W. Cornell; Assessor—Wm. F. Coffman; Treasurer—Nat. Harbert; Pub. Administrator—J. Burckhalter; School Supt.—P. K. Webster; Coroner—Dr. Grandvoinet; Surveyor—R. B. Thomas.

“A private letter, dated the 6th, which we are permitted to use, says: ‘Lovejoy withdrew his name from before the convention in favor of Adams, who was nominated unanimously. The ticket is a good one and will be elected. Adams is considered by far the strongest man that could have been nominated. He will whip the fight, sure. It was a very large Convention, every precinct being represented.’ ”

Alas for prophecy! In the issue of September 9 we read: “The news received from Mariposa leaves no doubt of the election of a majority of the Union ticket. Crippen’s majority over Adams for Sheriff, as far as heard from, is 78. The Democrats will elect the Clerk, District Attorney, and Assessor.

Here are some advertisements, from the issue of Saturday, August 12:

“Galt House, southwest corner of Lewis and Third Streets, Snelling, Merced County, California. A. B. Anderson, Proprietor. The house is fitted up in first class style; the rooms are large and well ventilated and furnished in a style equal to any in California.

“The table is supplied with the best the market affords.

“The Bar is furnished with the best of Wines, liquors, and cigars.

“A fine Billiard Table will always be at the service of those fond of the game.

“To Teamsters and Travelers: I have attached to my hotel a Good Corral, and ‘Good Stock Water,’ also Hay, Barley, etc., where the public at large can be accomodated at reasonable rates.

“A. B. Anderson, Proprietor.”

There is a notice of a sheriff’s sale of a part of “Rancho Los Pancha Grande Y Los Caroselitas” (so it is written) for a judgment of the State against Brent & Crittenden for \$58.80 for taxes for 1864. The sale has been postponed three times by Sheriff E. G. Rector.

“Merced Falls Hotel. Joseph Pahle, Proprietor. Merced Falls, between Hornitos and Snelling. This house has been fitted up with taste and neatness. The table is supplied with the LUXURIES of the season and the BEDS are furnished neatly.

“Wines, liquors, and cigars at the bar.”

“Flour Mill. D. P. Quinlan, Proprietor. To the Merchants and Families of Merced and Adjoining Counties: Having leased for a term of years the Flouring Mill known as Murray’s Mill, I am now prepared to furnish Merchants and Private Families with a superior article of flour.

"Warranted good, or no pay. Also on hand at all times Corn Meal, Middlings, Bran and Chicken Feed, at lowest market rates. All orders left at the mill will receive prompt attention."

We find "ads" of a livery stable, south side of Lewis Street, Geo. Turner and N. Breen, proprietors; of the Snelling Meat Market, corner Fourth and Market Streets, Givens & Co.; of Skelton & Turner, Lewis Street, Snelling, "dealers in provisions, groceries, wines, liquors, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, crockery, glass, and hardware, agricultural implements, etc., etc., etc." A. Rosenthal Merced Falls, advertises, "old store, new goods."

There is a list of county officers, run every week, as follows:

"County Judge, J. W. Robertson; Sheriff, E. G. Rector; County Clerk, R. R. Leak; District Attorney, P. D. Wigginton; Recorder, R. R. Leak; Treasurer, D. A. Jamison; County Surveyor, W. G. Collier; Assessor, L. P. Wilson; Supt. Public Schools, T. O. Ellis, Sr.; Public Administrator, J. M. Strong; Coroner, S. M. Brown."

Robertson and Wigginton were the proprietors of the paper, and we shall presently see their professional cards. The sheriff's son is now superior judge. The name Leak is familiar in Merced; and that of Collier, around Stevinson. We read a little way back of Treasurer Jamison's election as one of the trustees of Jackson school district. Assessor Wilson is the same Wilson, known to his intimates as "Hookie" Wilson, of whom Henry Nelson remembers that he got into the tree during the flood of 1862 and Peter Fee records that he got out of it, and we shall see presently that he ran a threshing machine; and Jefferson Price of Le Grand tells of going to school when he was a boy to T. O. Ellis, Sr., on Mariposa Creek.

Here is the list of professional cards which the Herald carried during this summer. It is noteworthy that they are all lawyers—no doctors, although there is an item a little further on to the effect that Snelling had two doctors. Doctors' cards appear later, however. The list follows:

"James W. Robertson, Attorney at Law, Snelling, Office upstairs over Myers' saloon.

"P. D. Wigginton, Attorney at Law, Snelling.

"Moore & Montgomery. B. F. Moore, W. S. Montgomery, Sonora.

"Campbell & Burckhalter. J. B. Campbell. J. Burckhalter, Mariposa. Office at the Court House.

"Alexander Deering, Mariposa. Office Sixth Street, between Main and Bullion Streets.

"R. H. Ward, Justice of the Peace and Conveyancer, Snelling, Merced County. Office at the court house, upstairs.

"S. H. P. Ross, Attorney at Law and Justice of the Peace. Office at the court house, Snelling."

Here's an editorial from the issue of August 19:

"The Central Pacific Railroad Company are now paying \$40 per month with board, for white laborers, whereas, to Chinamen, they pay only \$30 per month, without board. Our Chinese population is a great curse upon the country. The Celestials are the vampires of the Pacific Coast. Every dollar saved from their earnings goes to China—in fact they do not patronize us to the extent of half their living."

There is an election proclamation by the Governor, published in the issue of August 26, in which it is interesting to see how the distribution of assemblymen differs from what it is now. San Francisco County gets 12; Sacramento, 5; Eldorado and Nevada, 4 each; Santa Clara, Calaveras, Sonoma, Placer, and Yuba, 3 each; Tuolumne and Mono together, 3; Los Angeles, Alameda, San Joaquin, Sierra, Butte, and Siskiyou, 2 each; Amador and Alpine together, 2; San Diego, San Bernardino, Tulare, Fresno, Mariposa, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Mendocino, Sutter, Shasta, Trinity, and Humboldt, 1 each; and the following pairs, 1 each: Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, Merced and Stanislaus, Napa and Lake, Plumas and Lassen, Tehama and Colusa, Klamath and Del Norte.

Here are but forty-seven counties; twelve of the present counties had not yet been created, and Klamath, up between Del Norte and Humboldt, has since ceased to exist. Note that among Merced's neighbors, Tulare, Fresno, and Mariposa Counties each had one assemblyman, while Merced and Stanislaus together had one; Tuolumne and Mono, over the mountains, together had three; San Joaquin, two; and Santa Clara, three; and that Fresno then included the present Fresno and Madera, and Tulare the present Tulare, Kern, Kings, and Inyo. Note also that El Dorado and Nevada each had twice as many as Los Angeles, and San Francisco six time as many.

An "ad," August 26: "San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Society's Sixth Annual Fair and Industrial Exhibition, to be held in the city of Stockton on Tuesday, September 26, 1865, and continue four days."

The issue of September 9 contains the following editorial:

"The Election.—The election passed off very quietly here, there being no controversy at all for any office except that of Assemblyman. For this office there was a good deal of work, particularly on the part of the Republicans, who had hopes of electing Mr. Ingalsbe on account of his popularity and the unpopularity of Mr. Ward among a portion of the Democratic voters. They labored very hard, and to some extent successfully, reducing the Democratic majority for that office to almost nothing. Our returns from the county are meagre" (the election had been held only three days before) "but we think we have enough to warrant the belief that Ward has carried it by a very small majority. The balance of the Democratic ticket is elected by about the usual

decisive vote. The vote for Assemblyman in this Gibraltar of Democracy, or as it is derisively called by some, 'the South Carolina of California,' has surprised all men of all parties; but when it is taken in consideration the many disadvantages that Ward had to contend against in making the canvass, it is not so strange after all. These are known to our readers, and it is unnecessary for us to repeat them. As far as heard from, Ward is five votes ahead of Ingalsbe in this county. This will probably be increased some, and the majority may reach twelve or thereabouts. We will give the returns in full as soon as we receive them of the whole county—next week if possible. The following is the vote for Assemblyman as far as heard from: Snelling: Ward 33, Ingalsbe 51; Forlorn Hope: Ingalsbe one majority; Merced Falls: Ward 11, Ingalsbe 16; Mariposa Creek: Ward 35, Ingalsbe 5; Neill's: Ward 19, Ingalsbe 5; Beighle's, 5 votes, all for Ingalsbe; Anderson's: Ward 3, Ingalsbe 13.

"The Democracy of Stanislaus County deserve all praise for the manful manner they conducted the canvass. There was no flinching among them there, but they boldly and patriotically marched up to the work under the old Democratic motto, '*principia non homines.*' The result is a glorious Democratic triumph for the whole ticket. Stanislaus has set an example worthy of imitation everywhere, and a just source of pride to themselves. Their ticket is elected by an average majority of about one hundred. This elects our Assemblyman by a clever majority in the district. All hail, Democratic Stanislaus! P. S. —Since the above was in type, we have heard a rumor that all the precincts in this county have been heard from, and that Ward leads Ingalsbe eight votes."

Same issue: "Screw Loose.—There must be a screw loose in Mariposa County. In all the counties heard from (except Merced) there is a large Democratic gain; Tuolumne, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and even San Francisco, have shown large Democratic gains, while our 'Butterfly' neighbor seems to be sliding a little backward in the good old cause. Boys, tighten up the screw next time. You have the material, if you will only put it to work rightly. Don't stand 'there all the day idle.' Go to work, and work together, and you will win, sure, on the next turn."

The following was quoted from an Eastern paper: "A Novel Race.—A novel race took place in Poughkeepsie in July between a steam road wagon and a pedestrian named Rensley, resulting in favor of the wagon, which came in eight rods ahead. The conditions of the race were: The wagon had to run two miles to Rensley's one. A contest between the wagon and a trotting horse was also won by the wagon.

"School Commenced.—A school was commenced on Monday last in Snelling, by Mr. F. Cave as teacher. A good number of pupils were

in attendance this week, and we learn there will be more in a few days. We are truly glad to make this announcement, as we had been without a school for a long time. Mr. Cave is a quiet and unobtrusive gentleman, and commences his school work with the confidence of the community. We wish him abundant success."

This issue of September 9, 1865, appeared on yellow paper—and thereby hangs a tale. The issue of the 9th says:

"Yellow Paper.—We make our appearance this week on yellow paper, because we have no other kind to print on. We sent to San Francisco a month ago for printing paper, which was promptly sent by our agent to a commission house in Stockton—Pache & Co. Two weeks ago we got a teamster's bill of lading for the paper, "shipped, in good order," from the above house, but from some cause or other, we have never received or heard of it since. We know not where to throw the blame for this culpable carelessness—whether it is the fault of the shipper or the teamster—but one thing we do know, and that is, it places us in a very awkward position. We have to ask the pardon of our readers for the bad appearance of our paper. The quality of paper used would not bear wetting to prepare it for the press, and had to be printed dry; in consequence, the impression of the type is defective. We hope we will not again be placed in this kind of fix; surely we will not if we can avoid it."

The following week appears: "Another Apology.—We dislike to be compelled to make apologies to the readers of the Herald; but, situated as we have been in regard to printing paper, we deem it due to ourselves to give the reason of our paper appearing in the afternoon instead of the morning, as usual. The paper that was due us full three weeks ago, has never come to hand at all, and probably never will. We had to send another order to San Francisco for paper, which, fortunately, came to hand yesterday evening, by stage, just in time for us to get out our issue this afternoon. We did hear that our paper had been forwarded to Morley's Ferry, on the Tuolumne River, but after going to the expense of hiring a horse and buggy, and losing our time from other business for a day, on arriving at the designated place, we learned it was not there and never had been. This disappointment and extra expense to us all arises from awkwardness or carelessness on the part of the forwarding merchants at Stockton—Pache & Co. They shipped the paper to Morley's, when its destination was Snelling. We could more easily get a package from Stockton or San Francisco than from Morley's Ferry, unless we were informed by the shippers where it was forwarded to. This was not done, by the firm mentioned."

On Saturday, September 30, appears the following: "The Missing Paper.—That paper we made so much fuss about, two weeks ago, came to hand on Saturday last with an explanatory letter from Mr. J. Pache, of Stockton. Mr. Pache, it seems, had placed confidence in a

teamster, who neglected to carry our package as ordered and consequently it was left in Stockton. It is all right now, and we hope we will have no cause to complain again in a similar way. Mr. Pache, no doubt, felt as bad about the matter as we did, as he prides himself on his attention to business, and no doubt this is the first time any one has had cause to complain of his dereliction in business for the several years he has been known in Stockton."

The story is resurrected here for the light it sheds on transportation in California sixty years ago. Incidentally, the yellow paper which the Herald so mysteriously had on hand in the crisis, and for which it felt called upon to apologize, reads as easily and clearly today as the white paper on which the printer's best art was lavished. Still more reminiscent of the story of the Portuguese and the pump handle is an item we read in the issue of September 16, 1865, entitled:

"Camp Meeting and Horse Stealing.—A camp meeting has been going on since the 8th, at Branche's Ferry, on the Tuolumne, a few miles below La Grange. . . ." The story then relates that three young men rode to the camp meeting, and left their saddle horses hitched in the bushes near by. They went out from time to time to see if their horses were all right, and about 11 P. M. found one of them gone, and from the indications concluded it had been stolen. Whereupon Editor Robertson launches into a scathing denunciation of horse-thieves and all their works. And then:

"Later.—Since the above was in type, we are informed that the horse spoken of was found by the owner straying around loose in the neighborhood. The temporary absence of the caballo was likely produced by the high proof of the water he drank. Quien sabe?"

More politics, from the issue of September 9: "Spurious Tickets.—We warned the people in our last issue to be on the lookout for spurious tickets. At the time we gave the warning, we did not know certainly that there would be any fraudulent tickets printed; but merely surmised that such a trick *might* be resorted to, taking for our basis of calculation that a Republican was not honest in politics, and would not do to trust. The thing turned out precisely as we expected, and tickets with all the Democratic nominees, except Ward, the nominee for Assembly, were thrown loose, even at Snelling, early in the day, and a good many of them were voted with Ingalsbe's name for that office. The fraud was very soon discovered; but the discovery amounted to nothing. The tickets thus printed served an excellent purpose for 'bolters,' who intended to vote for Ingalsbe, at all events, but did not wish to do so openly. How men professing to be Democrats can reconcile this course of conduct to themselves is a mystery to us."

"Fire.—The house and barn of Mr. John Julian, with their contents, about four miles below this place, were destroyed by fire on

Wednesday morning last. How the fire originated is not known, but it is supposed to have caught from the stove pipe, which ran up through an old fashioned stick and mud chimney. Mr. Julian had cooked breakfast that morning, and after attending to some other affairs on the ranch, started to town to the election, and had barely reached here when news came informing him of his accident. The barn contained about 1200 bushels of barley, of which it is thought about half will be saved."

September 16: "Hurrah for Tulare.—The Democracy of Tulare County have elected their entire legislative and county ticket by handsome majorities. Hons. J. W. Freeman and J. C. Brown are both re-elected to their respective positions by increased majorities over two years ago. Again we say, hurrah for Tulare."

"For Millerton.—A company of cavalry soldiers passed through this place on Monday last, under command of Captain Loring, on their way to Millerton (Fort Miller). We are told they go hence to make winter quarters at that place. They were apparently a pretty well behaved set of boys; still they could not pass this office without casting a slur on Democratic printing offices. This only showed ill breeding in those of them who indulged in it. They may yet learn better as they grow older, and common sense and experience take the place of ignorance and duplicity. We learn also that the soldiers who have been stationed for some time at Visalia, left that place last week for the same destination. Fort Miller, Millerton, will probably be a lively camp this winter.

A little later the editor tells of a trip he made to Millerton, where he found most of the people a good deal excited over what was believed to be a rich copper strike.

"Religious Revival.—On Friday last a protracted meeting was commenced at Forlorn Hope by the Christian denomination. The meeting was conducted under the guidance and instruction of Elder D. McSwain. Up to Tuesday, nineteen persons had joined the church. Monday the solemn rites of baptism, by emersion (according to the doctrine of that faith), were administered to six, and Tuesday to eight more. This is quite a harvest for the old and respected Elder, and we are told that he rejoices with 'exceeding great joy' over the inroads he has made in the tabernacle of Satan. May success continue to crown his efforts in the 'good fight'."

"Preaching.—Elder D. McSwain preached a sermon at the Court House in this place on Wednesday night last. His discourse was listened to with great attention by a large audience."

September 16: "Homicide.—On Sunday night last a difficulty arose at a liquor shop in the neighborhood of Forlorn Hope between Lawson Rogers and Henry Delavan, both employed on a threshing machine belonging to L. P. Wilson. On Monday morning the parties

met at a house, where they had been boarding, when the quarrel was resumed at the instigation of Rogers, and resulted in his death. Immediately after the killing Mr. Delavan came to town and gave himself up to the authorities. The case was brought before Justice Ward on Monday for investigation, but was postponed until Tuesday on account of witnesses. The testimony in the case went entirely to show that Delavan acted purely in self defense. Rogers had threatened, after the difficulty between the two parties on Sunday night, that he would kill Delavan on sight. This threat was communicated to Delavan, who kept out of his (Roger's) way to avoid, if possible, any further difficulty with him. Next morning, however, when the parties met, Rogers, in a menacing and threatening manner, made demonstrations, with his hand on his pistol, as if to carry his oft-repeated threats into execution, whereupon Delavan drew his pistol and shot him twice, one ball, according to the inquest, held on the body by Justice Ross, . . . taking effect in his right breast, and the other in the abdomen. . . . The deceased lived but a short time after the shooting. We learn he was a native of Tennessee, but came to California from Arkansas, and about forty-five to fifty years of age. After hearing the testimony, Justice Ward, after a few words of admonition to Delavan, discharged him and dismissed the case."

September 23, 1865: "Election News.—Plumas and Lassen have elected Goodwin, (Dem.) to the Assembly. Klamath has elected the whole Democratic ticket. Colusa and Tehama have elected W. S. Long, (Democrat) to the Assembly. Sierra goes Republican by a small majority. Full returns from Siskiyou show that E. Wadsworth, (Rep.) is elected to the Senate, and T. H. Steele, (Rep.) and J. K. Luttrell, (Dem.) Assemblymen.

"El Dorado.—The Mountain Democrat of the 16th instant says: 'The result of the recent election in this county shows that the people have ceased to be gulled by the hifalutin clap trap of such shoddy patriots as have been ruling them for the past two years, and have returned to reason'."

"Rise in the Merced.—During the present week, the water in the Merced River at this place rose several inches. What the cause of this rise in the water, at this season of the year, can as well be divined by our readers as by us. There must have been rain in the mountains, or there must have been extraordinarily warm weather high up in the summit of the Sierras, to thaw out ravines and recesses on the North side of the peaks, where 'snows perpetually lie'."

On September 30 there is an editorial entitled "A Valedictory," by P. D. Wigginton, in which he announces his retirement from the partnership, and one "To Our Patrons," by J. W. Robertson, announcing that the paper will continue to be Democratic, bespeaking

continued support of the public, and introducing J. B. Kennedy, who "will be associated with us in the future, as assistant editor."

October 7, 1865: "Fatal Rencounter at Mariposa.—On Saturday evening last, at Mariposa, a rencounter took place between one Chris. Wilson, and James H. Lawrence, editor of the Free Press. We have heard several versions of the affair so varied and contradictory that we will not attempt to give them as true. Lawrence was arrested on Sunday and was held over till Monday for examination. At the investigating trial he was discharged. On Tuesday Wilson died. He was said to be a quarrelsome disagreeable man when drinking, but when sober right the contrary. On this occasion he was under the influence of liquor, and it is said made threats against Lawrence before the shooting."

"Executed.—Thomas B. Poole, who was tried and convicted of stage robbery, and the killing of Deputy Sheriff Staples, of El Dorado County, in July, 1864, was executed in Placerville, on Friday, September 29th. In regard to the execution the Mountain Democrat says . . ." (tells of the calmness of the condemned).

October 14: "Conference of the Methodist Church." (The story states that the conference convened in San Francisco October 4 and remained in session until the 9th, and that appointments for the following year were made for the following districts: San Francisco, Petaluma, Marysville, Stockton, Oregon, Jacksonville.)

"Stockton District.—J. C. Burchard, P. E.; Drytown Circuit, G. W. Wood, Supply; Michigan Bar, W. M. Armstrong; Visalia, E. B. Lockley; Mariposa, J. O. Forsman; Clear Creek, J. N. Turner; Snelling, J. C. Pendergrast; Knight's Ferry, J. H. Neal; Millerton, L. J. Hedgepeth; Montezuma, J. Hedgepeth; Vallecito, to be supplied; Calaveras, B. C. Howard; French Camp, George W. Howard; Liberty and Mokelumne Run, W. M. Culp."

October 21: "Homicide at Clear Creek.—A man by the name of Joseph Heuston was killed by one Thomas P. Martin at Havilah, Clear Creek, September 25th. Martin was brought to Visalia and loded in jail."

October 7, 1865: "The Earth Quake.—The earth quake which took place here on Sunday last, seems to have been a general thing all over the southern part of the State. In San Francisco and Santa Cruz it was particularly severe, creating great alarm among the people and not a little damage to property. In San Francisco there is scarcely a brick building in the city uninjured, while in Santa Cruz, says a dispatch to the Bulletin, 'there was a general tumbling down of chimneys, and those left standing were turned partially around . . . The losses are estimated at \$10,000, but may exceed that amount.' We (the Herald) have not heard of any person having been killed though in San Francisco we notice that two Chinese and one Alex. Bridger,

Secretary of the Olympic Club, were seriously but not fatally hurt. It seems that great consternation existed in that city. . . . At this place it was felt by very few, and those who did feel it describe the shock as being very light, but corresponding in the main with the accounts given by the San Francisco papers."

In the issue of October 7 is an editorial entitled "A Bright Future" about the silver mines of the Montgomery and Blind Springs district in Mono County, which praises the Sonora and Mono road as the best across the Sierras, and points out the market which may be expected to result to San Joaquin Valley farmers from the mining activity there.

October 21, 1865: "Terrible Steamboat Disaster.—The steamer Yosemite, plying between San Francisco and Sacramento, blew up at Rio Vista on the Sacramento River, about 6:30 o'clock P. M. on the 13th inst. The Yosemite had landed at Rio Vista and had discharged from freight. She was just leaving the wharf when one of her boilers bursted, killing probably one hundred persons and scalding as many more. The cause of the explosion is supposed to be some defect in the iron of which the boiler was made. The following are the names of the persons whose bodies have been recovered and recognized. . ." (Here follow the names of a dozen white people) "and thirty Chinamen and one Chinawomen. Many are supposed to have been blown in the river and in all probability will never be recovered."

In the same issue: "Our town has four stores, three saloons, one hotel, one livery stable, two blacksmith shops, two carpenter shops, one wheel wright shop, one tin shop, one boot and shoe shop, one barber shop, one printing office, and one school house. We have four lawyers, two doctors, two surveyors, one school teacher, three printers, two editors, four blacksmiths, three carpenters, two wheel wrights, one shoemaker, one barber, and loafers, bummers, and hangers around in proportion. Some town this."

Same issue: "Hall, alias Pierce, who edited the Merced Democrat, for a short time at this place, was seen about two weeks ago by a friend of ours. Pierce said he was on his way to Van Couver's Island. He denied having anything to do with horse stealing in Tulare County, and said his being with the thieves was accidental. It seems that Pierce's statement about his being innocent of horse stealing was true, for he was at the time afoot, and his feet were so sore that he could hardly navigate."

Same issue: "The Indians and Chinese on the Merced River have suffered terribly this fall with chills and fever. Many of them have died and a great many are now sick. Through their ignorance in the management of the disease it has turned to congestive chills or typhoid fever, which carried many of them to Kingdom Come. Some of the Chinese have been prevailed on by the whites to take

quinine, and are loud in their praise of that valuable medicine. 'Muche likee John'."

Same issue: "Of Earth Quakes.—The San Jose Mercury is informed by John Gilroy, an old Californian, that in the year 1813 an earth quake shook down all the buildings in that part of the country, even the cattle became frightened, running and bellowing in every direction."

Same issue: "A man named William E. Thornburg, a store keeper on Sullivan's Creek, in Tuolumne County, was found murdered in his store on the 12th inst. The back of his head was beaten to a jelly, and more than twenty knife wounds were found in his body. He was evidently murdered for his money, but who the perpetrators are is not known."

Same issue, an advertisement: "Lumber, Lumber. At the new circular saw mill of J. F. Greeley, five miles above Coulterville. The undersigned would respectfully inform the public of Merced and surrounding counties that he is now prepared to furnish all kinds of dimension lumber at reasonable rates. Lumber of the best quality sawed out of the best sugar pine, constantly kept on hand. All orders sent to the mill will be promptly filled. Having a number of good teams in splendid running order, I am prepared to deliver lumber in either of the counties of Mariposa, Merced, Tuolumne, or Stanislaus at the shortest notice. All orders must be addressed to me at Coulterville or at the mill. J. F. Greeley."

Same issue: "We see by our exchanges that Mrs. Rowena Granice Steele, assisted by her son, George Granice, is giving parlor entertainments in the Southern counties of the State."

Same issue: "Editorial. Mails and Mail Routes.—We call the attention of our readers to our La Grange correspondence, to be found in another column, particularly to that portion which refers to the proposed mail route between Knight's Ferry and this place. The route spoken of by our correspondent is one which has long been needed, and one, too, which with a little trouble and time spent in getting up a petition and forwarding it to the proper authority, might be had. There is no department of our government so much neglected as that of the post office, and no State in the Union labors under so many disadvantages as California for the lack of proper mail facilities. In this county we have but three post offices, and in many instances persons are compelled to travel as far as thirty miles to get their mail . . . There are but two routes by which the mail is carried, one by the stage running from Stockton to Mariposa, and the other from Knight's Ferry to Murray's Bridge, on horseback. . . There is a coach running from Sonora, Tuolumne County, through La Grange, to Hornitos, Mariposa County, and with a little encouragement in the way of a mail contract, it would, instead of running to Murray's

Bridge, run direct from La Grange to this place. . . . Now we would suggest to our citizens to get up a petition asking for a route from some point on the Sonora road (say the Crimea House) through La Grange and this place to Hornitos. We would then not only have convenient mail facilities, but we would have a general benefit to the community. We suggest the Crimea House for this reason, it is situated about twelve miles from Knight's Ferry at the junction of the Sonora and La Grange roads, and all mail matter sent from Knight's Ferry, Copperopolis, and other towns in that section, to La Grange, Snelling, and other points south, could be stopped at that office and sent directly to its destination, instead of, as is now the case, going by way of Stockton. But if we cannot do this, let us do the next best thing, and petition for the route referred to by our correspondent, and have a mail carried on horseback. . . ."

The inadequacy of mail facilities inspired another editorial on December 9, 1865 :

"Post Office at Forlorn Hope.—We understand that the people of Forlorn Hope and vicinity are circulating a petition for the re-establishment of the post office at that place. A post office in that locality is something that has long been needed, and we hope the efforts of the people to have it re-established will be successful. But while they are about it would it not be better at the same time to petition for an office at Hill's Ferry and another at the San Luis Ranch, and get a route from that place to this? The stage running from San Jose to Visalia passes the San Luis, and all the mail from Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and other counties south, could be brought to that point, and by the establishment of the route above named the mail could be carried by way of Hill's Ferry to this place, on horse back, where it would connect with the stage now carrying the mail from Stockton to Mariposa. It would certainly be a great convenience to a large number of citizens residing on the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers, both in this county and Stanislaus, who are now obliged to get their mail either at this place or Stockton. We would like to see a petition in circulation; we are sure that every body will sign it. Now is the time to get it up. The mail contracts will be let in February. Our county, as we have before had occasion to remark, is sadly in need of post offices and post routes, and the sooner we petition for them the sooner we will get them. There is probably not a man in the whole county who is not in favor of the proposed route from Snelling to the San Luis Ranch, and yet no one will take the trouble to draw up and circulate the proper petition."

We have seen a notice of the formation of a lodge of Masons and one of Odd Fellows. In the issue of October 28, 1865, we find lodge advertisements as follows :

"I. O. O. F., Willow Lodge, No. 121, Meets every Friday evening at Masonic and Odd Fellows Hall, Snelling. R. R. Leak, N. G., J. W. Robertson, Sec'y."

"F. & A. M., Merced Lodge, U. D. Regular Meetings at Masonic and Odd Fellows Hall, Snelling, on the Saturday of or next succeeding the full moon. P. D. Wigginton, Sec'y.

"G. G. G. The Grand Council of the Order of Guinters, meet every —— evening in La Grange, P. Kiernan, W. R. G. M. G., Caleb Dawson, R. G. C. T."

We note the letters U. D. after the name Merced Lodge, in the Masonic notice, which the present secretary of Yosemite Lodge in Merced explains mean "under dispensation." In the following week's notice we find these letters have given place to the number 176.

October 21, 1865: "Mount Hood, Oregon, is casting up its accounts. Immense volumes of black smoke is now to be seen, from the valley below issuing from the crater. Wonder if it has anything to do with the late earth quake."

"Shooting and Cattle Stealing.—A shooting affair took place on Saturday the 14th inst. near the mouth of the Merced River, in this county, in which a Mexican named Hidalgo was seriously but not mortally wounded. The circumstances, as near as we have been able to learn them, are about as follows: On the morning of the day mentioned, Hidalgo came to the house of Judge Belt, living in that neighborhood, and was very lavish with his abuse of the Judge and the American population generally. And on being ordered to leave, drew a six shooter, when he and Judge Belt exchanged shots. . . . The Mexican then left. Later in the day as Judge Belt was passing up the river about a mile above his place, he found this fellow Hidalgo and another Mexican, a boy named Francisco Hidal, skinning a beef, the property of Wm. D. McFarlane, which they had stolen. Upon approaching them, Hidalgo drew his pistol and fired at Judge Belt, who returned the fire with a double barreled shot gun, the load taking effect in his face and head. Judge Belt immediately gave himself up, and upon an examination, before Justice Ward, was discharged. The two Mexicans are in the custody of the Sheriff, awaiting an examination on the charge of cow stealing."

October 28: "Copperopolis Railroad.—The Stockton Herald says the railroad to Copperopolis is under such headway that its completion may be looked upon as a fixed fact. . . ."

Two advertisements, from the same issue: "San Francisco Purchasing Agency.—The undersigned will attend to the purchasing and forwarding of goods of every description, either in large or small quantities. All orders (except where the goods are to be sent through Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express) must be accompanied by the cash. J. J. Knowlton & Co., N. E. corner Montgomery & Sutter."

"Grade Bros.' Newspaper and Periodical Department.—Newspapers and magazines received by mail and express. A large supply always on hand, including monthly and quarterly magazines, daily and weekly papers, etc., etc., for sale at their establishment, Main Street, Hornitos, or delivered to regular subscribers. Connected with the above we still carry on our shaving and hair dressing saloon and will devote our attention and services to those of the public who may favor us with their patronage. N. B.—Particular attention, in this line, paid to travelers. W. A. Grade & Bro. Hornitos."

"Saddle and Harness Maker.—Mr. La Croix, formerly of La Grange, we are pleased to say has opened a saddle and harness shop in town. This is something that we have long needed. Mr. La Croix is a good workman and we doubt not will do a good business."

"Still They Come.—Those large lumber teams of J. F. Greeley still continue to make their regular trips, 'loaded down to the guard.' Greeley sells more lumber than any other mill in the Mountains. Everybody buys lumber from Greeley." Evidently Greeley was in advance of his time in getting advertising.

"The Sonora and Mono Road, says the Sonora Democrat, is now in fine condition, and large teams are coming and going daily. Immense quantities of goods are being transported by this route to Aurora, and other points over the mountains."

"Thanks.—We were presented this week, by Mr. Saml. R. Gwin, with a pear grown on his ranch weighing a little over three pounds. It was large enough to feed a whole family."

In the issue of October 14, 1865, appears a proclamation of the board of supervisors, made pursuant to one by the Governor, ordering an election held for two justices of the peace in Township Number One and two in Township Number Two. "The following persons were appointed Inspectors and Judges at the different precincts in the said county, to-wit:

"Dry Creek.—I. N. Ward, Inspector; John Birkhead and T. M. McKennon, Judges. Snelling.—Geo. Turner, Inspector; G. W. Halstead and J. B. Kennedy, Judges. Merced Falls.—S. K. Spears, Inspector; P. Lynch and Wm. Nelson, Judges. Forlorn Hope.—A. Ingalsbe, Inspector; W. B. Thompson and J. M. Strong, Judges. Neill's Ranch.—Wm. N. Neill, Inspector; A. C. McSwain and A. Pruitt, Judges. Stevenson's (so it is spelled).—A. Stevenson, Inspector; W. C. Turner and W. L. Silman, Judges. San Luis Ranch.—H. Lambert, Inspector; People appoint judges. Anderson's.—J. K. Mears, Inspector; A. Rodgers and John Anderson, Judges. Beighle's.—H. Beighle, Inspector; People appoint judges. Mariposa Creek.—P. Y. Welch, Inspector; Thomas Price and J. C. C. Russel, Judges. Hail's Ranch.—R. Hail, Inspector; M. O. Barber and J. C. Hail,

Judges. . . . Silas March, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, R. R. Leak, Clerk."

July 22, 1865: "Religious Services.—Rev. T. O. Ellis will hold divine service at the Court House, in Snelling, tomorrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock A. M. and half past 7 P. M."

"Accident at Mariposa Creek.—We learn that on Tuesday last, near Mariposa Creek, a severe but not fatal accident occurred, as follows: It seems that Mrs. Price and Mrs. Lewis, in company with a little girl, were taking a drive to a neighbor's house. Some part of the gearing became disarranged. The horses became frightened and unmanageable and, running away, smashed up the vehicle in which the party were riding. Mrs. Lewis and the little girl were both pretty badly injured, but as fortune would have it, not dangerously so."

"Burglary and Theft. An Exciting Chase.—The Mariposa Free Press says the store of A. G. Black, on Bull Creek, was entered by a party of Chinamen, three in number, and robbed of a large amount of clothing, boots, and fancy articles. The thieves entered through the door, which was fastened with a padlock, by prying out the staple. After loading themselves with plunder they decamped and came to a halt near Greeley's mill, where they stowed their goods behind an old log and partly covered them with brush. Here they were discovered by Mr. Shehan, who informed some other men, and a party immediately started in pursuit. One of the rascals was caught near the head of Maxwell's Creek, and another discovered by Tim. Shehan in Chinatown. He seized him by the collar of his coat, but John dextrously threw his arms behind him, and made a dive, leaving Tim. in possession of his garment, and taking to the hills. Three Indians armed with bows and arrows were deputized to arrest him, and started in pursuit. After a lively race about three miles, he was overtaken, and together with the other one, brought over to Mariposa and lodged in jail. The third one has not yet been taken."

November 4: "Grand Jury.—The following is the list of the Grand Jurors drawn for the November Term of the County Court, which meets on Monday next: S. K. Spears, J. B. Helms, Dan Yeiser, T. C. Dean, Wm. Winn, J. T. Stockird, J. B. Bennet, C. F. Bludworth, W. B. Thompson, N. S. Hazelton, J. J. Taylor, Joseph M. Stith, Saml. Scott, George Wilcox, John Hanks."

Now is added to the professional cards that of "John M. Corcoran, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office—At the Court House, Mariposa."

November 17: "Thanks.—Mr. J. A. Robinson has placed us under obligations for a bottle of his fine grape Brandy, made at his distillery on the ranch formerly owned by Mr. Ostrander, but which was recently purchased by Mr. Robinson. After testing its quality

and pronouncing it a good article, we laid it away in a secure place where we intend keeping it until it (the bottle) gets old."

There is another professional card, that of "John W. Bost, Surveyor and Civil Engineer. Will do all kinds of surveying on short notice and on reasonable terms. Particular attention paid to drawing maps, &c, &c." And there is a "Notice of Dissolution of Partnership of A. Ingalsbe and D. E. Ingalsbe," dated November 13th.

In the issue of November 28 appears the professional card of "Dr. J. A. Hamilton, Physician and Surgeon, Snelling, Merced Co., California. Would respectfully tender his professional services to the citizens of Merced County. Office—Corner Green and Third Streets."

"Lost—On Sunday, Nov. 5, between Snelling and Forlorn Hope, a double cased gold watch. Thomas Eagleson."

December 2: "Bold Robbery.—On last Tuesday evening about dark Mr. Wm. Arther, who drives a peddling wagon for Mr. Gwinn of this county, was stopped by three men, and robbed of thirty-one dollars. It took place a short distance from the stone house situated on Dry Creek, and on the road leading from that place to La Grange. Fortunately Mr. A. had his money in two purses, one containing silver and the other gold. The one containing silver being a little heavy and unhandy to carry, he had thrown it into a box in the back part of the wagon; this he saved. He does not remember ever to have seen either of the men before, but thinks one of thm was a Mexican. When ordered to stop one of the scoundrels threw a riatta on one of his horses and held them until the money was handed over. The team, we understand, was returning from the mountains where it had been with a load of apples."

Same issue: "Hon. W. S. Montgomery left on yesterday morning's stage for the Capital, to take his place in the Senate among the assembled wisdom of the State."

December 2, 1865: "John S. Watts, who was indicted in this county for cattle stealing in March last, but whose trial was removed to Fresno County, has been convicted and sentenced to the State Prison for two years."

December 9: "Agents for the Weekly Merced Herald: San Francisco, J. J. Knowlton & Co.; Stockton, M. Magner; Knight's Ferry, A. Hewel; La Grange, Wm. Floto; Hornitos, Wm. A. Grade; Princeton, M. Hagerty; Millerton, Jeff. Shannon."

"Thanks.—Mr. S. P. Jackson has our thanks for an arm full of huge sweet potatoes raised on the ranch of Jackson and Henderson. They are the largest and best we have seen this year."

"Our fellow townsman, John C. Breen, has been elected Copying Clerk of the Assembly."

December 16: "Mr. Erastus Eagleson, our traveling agent, will in a short time visit the counties of Mariposa and Stanislaus in the capacity of canvasser and collector for this paper. He is authorized to receive and receipt for all monies due this office. Mr. Eagleson will soon also make a thorough canvass of this county." (The editor goes on to state that the subscription price of the Herald is \$5 a year, and that he hopes to secure 300 subscribers in this county. He bespeaks the support of the Democracy in particular.)

"Notice is hereby given that Wm. H. Turner, Chas. M. Blair, R. R. Leak, and James W. Robertson, having been duly appointed and created a County Board of Examination for Merced County, they will meet the County Superintendent of said county at the School House, in the town of Snelling, on Saturday the 30th day of December, 1865, at 9 o'clock. All persons wishing to qualify as teachers, and all teachers holding limited certificates, attend.

"T. O. Ellis, Sr., County Supt."

December 23: "Editorial. The Child is Born.—If the election of Cole to the United States Senate is an indication of the prevailing sentiment of our legislators, and if they correctly represent their constituency, California may be set down among the foremost of Radical States. . . ."

"Drawn Off.—The stage heretofore running between Sonora and Hornitos has been drawn off. . . ."

"Snow.—The inhabitants of this burg and surrounding country were surprised on Monday morning last on arising from their slumbers, to see everything outside covered with snow, which had fallen during the night to the depth of about three inches. . . . This is more snow than has ever been known to fall at one time in this Valley since its settlement by the Americans, and we believe it is the third time that snow has been known to fall in that length of time, at least we do not remember to have seen it more than that number of times. The hills south of town remained white for several days, and even now after the expiration of almost a week, it has not all melted."

"Since the late snow storm our attention has been called to the muddy condition of the streets of this metropolis. It requires some skill in navigation to make the trip from the palatial structure from which the Herald is issued to the storied edifice where Ah Li presides over our chemuck department, and furthermore the route is about the driest in the burg."

December 30, 1865: "Personal.—Hon. R. H. Ward, our member of Assembly, and John C. Breen, Esq., one of the copying clerks of that body, improving the opportunity afforded by the adjournment of the Legislature, returned home this week to spend Christ-

mas. The former accompanied by Mrs. W., a late addition to the Ward family. . . ."

"The Hunt.—Last Saturday the young men of this immediate vicinity had rare sport hunting. Two or three days before, two captains were chosen, who in turn chose several privates. . . . The penalty was the dinner for the winners. . . . The following persons participated, and the number of points made by each is shown:

"R. R. Leak, Captain, 16; H. A. Skelton, 37; Coley Fitzhugh, 28; Geo. W. Halstead, Jr., 50; James Halstead, 22—total, 153. E. G. Rector, Captain, 21; Wm. James, 13; S. L. Anderson, 42½; E. J. Simon, 17; C. M. Blair, 35—total, 128½.

"Everything was on the square with the single exception of a few tame ducks rung in by a certain county official."

Editor Robertson was a guest at the banquet.

In the issue of January 6, 1866, we read: "Col. B. F. Moore, for many years a member of the Sonora bar, died at Stockton on Monday night last. . . ." In the next issue appears the professional card of "W. C. Montgomery, Attorney at Law, Office at Snelling." Moore & Montgomery had been maintaining an office at Snelling, as well as one at Sonora, before Moore's death.

Other professional cards appearing about this time are those of B. D. Horr, Attorney and Counselor at Law, Knight's Ferry, Stanislaus Co., and Dr. H. H. White, Surgeon Dentist, who announced that he would be at the Galt House on December 15, 1865, for a few days.

In the issue of January 20, 1866, we read: "Wednesday the Stockton stage failed to reach this place on account of high water in Dry Creek. . . . In the following issue, after relating that "Last Sunday and Sunday evening the rain came down in torrents," the editor states that they feared another flood like the one of 1862.

The weather evidently remained pretty damp, for in the paper of February 3, 1866, he writes: "Ye City Fathers, Attention.—The other day a loaded wagon from Stockton bogged down right here within the corporation limits, nearly opposite this office. . . ."

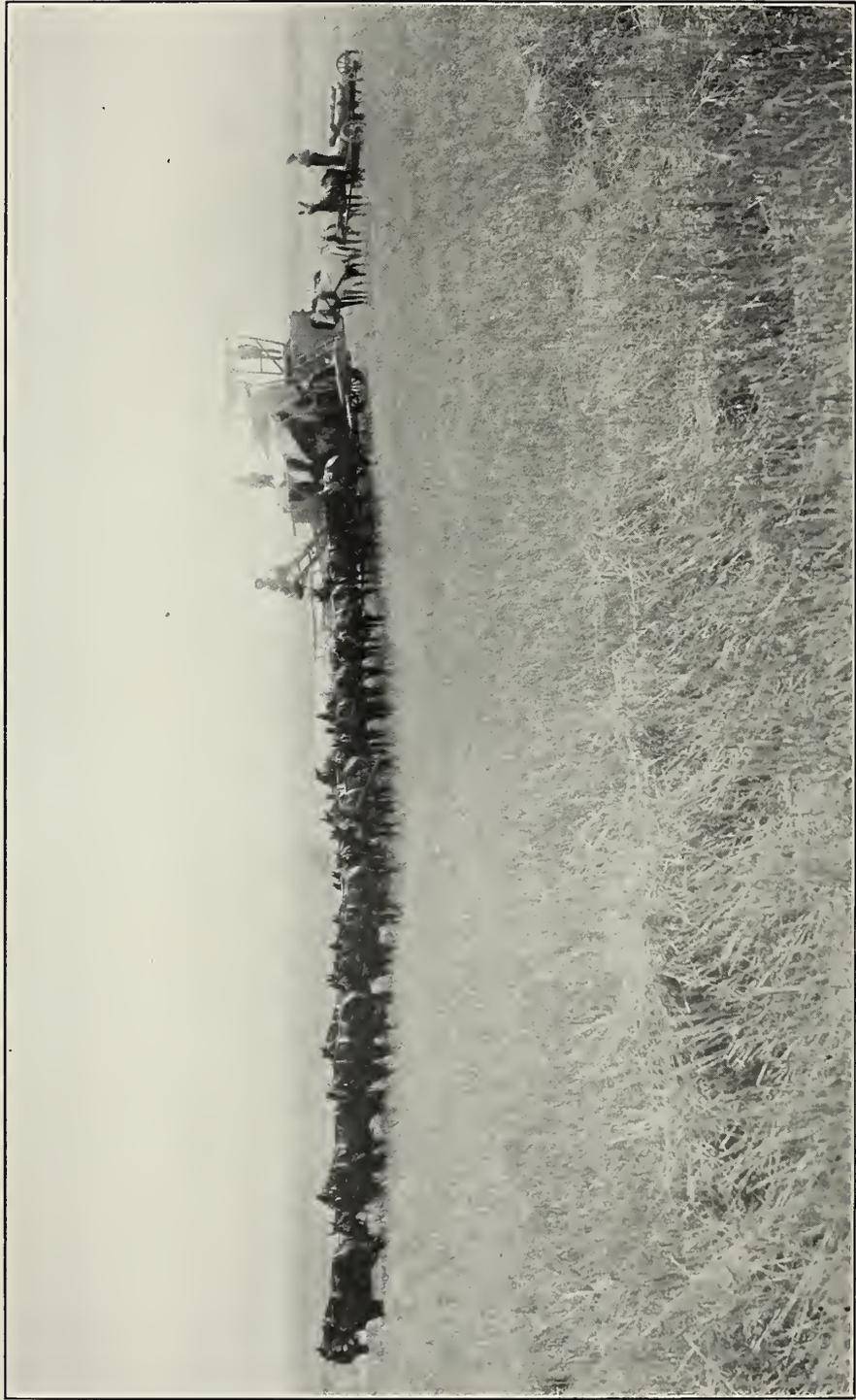
February 3: "We learn that the ferry boat owned by Mr. John Ivett, which was built by him and placed below Murray's Mill on this river, has been sold to John Roberts, to be used at his ferry on the Tuolumne—his boat being the one spoken of last week as being washed down stream. Mr. Roberts intends to bring his new ferry boat down the Merced into the San Joaquin and from thence have it towed by the small steamer running on the last named river, up to his ferry on the Tuolumne. He is unable just at present to get it done on account of low water, but as soon as we have another rise in the river he says he will pass Snelling with colors flying. Look out for the engine when the bell rings."

In the issue of February 10, and in that of the 17th, we find two characteristic items which may serve to close this chapter of impressions of the first year after the Civil War in Merced County.

On the 10th: "Stolen Cattle.—Three men supposed to be citizens of Maximalian's 'Empire' crossed the Merced River at Murray's Bridge last Monday with forty head of cattle, all of which are supposed to have been stolen. . . . They were pursued by N. B. Stoneroad, Paddy Vaughn, and Thomas T. Howard, who found but one animal known to belong in this county. The villians very willingly paid for it and were allowed to proceed. They said they were going to Sonora, Tuolumne County."

On the 17th: "Appointment of Judges of the Plains.—Last week the Board of Supervisors appointed Arch. Rice and Paddy Vaughn Judges of the Plains for the coming year as provided by statute. . . ." The editor then gives a synopsis of the statute mentioned, by which it appears that the duties of the "Judges of the Plains" included, besides deciding questions of ownership at rodeos, also the exercising of just such oversight over cattle passing through as Stoneroad, Vaughn, and Howard exercised in the case of the Mexicans mentioned on the 10th.





HARVESTING SCENE SHOWING THIRTY-EIGHT ANIMALS ON COMBINED HARVESTER

CHAPTER XI

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PLAINS

The Merced County which we have seen, chiefly through the eyes of the county seat, in the year immediately following the Civil War, may be called a static Merced. Three or four years after the close of the war, when the ravages of that conflict had been somewhat mended, there began what must probably be regarded as the most important single movement in the whole history of the county—the settlement of the plains, and the beginning of the great grain-farming days.

We have had a look at the county through the columns of the Merced Herald, in 1865. Of the history of the county during the war itself there is little to be gleaned directly from records. What little there is, is subject to grave suspicion so far as its unbiased reliability is concerned, for those were times of very warm feeling in Merced, "the South Carolina of California." We have seen samples of the political editorials in the year after the war, and we may be certain that they were not less warm—they and the general feeling they reflected—while the war was still in progress. Of the county's earliest paper, the Banner, there are no files in existence. A story of the Banner's stormy history, from the time of its first issue on July 5, 1862, until its fatal injury at the hands of Union soldiers some time in February, 1864, and its complete demise several weeks later in the same year, has been written in the 1881 history of Elliott & Moore by Mrs. Rowena Granice Steele, wife and fellow editor of the proprietor, Robert J. Steele. Her account makes the Banner and its proprietors appear pretty much as martyrs, but her account is obviously a good deal biased. When we hear from the children of early settlers, as we can, or when we read it in Wigginton & Robertson's Herald, in the case of L. P. Hall, alias Pierce, of the short-lived Democrat, that citizens of this county went to Alcatraz during the war; when we hear of Harvey J. Ostrander, sturdy representative of a mighty slim majority, sticking up the colors of the Union on a pole in front of his house and preparing to stand guard over them with arms if necessary; when such a man as J. C. James, a pioneer from the north in the early sixties, remarks mildly, in reference to the raid on the Banner office, that he "guesses they were disloyal," we get a few glimpses of the rather dimly outlined obverse of the picture.

Happily now, after two generations, the bitter feeling of those stormy days is but a softened memory, and we may dwell more pleasantly on the kindlier phases of the resemblance to the old South which fairly entitled the Merced River settlements to the title mentioned—"the South Carolina of California." There was a good deal of the kindness and hospitality of the South, which still survives; there was a rather surprising lot, for so new a country, of the feeling of aristocracy, limited doubtless or modified by the small number of negroes—there were a few—for whom there was no closer substitute than the Chinese and the Indians. We can hardly escape a suspicion that the very strong tendency to settle along the river and creek bottoms was made stronger by the fact that so many of the settlers came from river and creek bottoms back home. There are cotton and cotton gins, there are Judges and Colonels, there is stress laid upon gentlemen and the fine theory that they can do no wrong, there are fine horses, there are camp-meetings, there are mansions, there are shootings. If Huck Finn had floated down the Merced on the ferry boat that went to the Tuolumne, the country, we imagine, would have looked familiar to him.

The most of the settlement of course was along the Merced itself, though the settlements on the creeks further south—Bear Creek, and especially Mariposa Creek, and the smaller ones—must not be minimized. The Turner (or Turner & Osborn) Ranch, where the first supervisors and the first court met, was west of the present highway and the Central Pacific tracks, and J. B. Cocanour had a place on Bear Creek clear down at what we now call Robla. But the Merced settlements were continuous pretty well down to the San Joaquin, with the most settlers from Forlorn Hope up to Merced Falls.

J. W. Stockird, who is a grandson of Col. Archibald W. Stevinson, and who remembers back to the assassination of Lincoln, moved with his father and mother from the Stevinson Ranch to Hopeton in 1867, where his father, John Thomas Stockird, bought the old Barfield place. Mr. Stockird remembers that at that time or earlier there were settlers along the river below Hopeton as follows: Beginning where Livingston now is, and going down the river on the south side, came first W. P. McConnell; then Phillip Henry Bink, just below Livingston; then David Chedester, William C. Turner, W. G. Collier (then county surveyor), Col. A. Stevinson, J. J. Stevinson, and Mahlon Stone. On the north side there were only about five, going down from the vicinity of Livingston: T. P. Carey, then a place where Isom J. Cox afterwards lived, Adams, John Hawkins, who had the ferry, and Judge George G. Belt. Going up from Livingston on the south, Neill Brothers' place came down to McConnell's. Their house was in the bottom near where R. Shaffer

afterwards built the house on the bluff. Next up the river on the south side was Augustus ("Gus") Jones, then Dr. Joshua Griffith, then the Cocanour place, now known as the Borland Ranch, next Reuben T. Chandler, and then J. M. Montgomery. Going up on the north side there were W. P. McSwain, J. B. McSwain, and one other, and then William J. (Doc.) Barfield, Dan Ingalsbe, Albert Ingalsbe (in the bottom under the bluff), and Samuel H. P. Ross, adjoining Albert Ingalsbe. Ross married the widow of "Jim" Ruddle, John Ruddle's brother. Above Ross came John Thomas Stockird, on the place first owned by the Ruddles, then by Barfield, then by a man named Corcoran, before Stockird, and now known as the Silman place; and above Stockird came Erastus and Tom Eagleson.

There were six ferries on the Merced: John Hawkins', below the Stevinson place; McSwain's, about where what is called the Ward Ranch is, a little above the present McSwain Bridge; Cox's Ferry, opposite Hopeton; and Young's, Murray's and Phillips's, these last three bunched within two miles or less from Merced Falls down. We read in the papers a little later of an attempt to establish a ferry more nearly opposite Snelling, and also a "Free Bridge," but it does not appear whether they were established.

In 1865 Harvey J. Ostrander sunk what is said to have been the first well on the plains out away from the streams. Its location is given in the Elliott & Moore history of 1881 as about half-way between Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek and about three miles east of where Merced was afterwards built. This well was used to water sheep; but it demonstrated that the plains were habitable, and in the same year Mr. Ostrander settled on the plains not far from where Planada now is. Others, stockmen and grain-farmers, appear gradually to have followed suit, though apparently not on any very large scale for about three years.

In August, 1868, after the Herald established by Wigginton & Robertson had run its course, Robert J. Steele, of the Banner, again appears in the Merced County journalistic field. He was just nicely in time to catch the movement with which this chapter deals, as it struck its stride. In Vol. I, No. 1, of Steele's Herald, August 22, 1868, we read:

"Immigrants Arriving.—During the week we have noticed several immigrant wagons containing families just arrived overland from the States, pass through town on their way to Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek, where they will settle and enter into the business of farming. We are informed that settlements are being rapidly formed in the southerly portion of this county, and it is hard to tell which portion of our vast plains which have hitherto been given up to the pasturage of wild cattle and horses that roamed over them at will, shall become

the most densely populated. The tide of immigration has set in this way, and will doubtless continue until every nook and corner that can be made habitable is filled."

The same issue chronicles the birth of a new town and the growth of an old.

"New Town.—Dover, situated on the San Joaquin River, five miles above the mouth of the Merced, is a new town that has but recently been laid off and commenced to be settled. We are informed that building is going on and that already a store has been established by the Messrs. Simpson, which supplies the people with dry goods, groceries, hardware, and other necessaries. The place supplies the best landing for steamers on the east bank of the San Joaquin of any other (sic) point in the county and is the natural outlet for the immense trade that will in one or two years be built up in this county. That portion of the county is being rapidly settled up by industrious farmers who will, the coming fall, sow the lands with wheat, thereby adding to the general wealth, commerce, and prosperity of the State. The place is of easy access from all parts of the county south of the Merced River, and in future years must necessarily grow to be an important shipping point, and the country to the eastward of it will be in one or two years more at farthest, what Paradise Valley is at the present time—the granary of the State."

It is a rash man who will put a prophecy in print to be read sixty years later, but in this case six years would have served as well as sixty to refute the editor's enthusiasm about the permanence of the new town. We read in another reference to Dover, some time within a few months after this one, that the town was started about the middle of July, 1868; and W. J. Stockton says it was no longer in existence when he came to the West Side in 1872. A careful reading of the newspaper references to river navigation along through these years would disclose that the men of that time had not learned as much about the ups and downs—particularly the downs—of the San Joaquin and its tributaries as we know now. A lot of that knowledge was to be acquired in the costly school of experience during the next year or two. We shall see at the end of July of the year following this a hope expressed by the editor that the water will remain high enough for navigation for a few weeks more to enable the farmers to get their crops to market; and we shall see, as we should expect, that it was a vain hope. A lot of them were left with large quantities of grain on hand, warehouses had to be built—at Hill's Ferry and Dover among other places—and there were hard times on account of inability to get crops to market and convert them into money.

To look back from the vantage point of 1925 at Editor Steele's comments on the events in the midst of which he moved, affords as interesting and convincing an instance as could well be had of the

inability of a contemporary properly to see and estimate the broad trends of the history that is being made while he looks on. From Snelling up the river into the mining country was the old established order of things; the San Joaquin and the Sacramento were also established as main avenues of heavy transportation; and the product of the new kind of farming was bulky—it could not be driven to market on its own four feet; and moreover, it was soon to exceed in quantity anything that could be grasped by even a pretty vivid imagination. Also the cause and the effects of railroads were not so well known as they are now, for railroads were exceedingly new—it was not until the spring after Steele started his Herald that the Central and Union Pacific met at Promontory Point. So if he exults a little as he tells of people moving their buildings from Coulterville down to Snelling, and fails to realize that Snelling in a few years will fall away towards the decay which is claiming the mountain town; if he travels through the busy short-lived towns that shipped their grain by water along the Tuolumne, and fails to realize that the railroad will be the end of these, and that even if they were to stay, Snelling was not due for a share of their prosperity because of the fact that it was above the head of navigation, he is no worse a prophet than many who have prophesied since. At any rate he tells us a vivid story of his times. In the same first issue we read:

“Merced Falls.—This place, at which is situated the new woolen mills, just now about completed, presents quite a lively appearance, and will soon be a manufacturing town of great importance. The woolen mills will be set in operation in the course of about two or three weeks, which will give employment to a large number of persons and soon build up the place to become the largest town in the county. The machinery will be run by water, of which there is abundance for ten times the power required to propel the machinery now about to be set in operation. The flocks on the hills and plains in the immediate vicinity of the factory will supply wool of every grade desired at the lowest price, and we think the success of the enterprise cannot fail to induce other capitalists to embark in the business of manufacturing at other points both above and below the Falls. The aspect of the town has changed within a few months past from a dilapidated mining town to that of a brisk and growing business place. Property is looking up, and in a few months the population of that portion of the valley will be double or treble what it has been in past years.”

August 29, 1868: “More Immigrants.—During the week we have noticed several wagons pass our door which had the appearance of having crossed the plains this season, filled with families which were on their way to homes in the great valley to the southward. Those arriving are usually people from the South and West, who

have fled from the reign of terror which prevails in the late slave States, and come here in hope of finding homes where they can live in peace under the forms of constitutional law. They have been driven away from their country, their homes, kindred, and property by the tyranny of the military despots appointed by a lawless set of usurpers holding the reigns (sic) of power, and come among us in the hope of carving out for themselves and families, by the sweat of their brows at honest labor, a comfortable competence. Our earnest wish is that their fondest hopes will be realized, and that they will soon be enabled to give aid and encouragement to the unfortunate ones who are forced by sheer poverty to remain in the stricken land from which they have so lately fled. Lend them a helping hand."

Also on August 29, 1868: "Crops.—The harvest in the valley is now over, and we hear no complaint among our farmers except of bountiful crops and the distance necessary to convey their crops overland to find a market. Cheap and rapid means of transportation is the great desideratum (sic) now, for the product is so great that the market afforded by the mining counties contiguous will not suffice. Improved navigation on our streams, and railroad communication with tide water must be an accomplished fact in a short time, for the people will no longer remain behind the balance of the world in these conveniences."

September 5, 1868: "Stockton and Merced Railroad.—A meeting of the directors of this company was held last evening, and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. E. S. Holden; Vice-president, Dr. C. Grattan; Secretary, N. M. Orr; Treasurer, E. R. Stockwell; Attorney, E. S. Pillsbury. We clip the above from the Stockton Gazette of Tuesday." The Herald then goes on to say it expects the books to be opened for stock subscriptions, and that the proposed railroad will be of great benefit to the farmers.

September 5, 1868: "The San Joaquin Settlement.—We are informed that that portion of the valley in this county and Fresno bordering on the San Joaquin River, continues to fill up rapidly with settlers. Large tracts of land have been purchased and people are coming in and erecting houses as fast as building materials can be procured from below. Notwithstanding that portion of the county has been permitted to lay undisturbed by the plow of the agriculturalist until the present time, unnoticed and unthought of as a farming country, yet it is destined to become the most productive portion of the San Joaquin valley. The valley is so extensive, and the soil so rich, that there is no possibility of that section failing to become one of the a few years at most, the largest town or city on the San Joaquin most productive portions of the State. In that locality will be, in River or its tributaries above Stockton. Dover has a future of pros-

perity and rapid and permanent growth that all may envy, but few will be able to rival in any agricultural country. Trade is springing up, and in a few months what was, one year ago, an open, wild prairie, will be a thriving town and densely settled surroundings. The people now settling in that locality are a thorough-going, industrious, and intelligent class, and are imbued with a spirit of improvement to an extent that all obstacles will be surmounted that lay in the way of building up their place. Persons in search of permanent homes could not do better than pay Dover a visit and examine the country dependent upon it for a shipping point. The State affords but few localities preferable to it for settlement, and we are pleased to see the attention of the people arriving in the country directed to it."

In the issue of September 12 the editor calls attention to "our Tuolumne City advertisements." He also has this to say on the subject of fires:

"Fire.—As usual during the dry season, this summer has witnessed many conflagrations that have rendered houseless and homeless many who were in good circumstances, and reduced them to a condition of want. . . ." The editor recommends care about fire; his successors have learned to make their similar recommendations at the beginning of summer.

September 19: Under the head "New Post Master," we are informed that Samuel Shears, Esq., has been made post master at Snelling, and that John S. Williams, his predecessor, remains deputy.

Going back to September 12: "Navigation Closed.—The navigation on the Tuolumne River above Tuolumne City has now closed for the season, leaving that place the head of navigation. We were informed while at Paradise this week, that J. D. Peters, of Stockton, was transporting his grain overland to Stockton by teams, paying seven dollars per ton freight. Bad for Peters, but good for the teamsters."

There is a good deal about Paradise and Tuolumne City in the Herald and its successor, the Argus, along in the late sixties and early seventies. Paradise was about three miles below the present highway bridge across the Tuolumne at Modesto, and Tuolumne City about nine miles—both on the Tuolumne. There is quite an exchange of journalistic compliments, in the good old manner, between Steele, of the Herald and Argus, and the editor of the Tuolumne City News. One of the matters which occasioned an exchange of shots was the case of Peter Henderson, referred to in the chapter of county boundaries. When the courts had finally decided that seven miles down the San Joaquin from the mouth of the Merced meant that distance measured along the meanders and not in a straight line, Steele had placed himself in a position where he was badly exposed to the News

man's guns, and he saves himself from a complete rout only by attacking the enemy vigorously on an entirely different subject.

The issue of September 26 affords this reminiscence of still earlier times, from an exchange, the Amador Ledger:

"Four Grizzlies Killed.—Last Sunday night, four grizzly bears were killed at Bear Valley, on the road between Silver Mountain and the Big Trees."

The issue of October 3, 1868, contains another story of immigrants, of especial interest because it appears to have been the party which included County Recorder J. C. Ivers' family, and the county recorder himself, at a very tender age. They came, not from the East, but from Napa County. This is the story:

"They Come.—A friend from Bear Creek, who is himself a new settler in that locality, informed us on Tuesday last that fifteen families had arrived there from Napa County and formed a settlement upon that rich body of land the day previous. We are pleased to welcome them to our county, and hope they will be followed by a sufficient number of hardy industrious farmers to occupy and cultivate every acre of land in the county. We regard the settlement of those people in this county as an excellent recommendation to our county for the richness of its soil, as they come from a county noted for the production of large quantities of grain, and the inference is that those who have migrated hither from that county are experienced farmers and capable of judging of the capabilities of our soil for the production of the California cereals. And too they will probably introduce among us improved methods of farming that have not heretofore been adopted by our people, and thus add still more to the prosperity of this section of the State. In this country muscle is capital, and therefore population is wealth, and we regard the acquisition of population now going on as so much added to the wealth of our county."

Richard Ivers, Michael Dugan, Joseph Sullivan, and Patrick Carroll took a section of land each, the four lying in a square two miles on a side. The compact shape was a convenience for the purpose of patrolling it to drive off the herds of wild horses and half wild cattle which roamed over the plains. This is the first instance we have found of that considerable settlement by Irish people which took place in the early grain days. Quite a number of families now extremely well known on the East Side came in about that time. Robert Sheehy was at that time in the grain business, both growing and shipping, in the country from Napa to Vallejo, and he was instrumental in sending a number of Irish families here; and others of these came from the Napa vicinity. The Rahilly family came from that

section. County Clerk P. J. Thornton's father came here also in the late sixties, and before the railroad was built he hauled from Stockton, out across the San Joaquin, up the West Side, and back across again at Dover, the lumber of which the oldest part of the house on the Alfarata Ranch was built. The route is instructive as to transportation routes and difficulties at that time. The tributaries of the San Joaquin River from the Sierra Nevadas were of course the reason for going over to the West Side; and clear from the time of Fremont's trip in 1844 down to the time when the railroad bridged these streams in 1872, they continued to offer obstacles, with their currents and the marshy areas that border them, that were very difficult to pass.

The remaining fifteen families which came in this party Mr. Ivers does not remember. They did not settle in the immediate neighborhood of the four mentioned. Charles S. Rogers, whose father, Nathaniel Sheffield Rogers, came to this same neighborhood with a party largely from San Joaquin County somewhere not far from this time, tells some interesting things about life there in the early days. N. S. Rogers settled about where Mr. Doty now lives. Job Wheat at that time was in the sheep business. He had a cabin about where Mr. Beutel now lives, in 1868, when the Rogers family arrived. He also had a sheep cabin on the high land known as "the Bluff," this side of Amsterdam, on what is now part of Bert Crane's cattle range. The cabin by day, and the light in it by night, were visible for miles; and the cabin was called "the Lighthouse." It was a useful landmark for laying a course across the largely uncharted plains between Bear Creek and the Merced River.

A man named Oliver and N. S. Rogers heard of this country and came here together. Oliver owned the land, or some of it, on which the town of Merced was afterwards built, and he lived about where the Mercy Hospital now is. J. F. Goodale lived a little further down Bear Creek and on the other side, along in the vicinity of Dr. Thomas' place and the Santa Fe crossing. This place about the Santa Fe crossing is a piece of high land where the Indians, and the Mexicans after them, used to gather, Mr. Rogers says; he has in his collection one of those flat stones, somewhat like a mortar, used by the Indians in grinding acorns, which was dug up at this place.

Mr. Rogers tells two little stories of early days that help us to realize what life on the plains was like then. Some Americans had a bunch of horses in a corral at the Goodale place and left them without a guard for a short time. When they returned they found that Mexicans had come in and roped and thrown them, and shaved the mane and tail of every horse but one, to get the hair for hair ropes, riatas, and bridles.

Ned Clark, a Canadian who came here with N. S. Rogers and Oliver, lived in a cabin near a little new house of Mr. Beutel's just a mile or two out the British Colony Road. There were great numbers of cattle roaming over the plains, and among them there was an old bull belonging to J. M. Montgomery. This bull made itself a particular nuisance to the newly arrived farmers in their agricultural operations, and it came to be one of their favorite outdoor sports to put a charge of shot or two into the old bull's tough hide. Clark was among the most enthusiastic of the bull-shooters. One day Clark was away from his cabin, and someone must have used shot that was too coarse, or fired at too short a range, for when Clark returned home he found that the bull, determined to the end, had come up to his cabin door and fallen dead across the threshold right into the cabin. This picturesque little story illustrates what soon grew to be one of the big problems of the times. There were cattle men who had been accustomed to let their stock run at will, there was stock which was not to be deterred from running at will, and now there were farmers whose farming could not be carried on if the stock was to be permitted to run over their crops. There could not help but be a lot of friction; and there was, as we shall see.

On October 3, 1868, we run across this: "Paradise City.—We are informed that the handsome and growing little town of Paradise City, situated on the north bank of the Tuolumne River, still continues to improve rapidly, the new buildings being brick, showing that the people have confidence in the permanence of the place. Mr. Charles S. Peck, one of our townsmen, is the contractor and builder of brick buildings there, and is now engaged in the erection of a three story brick hotel. . . . He has also closed a contract for . . . a large two story brick school house. The buildings erected in Paradise City by Mr. Peck this season would of themselves make quite a town. It will at no distant day become a large and important town and a convenient shipping point for a large scope of country. We also find in the same column a reader calling attention to the "ad" of "The Paradise Flouring Mills," elsewhere in the issue. They were run by "Messrs. Herron & Co.," and "These mills are located in the center of a section of country noted for raising the best article of wheat grown on the Pacific coast." We are assured that they are erected to make the "best article of flour that human skill, aided by the best of machinery, can produce."

In the issue of October 10 is an editorial starting out, "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging," inspired by the fact that a bottle of the mocker from the cellar of J. B. Cocanour has been left at the Herald office. Steele gives us to understand that he tried it only on some visitors and the printer's devil, and says the visitors, "who

claim to be judges," pronounced it "equal to the best quality produced in Sonoma and Los Angeles," and adds, "As an article of commerce we desire to see the production of wine fostered and encouraged."

In the same issue is an announcement that Judge Talbott will address the people of Hopeton on the political issues of the day. About this time the name Forlorn Hope seems to have been dropped; it could not hope to survive with the booster abroad in the land. There is also an election proclamation by the Governor, in an even-numbered year.

In the next issue we note several advertisements from Tuolumne City; in fact Tuolumne City advertises to an extent which throws all the other towns that appear as advertisers decidedly into the shade. There are the Covert House, Mrs. Jane Goodrich, late proprietress of the Granite House, Chinese Camp (one of the straws indicating the movement away from the mining country); Robert Phillips, general store, Front Street, on the levee; George H. French, Main Street, stoves and tin ware, wood and willow ware, Douglas lift pumps, tin, copper, and sheet iron work; Dudley's Hotel and Restaurant, corner Main and Covert Streets, Albert A. Dudley; and the Pioneer Hotel, Front Street, R. B. Robinson, proprietor. There are news stories—meaning of course the little essays characteristic of the newspapers of the times, compounded half of news, half of comment—on the railroad, Republican speaking, supervisors' election; and lower down, J. B. Cocanour's announcement that he is a candidate for reelection.

On October 24 there is a communication to the effect that someone offers to open a high school if \$100 a month can be raised for it, and that J. M. Montgomery, Dr. G. M. Summers, and Silas March are named as trustees. And there is the news that there is a scarcity of teams, because so many of them have been taken off the roads onto the farms. Also in this and the next issue we learn that there has been an earthquake. Earthquake stories occur every now and then.

Along through the winter we read, in November, that Cocanour was reelected, that they are growing cotton down on the Kings River, that many of the new settlers are without shelter, especially around Dover (due partly to lack of transportation for building materials), that Dr. J. W. Fitzhugh has resumed practice, that R. Simpson is a merchant and Mr. Jolly justice of the peace at Dover, and that Wigginton & Howell have a real estate office functioning (the first bank in Merced seems afterwards to have grown from it). In December there is a Christmas ball at Paradise, and editorials appear on a proposed new mail route across from the San Luis Ranch by way of Dover and Hill's Ferry, the railroad, smallpox in the State, a new pork-packing business by J. M. Montgomery, and a new road and ferry at Dover. There is a Christmas story, "The Old

Slave," by Mrs. Rowena Granice Steele. Surveyor General Bost is home for Christmas, and Howard and Brother have returned from a prolonged absence. In January there is something about a "Sycamore Bend & Tejon Railroad," an item that men are wanted by the farmers, an "ad." of H. Shaw, Blacksmith, Dover, a story that navigation has reopened on the Stanislaus and the Tuolumne, an incidental mention of "quite a village of Chinese" in Snelling, a considerable write-up of the San Joaquin Valley from the San Francisco Call, some Millerton correspondence, and a story about some blooded cattle which J. M. Montgomery has bought. We learn there are two boats a week to Dover, and that a deer has been killed near Snelling. Along in February appear a discussion of "Bridges Needed," paper items all local on account of the rain, and comment on mail failures, overflow of the Merced, "our hunters" killing 213 quail, and the town improving.

In March, we find mention of the Stockton & Tulare Railroad, spring plowing (this was on the uplands north of Snelling), and that Cole Fitzhugh is home from an extended hunt in the Coast Range, where he shot a grizzly; and there is an editorial on "Preparing to Live," about permanent improvements in Snelling, and another on "Our Woolen Mills."

On April 3 we read of more improvements in Dover, and there is a story about quite a brisk business having been done during the past two weeks by our people in locating lands, mostly north of the Merced. "The best lands of the county have all been entered," we are told, which statement we must not permit to lead us into drawing any mental picture of these best lands as actually settled. This was about the time when Isaac Friedlander and William S. Chapman, and some smaller fry, had "entered" thousands and thousands of acres in this valley. One gets the impression from the records of the late sixties and early seventies that they owned nearly the whole country. Friedlander is referred to in connection with the building of the first canal on the West Side, a little later than this. He was a Jew, a grain-shipper of San Francisco, and apparently aspired to own a grain-raising empire in the San Joaquin Valley. Chapman & Montgomery we see referred to as owners of the Chowchilla Ranch, and Chapman owned a lot of land in the Plainsburg vicinity, and a lot more further north and west, plains on both sides of the lower Merced. In a notice of an application for new roads out across the plains towards Dover and Bear Creek, we see the name of J. W. Mitchell as one of the owners of the land to be passed over.

The land was being "entered," but there was still a lot of elbow room. O. H. Terrell relates that as a newcomer in Snelling in January, 1870, he went to work for J. M. Montgomery, and Mr. Mont-

gomery sent him on horseback down to J. K. Mears on Mariposa Island with a letter about the purchase of some sheep, and that he passed through the country between the present sites of Atwater and Buhach. There were no fences; and there were no towns, and no railroads, or roads in the way. When he had got Mears's answer, he carried it up Bear Creek to Montgomery's ranch about ten miles above where Merced is now; and the only signs of habitation he passed along the way on this journey were the old adobe house at Robla and M. Goldman's new store down towards the Meadowbrook Farm. Where Merced now stands he rode through tall weeds, up to his waist as he sat on his horse. Montgomery and Cocanour, and perhaps a few others, had a few small pieces of land taken up along Bear Creek where there were water-holes, usually a forty in a place. Montgomery had six forties where Merced now is, patented in 1862. There was a lot of land patented before 1870, however, and it is obvious that Terrell must have passed within no such great distance of some settlers, as for example Ivers, Carroll, Dugan, Sullivan, Rogers, et al., out British Colony way, but apparently the country wasn't badly crowded. When he reached Montgomery's ranch, and Montgomery had come up from the Chowchilla, Terrell returned to Mariposa Island and Mears sent a man with him, and they drove the sheep across through Sandy Mush to the Chowchilla Ranch; and the only man they encountered on the way was Silas Bowman, who had a little shack out in that country.

Returning to the Herald, we read on April 17, 1869, that Captain J. G. Morrison, a newcomer of a year, and Samuel H. P. Ross are candidates for the Assembly, George Turner and W. S. Weed for treasurer, and Samuel Shears for sheriff. In the same issue:

"The Railroad Line.—A corps of engineers passed through our county this week, making a preliminary or experimental survey of routes for a railroad. We are not informed whether it is the Western Pacific or the Stockton and Tulare Railroad Company that is making the survey, but from the silence of the Stockton papers on the subject, we judge . . . the former. . . . The farmers along the route are very much encouraged at the prospect of soon having increased mail and transportation facilities."

On May 1 we read that the farmers of the county are stocking up with farming machinery. Also that a day has been fixed for the meeting of the Union and Central Pacific at Pomontory Point. On the 15th, the Millerton correspondent, writing under date of May 10, says Converse's Ferry on the San Joaquin River has become entirely ruined and it is almost impossible to run the ferry boat. "At the present time it is impossible to cross teams," he writes, "and travel is at a standstill at that point."

On the 22nd: "Improvements.—Our town is now beginning to show signs of improvement. Mr. J. M. Montgomery has in course of erection a brick building, designed for a family residence, which when completed will be the largest, most substantial and costly building in the county. Mr. Leeson is engaged in removing his buildings from Coulterville, and will soon have them put up on the vacant lot on the south side of Lewis Street, adjoining Anderson's livery stable. A contract is about being let for the Odd Fellows' Hall, which is designed to be a magnificent structure, on the vacant lot adjoining the Galt House. We observe that large bills of lumber are being ordered by Mr. Anderson, to be sawed at the mills above Coulterville, for which Mr. A. is agent. These facts may be taken as signs that the era of the prosperity of our town is approaching. Surrounded as we are by a rich and rapidly improving farming country, the growth of the town may be considered permanent, and every year will add to its business prosperity and the number of its inhabitants."

Under the title "Haying," we read that the farmers are cutting large quantities, and that they are using modern mowers and rakes.

"Mariposa Creek.—We hear from this locality, so peculiarly favored by nature, that the early sown crops look splendidly, and are now so far advanced towards maturity that there can scarcely be a doubt but that they will turn out well at harvest. The same may be said of Bear Creek; and on this river, the prospect was never better, the season suiting the most of our grain lands exactly."

"Cattle.—We observed several large droves of cattle being crossed at the ford just above this place, the past week, on their way to market, having been purchased by professional drovers of our citizens. Cattle bring paying prices now, and each drove that moves northward brings thousands of dollars into our county."

On May 29 we read that a Major Rowen has been hurt in an accident while mowing for Mr. Adam Kahl on Mariposa Creek.

"Bear Creek.—The crops on Bear Creek, since the late rains, have improved greatly, and the farmers are in better spirits. Most of the grain crops were somewhat late. . . ."

"The San Joaquin and Lower Merced.—The crops in the above section of the country, so we are informed, . . . have come out amazingly since the late rains. Many of the fields were planted late in the season, and those which have not been fed down by the large bands of cattle and horses which rove about over the adjoining plains will yet make pretty fair crops. Though the season has been unfavorable to those just beginning to farm upon the plains, none are discouraged. . . ."

June 5, 1869: "Sandy Mush is the euphonious name of a new settlement formed near the San Joaquin River between the Chow-

chilla River and Mariposa Creek. In the settlement are about forty voters, all of whom located there last winter and planted crops. All are pleased with their location, and though they planted late and have been considerably troubled by the cattle and other stock running at large on the plains, they will reap an abundance of grain to supply the incoming immigration to that section. The wheat and barley growing in the new section will not come up to the average of older settlements where lands were summerfallowed, but having proved their lands to be productive they consider themselves permanently located, and are at work building them good homes. Of the forty-two voters in the settlement, who will vote at the Lone Tree precinct, not one of them will vote the negro and Chinese suffrage ticket."

What looked most important in 1869 does not look so now. Probably most of these forty-two, sound Democrats as they seem to have been, were within about three years to vote to move the county seat away from Snelling over to Merced. But Merced had not yet come into existence; a little later the editor tells of discovering it, in its very early youth.

"Hopeton.—Our sister town, down in the 'Big Bottom,' gives signs of progress and improvement. The Messrs. Eagleson are doing a lively business in their mercantile establishment, and we are informed that a blacksmith and wagon-maker's shop will be started there on a large scale the coming week. Besides the store of the Messrs. Eagleson, whose advertisement can be found in our columns, there is another store, two schools, two churches, and a collection of neat dwelling and farm houses. The crops in the neighborhood—as they always have been—are excellent, and the people are prosperous. It is, in fact, the most wealthy locality in our county, and is daily receiving accessions to its population."

"Preaching.—The Rev. Mr. Culp, of the Methodist Church, South, will preach at the Court House in this place tomorrow (Sunday) evening. Services to commence at early candle light."

"Thresher For Sale.—See the advertisement of R. Simpson—of Dover—of a thresher and horsepower for sale. The season for harvesting the ripening grain is now upon us, and a first rate opportunity is thus offered for any one in the county desiring such a machine to purchase." The "ad.": "One Sweepstakes Thresher!! With Pitts' Ten-Horse-Power. For Sale by R. Simpson, Dover."

There is a column "ad." by Wigginton & Howell, Real Estate Agents, who habitually run a column. They offer, in this particular "ad.", an 800-acre farm on the Tuolumne at \$10 an acre; a first-class bottom farm on the Merced River a few miles below Snellings, 210 acres all best farming land, well improved, with good fence and buildings, at a bargain and on easy terms; another of 550 acres on

the Merced, 400 acres fenced, 300 acres in wheat and barley, first-class buildings and orchard, well stocked with horses, cows, and farming implements, including a header, all for \$8000 cash if sold by the 20th day of June. "A rare bargain; \$8,000 is not two-thirds of its value."

On June 12, there is a brief account of the assassination of Judge George G. Belt:

"The Dennis-Belt Homicide.—On Friday evening last, Judge George G. Belt, one of our citizens, . . . was assassinated in cold blood by a Mr. Dennis, a man who formerly resided in this county." Belt, according to the story, was shot from behind, on the streets of Stockton. He left a wife, four boys, and five girls.

There is a paragraph about crops in Fresno—excellent crops reported from the Mississippi settlement on the San Joaquin, fifty bushels of wheat, and barley proportionally more; also from the farms on Big Dry Creek and the Kings River.

June 19, 1869: "Heavy Grain.—Samples from Neil McSwain's farm on Bear Creek about fifteen miles south of this place, . . . heads of barley five inches long, heads of wheat from seven to eight. Heads of wheat from Mr. Kahl's farm from eight to eight and one-half inches, barley equally as good." "Short crops will be considered a myth in this section in future years under our improved system of farming."

"The First Fruits of the Season." Under this title the editor acknowledges his thanks for some apples and apricots from L. D. Durgin, on the Scott Ranch.

"Beyond the Joaquin.—Several of our citizens have visited that portion of our county lying west of the San Joaquin River this week, and all agree in pronouncing the prospect there the most lovely and promising that the eye of man ever beheld. The wheat crops are yielding, as well as can be ascertained, from thirty to fifty bushels to the acre, and the scene is as lively as the most stirring business man could wish."

"Fire on the Plains.—We learn from a gentleman just in from the Chowchilla River, that there was considerable excitement among the people in that section of the country about fire on the plains. He saw several persons who had been engaged in 'fighting' the all-devouring element, but being a stranger, could not tell us the exact locality in which it was raging."

"Grasshoppers.—Considerable complaint is made by our river valley farmers of a destructive raid now in progress by these pests. . . ." On June 26, we read that complaints of their ravages are on the increase, and that G. W. Halstead, Sr., has cut his corn crop

for fodder to save it. The small grain, says the story, is ripe and safe from the grasshoppers.

In the issue of the 26th we read that the woolen mill at Merced Falls is almost shut down for want of labor. Superintendent Nelson has discharged forty Chinese the week before and sent to San Francisco for more. Also, there is a new store of Simon & Davis at Dover, and another of Sensabaugh & Silverberg at Merced Falls. There is a Masonic "In Memoriam" resolution for Brother J. T. Stockird. Mark Howell, J. G. Morrison, and I. N. Ward, are the committee who drafted it. There is an announcement that there will be a Fourth of July celebration at Paradise City.

On July 3 an editorial "To Our Patrons," asks that back bills be paid up, and announces plans for a new press and a larger paper. It says the county has doubled in population and increased fifty per cent in wealth in the past twelve months. The new paper appeared in August—The San Joaquin Valley Argus.

On July 10 we read that the farmers are now threshing grain, and that the yield is up to the expectations of the most sanguine. "From the west side of the San Joaquin the reports are of extraordinary yield. That portion of our county, which one year ago was a wilderness, has raised this year at a fair estimate not less than 50,000 acres of grain, not to be estimated at a yield of less than 30 bushels to the acre. . . . Preparations are already being made for the next year's crop and the indications are that the yield of grain in Merced County for 1870, should the season prove favorable, will be fully five times that of 1869. It would be difficult to find a people who enjoy a greater degree of prosperity than do the people of Merced County."

Also in this issue the world is informed that Mr. Stubbs of Dover has opened a saloon there, formerly Flannigan's Saloon, opposite the steamboat landing.

In the issue of July 17 there is this interesting and instructive account of a journey of the editor through "The Country to the West," as follows:

"We this week paid a business visit to the country to the westward of us, passing on our way down through the new farms on the high plains at the foot of the hills lying between the Merced and the Tuolumne rivers, and returning by way of the lower plains near the San Joaquin, crossing the Merced River at Turner's Ferry, and by the town of Dover. The first place of note on our route was Empire City, which we found considerably improved since our last visit six months ago. The village now consists of the large mercantile establishment of Messrs. Giddings & Ward, a drug store, a hotel, and a blacksmith's shop, a large warehouse, and a handsome and neat-looking saloon kept by 'Elder' Purday, whose ministrations have delighted

the thirsty of the neighborhood for months past. We were pleased to observe that Messrs. Giddings & Ward are doing an extensive business. They receive their supplies of merchandise by the boat load, and ship in return wheat, large quantities of which are accumulating upon the banks of the Tuolumne at the Empire landing. The shipments of new wheat the present season, by Messrs. Giddings & Ward, amount to seven hundred and seventy-to tons, and there are on the bank about three hundred and fifty tons, most of which will have to be stored. The enterprising merchants (Messrs. G. & W.), are building an addition to their large warehouse, which will increase its capacity to about twelve hundred tons, and have engaged wheat for storage sufficient to fill it. The other towns on the Tuolumne, Westport, Berryville, Paradise, and Tuolumne City, wear their usual appearance, except the latter, which in consequence of navigation having closed to ports above, presents a more lively appearance than for ten months past. The landing and streets are thronged with teams from morning until night delivering grain for shipment, and the merchants and business men of the town seem encouraged by the impetus thereby given to business transactions.

“On our return we tarried for the night at Dover, where we found quite a stir among the people of the place, notwithstanding the fact that every available man has been drawn from the town to assist in harvesting the grain crop in the surrounding country, and that the shipping season had not commenced, owing to the fact that harvesting commenced much later in that vicinity than in older settled sections. The crops are reported good, and except where damage was done by cattle and other stock, an average yield will be the result, notwithstanding the fact that much of the grain was planted as late as March.”

The Millerton correspondent writes that the cable and boat of Converse's Ferry have been sold at private sale for \$2000 and moved thirty miles down the river. Landrum & Co. were the purchasers. A company is to be organized to establish a new ferry at Millerton.

A man named Johnson S. Weese was killed by being caught in the cylinder of a threshing machine on William H. Hartley's ranch on Bear Creek about fifteen miles from Snelling. There is a report of the coroner's inquest, with a verdict of accidental death.

July 31, 1869: “The San Joaquin.—The San Joaquin River is yet navigable for the larger sized craft in the up-river trade, and the farmers on the plains are rushing their grain to the bank at all available points for shipment before the season closes. The Tuolumne is yet navigable to Tuolumne City, and there is unusual activity displayed in the shipment of grain from that point. While there in the early part of the present week, we noticed that the town was thronged

with teams from the country, bringing to the landing hundreds of tons of grain which was daily being shipped by steamer to Stockton. For the benefit of the farming community we hope the water in the rivers will keep up a few weeks longer, and thus enable them to get their products to market."

Of course the rivers did not accede to the editor's wish. On September 25, in the *Argus*, which had before that time replaced the *Herald*, are these two paragraphs:

"Dover.—We learn that much more grain is being stored at Dover for shipment than was expected, the farmers being compelled to haul their crops there for storage for want of granaries at home. At present there is no safe landing for steamers at any point but Dover above the mouth of the Merced River on the east side of the stream for forty or fifty miles, giving that place the advantage of the trade of a vast area of territory that will produce grain in great abundance next year. Mr. Simpson is doing a thriving business, as he richly deserves to do."

"Large Warehouse.—We are informed that a warehouse 100x80 feet has been built and is now being filled with grain, at Hill's Ferry. The sacks of wheat are being stored in tiers twenty-four high, which makes the capacity of this warehouse about 22,000 tons. It is said that the entire capacity of the building has been engaged, and yet more warehouse must be built to accommodate the farmers who will ship their grain from that point. Verily the yield of grain must have been abundant on the farms beyond the Joaquin the present year."

Having thus taken a glimpse a little way ahead at the check which was due to come to the first year's boom, we drop back to July 17 again. In the *Herald* of that date is an "ad." of Wigginton & Howell to the effect that they have over 250,000 acres of unimproved lands in Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Tulare Counties at from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre. Those desirous of settling in this part of the State cannot fail to be suited in quantity, quality, and location of lands, and on such terms as will be satisfactory.

July 31: "Our Town.—Improvements are still progressing in Snelling, every man who can handle a hammer or trowel being engaged upon the various buildings in process of erection. This fall will witness a large addition to the number of our business houses and a corresponding increase in the population of the town and vicinity. We see no reason why Snelling should not become one of the large towns of the State, situated as it is in one of the richest and most pleasant and healthy localities in all the San Joaquin Valley."

"Harvesters.—These machines are being used in the lower valley, and we are informed are doing good work. Mr. Daniel Whitmore has two of them on his farm near Empire City, with which he cuts,

threshes and sacks forty acres per day with the labor of eight men and twenty-eight horses."

The editor himself prepared to expand along with the town and the country, and actually did so. In the issue of August 7, there is a little editorial, "by the head devil," entitled "Gone Below," in which we are informed that Mr. Steele has gone to San Francisco to buy a new press and new materials for Volume II of the paper. Evidently the editor hadn't yet planned, or at least the "head devil" did not yet know, that it was to be, not Volume II of the Herald, but Volume I of the San Joaquin Valley Argus. On the 14th there is an announcement of "our new office," on the north side of Lewis Street. There is also a news story that the Western Pacific Railroad is now completed from Sacramento to Stockton. And a little earlier, Wigginton & Howell have added an abstract office to their real estate establishment.

On August 28 the editor of the Tuolumne City News is quoted as saying that "there are at present near fourteen hundred names on the great register of Stanislaus County." In another article in the same paper, the Herald points out, he (the News man) sums up the Democratic strength in Merced County as 272, and in Stanislaus as 642. Steele points out that the News man must certainly be wrong (he usually was, according to the Argus), for this would make a Republican majority of nearly 150 in Stanislaus—which of course was not to be thought of.

This paper of August 28 is the first issue of the new Argus. Steele writes in that issue, in part: "Our Paper.—Two weeks ago today the Merced Herald died by termination of contract, and today we present to the people of this portion of the State the San Joaquin Valley Argus in its stead." This valley-wide point of view, shown in the name of the new paper, in such matters as Wigginton & Howell's over 250,000 acres of unimproved land in four counties, and in a good many other ways, was the point of view of a budding metropolis, conscious of a destiny which was shortly to be sidetracked at a town not yet in existence on Bear Creek. The Argus of January 1, 1870, voices this point of view thus:

"Town Improvements.—Building still goes on at a rapid rate in our town. On every side we see new buildings rearing up, and the sound of the carpenter's hammer and saw hums merrily as we write. Within the past two weeks a block of wooden buildings has been erected on the ground directly north of our office, and still the demand is for more houses. People are coming in so rapidly that it would be impossible to furnish house room for them as fast as required, with the present facilities for obtaining lumber. One or two years' growth more to our town, at the same ratio of increase as that of 1869, and Snelling will have a larger population than any town in the adjacent

counties excepting only San Joaquin. The little river cities of Paradise Valley are already left in the background, and we rank with the largest mountain and valley towns in both population and the amount of business done. Our county, generally, also keeps pace with the county seat in improvement, large sections of country embraced within its limits, which one year ago could not boast of a single inhabitant of the human race, now being densely populated, and the wild virgin soil being put in cultivation with a fair prospect for a heavy yield of grain the coming harvest."

Because it is a small instance it is a very clear one of how the cities are full of pride, and also of how they will insist on regarding themselves as the kite instead of the tail. On December 11, 1869, we read something more about the real kite, the immigrants who had heard afar of the rich grain lands to be had here, and whose sense of porportion was so warped that they did not even suspect they were tributary to the county seat, which they heard of more or less incidentally, over on the Merced River, or which was at most a station on the way to where they were going:

"The Immigration.—We learn that since the rain commenced in this valley very large accessions have been made to our population. In the Lone Tree (Sandy Mush) district, Mr. Smythe informs us, there is a house erected upon almost every quarter section. . . . New settlers are also flowing into the portion of our county lying between Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek, and are building up one of the most flourishing settlements to be found anywhere in our valley. They are all practical farmers and bring with them means sufficient to farm on a large scale, using the most approved machinery. There is yet room and good location for thousands more. . . ."

In the issue of January 22, 1870, is the following, which may serve to close this chapter:

"Navigation Resumed.—We see by the Stockton papers that navigation on the San Joaquin River has been resumed, which will have a tendency to relieve the farmers who have been suffering for want of money, many of them having their entire crop of last year stored on the banks of the river awaiting shipment to market. We may now look for brisk times throughout this valley until navigation closes. The past six months' experience has proved the necessity of one or two railroads through the valley east of the river, and the people hope soon to see movements made for building them."

CHAPTER XII

EARLY DAYS ON THE WEST SIDE

We have told briefly how Los Banos Creek received its name on account of the baths (los banos), the pools high up towards the creek's source on the eastern side of the Diablo Range south of Pacheco Pass, whither the mission fathers from San Juan Bautista were in the habit of coming in the hot summers to refresh themselves. It is probable that tucked away somewhere in some old Spanish chronicle the date of this discovery and naming can be found, but we haven't found it.

The earliest West Side history that is to be found in the records of Merced County appears to be in the records of the patents to the four Mexican grants partly or wholly in this county: the San Jon de Santa Rita, San Luis Gonzaga, Orestimba y las Garzas, and Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisalitos. In the records of the patents to these great ranches there are recitals of the history of the titles, and it is from these that we learn when the grants were made, and to whom, and by what Mexican Governors.

A recital of a portion of one of these patents will shed light on them all. It is from the record as to the Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisalitos—the present Arburua Ranch—and is as follows:

“Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisalitos. The United States of America. To whom these presents shall come, greeting:

“Whereas, it appears from a duly authenticated transcript filed in the general land office of the United States, that pursuant to the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, entitled, ‘An Act to ascertain and settle the private land claims in the State of California,’ Julian Ursua and Pedro Romo as claimants filed their petitions on the 2nd day of February, 1853, . . . to five square leagues situated in the County of San Joaquin and State aforesaid, and founded on a Mexican grant to Don Julian Ursua made on the 17th day of February, 1844, by Manuel Micheltoarena, then Governor of the Department of California . . .”

The claim was confirmed by the board of land commissioners May 2, 1854; there was a confirmation of this by the district court of the United States for the Southern District of California, an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, a dismissal of the appeal, and a final confirmation by the district court, which appears

to have been made October 13, 1864. The patent, like all the others, contained a proviso, under the provisions of the act of Congress mentioned, that the patent "shall not affect the interests of third parties." The patent is dated July 13, 1867, and signed by President Johnson.

All four patents were issued after similar proceedings under the same act of Congress, with the difference that at least one of the claims was rejected by the board of land commissioners, and that some of the transcripts were filed in the branch of the land office at San Francisco. All four claims were alike affirmed by the district court, however, and appeals to all four were dismissed by the supreme court. The San Juan y Los Carrisalitos Grant was not the earliest, but next to the latest of the four.

The Santa Rita Grant was the earliest. It was made to Francisco Sobranes on September 7, 1841, by Juan B. Alvarado, then Governor of the Department of both Californias, and was to "eleven Spanish square leagues." This claim was rejected by the land commissioners, but affirmed by the district court. The patent was dated November 20, 1862, and signed by President Lincoln. The claim was filed March 1, 1853.

The claim to the San Luis Gonzaga Grant was filed February 12, 1852, by Juan Perez Pacheco. It was to eleven square leagues, and was founded on a Mexican grant to Jose Maria Mejia and Juan Perez Pacheco made on the 4th day of November, 1843, by Manuel Micheltoarena, then Governor of the Department of the Californias. The land is described in the claim as situated in the County of Mariposa. This claim likewise was rejected by the land commissioners, but affirmed by the district court, and an appeal was dismissed by the supreme court. The patent is dated May 16, 1871, and was signed by President Grant.

The claim to the Orestimba y las Garzas Grant was made by Sebastian Nunez February 12, 1852, to "six Sitios de granada mayor or square leagues," situated in the County of Tuolumne, founded on a Mexican grant made February 22, 1844, by Manuel Micheltoarena, then Governor of the Department of the Californias. This claim likewise was rejected by the land commissioners, but affirmed by the district court, and by the supreme court by the dismissal of an appeal. The patent was dated July 30, 1863, and signed by President Lincoln.

Only one of the four grants, the Carrisalitos, is wholly within the present Merced County. It contains 22,173.34 acres. The Santa Rita extends into Fresno County, and has in Merced County 46,050.68 acres. The Orestimba extends over into Stanislaus, and has 10,092.7 acres in Merced County. The San Luis extends into Santa Clara, and has in Merced County 27,731 acres.

It is not intended here to follow the title of these grants in detail to later owners. Briefly, it is worth while to note that the Carrisalitos passed in time to Hernandez and then to Arburua, and that there is a map of the San Luis filed June 11, 1880, "owned by Mariano Mararin." The Santa Rita, however, demands further notice, because it appears to have been the only one in which the clause "shall not affect the interests of third persons" became of practical importance. On April 9, 1866, between three and four years after the patent to Francisco Sobranes, there was a decree quieting title entered in an action entitled Henry Miller and Charles Lux vs. Francisco Sobranes, Valentine Alviso, et al., in favor of the plaintiffs and against the defendants, and thus Miller & Lux came into the ranch which came to be called Henry Miller's pride. From the recitals in the decree quieting title it appears that all of the defendants except Alviso defaulted, and that he stipulated to the entry of a judgement against him.

We have seen that on the Assessment Roll of 1857 the Carrisalitos was assessed to Brent & Crittenden (one square league) and Alexander Forbes (four square leagues), and that the name of Pacheco appears in the index, although the page containing his assessment is torn out. We also, still earlier (in April, 1844), got a brief glimpse through the eyes of John C. Fremont, across the San Joaquin River to this country of the West Side, when he tells us that he kept to the East Side because of the large numbers of wild cattle and horses across the river among which he did not dare to venture for fear his own half wild stock would run off.

The Pacheco Pass appears to have been a way through from the Santa Clara Valley quite early. How early it received the name it now bears is hard to say, but in view of the fact that Juan Perez Pacheco was one of the grantees of the San Luis on November 4, 1843 it seems reasonable to assume that the name was probably applied to the pass as early as the forties. It appears to have been the way across which the indefatigable Gabriel Moraga passed on more than one of his numerous expeditions against the valley Indians from 1806 on, though we gather no hint that the pass then enjoyed the dignity of a name.

One of the first petitions which was presented to the board of supervisors of the newly organized Merced County, in 1855, was one by A. Firebaugh for permission to build a toll-road across the pass. Firebaugh, in conjunction with others, some of them at least in Santa Clara County, planned and built a road from San Jose across the pass. We find through the minutes of the board of supervisors during 1855 and 1856 that they extended Firebaugh's time at several different meetings, for the completion of the road.

Two writers of note have recorded the fact of crossing the pass rather early—both in the sixties, in fact. Clarence King tells of doing so in his "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada," about 1864; and John Muir, in "My First Summer in the Sierra Nevada," gives an account of crossing it in April, 1868. Neither of these writers has anything to say of the inhabitants; but it is well to read Muir especially as an antidote to the impression of the country as something approaching a desert, which may be suggested by our attempt to guess the impressions it probably made on Gabriel Moraga and his men on the occasion, late in the year, when they left a permanent record of their thankfulness in finding the Merced by naming it "River of Our Lady of Mercy." Such men as John Montgomery, John Ruddle, and Colonel Stevinson early recognized the East Side as a desirable cattle country, and drove in cattle from the States; and Henry Miller found the place he wanted on the West Side. A well-informed stockman made the statement in 1924 that there were more cattle shipped annually from within a radius of twenty-five miles of Merced than from any other equal area in the world; in that year Merced County had over 80,000 stock cattle and over 40,000 dairy cattle, and was surpassed among the counties of the State only by Kern in number of stock cattle and Stanislaus in number of dairy cattle. It raises also large numbers of sheep, and a considerable number of hogs.

One reminiscence of Mr. Stockton, which he must necessarily have had at second hand, recalls Grizzly Adams' story of the stock-killing grizzly. It relates that a stockman named Davis, on the West Side in the early fifties, witnessed the killing of three grizzlies one after the other by a bull, and conceived such a respect for the bull as a fighter that he took it to Stockton, where fights between bulls and grizzlies were a feature. There, says the story, the bull was matched against a grizzly which had something like seven bulls to its credit, and the bull killed the grizzly, and piled up a record of almost a score of bears, until the brutal promoters, finding they could get no more matches, hamstringed the champion and let a grizzly kill him. This barbaric sport had a short life in the State; it was soon prohibited on account of its cruelty.

We have seen, along through the sixties, when the election returns are given, or the appointment of election officers, that there seems to have been only the one precinct of the San Luis Ranch which was wholly on the West Side, and a second, called Anderson's and apparently later Mears', which presumably was partly west of the San Joaquin. And the vote in these precincts was not large.

The San Luis Ranch House was a station on the stage route between San Jose and Visalia pretty early. S. L. Givens mentions the stage stopping there in 1858, when he was a boy going to college

at Santa Clara. James Capen Adams ("Grizzly Adams"), who hunted and captured grizzlies on the upper Merced during the fifties and late in that decade exhibited several of these and some other animals in San Francisco, and whose life story was written in book form by Theodore Hittell, evidently passed along the West Side of this county in the later fifties, and he tells of a grizzly coming out of the bushes somewhere in that vicinity and rolling on the ground to excite the curiosity of the cattle until one came near enough for the bear to kill it. Adams was apparently not concerned about county lines and could not probably have distinguished them, but we get from him the idea of the West Side as a stock country with a few far scattered ranch houses.

W. J. Stockton came to the West Side in October, 1872, and Charles W. Smith in 1874, and to these two pioneer residents of that section we are indebted for much information about early days there. "When I first came to Los Banos," says Mr. Stockton, "I hauled timber across the old Toll Road from Gilroy to build me a house. It took me about a week to haul one load—and such a road! Sometimes we used to tie a log on to the back of the wagon with a rope to act as a brake, the road was so steep."

Looking at the picture of Los Banos Village (old Los Banos) in the Elliott and Moore history of Merced County published in 1881, which shows Sheeline's grocery, H. Thornton's hotel, a blacksmith shop, a barn, and two smaller buildings, Mr. Stockton states that in 1872 the only building there was one small one in the foreground on the right, next to Sheeline's store, and that this was a store which had been recently established by a German named Kreyenhagen, to whom Henry Miller had leased a section of land for ten years for \$1 on condition that he would put up a store. This little building was a store and also a post-office. A man named Moses Korn, a Jew, bought Kreyenhagen out in 1873. Korn added a hotel, which about 1876 he sold to Harry Thornton. Korn afterwards sold out his store to Sheeline. Sheeline was there only about a year, and the 1881 history fixes his date pretty closely, unless the picture was not strictly up to date. Miller bought Sheeline out, and the store, moved to the present Los Banos when that was established on the coming of the railroad, has been run by Miller & Lux ever since. Arthur Drummond, now a banker at Gustine, and W. T. White, merchant at Livingston, were early keepers of the Miller & Lux store.

The West Side, when Mr. Stockton arrived, was a country of a few large stock ranches for cattle and sheep, as the big grants would indicate. Back in the hills on the east slope of the Diablo Range, there was a population, he estimates, of 400 or 500 people of Spanish or Mexican blood. They appear to have lived on ranchitos and to

have kept a few head of stock, including of course the ever necessary saddle horses, raising, we may imagine, their frijoles and chilis, getting their wood and their venison from the country, and finding employment in season at the rodeos and sheep-shearings on the large ranchos. There were some very large families of them; the Alvarados, up near the head of Los Banos Creek, had nineteen children, and there were the Soto, Pio, Gonzales, and Merino families, to name only a few.

An idea of the American population of the section may be gained from the fact that when the trial of Granice for the killing of Madden was going on at the county seat in 1875, "there were ninety of us here," as Mr. Stockton relates, "on the venire, and that was just about all the men on the West Side who were eligible to jury duty. The total was probably about six times that."

The road across the Pacheco Pass was a toll-road in 1872, and continued so for two or three years later. Bell, of Bell's Station, owned it. He turned in his road for about a third interest in a new toll-road over the pass.

Old Los Banos was several miles from the present town. It was about a mile and half from the present Volta, west of the railroad; and when the railroad came, some of the buildings were moved down to Volta. About half a mile from old Los Banos was the rival metropolis known as Dogtown.

The original Dos Palos (referring to the two poles, sticks, or trees from which the place took its name) was further south than the Merced line, in Fresno County, down towards Firebaugh's Ferry. Dos Palos Colony, in fact, was first established in Fresno County. It was just about the beginning of the nineties when Henry Miller established Dos Palos Colony there. When the land proved poor, Miller packed the colonists up, bag and baggage, and moved them to the present Dos Palos Colony.

There was Hill's Ferry on the San Joaquin at the mouth of the Merced; there was Firebaugh's Ferry; there was Chester (one may see the residence and ferry of G. W. Dickenson there in the 1881 history); and Dover had lived out its brief life, begun in July, 1868, and was gone by 1872. The Cottonwood vicinity had already been given that name, and included the present site of Gustine.

The years 1870 and 1871 were both dry years. A settler had taken up 160 acres at the junction of the San Joaquin River and Fresno Slough. A man from San Francisco bought him out. The site had immense strategic value as the necessary head of a canal, and the San Francisco man had conceived the idea of digging one. At this time Isaac Friedlander, a Jew, of San Francisco, and William S. Chapman, had bought up all the government land they could in the San Joaquin Valley. Chapman's name makes its first appearance in

Book "A" of Patents in the records of Merced County, in 1868. Friedlander was the first man who shipped San Joaquin Valley wheat to Liverpool from San Francisco. They pronounced it as good wheat as was grown in any country. Friedlander sent to England for the best engineer to be had, and a man named Brereton was sent out. Brereton made a trip up the San Joaquin Valley, and went back and made a wonderful report. He recommended building the old canal—the lower one—and also a larger canal, from Tulare Lake, which was never built. On the strength of his report a company of ten men was formed in San Francisco, capitalized at a million shares at a dollar a share. Henry Miller was one of the ten. They gave the man at the canal head 100,000 shares of non-assessable stock for his land and water rights. They built the lower canal in 1871 as far as Los Banos.

In the record dry year of 1877 Miller was absent in Germany. On his return he found that his partners, under pressure of the shortage, had shut off the water from his land. He equipped himself with an axe, took a Greaser with him, and went up and chopped down the gates. Three warrants were issued for his arrest; but by the time they could be placed in the hands of Sheriff Meany and be served, Miller had bought a controlling interest in the canal.

In 1878 he built the canal on down to Newman, or rather to where Newman was afterwards to be. Concerning this extension Mr. Stockton says that he saw the country settle up and unsettle twice. During Cleveland's administration, in 1896, a lot of railroad land which had been held for a line over towards Hollister which was never built, was forfeited to the Government and thrown open to settlement. Water, or rather the shortage of it, was the great problem of the settlers. The settlers held a mass-meeting, and Stockton and another settler were appointed a committee to interview Henry Miller. He promised to build them a canal, but made the condition that there should be no land speculation. The canal was completed, and a celebration was held on May Day, which was Miller's birthday. One of these May Day celebrations had been held earlier, probably in 1877, when Miller seems to have thought it proper to throw open a warehouse for a dance after an officious hireling had refused it to the settlers. The May Day celebration became an established custom, and is still a big day at Los Banos.

The outside canal was not built until much later—about 1894—and the railroad had been built by that time.

Charles W. Smith came to California from Illinois in 1866, at the age of twenty, and to Merced County in 1874. He has lived on his present home ranch at Badger Flat, about three miles north of Los Banos, since 1878. Mrs. Smith was a daughter of M. F. Robinson. She was born at Napa. Her father came to the West Side in 1869.

The house where Mr. and Mrs. Smith now live enjoys the very rare distinction of having had the golden weddings of a mother and daughter both celebrated in it. On September 30, 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Smith celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, and thirty-three years earlier, in 1891, Mrs. Smith's father and mother celebrated theirs.

Mr. Smith worked for Henry Miller for three or four years after his arrival in 1874. It was in 1875, at the San Luis camp, that he entered Miller's employ. Miller had a fence from Hill's Ferry to Firebaugh. The Santa Rita Ranch was Miller's pride.

Mr. Smith relates that when he settled on his present place in 1878, there were but three settlers on the way to Newman—Knight, Hardman, and one other. There were four Knight families, some back from the road. A man named Jordan was the original patentee of Mr. Smith's place. Others who were there when Smith came to this place or shortly after were Jeffers, "Billy" Stockton, Bernard Negra (who came in 1880), Joe Cirimele (who is still living), and Uriah Wood. When Mr. Smith settled on this place he could go straight from his own fence corner to Hill's Ferry, twenty miles, without a fence to stop him or turn him aside.

Uriah Wood entered seven sections just south of Smith. Wood secured this land by beating Henry Miller in an exciting race to the land office at Stockton; he gave the ferryman five dollars, it is said, to hold the ferry boat on the east side of the San Joaquin at San Joaquin City until Wood could be sure of start enough to reach Stockton first. The seven sections, says Mr. Smith, cost Wood about forty-five cents an acre. Wood did some farming on this land.

There were two Portuguese settlers on the West Side when Smith came, Caton and Silva. They were both sheep men.

In 1878 old Los Banos and Hill's Ferry were the only West Side towns. At Hill's Ferry there were two stores, Newman's and Kahn's. A man named Charles Harris had a lumber yard at Hill's Ferry. There was a school there, called the Orestimba School. There was also a Cottonwood School when Mr. and Mrs. Smith settled on their ranch. At Los Banos, Mose Korn had a store, and Harry Thornton a hotel and saloon. There was also a blacksmith shop. In all, there were about a dozen people. Thornton, Mr. Smith says, was there as early as 1874, perhaps earlier. Dogtown was about the same size as Los Banos. Adolph Whitman owned the store there. The two towns were about half a mile apart. Dogtown didn't start up much until they put the canal in, about 1876.

The canal was finished down to Los Banos Creek in 1874. In 1878 it was finished to Newman. The outside canal was built just a

short time before the railroad. As bearing upon the water supply, Mr. Smith states that 1924 was the first year since he has been on this place when he did not have water enough.

Mr. Smith estimates that when he arrived there were probably not over two hundred people on the West Side, exclusive of Miller's men, though probably more, with them.

The place where the Dos Palos colonists were first located was old Shingletown, between Ora Loma and the San Joaquin River, in Fresno County, from which, as has already been said, they were moved further north into this county when it was found that the land at the original location was not good.

A Merced County man was once a candidate for President of the United States, but unquestionably the man whose career has left the greatest mark on the history of the county was Henry Miller. The Presidential candidate was P. D. Wigginton, who ran on the American ticket in 1884, when Cleveland was elected on the Democratic ticket, and when Blaine ran on the Republican, and John P. St. John of Kansas on the Prohibition and Benjamin F. Butler on the Greenback ticket. We may dismiss Wigginton's candidacy with this brief statement, but Miller has left a mark that calls for further notice.

Miller was born in Brackenheim, Wurtemberg, on July 21, 1827, it is said. That appears to dispose of the story that they celebrate Miller's birthday when they hold their May Day festival annually on the West Side—at least that they celebrate it on the anniversary of his birth. Miller arrived in New York when he was fourteen, and among the early jobs he had was one turning a sausage machine, which may possibly be said to have been the first step towards his becoming the future cattle baron of California. At any rate we find that by the time he was eighteen he had a butcher business of his own in New York, in which he employed a hundred men and ran a boat out to schooners in the harbor to supply them with meat. He had made \$30,000 by the time he was eighteen, and he then closed out his business and returned to Germany. But he left the Fatherland shortly to avoid military service, and two years later turns up at Panama, where he is in some business, just what does not appear, with a partner. Panama fever and bad management on the part of the partner led to his settling up this business; and young Miller found himself with a ticket to California, \$5 in money, and a cane which his weakened condition made necessary. He landed in San Francisco in 1850 with his \$5 and his walking-stick, and went down the street asking at each place of business he came to for employment. One of the exceedingly temporary jobs which he seems always to have remembered with distaste was one at washing dishes; but he soon got work at a butcher's—it is said he came to a place where there were men needed to skin a

lot of lambs, and that he made \$14 that day. He soon had a shop of his own, and then several shops.

And now begins his contact with the San Joaquin Valley. He went down into this country to buy cattle, and drove them to San Francisco for slaughter. He became well acquainted with cattle-raisers. In 1857 he went through the whole cattle country south to Tehachapi and secured options on all the fat beef. Charles Lux was one of several large wholesale butchers in San Francisco at that time. When Lux's buyers learned of Miller's options, Miller was able to make such terms with Lux that he was taken in as a full partner; and thus began the partnership out of which the present corporation grew. That corporation has figured large in the history of Merced County. We think of it now as confined almost entirely to the West Side, with the exception of some lands on the east bank of the San Joaquin; but the driving energy of Henry Miller in his prime extended his activities at least to include the East Side, and if he did not own land, he at least bought and sold and shipped here. Oldtimers tell us how, at various livery stables, he had his particular team reserved for his use when he should require it. In the period of close to twenty years between the building of the Central Pacific on the East Side and the railroad on the West Side he made much use of the former.

On the West Side many elements of a growing legend group themselves about his name. They tell you how his keen eye never overlooked so much as an empty barley sack out of place. Any loose end of unfinished business was like a challenge to him. You will hear of his sending a man a mile to pick up some trifle. C. W. Smith relates that when he was in Miller's employment before 1878, Miller once sent him pretty much the length of the Santa Rita at night with two dollars for some man to whom it was due. S. C. Cornett tells how Mr. Miller came into the company's store at Firebaugh, trailed by several workless men; ordered the storekeeper to give one a shirt, another a pair of pants, another shoes, and so on; and then, when the job was done, asked "How much it it?" and paid for it out of his own pocket. There was very little trouble about carelessly or maliciously set fires, gates left open, or any similar ranch troubles on his places. What was picturesquely known as "the dirty plate route" was long an established institution on all the ranches of the company, and men who "packed their blankets" from one ranch house to another always sure of something to eat, at the second table. There were were some whose small orbits hardly extended beyond the company's ranches in this and the adjoining counties.

We have already noticed how Miller & Lux in 1866 secured a decree quieting title to the Santa Rita. In the early records of deeds we learn that William Dunphey and Thomas Hildreth on May 22,

1863, for \$10,000, deeded to Henry Miller and Charles Lux two square leagues, being the southeast portion of the Rancho Sanjon de Santa Rita, which the deed recites were reserved by Francisco Sobranes in a sale to Manuel Castro. We also find a deed of November 8, 1861, by Manuel and Juan Bautista Castro of the County of San Francisco to Valentine Alviso of the County of Alameda, quit-claiming all the Castros' interest in the Santa Rita. It will be recalled that this Alviso was the one defendant in Miller & Lux's action to quiet title who did not default, and that he stipulated that the decree might be entered, so that we may reasonably assume they bought him out.

From Hildreth & Hildreth, Miller & Lux acquired one of the largest cattle businesses in the San Joaquin Valley and the "H H" brand, which is still theirs. The land now owned by Miller & Lux in Merced County includes a great deal besides the Santa Rita and the Orestimba; these two great ranches, with their 46,000 and 10,000 acres respectively in the county, constitute hardly a third of the company's Merced land.

W. J. Stockton, from his acquaintance with Henry Miller dating from 1872, has conceived a great admiration for him, and is well qualified to speak about Miller and about pioneer times on the West Side. The following is a talk which Mr. Stockton delivered before the Lions' Club at Merced late in 1924, and it gives such a vivid picture that we print it in full:

EARLY DAYS IN MERCED COUNTY AND MY PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF HENRY MILLER

"Ingersoll once said, 'The reason that Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt, was to keep that interesting event fresh in the minds of the people.' As for looking backward, if I had been turned into a pillar of salt on every occasion, I would be able to start some salt works by this time.

"A few years ago we held a meeting of the Pioneers of this county. Everyone that had been here forty years, who had come here of his own volition, was eligible. I was one of the youngest men in that crowd. They called on me for a speech. I talked for a while, pleasing them the best I could. Next day I was talking to Tommy Hall, and he said, 'Bill, you're a great talker, aren't you?' I said, 'Well, I don't know; they had some lawyers and preachers there who were really good speakers.' 'Well,' he said, 'they didn't have anything on you—you just talked a blue streak, didn't you Bill?' Then he said, 'Say, really Bill, didn't you have a shot or two?' I hope none of you will think that I have patronized a bottlegger to-day.

"My friends, I must say I feel flattered for your invitation to address you today. When anyone reaches my time of life, it is

natural for them to look back, and if the 'big I' comes to the front you need not be surprised. Of course many of the things I was personally interested in are not so interesting to the public. My father lived in half the counties in the State. First in Sonoma, and Marin, then in Nevada, Colusa, San Benito and Santa Cruz, where I was married.

"I settled in Los Banos fifty-two years ago, where I served the 'dear people' in one capacity or another for twenty years, and I am still a school trustee.

"When I first came to Los Banos, I hauled timber across the old Toll Road from Gilroy to build me a house. It took me about a week to haul one load—and such a road! Sometimes we used to tie a log on to the back of the wagon with a rope to act as a brake, the road was so steep. The stage ran through to Visalia three times a week. Sometimes there were storms in the mountains, and high water would delay them, so we would not get our mail for several days. Harry Thornton used to say, jovially, that we had 'tri'-weekly stages. They went over one week and 'tried' to get back the next.

"Those pioneers! What men and women they were! And their elections! Oh, my! I remember them! There were during one election, three fights over one negro, and then he only got \$5 for his vote. The county was made up mostly of men from the South—nothing, of course, but Democrats. I remember a Mr. Davis was running for the Senate from Stanislaus County. He was a Democrat, and had no opponent; it was no use to try to oppose him. Some of the men around town put up a negro bootblack that had a stand at the old El Capitan Hotel. Then they went around to some of the old-time Democrats, and told them that Davis would surely be elected, but they would like for them to vote for Hiram Smith, who was running on the Republican ticket—said he was a personal friend of theirs, and they wanted him to get enough votes to make a fair showing. By this method, the bootblack got about seventy votes. Then the men who were responsible for his campaign would go around to the old-timers and say, 'You're a hell of a Democrat to vote for a Republican, and a damn nigger at that!' Mad? I should say so!

"Mr. A. J. Meany was the first Democrat I ever voted for. There were two Democrats running; so I voted for him. He was a man of pleasing personality, a good fellow, generous and warm-hearted, and at that time was one of the most popular men I had ever known.

"The next election I remember particularly, was a so-called 'High License' election. It split both the old parties wide open, and what an election it was! I remember Mr. Breckenridge was district attorney at that time, a man of the most pleasing personality—would be noticed anywhere and everywhere in any company. He coined the term

'Anti-Saloon,' which has gone everywhere. The man who preached his funeral sermon said of his oratory, that he could reach the higher notes with a skill that is seldom equalled and never excelled. Breckenridge and one of our old farmers out here in pioneer days, by the name of Brouse, were talking over the political situation. Mr. Breckenridge had travelled the 'primrose path' some. Mr. Brouse said he didn't see any sense in anybody going into saloons. He said he had never drunk whiskey, nor smoked, had never sworn, gambled, nor chased after the ladies. Breckenridge said, 'Shake, old man, I've done them all!' I myself, as supervisor, had a very warm time over it at home. I didn't have much trouble in Merced, nor with the saloon men themselves anywhere. Los Banos at that time was considered kind of a tough place, but I was young and husky, and the saloon men themselves didn't bother me, but some of their hangers-on wanted to fight with me every day. I couldn't pass a corner but what some of them would say something to me—call me names, etc.

"There was a young fellow who had just come to town that I knew, who was a prize-fighter, and in fact he had come in on purpose to get a fight. It was not, however, generally known about town. One day I said to him, 'Bill, what will you take to lick about half a dozen men for me?' He said, 'About \$5 each.' I said, 'Bill, will you lick five of them for \$20?' He said 'Sure.' 'Well,' I said, 'there goes one now; you try your hand on him, and see what you can do.' He followed the big fellow into Fred Bonillas' saloon. Pretty soon I saw him come out backward with the bully following him—three or four men were holding on to him and advising Bill to get away while he had a chance. He said, 'Turn the big stiff loose; he couldn't lick a baby.' He tore at Bill and made a big swipe at him with his fist. Bill delivered one sharp blow in the solar plexus and the fight was over. They picked the fellow up, poured water on him, and after a while he came to, raised up, and asked, 'Did I lick him?' They told him, 'Not to hurt anything.'

"Next morning I went into town. They said that the justice of the peace wanted to see me, that Bill Bryan had gotten drunk the night before and had beaten three or four fellows up. I went down to the Justice Court. The judge was a friend of mine, in fact I had helped materially in making him justice of the peace. He asked me, 'What do you want me to do with him?' I told him that I wanted him to be sentenced to leave town for three days, as there was a fellow up in the Bonanza District who was going to lick all the High License men there were up there, and I wanted Bill to go up there and meet him. I didn't see Bill for about a week, and when I met him, both eyes were black, his lips were cut, and he looked as if he had been run through a threshing machine. I asked him what was the

matter. He said, 'That last man you sent me up against was a \$10 man.'

"I often wonder if people really know what poverty is. A few of the experiences of my pioneer days will introduce it. During the Cleveland administration there was a lot of land thrown open to settlement, and everybody, high or low, rich or poor, went out and took up a quarter section of land, myself included. I took my wife and little girl, some blankets and a little grub, and we went out and camped on the claim. My wife stayed out there on the plains and we camped until Sunday. Then I built a house. All we had to contend with on the plains were coyotes, rattlesnakes, skunks, horn toads, grasshoppers and kangaroo rats, north winds and dry years.

"I planted grain out there on the plains until I got so poor I didn't have a friend in the world. Going to work I would go a mile and a half out of my way to keep from meeting a man to whom I owed a couple of dollars, who needed it as badly as I did. After it seemed that I had lived there beyond all hope, I used to gulp about three times before I could ask a man to trust me for four bits' worth of beans. My wife put an old sock in a knot-hole, and fastened it with a tack. The North wind blew it so that it waved in the air, and looked just like a foot. It used to sing a song of poverty and desolation. When it seemed things had gotten so bad that I couldn't stand any more, and I could feel the hungry wolves of poverty snapping at my heels, a man came along and said, 'How are you getting along, Mr. Stockton?' I said, 'Poor enough.' Then he said to me, 'Mr. Stockton, I am going to dig a canal right out there.' Talk about the voices of angels, the music of an Aeolian harp; think about the first time your sweetheart let you kiss her, kind of by accident—it was absolutely nothing compared to those words!

"Then he told me, 'You can have all the credit you want at my store. I'll help you and you help me.' We had a public meeting, about fifty of us, and of course we resolved that we had to have some water. The whole business of us couldn't have raised \$10,000 to save our lives. No bank would have loaned it to us—been foolish if they had. I told them what Miller had done for the people at Hill's Ferry; maybe he could do something for us. He went to work and dug us a canal 40 miles long, 100 feet wide, and filled it full of water, and told us to go to it; and there wasn't a man who owned a piece of land as big as my hat that he didn't make a comparatively rich man. This brings me to the finest man I ever knew in my life.

"Henry Miller was the greatest builder who ever lived on the Pacific Coast, and I'll except no one. He dug canals enough, lay them end to end, to reach from here to New York. He added forty or fifty million dollars to the wealth of the people on the West Side,

for which he did not receive a nickel. He is the only man I ever knew or ever head of who built canals for people for nothing and then gave them the benefit of them. After he built our canal, called the Upper Canal, he extended it on to Cottonwood, where he didn't own a foot of land, simply because the people asked him to. Just after that he built the canal from Los Banos to Orestimba, just because the people asked him to build up the country. Sometimes I think of what a man told me of the Indian language—that there is no word in it to correspond with our word 'gratitude,' and I wonder if it shouldn't be struck out of our dictionary as well.

"After Mr. Miller built the canal down to Newman there wasn't water enough, so he went through and double-lined the canal from Los Banos to Firebaugh. He spent \$70,000 making the canal to Orestimba larger, and then they sued him for a reduction in the price of water, when it had raised the price of their land from \$10 to \$200 an acre. That Orestimba land to-day, I'll put side by side with any land in the State of California; there are trees down there six feet thick. They took a physical valuation of the canal and although it had cost a million and a quarter of dollars, they valued it at \$325,000 and on that allowed him 6 per cent, or \$1.50 an acre. He waited for four years, then he had another valuation taken with the same witnesses, and they pronounced it worth \$600,000. On that basis, of course, they should have allowed him \$5 an acre; but they weren't that kind of people. They allowed him the same old \$1.50.

"Mr. Stevinson got a judgment against Mr. Miller for \$425,000 for taking the water off of 1500 acres of his land, which never had any water on it in the first place. Then too, Mr. Miller had offered to put water on to the land. The judgment was so absurd it was thrown out of court, and was later retried in Mariposa County. Jim Peck, in speaking of how Mr. Miller had robbed Mr. Stevinson, who he said had gone through many hardships, when he settled down there in 1854, was so moved that the tears rolled down his checks, as big as apples. If Mr. Stevinson had had more money I guess they would have been as big as pumpkins.

"Now I am going to tell you what I think is the greatest thing Mr. Miller ever did. You remember Bryan, free silver, 16 to 1, etc. Mr. Bryan never had anything to do with it. He was only called in like a doctor, after the patient was dead. The demonetizing of silver absolutely ruined every farmer in the United States. They had better have taken everything that the farmers had and burned it up. A pestilence had better have come along and killed every head of stock they had, cattle, horses and sheep, and it would have been better for them than to have the country put on the gold standard at that time. You see, it came on just after the war when there was absolutely no

gold in the United States except that which was being dug out in California and Colorado. I myself was considered a farmer of average means. I was probably worth \$20,000; yet I went clear 'broke' inside of three years, and gave Miller & Lux my note for \$3200, after I had sold everything in the world that I possessed. I sold a six-horse team that cost me nearly \$2000 for \$40. I sold 400 tons of barley for \$11 a ton that had cost me more than \$20 to produce.

"I am not telling this for political reasons, but simply to show what Mr. Miller did for the people. There wasn't a man in Los Banos or Dos Palos who could have paid his debts to save his life, and there were no exceptions. The only thing in the world left to any of them was a credit account in Miller & Lux's store. For five solid years they didn't even send out store bills. If a man was of any account, they would help him out; if he wasn't, they helped him anyway. If it hadn't been for Miller, the people would have actually suffered for the necessities of life. There must have been at least 3000 people in that part of the country. Of course such conditions couldn't last.

"I met Mr. Miller one day, and he said to me, 'I am eighty-four years old and I don't want any of my old friends to be in trouble after I pass away. Now, Mr. Stockton, you owe me \$9000. How much can you pay?' 'Mr. Miller, you know my business just as well as I know it myself.' 'Well,' he said, 'Give me two pieces of property that you hold which are mortgaged to me and \$1000 in cash, and I'll call it square.' I went to my friends and borrowed the money in twenty minutes, and had it in the bank. That mortgage had been such a nightmare to me that when I went home that night and tried to tell my wife what had happened, I couldn't do it. I lay down on the bed and cried like a baby.

"I've never been afraid of anybody that I know of, and I've heard bullets whistle pretty close sometimes, but that debt made as pitiful a coward of me as ever walked the earth. I went to town next morning and one of my neighbors said to me, 'Bill, I've paid Miller and Lux, I don't owe them a cent.' This is the way that he paid: He gave Mr. Miller \$500, and Mr. Miller gave him \$8000. One of my neighbors—I can use his name, because he told it himself, and is something of a financier himself—Mr. Chappell, said he owed him \$3000. Mr. Miller asked him how much he could pay. He said he couldn't pay very much, he was too poor. Mr. Miller then asked him if he could give him \$500, and he said he didn't have it. 'Can you give me \$250?' Mr. Chappell said, 'No, I haven't that much money.' Then Mr. Miller said 'Can you give me \$125?' He said he thought he could, so they settled for that amount. He gave \$125 for the \$3000 Mr. Miller had given him.

"I was on the inside, in many of his business affairs. Mr. Shannon told me that he scratched \$350,000 off the books, in mortgages and notes together, at that time enough to have bought the whole Mitchell ranch; and I expect today it is worth forty or fifty million dollars, isn't it?"

"There is another story of his earlier life. When the Western Meat Company went to exploit San Francisco as they had the Eastern cities, they put the price of beef down to almost nothing. Miller had at that time 40,000 beef cattle. He turned them out on the range, and without the meat company knowing what he was doing he started in buying beef from them, and reselling it. At times he took a whole ship load. He had been buying from them for about six months before they really realized what they were doing. Then they undertook to raise the price. Mr. Miller told them that the people of San Francisco were his friends, and that they should not be robbed. The consequence was that beef was from three to five cents a pound cheaper in San Francisco than it was in Kansas City, Omaha, St Louis, Chicago, or any of the Eastern cities, and the Western Meat Company lay down like licked dogs.

"I think the most remarkable thing he ever did was to make \$30,000 in New York before he was a grown man. He told my wife that when he was eighteen years old he had 100 men working for him. Old, gray-headed men seventy years old called him 'the old man' then. He sold out in New York and went home to Germany; but he found that if he stayed there he would have to serve in the army, so he disappeared, and wasn't heard of for two years by any of his people. As a matter of fact he was in Panama, where he had gone into business. He got the Panama fever; and when he got over it, he found that he had been sick so long that his partner by bad management had brought their business to a condition where it was necessary to close out. He bought a ticket to San Francisco, and took with him \$5, all the money he had in the world, and a walking-stick. The reason he had the walking-stick was because he couldn't walk without it. He landed in San Francisco in 1850.

"Mr. Miller first went into the butcher business, started out working for wages, but soon had shops of his own. He would run one shop for a while, and then buy another one. In those days the wholesalers would go out into the country in the fall of the year and buy up enough stock to last them through the winter. They would drive them as near to San Francisco as they could and keep them there, slaughtering them as they were needed for the market. Mr. Miller went out one fall and bonded all the fat cattle that there were in the State. Mr. Lux at that time was the biggest wholesale butcher in San Francisco. When he sent men out after beef cattle, there were

none to be had. Lux went to Mr. Miller and told him that he must have beef. Mr. Miller told him he would let him have beef on one condition only, that he would furnish him the money to pay for those cattle and take him into full partnership. Mr. Lux fulfilled these conditions; hence the firm name of Miller & Lux.

“Soon afterwards they bought out the firm of Hildreth & Hildreth of the H H brand, who were at that time the largest cattle men in the State of California. From that time forward Miller & Lux were the cattle kings of this State.

“I am in communication with Mr. Conan Doyle, and consequently I can tell you what happened to Mr. Miller after he passed into the Land of Shadows. Being a very wicked man, he cussed and swore sometimes; consequently he went down yonder. The old devil looked at him and said, ‘Who are you?’

“He said, ‘I am Henry Miller.’

“The Devil said, ‘What do you expect to do down here?’

“‘Well, every place I have been I have always built canals; perhaps I can build some here.’

“Old Nick said, ‘We certainly don’t want any canals down here; I’ve got too many lawyers and preachers to burn. So I guess you had better go on up above; maybe Peter can find something for you to do.’

“So he climbed the golden stairs and knocked at the pearly gates. He was told to come in, and Peter turned to Gabriel and said:

“‘Gabriel, open the book of life and we’ll see what Mr. Miller has been doing.’

“‘I find that he has cussed and swore some.’

“‘Never mind that; I want to know the good things that he has done. Anybody is apt to get aggravated sometimes.’

“‘I find that he has dug a great many canals.’

“‘Then Peter turned to Mr. Miller and said to him:

“‘Come over here. What is that long line of water I see down there, and those villages I see stretched along the line of water?’

“‘That is the San Joaquin and Kings River Canal. When I went there that was a desert. When we built that canal, people could come and settle and make a living; so they built those schoolhouses and towns and farm houses you see down there.’

“‘What is that line of men I see down there—a long enough line, if standing side of side, to reach around the world?’

“‘Those are the tramps that I have fed. I have taken care of more of them at one time than the whole city of San Francisco put together sometimes.’

“‘What is that other long line of men that I see, thousands and thousands of them?’

“ ‘Those are the men who worked for me.’

“ ‘How is it that so many men were willing to work for you instead of working for themselves? They seem to be intelligent men.’

“ ‘Well, I suppose they could make more money working for me than they could working for themselves, and so they worked for me.’

“ ‘Mr. Miller, did you make much money in the other world? Tell me about how much.’

“ ‘About \$100,000,000.’

“ ‘What did you do with it all?’

“ ‘I had about \$25,000,000 stolen from me, about \$25,000,000 I paid out defending myself in lawsuits, and I left about \$50,000,000 to my heirs.’

“ ‘How did you make your money, Mr. Miller?’

“ ‘I made it in the cattle business.’

“ ‘Peter said to him, ‘Do you see those Elysian fields over yonder?’

“ ‘He said, ‘Yes.’

“ ‘Well,’ said St. Peter, ‘you go over there and take charge of the cattle; Jacob’s getting pretty old for the cattle business anyway.’ ”

CHAPTER XIII

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AND THE NO-FENCE LAW

When those wagon-loads of immigrants began in 1868 and 1869 to pour into the country south of the Merced River, along Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek and down in the Sandy Mush and Dover countries, they found a situation existing such that there was bound to be a conflict before they could conquer the plains for wheat. Expressed in one word, the situation was "cattle." Wild horses likewise added to the picturesqueness of the situation, just as did also antelope, but these were no man's property—there was no one to raise his voice if the new grain-raisers dispossessed them. The cattle, while they may have looked just as wild to the casual eye, were property with strong and determined owners to fight for the wide pastures that made the cattle fat and the owners rich.

We have caught a good many glimpses of this situation, along through earlier chapters, have seen how such men as John M. Montgomery, John B. Cocanour, John Ruddle, the Stevinsons and the Hildreths made trips to the States, largely to Missouri, and drove out bands of cattle along the long route which it took from early spring until fall to travel one way. These men knew pasture when they saw it, and it will help explain the growth of the cattle industry here if we remember the statement made advisedly by an experienced cattle man in 1924, that there are more cattle shipped from within a radius of twenty-five miles of Merced than from any other equal area in the world. Henry Miller knew cattle and cattle country, and it was not by accident that the Santa Rita, on the West Side of the county, became Miller's pride. The country was a cattle paradise, and men grew rich raising them. Cattle were the basis of practically all the fortunes built up in the county during the first fifteen years of its history.

Cattle and Free Pasture.—The great plains, which later were to be reduced to private ownership and become the great wheat fields, were public domain, and the cattle roamed over them without charge or restriction and grew fat and multiplied. We have seen how, on the 1857 assessment roll, J. M. Montgomery was the richest man in the county, and how he was assessed for nearly 5000 head of stock and only 640 acres of land, the home ranch upon Bear Creek to which he brought his bride in the summer of 1854. The ranch was just a place to live, a base of operations. Even his rodeo ground was appar-

ently not on this section but lower down the creek on public land. Before the end of the sixties Montgomery had come to be known as the Money and Cattle King of Merced County. Above him on Bear Creek and down near the modern Lingard were the Givens family; out in the Le Grand section were William Johnson and Stoneroad and Kelly, down on Lower Bear Creek was John B. Concanour; at what is called the Shaffer Ranch now, were Neill Brothers, William and James; on the lower Merced were the Stevinsons, father and son; out towards where Planada is now was Harvey J. Ostrander, to mention only a few. Their cattle ran at will over the plains, mingled together. Once a year they held rodeos, gathered them up, branded them, sorted out one owner's stock from another's. Peter Fee, who was himself a cattle man in a small way, tells of attending a number of rodeos, and he quite frequently brought home a few head of his stock. By this annual roundup, aided by the gregarious instinct of the animals, did the owners convey to their stock the gentlest of hints about where home was. Naturally, except that they had less speed, the cattle roamed just about as freely and as far as the horses or the antelope. Not all were of the stock brought out from Missouri. We see on the 1857 assessment roll how stock cattle are divided into "American" and "Spanish." Some classified as "Spanish" probably were driven out from Texas; the greater part were doubtless of the stock brought in earlier by the Spaniards and Mexicans to the country just across the Pacheco Pass.

A style of farming that raised such a product did not need much in the way of roads; the product walked to market on its own feet. The first market that attracted the pioneers of the industry was doubtless the mines in the nearby hills. Most of the cattle men had taken a brief try at the mines and knew from their own experience that there was a demand for meat. But the business outgrew this market and they drove cattle to San Francisco, Sacramento and Stockton. Sometimes it was the owners who drove them, sometimes professional drovers who came out into the cattle country and bought the stock. There were regular routes, regular stopping-places, varied sometimes as food and water requirements dictated. There were no banks except in the large cities, and payments were made in gold. Up in a big bend on the Cosumnes River a few miles this side of Sacramento, they used to hold the cattle on the way to that market for a few days to recoup from the long drive. E. W. Stockird, a grandson of Colonel Stevinson, tells of driving some three hundred head to Sacramento on one occasion and getting paid for them in gold—something like \$15,000, and they carried it home on a horse in the saddle-bags on the horn of the saddle, and ruined the horse with the heavy weight on his

shoulders. For the San Francisco market they used to drive the cattle to the Oakland side of the Bay, and the buyers would take them there.

They began pretty early to run cattle and sheep into the Sierra Nevadas in the summer. Ostrander Lake and Peregoy Meadows are samples of place names in the mountains which commemorate this practice. John Muir, in his first summer in the Sierra Nevadas, went in to Tuolumne Meadows as a sort of consulting engineer to the sheep herder, and that was in 1869. Dr. J. B. Campbell, writing in *Outdoor Life* in August, 1922, tells of taking a band of horses from down towards San Luis Obispo across the San Joaquin Valley through Merced County and up the Stanislaus and down the Walker River into Nevada. When they reached the Walker they hadn't had any fresh meat for quite a while, and Dr. Campbell killed a calf. He says if Colonel Stevinson or any of his descendants are alive he extends his apologies for taking their calf. One of Colonel Stevinson's descendants, who is very much alive, assures us that such an apology would have been accepted as a matter of course—that it was the custom of the country to take an animal for food by anyone who was thus in need of it.

But while such retail taking was entirely all right, woe to the taker who extended his operations to a wholesale scale. Down on the San Joaquin River near Fremont's Ford there stood for many years after the American occupation a bleached dead tree that was at once a landmark and a warning to cattle rustlers. In the latter part of 1852 the tree was alive; the country was then of course a part of Mariposa County. Sometime between August of that year, when J. J. Stevinson bought James Waters' place, and December, when he married Louisa Jane Cox, he was one of a group of cattle men who caught six Mexicans and a German rustling cattle. The seven were tried, found guilty and hanged to the branches of the tree. That the tree shortly afterwards died may perhaps have been taken as a grim omen by any gentleman inclined to go and take some other gentleman's cattle. Summary and outside the letter of the law, of course; but the main point, and the one usually missed by those who make novels or movies out of the story of the West, is that these men here on the plains, just as the miners were doing in the hills, were working out, with deliberation and their Anglo-Saxon capacity for self-government, the problem of supplying an orderly government where that which was more formally established was too far away and too weak to extend its arm to cover the situation. They went openly by day where the modern lyncher goes secretly by night, and that was the measure of the difference between them. These pioneers were working out one of the community's problems—and by and large, working it out justly, even if roughly. If most of the hanged were Mexicans, that was be-

cause most of the rustlers were Mexicans. Up between Snelling and Merced Falls the present county road runs between two large oak trees, and a story from early times that some stock rustlers had been hanged on their boughs, received practical corroboration a few years ago when some human bones were brought to light when the road was being graded.

As all human institutions are imperfect, however, this rough and ready justice sometimes made mistakes, and when it did they were hard to correct. Oldtimers over Snelling way tell of two Mexicans having been caught. By way of cross examination one of them had had a noose placed around his neck and the other end placed over a limb. His captors had just lifted him off the ground when the other Mexican chose that moment to make a demonstration by dashing off and firing a revolver which had not been taken away from him. As the demonstrator had expected, all of the Americans joined in chasing him; but as he had not expected, the one who had been holding the rope took a turn around a snag before joining the chase, and by the time the running Mexican had been caught the hanging one was dead. There were enough Mexicans who were lawless; and there was enough race feeling, so that old time cattlemen will tell you they used to be careful to keep their eyes on every Mexican they met so long as he was within the length of a riata of them. But it should not be concluded that all Mexicans were lawless, or that those who were law-abiding did not get a square deal. We have read in the files of the paper how Judge Belt shot a Mexican and gave himself up, and was discharged after an examination before a magistrate. We can also read in the files of a Mexican shooting and killing a county official and walking into Snelling and giving himself up, and pleading self-defense and being released by the examining magistrate.

Square dealing and the capacity to govern themselves distinguished the men of those days, and it was this that enabled them, when the problem of adjusting themselves to the new order of things arose with the coming of the grain-growers, to settle that problem without human bloodshed. The grain men killed a considerable number of cattle; the cattle men or their vaqueros drove their cattle in the beginning upon some grain crops by night. But the representative men on both sides approached the problem soberly and with a real desire to solve it justly and peaceably. The nearest approach to human bloodshed seems, from the testimony of reliable men who were here at the time, to have been that referred to in the following particularly poor specimen of writing from the Argus of June 18, 1870, and with reference to this it may be truly said that the matter had been settled before this time.

“Fight on the Plains.—A couple of ordinarily peaceable citizens of this county, residing near Plainsburg, having each fancied himself aggrieved, in consequence of the operation of the Trespass Law, got at loggerheads, and meeting on the open prairies a few miles south of that place, concluded to settle the dispute between the farmers and stockmen by single combat. Each being armed with a Colt’s revolver, they exchanged several shots, when both coming to the conclusion that prudence would dictate to them the necessity of holding one or two loads in reserve, ceased firing, as if by mutual consent. They fought on horseback, and charged and countercharged furiously as the battle progressed. Both the combatants escaped uninjured, we are pleased to say, yet it is reported that horseflesh suffered considerably.”

A reporter on a paper today who should turn in a story which concealed so many interesting facts, including the names of the fighters, would probably lose his job; but if you should chance to find a man now who was here at this time, it is probable you would find him just as reticent as Steele was in this story in the *Argus*. This incident, as already remarked, occurred after the fight was really all over with.

Anyone who makes an examination of the early laws of California as to what should constitute a lawful fence, must be struck with the fact that an exceedingly good fence was required, better almost than might be expected to be required today. He will probably be surprised at this until he realizes that the few farmers had to fence the stock out instead of the owners fencing it in, and that the strength of the fences required before they should be liable before the law for the trespasses of their animals reflected the strength of the stockmen politically. The Trespass Law, the so-called No Fence Law, first passed in 1866 and applied to Marin, Yolo and part of Sacramento Counties, was therefore a revolutionary piece of legislation. It marked the beginning of the end of the old unrestricted cattle ranging. The act was entitled “An Act to Protect Agriculture, and to Prevent the Trespassing of Animals upon Private Property.” It provided that an owner or occupant could take up animals trespassing upon his land, hold them a given number of days, give notice to a justice of the peace, and if the owner did not pay the damage they had done and pay for their keep at a rate provided, could have the trespassing animals sold to pay the damage and keep. It was by an amendment approved March 26, 1870, that this act was extended to apply to the part of Merced County east of the San Joaquin, as well as to some half a dozen other counties and parts of counties—Stanislaus, San Joaquin and parts of Solano, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Los Angeles. This extension of the act to these counties marked the end rather than

the beginning of the fight, so far as Merced County was concerned at any rate.

In 1868 a man named Pixley had about 1700 acres of grain on the banks of the Merced River. A bunch of cattle ran over a big part of it along in the spring before it had begun to joint and trampled a good deal of it into the ground. It looked pretty badly damaged and Pixley went to some of the cattle men for satisfaction. A group of them, Neill Brothers, Colonel Stevinson and several others, who amongst them owned the cattle that had done the damage, got together and named Colonel Stevinson to arrive at a settlement with Mr. Pixley. The result reflected a good deal of honor on both sides. They agreed that Pixley should harvest the trampled grain separately from the untrampled, keep account of the acres and bushels in each lot, and that the cattle men would pay him for the loss shown in this way. When the grain was harvested, Colonel Stevinson came around to settle, and Pixley reported that instead of their owing him money, he owed them. So they let it stand as it was.

There were losses along during 1868 and 1869, as we have already seen from the paper of the time—crops trampled out by cattle. There were some cattle shot by the irate farmers, particularly some bulls. The oldtimes of near Merced will tell you of how they used to patrol their crops, how they used to drive the cattle and the wild horses away down towards the San Joaquin. The cattle men set their vaqueros to help keep their cattle off the grain, because they did not want them killed and also because they were fair men. But the vaqueros were far too few.

In the spring of 1869 the stockmen and the grain men called a meeting at Patrick Carroll's ranch, known now usually as the Sheehy place, to adjust their differences. John M. Montgomery was a leader among the cattlemen and was known as just man. A good many wanted him to act as chairman. He declined on the ground that there were more grain men than cattle men, and that the chairman ought to be a grain man. Warner Oliver, a Methodist minister, and at that time the owner of the greater part of the site where Merced now is, was chosen chairman. Among the cattle men were Mr. Montgomery, the Neill brothers, William and James, N. B. Stoneroad, W. C. Turner, J. B. Cocanour, "Claibe" Dean, E. T. Givens, and a lot of others. Among the grain men were the two Healy brothers, former cattle men, Warner Oliver and his brother William, who lived on the north side of Bear Creek, L. R. Fancher, W. P. Fowler, and a still larger number of others. This meeting was about the end of March or the beginning of April. The stockmen, led by Mr. Montgomery, agreed that they would have to recognize the rights of the men who had bought the land. The two factions held separate sessions when it looked as if

they might not be able to agree. The stockmen agreed that they would hold a big rodeo at the end of May and that they would move their cattle out of the grain lands, northward or southward, according to where they had ranged. Both parties agreed to do all they could to keep the cattle off the grain, and the grain men agreed not to kill cattle. They carried this out. The cattle men moved out. Montgomery with his cattle formed a partnership with W. S. Chapman, who had become the owner of an immense lot of land in the Valley, and the Chowchilla Ranch was the result. Down on the road towards El Nido on the left-hand side of the road, may still be seen a small part of the redwood picket fence of which Montgomery built about seventeen miles along the north border of the 48,000 acres that Chapman put into the partnership against Montgomery's 12,000 to 15,000 cattle. He built it out of redwood logs brought by water to Dover and split into pickets, and hauled overland by wagon, a line set between the old order and the new.

CHAPTER XIV

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD AND THE FOUNDING OF MERCED

By the fall of 1869 the new grain-raisers who had for the past year or more been flocking into the plains country had tried transportation by water and had convincingly demonstrated some of its uncertainties, or rather the certainty that there could be none for a long enough period after their crops were harvested to enable them to get the grain to market. We have seen how great quantities of grain were left on the growers' hands during the winter of 1869 and 1870, either on their own farms or at the most no nearer to market than in warehouses on the river banks, as at Dover and Hill's Ferry. The summer of 1869 may perhaps have been an unusually favorable year for river transportation at that; at any rate Mrs. Stevinson recalls that it was only for one year that steamboats attempted to make a serious business of getting up the San Joaquin higher than the mouth of the Merced. It is interesting to note in this connection that the pictures in the old 1881 history showing steamboats in the Merced River at the Stevinson and the W. C. Turner ranches were not drawn from imagination, but from "life." A young man who was one of those engaged in the work on the 1881 history was stormbound at the Stevinson Ranch for a week, and made the sketch of that place, steamer and all, while he was there, and the boats actually did go as far up as the Turner Ranch.

Dover, shortest-lived of all the county's towns, had been begun in July, 1869, Steele tells us. During the summer of 1869 it had its short boom, and after the winter of 1869 and 1870 the *Argus* does not have much of anything to say about the town. Steele tells of visiting both Dover and Hill's Ferry in March, 1870, and he speaks of their appearance of prosperity; but in his account of the same trip he tells us that the prospects are that the grain crop on the West Side will be a total failure for want of rain, and we are left with the impression that he was deceived about the prosperity, or perhaps he was unwilling to admit that his earlier prophecies of a permanent growth for the place had so soon proved wrong.

In the *Argus* of October 23, 1869, appeared the following:

"Railroad.—Railroad is the principal topic in many localities throughout the State, each particular place having a favorite line. The line in which the people of the San Joaquin Valley are most in-

terested, and the only one that could possibly aid them by supplying transportation facilities for their produce commensurate with their wants, is a 'dead beat' so far as the people of Stockton and the S. J. V. R. R. Co. is concerned. The little bid of three hundred thousand dollars has excited the cupidity of the professional land-grabbing association, and they retard the commencement of operation by bringing in claims on the part of the Copperopolis Railroad. We, here, have no right to grumble about the manner in which the people of Stockton invest their money, and have no objections to their building a road to Meader's copper mine if they desire to do so; but we do object to their holding out the idea to the public that their intention is to build a road to secure the trade of this valley when their real design is to run out a few miles into the country for the sole purpose of gobbling the unsettled land in the foothills. While this valley offers greater inducements than any other section of the State to capitalists to invest in railroad building, the country at the same time would be more benefited by such an enterprise, as it would enable the people to settle upon and cultivate millions of acres of rich land which now lie fallow because of the impossibility of farmers obtaining supplies or transporting their produce to market. Though opposed to monopolies, we believe the only hope and salvation of this section of the State is in relying upon the Central and Western Pacific Companies, and offering to them inducements that will ensure the building and stocking of a road through this valley within a year or two. Direct trade with San Francisco for the people of the San Joaquin Valley will in all probability be the result of the policy now pursued by the Stockton people, and that city will find when too late to avert its doom that the people to the southward of it can get along without it, and ignore its very existence so far as trade is concerned. Instead of throwing obstacles in the way of improvement of the transportation facilities between this city and the country, Stocktonians should vie with each other in studying out plans to aid any enterprise set on foot to connect that point with the great wheat-growing section south of the Tuolumne River, where now all enterprise languishes simply for want of means of transportation commensurate with the requirements of the settlers. The winter season is now setting in, and the people see no means offered them for getting to market the large quantities of grain which their lands are capable of producing, and therefore they will not be likely to plant as largely as they would do were there a prospect for the completion of the railroad through the valley within the next twelve months. The mutton, pork, beef, and grain sent annually from this valley to San Francisco amounts to an immense trade, which could be increased ten-fold in a short space of time if improvement of transportation facilities could be kept up with the demands of the country."

In the issue of November 6, 1869, the Argus prints a communication from a writer who masks his identity under the name of "Hampden"—not dauntless enough, apparently, to disclose his real name—which says that the Honorable William M. Stewart, United States Senator from Nevada, has been in Snelling on a trip through the valley in behalf of the Western Pacific Railroad, and that he is inviting the counties to donate \$10,000 a mile to help build the railroad "from Shepherd's Ferry to Visalia." Already, we are told, Senator Stewart has secured donations of 50,000 acres of land conditioned on the building of the road to Sycamore Point by September 15, 1871. According to the letter, the road contemplates crossing the Tuolumne near Empire City, and the Merced near McConnell's Ranch. Hampden points out that such a line would run for about thirty miles through Merced County, and the county would thus have to donate about \$300,000 if it accepted Senator Stewart's invitation. Hampden is in favor of having the county do this, and argues that it is estimated that the assessed valuation for ten miles on each side of the road would be increased \$10 an acre, a total increase of \$3,840,000, which he says is more than the county's total assessed valuation, and that the county would make money by the donation. Steele comments editorially and counsels going slow on Hampden's proposition. The files of the paper later show that an attempt to get a big donation from the county failed.

An advertisement of a sawmill for sale in the same issue providentially gives us the location of Sycamore Point. The steam sawmill is at Sycamore Point, San Joaquin River, and those interested are directed to apply to James Helm, Firebaugh's Ferry.

The issue of December 18, 1869, contains this: "Stockton and Her Railroad Projects.—Within the past year, numerous railroad projects have been sprung in Stockton, all of which have been killed, or failed for want of enterprise on the part of the people along the lines of the respective proposed roads. The Stockton and Tulare Railroad proved a fizzle; the Stockton and Copperopolis Railroad ditto; the Ship Canal likewise; but now it seems that the pertinacity with which the Stocktonians have stuck to their intention to build a railroad up the valley of the San Joaquin is about to be rewarded. The 'Stockton and Visalia Railroad' is the latest proposition, and it ought to succeed. The need of a railroad up the valley has been plainly seen for years; but the sparseness of population, combined with other obstacles, has prevented its construction. The Stockton Independent says: 'At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Stockton and Visalia Railroad Company held at Pioneer Hall on Saturday evening last, James A. Jackson was elected President; Frank Stewart, Treasurer; and Austin Sperry, Secretary. There is

at present \$191,000 subscribed to the stock of the company, and ten per centum of the same has been paid into the treasury. It is the intention of the company to fully complete its organization, immediately after which books for further subscriptions will be opened. The prospects of a speedy commencement of the work are very encouraging, as the company can now safely calculate upon securing funds sufficient to construct the road from Stockton to a point near Empire City.' ”

On March 5, 1870, appears the following on “Railroad Building,” which the Argus quotes with brief comment from the San Joaquin Republican:

“From I. M. Hubbard, Superintendent of construction on the San Joaquin and Tulare Railroad, we learn that the railroad is now completed to the north bank of the Stanislaus River, a distance of eleven miles from Wilson’s Station, the point of connection with the Western Pacific road. Some little delay will take place, occasioned by the unfinished bridge across the river; but as soon as this is completed the road will, we are informed, be pushed forward rapidly in the direction of Tulare Lake. It is not contemplated to run the road to Visalia, but to leave that place somewhere twelve or fourteen miles to the eastward. If the company can manage to keep itself to the sticking point, the people of the Valley will soon be able to hear the whistle of Crocker’s steam wagons and will ride on a railroad—if they have money enough. Only ten cents a mile, and board your-self.”

From Stockton to the Stanislaus bridge, says the Argus, is about twenty-three miles.

Some little light on transportation conditions in the part of Merced County towards which this railroad is advancing may be gained from three notices published in the Argus in December and January, 1869 and 1870, to the effect that the board of supervisors will be asked at the meeting on February 7, 1870, to lay out and locate three new roads. The notices are signed by Neill McSwain, W. P. Fowler, and H. W. French. The first road was to be about twenty-three miles in length, and was to extend from J. M. Montgomery’s Ranch, the present Wolfsen Ranch, down the north side of Bear Creek to somewhere near where Merced now is; then to leave the creek a little and run out to where Sections 18 and 19 corner on the westerly line of Township 7 South, Range Thirteen East; thence south two miles to join and include an existing private road to Dover. The second was to be about seventeen miles in length, and to extend from the Lone Tree vicinity to join the Snelling and Mariposa Creek road near Montgomery’s ranch. The third was to be about thirteen miles in length, and was to extend from the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 7 South, Range 13 East, on the lands of Dr. R.

P. Ashe (Fergus vicinity, and apparently connecting with the road from Montgomery's Ranch to Dover), northwesterly to McSwain's Ferry across the Merced River in Section 9, Township 6 South, Range 12 East.

Owners of land crossed by the first road are given as J. M. Montgomery, Ray & Hines, W. P. Fowler, Job Wheat, and Joseph F. Goodale, to a point on Bear Creek in Section 22, Township 7 South, Range 13 East . . . , Isaac Friedlander, S. B. Dillion, J. C. Rogers, Neill McSwain, R. P. Ashe, J. B. Cocanour, G. W. Kidd, J. W. Mitchell, A. C. Hill and H. P. Jolly, P. R. Tarr, F. G. Anderson, Thomas Pletts, George Drumbald, and J. M. Soaper. By the second, Isaac Friedlander, W. Mitchell, Joseph G. Morrison, Warner Oliver, J. M. Montgomery, Joseph F. Goodall (Goodale, probably), P. Carroll, Frank Stewart, Stockwell & Guernsey, Timothy Page, W. K. Knight, and L. Howard. By the third, R. P. Ashe, Neill McSwain, John Archibald, Thomas Bevans, Thos. J. A. Chambers, A. S. Chase, E. S. Holden, Stewart & Newell, C. J. Cressey, Theodore Lee, A. Hoenshell, Neill Brothers, and Joshua Griffith.

Back in the issue of the Argus for September 25, 1869, we get a clue to the \$300,000 referred to in the story about the railroad talked about from Stockton to Copperopolis, when we read that Leland Stanford, president of the S. J. V. R. R., had entered into an agreement with the Mayor and Common Council of Stockton whereby he was to build seventy-five miles of railroad south from Stockton, and the city to donate the right of way within its limits and on completion of the seventy-five miles to contribute \$300,000.

Back in the Herald of September 19, 1868, is a little item about "Improved Mail Facilities." It says that Congress has established a new mail route from Stockton to Millerton, by way of French Camp, Tuolumne City, Paradise, Empire City, Hopetown, Snelling, P. Y. Welch's store on Mariposa Creek, Appling's store on the Chowchilla, and so to Millerton. Possibly Uncle Sam had something to do with the dropping of the old name of "Forlorn Hope," and "Hopetown" easily dropped the "w." It is also interesting to note that there does not yet appear to be any Plainsburg.

Plainsburg, by name, first emerges, so far as we find by the newspaper files, on October 9, 1869. This is the story:

"New Hotel at Plainsburg.—Mr. A. B. Farley has recently opened a neat and commodious hotel in the new and rapidly growing little village of Plainsburg, in the southern portion of this county, where he is prepared to give the traveling public the very best accommodation to be had in the country. In addition to the hotel business, Mr. Farley is purchasing cattle, sheep, and hogs for the San Francisco and Stockton markets, and pays the highest prices in cash for them. Give Mr. Farley a call. You will find him a well-informed, public-

spirited gentleman, and justly regarded as a valuable acquisition to our county." And we are referred to his ad.

On December 25, 1869: "New Paper.—We are informed that parties contemplate publishing a paper at Plainsburg, in this county. Mr. Wickham, at one time one of the publishers of the Herald in this place, is to be the editor. Plainsburg must have improved greatly in the past few weeks to induce any prudent business man to establish a newspaper with reasonable hope of profit."

On January 29, 1870, we read that Mr. Andrew Lauder of Plainsburg proposes to put up a mill for the grinding of feed and the manufacture of pearl barley, etc., provided he can get others to take stock in the enterprise.

On March 5, 1870: "Plainsburg.—We paid a visit to this thriving village this week and could not but be pleased at the improvements since we were there six months ago. The place now boasts two hotels, two blacksmith shops, one store, a large billiard saloon, a barber shop, a boot and shoe shop, a wagon shop, one good doctor, and a number of other professionals. While there we learned that A. J. W. Albeck was moving his 'Pioneer Store' from the old stand to the village, and before this notice is seen by the public the place will have two large mercantile establishments instead of one."

In the spring of 1870 there was talk of forming a separate county out of the portions of Merced and Stanislaus west of the San Joaquin. The editor tells us he heard such talk on his visit to Hill's Ferry in March of that year. In the next issue, on the 26th, he says. "We have been informed that the petition for the new county of Jefferson from parts of Stanislaus and Merced has made its appearance at Sacramento." He is quoting the Tuolumne City News, which goes on to say that they claim 700 resident citizens and taxpayers as signers of the petition. The Argus joins the News in denying that the move is backed by any appreciable number of persons on the East Side (it is the only instance we have found where the two papers agree), and the Argus asserts that they can't have any such number of signers as they claim, and that the West Side is not then able to support a county government—which contention, considering the crop failure, was probably sound. This early instance of the appearance of a more or less perennial subject of discussion is interesting as having progressed far enough so that the proposed county had a name. On the score of nomenclature alone, and without any desire to withhold honor from the illustrious founder of the Democratis party, we may rejoice that these enthusiasts did not succeed in interjecting "Jefferson" among our distinctive California county names.

In the issue of April 23, 1870, we read that there has been an election in San Joaquin County resulting in favor of granting the Stockton and Visalia Railroad a subsidy. In the same issue there

is a communication, anonymous, from "a gentleman of intelligence, observation, and experience in business," in favor of Merced County's donating \$5000 a mile to the road.

In June the Argus quotes a Marysville dispatch to a Sacramento paper saying that plans are under way to build a railroad to Oregon and also to "put a heavy constructing force on the San Joaquin Valley road. . . . Work is progressing on the San Joaquin Valley road near the Stanislaus River." The Argus expects the road to reach the confines of Merced County in a few months.

In the next issue there is a story of a favorable report made by Mark Howell on a wagon-road project across the San Joaquin River bottom in the vicinity of Dover "to the high lands west of Salt Slough." The Argus advocates the road and says that next to the railroad it is the most important project for the permanent benefit of the county and the people now in contemplation.

On July 9, we read that freight trains are now running from the north bank of the Stanislaus to Wilson's Station, and the freight has been a good deal reduced, so that grain is being shipped from Murphy's to San Francisco for \$2.70 a ton. The story is quoted from the San Joaquin Republican, and the Argus regrets that there is no report on progress southward.

In the same issue are notices that applications will be made to the supervisors at the August meeting to establish two new county roads, one from Dover to the San Luis Ranch, and the other from the Stanislaus County line to connect with the Westport road and come by way of McSwain's Ferry to Plainsburg.

On the 16th the Argus says editorially, "It seems to us that the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Co.'s reticence in regard to future operations on the road is in pursuance of a very bad policy." On August 27 the editor says he has heard a rumor that the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company have a force on the south side of the Stanislaus and that the work of grading and preparing for the constructing forces is going on. He complains of lack of definite information, and says that without assurances that the road will be pushed forward, rapid development of the southern portion of the county cannot be expected. On September 10 he publishes a letter dated August 28, from a correspondent at "Stanislaus Depot, Murphy's Ferry":

"There is today some 20 or 30 men at work on the Stanislaus bridge, and a corps of engineers are setting the grade stakes towards the Tuolumne River; and I am informed by prominent members of the company that it is their intention to push the work forward as speedily as possible to the Merced River, So you need not be surprised to hear of the citizens of Merced having a general stampede in about two months, at the rattle of the wheels and the snort of the iron horse."

Two weeks later Steele is still feeling discouraged. "We were informed yesterday by reliable authority," he says, "that not to exceed forty men (Chinamen) were employed grading, and that not three miles of the road, as yet, had been graded; also that considerably less than that number of carpenters were employed in building the bridge. It is quite certain that residents in this section of the valley have been building castles in the air.

On October 1, however, he reports that he has visited the scene of the work, and found it "progressing rapidly and satisfactorily. A heavy force is employed upon the construction of the bridge across the Stanislaus, and a large force is employed in grading the road to the southward. We also observed considerable activity among the people of Paradise and Tuolumne cities, and in a few weeks expect to see the foundation laid for the building of a large town a few miles from Paradise on the line of the road. The people are only waiting for the location of the depot between the Stanislaus and the Tuolumne to commence the work of building, and the removal of their stores and workshops to the new *Paradise*. We are assured by men who say they speak by the card that the road will be pushed forward with the greatest rapidity to the Alabama settlement, which point is expected to be reached by July or August of next year. This will open all of Merced County south of this place up to settlement and cultivation and will bring the farmers of our county in direct communication with San Francisco and Stockton."

On October 8 appears a proclamation by the board of supervisors of Merced County of an election to be held on November 5 to vote on the proposition of bonding the county to the extent of \$5000 a mile, or a total of \$150,000, and donate the bonds to the Central Pacific Railroad, under an act which the legislature had recently passed authorizing counties to do this. Steele runs editorials for two successive weeks arguing against issuing the bonds. The matter did not come to a vote, however, for on October 27 the order calling the election was rescinded by the board at the request of Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific Company, on account of insufficiency of the notice which had been given. At least that was the reason assigned.

On November 19: "We are informed that a heavy force is engaged at work upon the railroad bridge near Paradise, on the Tuolumne River, and that only a short time will elapse before the structure will be completed. It is also rumored that the railroad company will commence hauling timbers across to the Merced and commence the erection of a bridge there as soon as the cars can cross the Tuolumne."

The next issue quotes a story from the Tuolumne City News entitled "The Rival Towns." The News man becomes almost lyri-

cal over the mushroom river towns which are about to become one with Ninevah and Tyre: "Still the work of dismantling—so to speak—the once flourishing towns of Tuolumne and Paradise continues. It is hard to tell which of the two places now wears the most gloomy and dismal appearance. Once they were rivals, struggling for the lead in trade and wealth; now each is only a shadow of its former self. . . . The greater portion of their inhabitants, and even buildings, now swell the numbers of the new town of Modesto." This is the first mention of that name for the new town we have seen. The News man goes on and prophesies—which seems to be the besetting sin of editors—that Tuolumne City will still last a long time. It didn't.

Tuolumne City and Paradise were near enough to Modesto to go there, as we may say, in one step. Dover, as ephemeral, or even more so than they, was considerably further from where Merced was soon to be, and the moving was limited, and part of it may be said to have been in two steps. When Dover proved too dry in summer and too wet in winter, M. Goldman moved his store from there up onto Bear Creek, about the Meadowbrook Farm. It is probably his store that Steele refers to in the following, in the issue of January 14, 1871:

"Town Started.—We were surprised last week to find on Bear Creek a new town started. A store, saloon, and blacksmith shop have been established, giving to the place—which was recently but a wilderness—quite the air of a town. During our stay of a couple of hours quite a number of people called in to purchase goods, get blacksmithing done, or transact other business. We obtained several new subscribers while there, and went our way."

On May 20 we read that the junction point of the San Joaquin Valley road with the main trunk line from San Francisco to Omaha has been named Lathrop, and that the railroad company has built a splendid hotel there, "as the passengers on the up trains for this section take dinner there."

On June 3 there are two short railroad items—one to the effect that the chief engineer and assistant of the Copperopolis Railroad have been in Snelling the previous Monday, viewing out a line for the Stockton & Visalia Railroad, and that they "inform us that the road will be built from the contemplated junction point—Peters'—to the Merced River during the present year," the other to the effect that "a correspondent writing us from Modesto informs us that a heavy force of men, accompanied by a construction train of thirty cars, loaded with bridging material, iron, ties, etc., arrived at that point and commenced operations on the Tuolumne bridge, on Monday last."

June 10: "The movements being made now in railroad circles assure us that one or more lines of railroad will be completed through

Merced County the present year." And the Argus prophesies big development. June 17: "The work on the Tuolumne bridge . . . will be completed within a week. The two rival companies seem to be in dead earnest, and our citizens may look for the 'iron horse' to be traversing our plains at the rate of thirty miles on hour on two lines of road before the expiration of the present year." June 24: "The Stockton papers report large quantities of railroad material being sent forward to Peters for the Stockton & Visalia Railroad. The San Joaquin Valley Railroad is being pressed forward towards the Merced River from Modesto with considerable rapidity, and in a few weeks we will have the locomotive puffing and snorting over the plains to the rich valley of the Merced."

On July 1, under the title "The Railroad Approaching," we read: "The San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company are grading on the line of their survey south of the Tuolumne, and, we are informed, are hauling timbers to the Merced to commence operations upon the bridge across that stream. We have not learned the number of hands engaged upon the work south of the Tuolumne, but gentlemen direct from there say that the work is progressing very rapidly, and that the roadbed will be ready for the iron and ties to the Merced as soon as trains can cross over the bridge at the Tuolumne."

Two towns had destructive fires the latter part of this July. At Plainsburg the fire destroyed Henry Jacobs' saloon and the grocery and stables of Simon, Jacobs & Company. We are told that it was only through the extraordinary exertions of the citizens that the town was saved. The Argus understands that Mr. Jacobs will resume business. The fire in Snelling occurred about 10 o'clock on the night of July 22, 1871. It started from a new lamp in the residence of George W. Halstead, Jr. He and his wife were out; their three small children were in the care of Miss Belle Mann, fifteen, who saved them one by one. Miss Mann and the baby were considerably burned. The citizens fought the fire, with windmills and hand pumps supplying water to buckets and various vessels. Andrew Casaccia's force-pump saved his saloon. The losses were: G. W. Halstead, Jr., house and furniture, \$800; Shaver and Halstead, blacksmith shop, tools, damage to stock, \$2000; N. Breen, wagonmaker's shop, stock and tools, \$1400; A. J. Meany, carpenter's shop and four other buildings, stock, tools, etc., \$3000; Marsh & Brooks, painters, stock and tools, loss not ascertained; A. B. Anderson, agricultural implements, \$1000; twenty buildings in Chinatown, of which three were stores, one butcher's shop, and two restaurants, \$10,000. No insurance except N. Breen, \$1000.

On July 29 we read: "Thursday evening of last week the construction train of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad passed over the

Tuolumne River bridge near Modesto, and have since been extending their works south towards the Merced River. We visited the scene of operations on the road on Tuesday and found the iron and ties laid for a distance of about a mile south of the river. Though the company is not pushing the work with much vigor upon this line, we are impressed with the belief that in the course of four weeks the line will be completed to the Merced River. It is probable that the line will not be completed to Bear Creek much before the middle of November, when we expect to see a large town rise upon the plain almost in a day, hundreds of people holding themselves in readiness to rush to the ground and commence building as soon as a town is laid off and lots can be purchased. It is the general belief that upon Bear Creek will be built the large town of the valley, and many are in a high state of excitement, eagerly watching the movements of the company to ascertain, if possible, where the town will be located, that they may commence to buy up land to build upon or for speculative purposes. The section of Merced County south of the Merced River is capable of affording trade sufficient to build up a large and important town, and when the railroad is completed to a central point, improvements will be made with greater rapidity than was ever before known in this section of the State. The land is considered as first quality and capable of supporting a dense population, and with such transportation facilities as the railroad will afford, it being necessarily the terminus of travel by rail on the Yosemite route, the growth of the embryo town cannot but be rapid and permanent."

Along through this fall we read the "ad." of N. A. Cody, Snelling Drug Store, and a little later that Mr. Cody has become postmaster and has moved the post office to his drug store. There is an item that A. B. Anderson has put out poison on his farm and collected a two-horse wagon load of squirrels and rabbits. There are a number of news items and "ads." about a new county directory which Frank H. Farrar is planning to issue, and on which he seems to have done a considerable amount of work; the last we see about it is that owing to the fact that the new town of Merced is about to be built, it will be postponed until the town is under way. This is early the next year. There is an election proclamation which indicates that Merced, Mariposa, and Stanislaus together elect one State Senator, and that Mariposa elects one Assemblyman, and the two other counties together elect one. There is a table of the vote for Governor, giving the vote in nine out of thirteen precincts. For Haight and Booth respectively, Plainsburg cast 39 and 18 votes; Los Banos, 13 and 0; Snelling, 185 and 67; Cottonwood, 24 and 7; Hopeton 52 and 2; Penter's, 19 and 3; Neill's 19 and 6; McSwain's, 29 and 17; and Merced Falls, 8 and 11. Total for the nine, 358 for Haight and 131 for Booth.

There is a story in the issue of September 9, 1871: "The Big Ditch.—Mr. Dehart, just over from the west side of the San Joaquin River, informs us that work on the great irrigating canal continues to be prosecuted vigorously, the company making progress at the rate of three-fourths of a mile a day. . . ."

The next week we read: "The Artesian Well.—The railroad company have commenced boring an artesian well at the new town site, on Bear Creek, and we learn are progressing with it rapidly and satisfactorily. It seems to be the unanimous opinion of the people that the Bear Creek town is destined to become the principal business point in the valley, and that a grand rush will take place to it as soon as the company announces the opening of the sale of lots. It is a central point in the valley, and will command the trade and travel for a large and rich section of country. It will also be the point where the Yo Semite travel by rail will connect with the stages for the Yo Semite Valley."

In the same issue: "Progress of the Railroad.—The San Joaquin Valley Railroad is now being pushed forward towards Bear Creek, and it is announced that the cars will be running to the new town site on that stream by the 15th of November. The cars are now running to a point within a short distance of the bank of the Merced River, and a large force are engaged in grading the road on the south side of that river."

On October 21: "The railroad company is making good headway in the construction of the bridge across the Merced, and also in grading from that point towards Bear Creek. . . ."; and on November 4 the railroad bridge is near completion.

Merced as the name for the new town first appears in the issue of November 18: "Laying Out the Town.—We are informed that a corps of surveyors have been engaged this week in laying off the new town of 'Merced,' on Bear Creek. The time for the opening of the sale of lots has not yet been set; but we presume the company will give due notice of the day and terms by notice in the papers. There will be a grand rush for the new town as soon as building lots can be procured." In the same issue we read that the bridge across the Merced has been completed.

Serving to remind us that these were still pretty early times, are an item that an Indian war is feared in Alpine County, in the issue of September 30, 1871, and another on November 25 that the Mariposa Gazette quotes J. J. Westfall as predicting trouble from the Piute and Digger Indians in Mariposa County.

In the issue of December 23, 1871, an editorial explanation and an "ad." throw some light on the transportation situation of the day. The editorial is by way of excuse. It reads: "Mail Failures.—Up to the time of going to press with our paper this week (Friday,

3 o'clock P. M.), the mail from Modesto, which was due here at noon on Thursday, has failed to arrive. It is all owing to Doust not being able to cross the Merced at Murray's Ferry, on Tuesday evening, on his way to Hornitos. Such things are exceedingly annoying, but the rains will come and raise the rivers, and 'that's what's the matter.' "

The "ad." reads: "Morley's Ferry, at the crossing of the Tuolumne River on the main thoroughfare from Snelling, Mariposa, Milerton, and Visalia to Stockton. The most direct route and U. S., mail route from Stockton to the places above named. The road is kept in good order and is the best one to travel with either light or heavy teams anywhere on the route to said places. The landings are not excelled for safety and easy crossing by any other in the country. The boat is large—84 feet long—and is well prepared with high and strong railing for crossing loose stock.

"J. W. Morley."

Several other "ads." are interesting. A. J. Meany announces that he is agent for Geo. W. Hobron's mills and will be constantly supplied with sawed and split lumber at reasonable prices. There are lawyers' professional cards of P. D. Wigginton, S. H. P. Ross, and James W. Robertson, of Snelling, and H. A. Gehr, of Modesto; doctors' cards of Drs. Fitzhugh & McLean, Dr. J. M. Dulin, Dr. H. S. Brockway, Snelling, and Dr. V. H. Cox, Plainsburg; and the card of A. J. Meany, architect, contractor and builder, and that of W. J. Beers, architect. Blacksmiths are H. Shaw, Front Street, Dover; Peter Shaver and George W. Halstead, Jr., Snelling; and Humphreys & Bradford, Plainsburg. Joseph Ludeshier does tailoring, Leeson and Bart. Ahren are boot and shoe makers (Bart. Ahren having purchased the interest of P. H. Martin), and Lindley & Co. advertise a marble works. There is sheep range to rent on reasonable terms in Merced and Fresno Counties; apply to Simon, Jacobs & Co., Plainsburg, or to M. Smythe, Lone Oak, Mariposa Creek. And Smith & McDonald, Blacksmiths, Bear Creek, fly their shingle from that young settlement.

In the issue of December 30, there is a story about a proposed new post office near Pacheco Pass, and the Argus says "a post office at that point would accommodate about three or four hundred people."

With the beginning of 1872 things moved rapidly with the railroad and the new town. In the issue of January 6 we read:

"The Railroad.—We are informed by a gentleman from the Bear Creek Station, that the iron and ties are laid some three miles beyond the site of the new town, and that the grading is finished to the crossing of Mariposa Creek. The late storm did considerable damage to the road between the Merced and Bear Creek, and a

force has been employed for a week past in repairing damages. Up to this time no building has been done at the new town, though the R. R. Co. is getting lumber on the ground and will commence the erection of a depot building and a hotel as soon as the weather will permit. Our informant states that a large portion of the flat country on Bear Creek is overflowed."

On January 13 we find: "Turlock.—A new town on the railroad, near the confines of this county, named as above, has recently been started. . . ."

In the same issue: "Bear Creek.—We observe a little movement towards Bear Creek among some of our mechanics who are anxious to get the first jobs or contracts that may be let. Several went out to the new town yesterday prospecting, and we expect considerable excitement among carpenters, painters, brick layers, paper hangers, etc., in a few days. There is but little building going on here now, and consequently many working men are wanting to engage jobs for the spring and summer." We observe that Steele makes a mental reservation that the exodus is only temporary. In the next issue there is an editorial entitled "An Opposition Paper." The editor has learned that "a certain party" plans to start a new paper at Bear Creek, and the roast which he gives this prospective trespasser on his stamping-ground may fairly be regarded as the first gun in the bitter fight which not quite three years later ended in the shooting of Edward Madden by Steele's stepson, Harry Granice.

On January 20: "Merced City, the new railroad town on Bear Creek, is said to be springing up like magic this week. On Tuesday, a heavy corps of workmen in the employ of the Railroad Company was sent up from below to erect temporary buildings for a depot and hotel, and parties who have come in from there since state that those buildings are rising rapidly, and will be ready for the purposes intended within a few days. An eating house and a saloon are already in operation, and large crowds of people are flocking to the place, seeking locations for buildings."

In the same issue is the following also: "The Lot Sale.—While at Modesto this week we were informed that the sale of lots in the new town of Merced would commence on the 8th of February next. The sales will be by auction, and it is the opinion of many that lots will be sold at high figures in choice locations. The excitement runs high, and doubtless the crowd will be immense at the time of the sales."

In the same issue also the editor acknowledges the receipt of the initial copy of the "Southern Californian," the publication of which has just started at Bakersfield by Selwyn Brittain. The paper is Democratic, gives promise, and the editor wishes it success. The next week he states that Mr. C. B. Woods has been in the county during

the week making a survey and arrangements to start a new paper in Merced.

On January 27: "The New Town.—Merced, the new town on the railroad near the crossing of Bear Creek, we understand is being built up quite rapidly. Mr. McClenathan, of Modesto, is putting up a large livery stable; McReady & Washburn, of Mariposa, are also erecting a livery stable; the railroad company are erecting a hotel and a depot building; several saloons, two or three eating houses, and two butcher stalls, are being put up, all of which are designed to be in readiness for use by the time the sale of lots shall commence. The carpenters and brick masons of this place are all making preparations to move to the new town, where they hope to reap a rich harvest the present season. There is no doubt but that Merced will be built up rapidly and in the space of a few months become a large inland town, eclipsing any town now in this section of the State."

On January 27 also the Argus tells us that freighting has been resumed, and that three large freight teams are in Snelling from Modesto. On February 3 there is an announcement that Mr. E. A. Manning has established a factory in Snelling to make boots and shoes for ladies, misses, and children, by machinery, "with surprising celerity."

Also on February 3: "The Town of Merced.—We were at the new town of Merced on Monday last, and found all astir, every one being busily engaged in building and preparing for the great day to come, Thursday next, when the sale of the lots is to take place. The Railroad Company have a temporary hotel in operation, and Mr. Charles S. Evans has a restaurant and lodging house, those being the only houses of entertainment at that time open in the place. Messrs. Washburn & McReady were erecting sheds to serve as a livery stable; and Mr. McClenathan, of Modesto, was also putting up a livery stable, which was going up at a rapid rate. George Powell, Esq., who used to handle the ribbons so cleverly and make regular trips from Hornitos to Modesto, has opened a neat drinking saloon, and appeared to be master of the situation. An enterprising man has started a meat market, and we were informed that A. M. Hicks would also open a meat market in the place in the course of a week. Besides the buildings above mentioned there were a number of tents and board sheds, put up for the accommodation of carpenters, and other workmen, giving the place very much the appearance of new mining camps in early days. The site of the new town is a beautiful level plain, though rather low for wet weather, and when the place is built up with permanent buildings, will make a sightly town, and convenient of access for a great extent of country surrounding it. The land in the immediate vicinity of the town is of the richest

quality, making it one of the most desirable places to locate that we know of in the valley. The place is also within a few miles of the geographical center of the county, and already the question of removal of the county seat is being discussed pro and con by the people of all sections of the county. It is certainly a handsome site for a town, and when built up and properly established will be entitled to lay claims to become the seat of justice of our prosperous county. We hope, however, that proper time will be given for preparation to be made for so important an event, and that it may not be accomplished before proper arrangements are made for the accommodation of those who might be called there to transact business or attend upon the courts. Here we have a good court house, good hotels and livery stables, and everything requisite to make visitors comfortable; therefore it would not be well to make hurried arrangements for removal, but wait until a court house and offices can be prepared before it can be accomplished. Railroads build up a country through which they are extended, and they likewise change the current of business affairs, breaking down old established towns and building up new ones; and we have no expectation of a change being made in our case only in so far as the country surrounding Snelling, being capable of supporting and maintaining a large local trade which cannot be diverted from it, and which will increase and become more and more important year after year."

In the same issue is the following: "Public Roads.—While on a visit to the southern portion of our county recently, we observed that the people were making great complaint in consequence of a general want of public roads. Though the county has been to a great expense in providing bridges over some of the creeks, yet the people say there are no public roads leading to them, no work is done by overseers, and land-owners turn the temporary roads to suit their own convenience or whims. We know not who are to blame for the sad condition of road matters about Plainsburg; but we do know that some of the people are grumbling audibly because travel has been turned away from their village in consequence of the closing up by the farmers of the various neighborhood and private roads leading to the place. The matter should be looked to by those whose business it is to attend to such things."

The long-awaited sale of lots occurred on February 8, and the Argus of the 10th thus reports it:

"Lot Sales at Merced.—We attended the lot sales at the new town of Merced on Thursday last, and could not but be surprised at the large number of lots sold and the high prices at which they were knocked off to the purchasers. The lots were subdivided, the choice half of the choice corner lot of each block being first offered. The first sale was made to John C. Smith, of this town, for \$575.00; and

the second was the other half of the lot to Silas I Simon for \$495.00, making \$1070.00 for one lot of 50x150 feet. The remainder of the lots sold brought less prices, yet all went at very high figures for a new town on the plains. A very large crowd of people attended the sales, there being a great many from San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, and other towns and cities below, in addition to heavy delegations from Mariposa, Hornitos, Snelling, Millerton, and Visalia. We heard of a large number of contracts being made for the erection of buildings in the town, some of which are designed to be quite extensive edifices. The railroad company has reserved an entire block for a hotel, a building four stories in height and to contain one hundred and seventy-five rooms. With such a magnificent structure as a starter; it will not be at all wonderful if the growth of the town should be unprecedented in rapidity. Many of the buildings projected are of a permanent character, and there will be employment for a great many men for a long time. The country for many miles surrounding the town is a level plain, the soil of which is of the richest quality; and if it were cut up into small farms instead of being held by monopolists, would make it one of the most desirable places to locate in anywhere in the State."

According to the practice of the journalism of the times, Steele does not tell us many things which we should be glad to know; glittering generalities come in after he has told us who bought the first lot, and we do not learn who bought any others or how many were sold.

Two weeks later appears the following: "Merced.—Buildings at the new town of Merced are springing up as if by magic. Since the sale of lots, two weeks ago, some fifteen or twenty buildings have been started, some of which are rapidly approaching completion, and yet we hear of a number of others to be commenced as soon as workmen and materials can be obtained. The basement of a large hotel—being erected for the railroad company—is going up rapidly, and in the course of three months the town will be able to boast of one of the largest and finest hotels in the southern part of the State. We are informed that it is to be a four-story building—the basement of brick—and when finished to contain one hundred and seventy-five rooms. As Merced is to be the terminus of railroad travel for Yosemite tourists, a large well-furnished hotel will be necessary for their accommodation, and the railroad company is not inclined to permit them to lack for suitable accommodations at so important a point as the line of travel." The story then goes on to say that the valley around the town at this season presents a pretty scene, an unbroken plain carpeted with green.

We may close this chapter with the following from the editorial page of the short-lived "Merced People," which Harry Granice

edited for fourteen issues' during the spring of 1872 in the new town—a move, we may guess, which was an unsuccessful attempt by Steele and his family to hold the newspaper field of the county against outsiders. In his tenth issue, on May 25, 1872, Granice had the following:

“Our Town.—Some idea may be gained of the rapid growth of our town when we state that it now contains more business houses than any other place in this or any adjoining county, and its progress is constantly upward, and ere long it will be the largest and most flourishing place between Stockton and Los Angeles. Merced dates its existence back to the 8th of February last, and where now stands a prosperous and constantly growing town, previous to that time was the ‘stamping ground’ of numerous herds of wild cattle and mustang horses. That our town is bound to prosper must be plain to all for these reasons: It is situated in the center of a fine agricultural region, the land of which is unsurpassed for its extraordinary richness and grain raising qualities, and the location of the town is a remarkably healthy one. Chills and fever and other malarious diseases never make their appearance in this locality as they do in other portions of our county during the summer months. It has railroad connections with all the principal marts of the world, rendering travel and transportation expeditious, and if the proposed competitive railroad between San Francisco and St. Louis is built, we will be enabled to say cheap. But at present the freight rates and fares established by the Central Pacific Railroad, to and from this place, are exorbitant, and as a consequence our town and county will not settle up as rapidly as they would if the tariff of charges on the C. P. R. R. were something like reasonable. But in spite of this our town continues to increase in size and importance, and the surrounding country, from which the town derives its chief support, keeps pace with it in improvement.

“To those who are looking out for a suitable business location we will say that Merced offers superior inducements to business men of whatever profession or trade, and we have no hesitancy in stating that there is room for all in our town.”



STREET SCENE, MERCED, 1923

CHAPTER XV

MERCED BECOMES THE COUNTY SEAT

Along in the fall of 1872, we begin to read in the two papers of a movement to transfer the county seat from Snelling to the new town of Merced. For some reason or other both papers, Steele's San Joaquin Valley Argus, published at Snelling, and Edward Madden's Merced County Tribune, published at Merced, seem to shy at the subject; there is by no means as much in their columns about the beginning of the movement, or anything that preceded the actual calling of the election, as we should expect. The Argus first mentions it in the issue of September 28, 1872, as follows:

"The County Seat Question.—Our Merced friends seem exceedingly anxious for the removal of the county seat from Snelling to the new town, many of them believing that this new acquisition is absolutely essential to the future prosperity of their promising place. We believe that they are entirely too anxious and will in their zeal overdo the thing, and thereby injure the prospects not only of Merced but also of Snelling, as well as the taxpayers of the entire county. To get the seat of justice removed to a central point in the county has long been the desire of a large proportion of the residents of the county; but all should desire to effect it at the least possible cost to the taxpayers; and to do this, care should be taken to have all things in readiness before an attempt is made and a vote of the people taken. We should look to the cost of suitable county buildings and the means of providing funds to pay for the same, before the people are called upon to cast their votes upon the question."

It is not strictly true that this is Steele's first reference to the possibility of Merced's becoming the county seat; he has a short reference to it in March, and he mentions it as a possibility once or twice in telling about the beginning of the new town still earlier. But it is his first reference to a movement for the purpose on the part of Merced after the movement had been launched, and it reads as if it were a reluctant reference to something that had been going on for some time. The note of fatherly conservatism which he strikes in this first utterance he maintains throughout his discussion until the election has actually carried and the count been completed beyond any doubt. It is only on December 21, nine days after the election, that he writes, "The county seat goes from Snelling, and with the removal the glory of the place departs."

In his issue of November 2, he says: "The county seat question, as the time approaches for the Board of Supervisors to act upon the petition for the issuance of a proclamation of eleceion, produces some little stir among our people, many of whom think that it is rather too soon to think of settling a question involving so much expense to the county as this, and prefer to wait until the taxpayers are more able to bear the burdens of taxation, necessary to defray the expenses of erecting permanent public building, should the people vote for removal. We say, the people pay their money and should have their choice."

In the same issue is the following: "The Board of Supervisors. —This body will meet on Monday next for the transaction of the regular business of the term, and will in all probability remain in session two weeks, as there is a large amount of business to transact, much of which will require considerable time for deliberation."

On November 9 he has another editorial beginning: "It will be seen by notice in another column that the Board of Supervisors on the 7th inst., ordered an election to be holden on the 12th of December for the relocation of the county seat of this county. . . ." He goes on with another of his editorials, much in the same vein as the one already quoted. The notice itself is very brief and is as follows:

"Election Notice.—Notice is hereby given that a special election will be held in all the election precincts of Merced County on Thursday, December 12th, A. D. 1872, for the purpose of voting upon the removal and location of the county-seat of said Merced County.

"By order of the Board of Supervisors,

"James E. Hicks, Clerk.

"Snelling, Nov. 7, 1872."

The order made by the board on November 7, calling the election and naming election officers, was as follows:

"Special Election Order.—The petition of citizens praying the Board to call an election for the purpose of voting upon the removal of the county seat of this county having been filed, the Board proceeded to count the names of petitioners, and having found that said petition contained the names of registered electors equal in number to at least one-third of the votes cast at the last general election, made the following order calling an election: It is hereby ordered that a special election will be held in all the election precincts in Merced County on Thursday, December 12th, 1872, for the purpose of voting upon the removal and location of the county seat of said Merced County.

"The following is a list of the officers of election:

"Snelling Precinct—N. Breen, Inspector; J. B. Sensabaugh, G. W. Halstead, Judges.

"Merced Falls Precinct—Wm. A. McCreary, Inspector; Henry Nelson, T. W. Standart, Judges.

"Hopeton Precinct—Mark Wyatt, Inspector; H. F. Buckley, W. L. Silman, Judges.

"Madison Precinct—Henry Smart, Inspector; A. McSwain, P. M. Price, Judges.

"Turner's Precinct—W. C. Turner, Inspector; R. J. Ashe, Samuel Long, Judges.

"Merced Precinct—Richard Simpson, Inspector; W. B. Aiken, John Levinsky, Judges.

"Hail's Precinct—J. C. Hail, Inspector; Jas. Cunningham, N. F. Salter, Judges.

"Plainsburg Precinct—P. Y. Welch, Inspector; Reub. Reynolds, Byron Burrington, Judges.

"Sandy Mush Precinct—Jas. Mull, Sr., Inspector; A. L. Relyea, A. D. Turner, Judges.

"Mears' Precinct—J. K. Mears, Inspector; C. E. Stevens, John Keys, Judges.

"Cressy Precinct—T. J. Simpson, Inspector; T. C. Shaw, W. P. McConnell, Judges.

"Cottonwood Precinct—N. H. Spencer, Inspector; Bates Dehart, A. S. Garvin, Judges.

"Kreyenhagen Precinct—Gus Kreyenhagen, Inspector; Saul J. Horner, Benj. F. Davis, Judges."

It is in his issue of November 9, the first after the board of supervisors had called the election, that Madden first mentioned the subject. From that time on until the election, he boosted Merced. But we will return to Steele. On November 16 he has a long editorial on the subject, in which he argues against the move, at present, on the score of cost. He cites the horrible examples of old Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, where, he tells us, the citizens are saddled with a heavy burden of debt on account of expensive county buildings. He urges that the people go slow—that they do not vote for the removal "in order that the railroad company and a few speculators at Merced may grow rich with greater rapidity."

In this same issue there is a communication, signed, after the rather usual practice of the time, with a fictitious name. This time it is "An Old Resident" who takes a column to oppose the removal from Snelling. He advances three arguments: First, that it will be more costly than the county can afford; second, that the county around Merced is subject to overflow, and that it will take \$75,000 more (in addition to the \$175,000 which he estimates for county buildings that the county can feel proud of) to levy it so that the citizens can always get to the county seat; and third, that Merced, while it is

somewhere near the center of the East Side, is not enough more convenient to the West Side to justify their share of the expense of removal. "An Old Resident" is evidently also an old politician trying the old political trick of divide and conquer.

Steele, in his editorial just mentioned, argues that the supervisors cannot, according to law, impose a tax for the necessary buildings. He counsels waiting until authority can be obtained from the legislature at its next session. He also argues that suitable buildings should be ready to move the county records to in order that there may not be danger of their loss by fire.

The following week he has an editorial beginning: "This question now is the most important agitating the minds of the people of this county, and is really worthy of greater consideration than ordinarily is the case with like propositions in other counties. When we take into consideration the vast influence exerted by the Railroad Company over county officials, the interest taken by the managers of that corporation in removal to the town of Merced, together with the vast expenditures contemplated for the purpose of building roads to that point, the people may well fear the result. . . ."

On the 30th of November he has an "Address to the Voters and Tax-Payers of Merced County" on the subject which occupies almost three columns, in which he sums up all the arguments he can think of against the removal, and he has also an editorial as follows:

"County Seat Removal.—Our citizens having laid aside their apathy, show a disposition to contest the claims of the town of Merced for the seat of justice, and are now making efforts to place the question squarely before the people in every section of the county, relying upon the justice of their cause, and the well-known intelligence of the people for a verdict in favor of retaining it where it is now located until proper preparations are made by law for removal and relocation. And, being thoroughly impressed with the belief that all prudent taxpayers in all quarters of the county will vote against removal on the 12th day of next month, feel sanguine of victory and the retention of the county seat at Snelling for at least two years longer. Men of calculation and prudence who are not personally interested in either place will doubtless oppose removal at this time, in consequence of the probability of a great increase of taxation. The issue must be met by all such now, that the county may be saved from expenditures so enormous that her growth and prosperity will be crippled for a long term of years. With her area of unrivaled soil, Merced County ought to take the lead of her neighbors in the production of the cereals, cotton, fruits and all the products adapted to our climate, and will do so if taxation is not so increased as to discourage immigration, and the investment of capital in the cultivation of our fertile lands. Let the people carefully examine into these things, and then

attend the polls and vote against removal, and the incurring of debts to the amount of one or two hundred thousand dollars, by hurrying removal a year or two in advance of the proper time."

In his issue of December 7, the last before the election, Steele delivers "The Last Shot," and also prints a communication against the removal, signed "Sorites." In this last editorial he attacks editorials which had appeared in the Tribune. Madden had told of an offer taking the form of a bond filed with the county clerk, on the part of a group of citizens, to provide temporary buildings in Merced rent-free if the county seat should be removed there, and also of the filing by the railroad company of a bond for a deed to a site, and had also warmly criticized "one Little" for circulating cards offering to deed a lot in "Livingstone" for a dollar to each person who would vote in favor of Snelling or against Merced.

"Sorites," in the Argus of December 9, charges that the railroad company is trying to enslave the people, and wants the county seat removed to their railroad line for that nefarious purpose. He says in part: "Vote to move the county seat to the town of Merced and we deliver ourselves bound hand and foot to this heartless, soulless, arbitrary, and tyrannical corporation. We say tyrannical, because every day's experience proves them to be so. But a few days back, when they were informed that Cressy's Station, or Livingstone, as it is now called, would be run for the county seat, they told Mr. Little, who owns the lands about the station, that if he permitted that place to be run, they would tear up the switch and move the station. Fellow citizens, does this not have the ring about it of telling you that you *shall* put the county seat where they dictate?"

"Sorites" then makes another point: "Aside from these momentous considerations, let us examine the location itself of the town of Merced and its claims to the site. Go to the county map and you will see it is about ten miles to the eastern boundary of the county, whilst it is fifty to the western boundary . . . and this, when stripped of all the blowing and tooting you have heard about it, constitutes its claims to a central location. The town itself is situated on a bleak, cheerless plain, without a tree to relieve its monotony unless it be an occasional stunted willow on Bear Creek, and from this fact it follows that its inhabitants have to come to the Merced River or go east some fifteen or twenty miles into the mountains to obtain wood, and for which they have to pay at the present time ten to fifteen dollars per cord, delivered in Merced City." And then he makes another point: "It is built upon the lowest ground in the neighborhood, being in a swag; and I ask those who repair there next Thursday for the purpose of voting, to note the fact that it is not susceptible of drainage. . . ." And so on.

From the style of this letter of "Sorites" and that of the other by "An Old Resident," and that of the unsigned "Address," all of which pretty closely resemble Steele's editorial style, it is a fair enough suspicion that he himself wrote them all. The editorial "we" crops up now and then in them. If he wrote the very pessimistic estimate of Merced's location in the "Sorites" letter, it affords a very interesting contrast to the extremely complimentary things he said about the place a year or so earlier, and the town's desire to be the county seat had apparently had a lot of effect on its beauty.

In the same issue he says: "The lackeys of the Railroad Company are using golden arguments in favor of removal. . . . People may know the most prominent ones who have sold themselves. . . . Gold and Merced town lots are at the bottom of their disinterestedness. . . ."

This was Steele's last utterance before the election. Madden, as has been said, does not apparently comment upon the removal proposition at all until after the board of supervisors had actually called the election. The election notice was published in both papers and has been given above. Madden's editorial of the 9th is brief. It reads:

"County Seat.—As will be seen from the Election Proclamation published elsewhere in this issue, the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with a petition signed by the requisite number of electors, have ordered a special election to be held on the 12th proximo, to determine the question of locating the county seat of this county. The subject is of great interest to the community and will no doubt be thoroughly canvassed. The late hour at which we received the order of the board forbids any extended remarks in this connection, this week."

He makes more extended remarks the next week, argues that if the county seat is to be removed it should go to Merced, that it would be a great convenience to those wishing to buy land to have the county records at Merced, says that the prosperity of both towns will suffer as long as the matter remains undecided, argues that outside of the cost of the new buildings the actual removal will not cost five hundred dollars, and that the cost of the buildings should not all be charged to the removal, as the present buildings are "somewhat faded and thoroughly inadequate," tells of the nine-acre site which has been donated, says that the burden can't be imposed until the legislature meets in the winter of 1873-1874, and argues that since the law provides there cannot be another election on the question for three years, it should be carried this time. The cost, he argues, will not be a burden that cannot well be borne.

On November 23 the Tribune has a story that a group of men favoring Merced have filed with the county clerk a bond to provide free to the county good and sufficient buildings as temporary quarters if the county seat comes to Merced. The buildings are to be furnished for not to exceed eighteen months from the first day of January, 1873, The men who executed the bond were: "M. Smythe, J. P.; Patrick Carroll, Farmer; M. Dugan, Farmer; John Mitchell, Farmer; Norvall Douglass, Farmer; Jas. Morton, Sheep-raiser; Henry Hoffman, Farmer; C. C. Smith, Sheep-raiser; Charles P. Elliott, Fruit Dealer; E. Shainfelt, Merchant; J. Kocher, Tinsmith; A. M. Hunter, Blacksmith; A. R. Cosaccia, Merchant; J. Levinsky, Merchant; Geo. W. Powell, Saloon Prop.; M. F. Moran, Hotel Keeper; P. Rohrbacher & Bro., Brewers; C. E. Evans, Hotel Keeper; H. McErlane, Saloon Prop.; S. Silver, Merchant; William Twomy, Liquor Dealer; M. Goldman, Merchant; J. J. Cook, Druggist; Sam Wyatt, Restaurant Prop.; Stoddard & Hubbard, Commission Merchants; McDonald & Co., Blacksmiths; Davis & Sons, Merchants; H. Baerwald, Tinsmith; J. R. McCready, Stable Prop.; M. M. McClenathan, Stable Prop.; M. O. Barber & Co., Stable Props.; G. W. Stoneroad, Rancher; H. A. Bloss, Hotel Proprietor."

This bond Steele attacked in the Argus as not worth the paper it was written on, and an attempt to bribe voters. He found another attempt to bribe in the donation of a site, but this was after Madden had discovered the first attempt to bribe, which he discloses in the issue of December 7 thus:

"Livingstone-Cressy.—We do not remember a more shameless attempt to trick voters and coerce weak and timorous men than the scheme engineered by the parties whose names appear in the following card, which is being circulated throughout the county:

"Should the Board of Supervisors of Merced County declare the town of Livingstone county seat of Merced County, for the sum of one dollar my agent, J. B. Sensabaugh, is authorized to sell to the holder of this card a lot in the said town, twenty-five feet front by one hundred and twenty-five feet deep, choice to be determined by lot in common with all other lots sold at the same price, the purchaser to pay said agent for making deed, etc. (Signed) W. J. Little."

"This, we take it, is nothing more nor less than an attempt to buy voters. We do not know that this was intended by the authors of the scheme, but this is in effect its operation. It is precisely as if one should say, 'I will give you a building lot for one dollar if you will vote against Merced.' The common sense of our people will condemn this plan; for be it remembered that these cards, so far as we have observed, are not given to those who favor the claims of Merced. . . . To expose the animus . . . in order to carry the elec-

tion, Merced must receive a majority of all votes cast, and consequently a vote cast for any place but Merced counts against us. This is well understood by those who have promised the voters of Cressy, Madison and Turner's precincts that the vote of Snelling, Hopeton and Merced Falls would be cast nearly solid for Cressy—a promise that will utterly fail of being redeemed, made with a full knowledge of its worthlessness, and now repudated by every fair-minded voter of Snelling who did not lend himself to the dirty trick.

“It is as well-known in Snelling as it is here, that the contest is one simply whether the county seat shall remain where it is or be relocated, and the issue solely between Merced and Snelling, and any plan promising any considerable number of votes from the latter town in favor of Livingstone is a subterfuge of the meanest kind, and so shallow and petty a trick that its authors should be ashamed of resorting to it.

“Do the business men of Plainsburg indorse it? And do they indorse similar promises made to the people of Plainsburg and Cottonwood? Can all these be the county seat? The answer is obvious. The choice of Snelling is Snelling and no place else, and we do not believe that those interested in trade at that point will pretend to say that they will unite in good faith with a plan to deprive them of their trade, for this will infallibly be the effect of the removal of the county seat to any point.

“Their only object manifestly is to retain their present advantage, and all appeals to the local prejudices of Plainsburg, Cottonwood, or Livingstone, with promise of votes, are a fraud, a delusion and a snare.

“Let it be understood that the issue is a square one between Merced and Snelling, and we will abide the result, confident in the good judgement of a majority of our fellow citizens.”

How much foundation there may have been for this editorial we cannot of course tell now; presumably nobody could have told even then. Merced, as he says, or any other candidate, would have to have a majority of all the votes to replace Snelling. But Snelling could of course win by simply preventing any other town from getting a majority, even if she didn't get a vote herself. There was reason for such strategy; therefore, the good old rule would suffice her, the simple plan, that they should get who have the power and they should keep who can.

The election was held on December 12, and on the 14th the Tribune reports the vote from ten of the thirteen precincts as follows: (the first figure being for Merced, the second for Snelling and the third for Livingstone): Merced Falls: 0—11—7; Snelling: 21—96—104; Hopeton: 4—17—19; Madison, no report; Turner:

10—9—20; Cressy: 21—1—21; Merced: 363—9—0; Hailes: 14—4—0; Plainsburg: 92—2—0; Sandy Mush: 22—0—0; Mears'; 12—3—0; Kreyenhagen and Cottonwood, no report. These ten precincts give Merced 559, Snelling 152, and Livingstone 171. Steele, who admits Merced's victory this week, gives the total vote the following week as: Merced 566; Livingstone 236; Snelling 181; a total of 983 for all. The Board ordered that on an after December 30, 1872, Merced be the county seat.

In order to build the court house and jail, the board of supervisors had to be authorized by an act of the legislature to issue the necessary bonds. It was on December 22, 1873, that the legislature approved a law authorizing the board to issue not to exceed \$75,000 in bonds bearing interest at 10 per cent per year and payable in twenty years. The act is printed in the Statutes of 1873-1874, at page 7 and following.

On December 30 the board met in special session; on the 31st they ordered the clerk to give notice by publication in the Merced Tribune and the San Francisco Examiner that on February 9, 1874, they would receive plans and specifications for said building and that \$500 would be awarded for the plan adopted by them. On February 9 they met pursuant to said notice. Eight sets of plans and specifications were submitted. The board adjourned over to February 13 to examine these and on that day selected and adopted the plan submitted by A. A. Bennett. On March 2 it was ordered that the clerk advertise for sealed proposals, to be opened April 2, "for the construction of a court house and jail in Merced." The notice was to be published in the Daily Examiner, the Daily Record, and the Weekly Merced Tribune.

On April 1 the board sold forty court house bonds, \$20,000, to Woods & Freeborn at \$101.37½ per \$100.

On the 2nd of April they opened bids. There were six bids as follows: J. C. Weir & Co., \$57,888; D. Jordan, \$57,692; Jas. H. Sullivan, \$58,540; Ellsworth & Washburn, \$57,437.34; A. W. Burrell, \$55,970; Child & Co., \$65,000. The board accepted A. W. Burrell's bid, upon his giving bond for \$30,000.

On the next day A. A. Bennett, the architect, was appointed commissioner to furnish plans for and superintend the construction of the building; to receive five per cent on the whole cost of the building and his necessary traveling expenses.

The Merced Tribune of July 11, 1874, gives us these facts: The cornerstone of the new court house was laid Wednesday, July 8, 1874, by the Most Worthy Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California. The procession formed in front of the Masonic Hall at half past ten and "marched to the Court House park

in the following order: Grand Marshal, A. J. Meany, Merced Brass Band, Irish-American Benevolent Society, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Free and Accepted Masons. Arriving at the park the exercises were opened with music by the band, followed by singing by a choir composed of Mrs. Dr. Washington, Mrs. Law, Mrs. Conley, Miss Hicks, Miss Tackett, and Messrs. Barrell, Howell and Geis."

P. D. Wigginton delivered a short address to the Masons, who then proceeded with the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone. Beneath it they placed a casket containing:

"1st. Copies of the law creating Merced County.

"2nd. Copies of the law providing for the erection of a Court House for Merced County.

"3rd. Copies of the Great Register of Merced County for the years 1871 and 1873.

"4th. Court House bonds.

"5th. Statement of the total taxable property, and total tax levied by Merced each year since its organization.

"6th. Copies of the Merced Tribune, San Joaquin Valley Argus, San Francisco Bulletin, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Call, San Francisco Post, San Francisco Chronicle, and Mariposa Gazette.

"7th. A complete set of United States coins.

"8th. A pint each of wheat and barley.

"9th. Statistical report of school matters—total numbers of school children, number of school districts, etc."

In April the court house was nearing completion and the board made preparations to accept and dedicate it. From their minutes:

"April 7th, 1875. The Board met in special session pursuant to the call of the chairman. Present full board and clerk.

"On motion of J. B. Cocanour it is ordered that the following named persons are appointed a committee to meet at the Court House on Wednesday, May 5th, 1875, to inspect the building and report the result of said examination to the Board of Supervisors prior to the reception and dedication of the same by the Board on that day.

"District No. One: J. M. Montgomery, J. W. Stewart, Frank Larkin, Henry Nelson, A. B. Anderson, H. F. Buckley, John Ruddle, W. J. Hardwick, Silas March, H. A. Skelton.

"District No. Two: J. F. Goodale, C. H. Huffman, N. B. Stoneroad, R. Reynolds, P. Bennett, P. Carroll, James Cunningham, H. J. Ostrander, P. Y. Welch, Thomas Price, John Appling, S. C. Bates.

"District No. Three: A. Stevinson, R. M. Wilson, A. S. Gavin, David Chedister, J. B. Sayres, Henry Ritter, Moses Korn, W. C. Turner, A. L. Cressey, W. P. Scott, W. N. Neill. Master of Ceremonies, P. D. Wigginton. Adjourned."

On April 8 the board ordered that the county surveyor survey, take levels and set grade stakes at a distance of 150 feet from the court house on all sides, and that bids for the leveling would be received on May 3.

The board began their May term, Monday, May 3. They transacted other business Monday and Tuesday and came to the court house matter on Wednesday, as per the order in April. The minutes for May 5 read:

"Board met pursuant to adjournment. The committee heretofore appointed to inspect the Court House prior to its reception by the Board having thoroughly performed the duties of their trust, presented their Report, whereupon the Board ordered that the building, being constructed in strict accordance with the plans and specifications and to the satisfaction of the architect, is hereby received from the hands of the contractor, and the County officers are authorized to remove the archives of each in their respective offices.

"It is further ordered the following Report of the Committee be spread at length on the minutes of the Board and published in the proceedings thereof:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INSPECT COURT HOUSE

"To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Merced County:

"Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, your Committee appointed by your Hon. Body to examine and report upon the Court House now just completed, have thoroughly examined the building in company with the Architect, and are proud to say that the building is complete in all its details and reflects much credit on the Architect, A. A. Bennett, Esq., of Sacramento, its contractor, A. W. Burrell of Oakland, and your Hon. Body which has had supervision of the same; and in fact on everyone connected in the erection and ordering of the same; and we, as taxpayers of Merced County, congratulate ourselves and the people generally of the County of Merced that we have in our judgment full value received for the money expended.

"We have also examined the furniture in said building, and in our judgement it is complete and durable and of the very best material, and reflects great credit on those who selected the same. We think your Hon. Body has used the most judicious economy in the distribution of the money appropriated by the Legislature for the construction and furnishing of the said building.

"All of which is most respectfully submitted.

"P. Y. Welch
J. F. Goodale
P. Bennett
C. H. Huffman
David Chedister

H. J. Ostrander
H. Stevinson (Chairman)
James Cunningham (Secretary)
Sam C. Bates
A. B. Anderson

J. B. Sears
 Frank Larkin
 J. W. Stewart
 R. Reynolds
 W. J. Hardwick

Thomas Price
 N. B. Stoneroad
 P. Carroll
 Wm. N. Neill

“Board adjourned until 9 A. M., May 7th, 1875.”

The Court House was dedicated May 5, 1875. Says the Merced Express of Saturday, May 8, 1875:

THE NEW COURT HOUSE

“The Dedication of Our New and Elegant Court House

“On Wednesday last, in accordance with notice heretofore given in the columns of the Express, the new and magnificent structure designed by A. A. Bennett, Esq., of San Francisco, and built by A. W. Burrell, of Oakland, situated in the center of Court House Square, of our town, and which stands there a monument of our people’s industry and enterprise, was received by the Board of Supervisors of Merced County and dedicated to the immaculate purposes of justice with imposing rites and ceremonies becoming the occasion. The ceremonies of receiving and dedicating took place in the District Court room of the building and were as follows:

“At half past three o’clock P. M. the meeting was called to order by Capt. J. K. Mears, Chairman of the Board, who stated the object of the meeting to be the reception and dedication of the building. . .”

Members of press invited up: W. J. Hill, Silver City Idaho Avalanche; C. A. Heaton, Fresno Review; and “ourself” (Frank H. Farrar, editor).

A. W. Burrell, contractor, submitted his report to A. A. Bennett, architect. Bennett’s report to the board was then read by R. H. Ward, Esq.

The chairman then called upon Col A. Stevinson, the chairman of the committee appointed to inspect the building. Mr. Stevinson announced the committee ready and Samuel C. Bates, “the Secretary of the Committee,” then read the report. Chairman Mears announced that the board accepted the building on behalf of the people, and the ceremonies closed with an oration by P. D. Wigginton, Esq.

Mears then thanked the architect, the contractor, and the committee.

In the evening H. A. Bloss of the El Captain tendered a social reunion.

On May 7 the board appointed Bart Ahren the first janitor, at a salary of \$75 a month, “to take charge of the new Court House, wind mill and tank, coal bin, fuel, etc.” On the same day the sheriff

was ordered to sell the old court house and jail at Snelling, which, since they had been vacated, had been rented to the Masonic Lodge.

The minutes of the Board describe Bennett, the architect, as "of Sacramento"; the news story in the Express as "of San Francisco." W. H. McElroy, who entered the building business in Merced in the late eighties, thinks Bennett had an office in each city.

CHAPTER XVI

COUNTY OFFICIALS

We cannot be entirely sure that we have the names of all the early county officials. The first book of the minutes of the board of supervisors—Book A—is not indexed, and moreover the rather sketchy nature of the early minutes leaves us with some lurking doubts, as for example when the board canvassed the votes of one of the very early elections, and the minutes recite that fact and the further fact that they ordered certificates of election issued to those who had received the greatest number of votes, but do not tell us who the successful candidates—or the unsuccessful, either—were. It is probable, however, that the following list is pretty nearly complete for the period prior to February 6, 1867, when Book B begins, and complete after that date.

In the minutes of the first meeting of the board of supervisors, on June 4, 1855, G. H. Murry (so the minutes spell it), William J. Barfield, and S. L. Kelly were the supervisors. Murray was chairman. E. G. Rector was clerk. "M. Stockard" was appointed justice of the peace in Township One and William Finch and William Wall in Township Two. This meeting of June and another in August were all the board held at the county seat on the Turner and Osborn Ranch, so far as the minutes reveal. On September 17 there was an election, and on October 1 we find by the minutes that A. Stevinson has succeeded Murray as supervisor and chairman of the board. Jack W. Smith is mentioned as district attorney in the minutes of November 5.

We may go back here long enough to quote the following list of officers elected at the election on the second Monday in May, 1855. It is taken from the 1881 Elliott & Moore history: "John W. Fitzhugh, County Judge; E. G. Rector, County Clerk; Charles F. Bludworth, Sheriff; Jack W. Smith, District Attorney; George W. Halstead, County Treasurer; James W. Robertson, County Assessor; Erastus Kelsey, County Surveyor; Gordon H. Murray, W. J. Barfield, and Samuel D. Kelly, Board of Supervisors; Samuel H. P. Ross, and J. A. Vance, Associate Justices."

On November 4, 1856, B. F. Howell appears as supervisor for District One, Silas March for District Two, and John Sylvester for District Three. On February 3, 1857, S. H. P. Ross appears as superintendent of schools. We have already noticed in another chapter

how William Nelson, in February, 1856, presented a petition to the board for the division of the county into school districts, and how the board granted it by creating three districts, and appointed Nelson the first superintendent of schools. We see a reference to S. H. P. Ross in the minutes of August 3, 1857, as a justice of the peace.

At an election on September 2, 1857, Timothy F. Jenkins succeeded B. F. Howell as supervisor for District One. Silas March and John Sylvester were reelected for Districts Two and Three. L. W. Talbott was elected district attorney; George Turner, sheriff; George W. Halstead (reelected), treasurer; and E. G. Rector, clerk. William C. Hoge was elected assessor; Dr. D. C. McCrosky, public administrator; R. B. Graham, county surveyor; B. F. Howell, superintendent of schools; O. F. Pouehuy, coroner. S. H. P. Ross and J. W. Webster were elected justices of the peace for Township One; and R. H. Ward, constable. For Township Two, E. Hunter and Hathaway were elected justices and Thomas Welton and William Joplin, constables.

On February 2, 1858, Erastus Kelsey was appointed county surveyor. On May 3, 1858, William M. Stafford was appointed district attorney in place of L. W. Talbott, resigned; and on the same day Charles A. Starr was appointed justice of the peace in Township One to succeed J. W. Webster, resigned.

It is in the minutes of September 1, 1858, that we find the sketchy minute entry already referred to, to the effect that those receiving the highest number of votes were declared elected—without naming them. Timothy Jenkins appears as supervisor for District One, Silas March for District Two, and a new man, James Cunningham, for District Three. Silas March is chairman.

On August 4, 1859, Samuel H. P. Ross was appointed district attorney to succeed William M. Stafford, resigned, and B. F. Howell appears as assessor.

At the election on September 7, 1859, A. Ingalsbe (spelled in the minutes with a final "y" instead of an "e") was elected supervisor for District One, succeeding Timothy Jenkins; March and Cunningham were reelected. S. H. P. Ross was elected district attorney, E. G. Rector reelected clerk, George Turner reelected sheriff, George W. Halstead reelected treasurer, Robert J. Strother elected assessor, James O. McGahey elected coroner, John W. Tucker elected surveyor; S. R. Givens elected superintendent of schools, John W. Fitzhugh reelected county judge. Charles A. Starr and James W. Robertson were elected justices of the peace in Township One, and William B. Thompson, constable; and P. M. (P. Y.?) Welch and James C. Bigham, justices, and James Mellina and John Wiswell, constables in Township Two.

On November 7, 1859, J. Woodard appears as superintendent of schools. On May 7, 1860, Timothy F. Jenkins was appointed justice of the peace in Township One to succeed Charles A. Starr, resigned.

At the election on November 6, 1860, John M. Montgomery was elected supervisor from District One, Silas March reelected from District Two, and Samuel L. Kelly, one of the first board, elected from District Three. Benjamin F. Howell was elected to fill the unexpired term of Assessor Robert F. Strother, resigned. Nicholas Breen was elected justice in Township One, and William B. Thompson and Eli Bradford, constables; and in Township Two, Thomas Welton was elected justice and James McClellan, constable.

There was an election on May 25, 1861, to fill an unexpired term of a justice of the peace.

At the election in September, 1861, George Turner was elected sheriff; S. H. P. Ross, district attorney; R. R. Leak, county clerk; George W. Halstead, treasurer; Job Wheat, assessor; J. W. Bost, surveyor; Alfred Harrel, coroner; Rev. Burnett, superintendent of schools; C. C. Nelson, public administrator. A. C. McSwain and N. Breen were elected justices and J. P. Luseuring constable in Township One; and in Township Two, R. Hail and J. C. C. Russell were justices and Clinton Hail and William Joplin constables. The three supervisors, Montgomery, March, and Kelly, were reelected at this election.

On August 5, 1862, B. F. Holton was appointed constable in Township One. On the same day, William G. Collier was appointed county surveyor to succeed J. W. Bost, resigned.

At the regular election early in September of this year the minutes show elected: R. B. Huey, superintendent of schools; William G. Collier, surveyor; N. Breen and E. Eagleson, justices in Township One, and Alfred Harrel and Reuben Hail in Township Two; R. H. Crozier and William S. Gibson, constables in Township One, and Henry Wiswell, constable in Township Two. Also that James W. Robertson received 241 votes and A. Ingalsbe 105 in Merced County for assemblyman, one district embracing Merced and Stanislaus.

On September 15, John W. Bost was appointed county clerk in place of R. R. Leak, resigned. On the same date R. B. Huey was appointed superintendent of schools in place of F. J. Woodard, resigned. On November 3 Reuben Hail was appointed justice of the peace in Township Two. Both Huey and Hail appear as having been elected at the September election; apparently the appointments were to the unexpired terms of their predecessors.

On February 3, 1863, P. Y. Welch and I. N. Ward appear as supervisors. In the same month Samuel J. Benton was appointed justice of the peace to succeed E. Eagleson, resigned, in Township

One. On May 4 of the same year R. R. Leak was appointed constable in Township One in place of R. H. Crozier, who had left the county. The Merced Banner appears as the official paper.

In October, 1863, R. V. Woodcock appears as supervisor from District One, P. Y. Welch from District Two, and Silas March from District Three. There had been an election the previous month, on September 2. The county cast 295 votes for W. S. Montgomery and 100 for A. Ingalsbe, for State Senator, and 300 for W. S. Dickenson and 94 for J. C. Breen for assemblyman. P. D. Wigginton was elected district attorney; E. G. Rector, sheriff; J. W. Bost, clerk; L. P. Wilson, assessor; D. A. Jamison, treasurer; W. G. Collier, surveyor; S. M. Brown, coroner; R. B. Huey, superintendent of schools; J. M. Strong, public administrator. The county gave J. M. Baudurant 212 votes and E. Burke 39 for district judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District. J. W. Robertson was elected county judge. R. R. Leak and A. C. McSwain were elected justices of the peace and J. B. Sensabaugh and J. M. Hicks constables, in Township One; and J. C. C. Russell and A. J. W. Albeck, justices in Township Two.

On November 2, 1863, appears an appointment of A. C. McSwain as justice of the peace of Township One, to succeed Samuel J. Benton, resigned, apparently to fill the unexpired term.

Silas March, I. N. Ward, and P. Y. Welch appear as supervisors in the minutes on February 3, 1864, apparently elected the preceding year. Early in 1864 there appears to have been an election of supervisors; R. V. Woodcock, Silas March, and James Cunningham appear in the minutes, February 20, 1864, as supervisors for Districts One, Two, and Three respectively.

On May 2, 1864, R. R. Leak was appointed county clerk in place of J. W. Bost, resigned; and S. H. P. Ross, justice of the peace in Township One in place of R. R. Leak, resigned. At this date there is a minute to the effect that the Democratic Record is the official paper of the county.

There was an election on November 8, 1864. Nicholas Breen, Silas March, and E. Russell were elected supervisors. On February 7, 1865, T. O. Ellis was appointed superintendent of schools in place of R. B. Huey, resigned.

During this year the Merced Herald is made the county paper.

At the election of September 6, 1865, R. H. Ward received 151 votes in the county for assemblyman, and A. Ingalsbe 141. C. M. Blair was elected clerk; D. A. Jamison, treasurer; J. B. Sensabaugh, sheriff; P. D. Wigginton, district attorney; W. G. Collier, surveyor; S. M. Brown, coroner; James E. Hicks, assessor; J. M. Strong, public administrator; T. O. Ellis, superintendent of schools; C. F. Blud-

worth and W. B. Thompson, constables of Township One; and C. Helmer and A. Douth, constables of Township Two. On October 18, 1865, R. R. Leak and Samuel H. P. Ross appear as justices of the peace in Township One, and E. Hunter and A. Albeck in Township Two.

On November 7, 1865, appears a new Township Three, and Abner Phelps as justice of the peace for it. On the same date Charles M. Blair, clerk-elect, was appointed clerk to fill out the unexpired few weeks of R. R. Leak, resigned.

On February 8, 1866, —— Hill was appointed justice of the peace in Township Three.

At an election on March 28, 1866, John B. Cocanour was elected supervisor in District One.

There appear through the minutes several appointments of "Judges of the Plains." On May 5, 1856, John Sylvester, John Ruddle, Jr., S. R. De Hart and Bates De Hart appear. On May 4, 1858, the board appointed Arthur Tooms, John Ruddle, George G. Belt, and Ezekiel —— . No further appointment seems to have been made through the whole period from then on until after the close of the Civil War; but on February 4, 1866, the board appointed P. W. Vaughn and Archibald Rice. This institution of "Judge of the Plains," or Juaz de Campo, was one (it has been said to have been the only one) of the institutions of the Mexicans taken over by their American successors. It was the function of the judges of the plains to attend rodeos and decide questions of the ownership of cattle; and from some items in the papers in the sixties, it seems to have been their duty also to check over for ownership any cattle being driven through—or out of—the county. There is a newspaper story in the Herald in the sixties, quoted elsewhere, about three men, apparently judges of the plains, stopping three citizens of Maximilian's Empire who were driving some forty cattle across the Merced towards Sonora, and the Mexicans paid for the only animal which seemed to belong to a Merced County owner.

On February 6, 1867, N. Breen was appointed constable to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of William S. Thompson in Township Number One, and William S. Weed was appointed justice of the peace to succeed R. R. Leak, deceased.

At the general election held Wednesday, September 9, 1867, James B. Sensabaugh was elected sheriff; Charles M. Blair, county clerk; D. A. Jamison, county treasurer; R. H. Ward, district attorney; James H. Cox, assessors; F. J. Hardwick, public administrator; M. C. Monroe, superintendent of common schools; William G. Collier, county surveyor; Thomas H. Patterson, coroner; J. B. Cocanour, supervisor in District One, A. Harrel in District Two, and John K.

Mears in District Three; S. M. Brown and Samuel Shears, constables in Township One; and Arch Rice and Charles Helmer, constables in Township Two. The board of supervisors organized by electing J. B. Cocanour chairman, succeeding Silas March, who had been first elected a supervisor ten years earlier.

At the special judicial election on October 16, 1867, James W. Robertson was elected county judge; Erastus Eagleson and William S. Weed, justices of the peace for Township One; E. Hunter and Reuben Hail, justices of the peace for Township Two; and Joseph De Hart and Joseph Bittick justices of the peace for Township Three. On November 6, 1868, H. B. Jolley was appointed a justice of the peace for Township Three.

At the general election on Tuesday, November 3, 1868, John B. Cocanour was elected supervisor for District One for the three-year term beginning the first Monday in March, 1869. On August 4, 1869, Erastus Eagleson resigned as a justice of the peace in Township One, and A. Boyce was appointed to succeed him.

At the general election on Wednesday, September 6, 1869, S. M. Brown was elected sheriff; James E. Hicks, clerk; James H. Cox, assessor; R. H. Ward, district attorney; George Turner, treasurer; William G. Collier, surveyor; M. C. Monroe, superintendent of schools; V. H. Cox, coroner; T. J. Hardwick, public administrator; John K. Mears, supervisor from District Three (and he became chairman on organization of the board); R. H. Northfield and William L. Silman, constables for Township One; William C. Wilson and Joseph L. Turner, for Township Two; and J. Stubbs and W. R. Wiggs, for Township Three.

At the special judicial election on October 20, 1869, L. W. Talbott (he of the four-dollar dog on the 1857 assessment roll) and A. Boyce were elected justices of the peace for Township One; E. Hunter and Mathias Smythe, for Township Two; and A. W. Hulse, for Township Three.

At a special election held the first Wednesday in September, 1870, J. C. Morrison was elected supervisor from District Two for the three-year term beginning the first Monday of March, 1871, and we find A. Harrel chairman of the board.

On February 8, 1871, Mark Wyatt was appointed justice of the peace in Township Three to fill a vacancy created by the removal of A. Boyce. Three days later Amos A. Hicks was appointed assessor, James H. Cox having died.

The county's vote cast during the years from 1867 to 1869 for other officers for districts larger than the county, from district judge and assemblyman to United States Senator, were as follows: On September 9, 1867, for United States Senator, T. G. Phelps, 56; S.

B. Axtell, 253. For State senator, H. A. Skelton 68; James H. Lawrence 233. For assemblyman, J. W. Newson, 252. For district judge, A. C. Bradford, 210. On November 3, 1868, the county cast for Member of Congress: For S. B. Axtell, 274, and for Frank M. Pixley, 98. On September 6, 1869, the county's vote for assemblyman: J. B. Cocanour, 260; Miner Walden, 33; A. Ingalsbe, 76.

At the general election held September 6, 1871, James E. Hicks was elected clerk; Samuel M. Brown, sheriff; George Turner, treasurer; H. F. Blackwell, assessor; R. H. Ward, district attorney; Samuel H. P. Ross, superintendent of schools; Mark Howell, surveyor; V. H. Cox, coroner; Thomas G. Hardwick, public administrator; William H. Bean and William M. Bagby, constables of Township One; and T. J. James and A. Jones, constables of Township Two. J. S. Cocanour continues as chairman of the board of supervisors.

At the judicial election Monday, October 23, 1871, James W. Robertson was elected county judge; L. W. Talbott and Willis Hicks, justices of the peace for Township One; J. C. Jenkins and R. S. Clay, justices for Township Two; and R. J. Ashe and N. H. Spencer, justices for Township Three.

In 1872 we find J. K. Mears chairman of the board. On August 6, of that year, M. T. McPherson was appointed constable in Township One in place of William Bean, removed; S. P. Curry, constable in Township Two; and Richard Simpsen, justice of the peace in Township Two. At a special election on September 11 of that year, Ion Simons was elected supervisor of District Two.

The election to remove the county seat was held December 12, 1872. On November 4 of that year G. W. Rogers was appointed constable of Township Three and S. S. Reynolds justice of the peace.

At the general election on November 5 of that year the vote cast for Congressman stood: S. V. Houghton, 257; E. J. Kewin, 393.

On February 5, 1873, George Powell was appointed justice of the peace in Township Two in place of Mathias Smythe, resigned. On May 6, 1873, N. Breen was appointed constable of Township One to succeed William M. Bagby, deceased, and Wilber F. Clark was appointed justice of the peace of Township Five. This is the first mention of Township Five, and strangely enough there appear no officers for Township Four. See, a little further on, the results of the general election of September 3 of this year. On May 10, Thomas A. Leggett was appointed justice of the peace for Township Two in place of George Powell, resigned; on July 8, John K. Law was appointed superintendent of schools to succeed Samuel H. P. Ross, deceased; and on August 7, George H. Perrin was appointed county

surveyor to succeed Mark Howell, resigned. Silas March appears as chairman of the board this year.

At the general election on September 3, 1873, H. B. Davis received 525 votes and William Waldo 75 in this county for assemblyman. A. J. Meany was elected sheriff; George Turner, treasurer; James E. Hicks, clerk; D. M. McKenney, district attorney; George H. Perrin, surveyor; H. N. Rucker, coroner; G. W. Rogers, assessor; Ion Simons, supervisor for District Two; M. T. McPherson and Frank Sheridan, constables for Township One; George Powell and S. P. Curry, constables for Township Two; William M. Vinley and Charles S. Johnson, constables for Township Five; and W. W. Abbott and T. W. Coleman, constables for Township Three.

At the judicial election on October 15, 1873, the county cast for district judge, 471 votes for Alex. Deering and 267 for A. C. Bradford. Our five judicial townships now appear, thus indicating the creation of Le Grand and Livingston Townships, in addition to Township One at Snelling, Township Two at Merced, and Township Three at Los Banos, and also indicating the growth of population along the railroad and the increase of the wheat-growing industry. Justices of the peace were elected as follows: Township One, L. W. Talbott and W. H. Hamilton; Township Two, R. Simpson and T. A. Leggett; Township Three, T. J. Wilcox and William S. Weed; Township Four, R. J. Ashe; and Township Five, C. Talbott and Wilber F. Clark.

In 1874, on May 8, Y. Poncabore was appointed constable of Township One in place of Frank Sheridan, resigned; and on September 2, John B. Cocanour was elected supervisor of District One. Silas March continues this year as chairman of the board.

R. H. Ward was appointed district attorney on May 3, 1875, "D. M. McKenney," says the minute, "having failed to do duty."

At the general election on September 1 of that year, the county cast for Member of Congress, 588 votes for P. D. Wigginton, 316 for S. O. Houghton, and 235 for J. S. Thompson; for State senator, 506 votes for R. H. Ward and 639 for J. M. Montgomery; for assemblyman, 553 for J. W. Wilcox and 510 for W. J. Howard. A. J. Meany was elected sheriff; George Turner, treasurer; E. J. Hamilton, recorder; James E. Hicks, clerk; A. D. Turner, assessor; J. K. Law, district attorney; E. Beaumont, surveyor; B. F. Fowler, superintendent of schools; H. N. Rucker, coroner; B. F. Davis, supervisor for District Three; and for constable, S. Addison and George W. Halstead were elected in Township One; E. A. Packer and Joseph Leeson, in Township Two; W. W. Abbott and E. C. Mason, in Township Three; Richard Shaffer, in Township Four; and G. F. Lawrence and Charles J. Johnson, in Township Five.

At the judicial election on October 20, 1875, J. W. Robertson was elected county judge, and justices of the peace were elected as follows: Township One, H. F. Buckley and L. W. Talbott; Township Two, J. O. Blackburn and T. A. Leggett; Township Three, T. J. E. Wilcox and J. F. Sumner; Township Four, H. F. Rosecrans and L. B. McCormack; Township Five, S. A. Smith and Ira J. Tren. J. K. Mears is chairman of the board for 1875. Ion Simons succeeds him in 1876.

On May 2, 1876, H. A. Harrelson was appointed justice of the peace for Township One, and at a special election that year W. J. Quigley was elected supervisor for District Two.

At the general election on November 7, 1876, the county cast for Congressman, 776 votes for P. D. Wigginton and 572 for R. Pacheco.

In 1877, J. B. Cocanour again becomes chairman of the board. On March 19 of that year, Frank H. Farrar was appointed justice of the peace in Township Two.

At the general election on September 5, 1877, the county cast for assemblyman: 557 votes for Andrew Ewing and 357 for R. S. Clay. A. J. Meany was elected sheriff; George Turner, treasurer; James E. Hicks, clerk; P. B. King, district attorney; E. J. Hamilton, recorder; William G. Collier, surveyor; L. D. Stockton, superintendent of schools; H. N. Rucker, coroner; and G. C. Baker, supervisor of District One. Constables were elected as follows: Township One, G. W. Halstead and A. Bertrandis; Township Two, E. A. Packer and Joseph Leeson; Township Three, Daniel Donovan and J. A. Barker; Township Four, Eli M. McKee; Township Five, C. S. John and L. C. Davis.

At the judicial election, October 17, 1877, the county cast for district judge, 392 votes for J. B. Campbell and 20 for L. F. Jones. J. A. Harrelson and W. L. Williams were elected justices of the peace in Township One; N. Breen and T. A. Leggett, in Township Two; Nelson Howeth and A. M. Chadwick, in Township Three; J. W. Campbell, in Township Four; J. A. Worthington and Ira J. Tren, in Township Five.

In 1878, B. F. Davis appears as chairman of the board of supervisors. On May 6 of that year Andrew Lauder was appointed justice of the peace to succeed A. M. Chadwick, resigned. At a special election on September 4, N. Bibby was elected supervisor of District Three.

In 1879, W. J. Quigley is chairman of the board. On July 2, apparently by appointment, J. B. Cocanour succeeds G. C. Baker, resigned, as supervisor of District One.

At the general election held September 3, 1879, the county's vote for Member of Congress was 511 for Wallace Leach, 425 for R. Pacheco, and 146 for J. J. Ayers; for Senator, 511 for D. M. Pool and 565 for T. W. Drullard; for assemblyman, 491 for W. F. Coffman and 585 for N. S. Rogers.

We now come under the present State constitution, and the first superior judge appears in the person of Charles H. Marks. William J. Quigley was elected treasurer; John Simonson, clerk; A. J. Meany, sheriff and tax collector; Frank H. Farrar, district attorney; E. J. Hamilton, auditor and recorder; W. B. Aiken, assessor; John W. Bost, surveyor; E. T. Dixon, superintendent of schools; H. N. Rucker, coroner and public administrator; Thomas Upton, supervisor of District Two. In Township One, J. R. Horsley and M. D. D. Wickham were elected justices of the peace, and A. Bertrandis and George F. Hannah, constables; in Township Two, T. H. Leggett and N. Breen, justices, and Joseph Leeson and F. M. Gardenhire, constables; in Township Three, T. J. E. Wilcox and Andrew Lauder, justices, and D. Donovan and A. H. Ross, constables; in Township Four, T. F. Smith and David Chedister, justices, and James Beel and Samuel Stevinson, constables; in Township Five, W. R. Wiggs and W. F. Clark, justices, and Charles S. Johnson and L. C. Davis, constables. W. J. Quigley was chairman of the board during this year, going to the office of county treasurer at the beginning of 1880.

It will be noted that a lot of new blood came in at this first election under the constitution of 1879: Marks, Simonson, Aiken, Bost, Upton. Bost had held the office of deputy under Surveyor William G. Collier in the late sixties. Frank H. Farrar is new in the district attorney's office, although he had held township office before, as we have seen. On October 22, 1879, P. D. Wigginton was appointed district attorney in place of P. B. King, deceased. This was obviously only for the remainder of 1879, as Frank H. Farrar had been elected on September 3 for the term beginning the first of 1880.

On March 19, 1880, appears an appointment of H. N. Rucker as coroner and public administrator, to which combined offices he had been elected the previous September. The necessity for the appointment is not explained. During this year, N. Bibby was chairman of the board of supervisors.

At the general election on November 2, 1880 (note that the general election of 1879 had been in September, under the old constitution), the county cast for Members of Congress, 529 votes for R. Pacheco and 692 for Wallace Leach; for assemblyman, 511 for Samuel C. Bates and 698 for John W. Bost. W. L. Means was elected supervisor from District One. Justices of the peace in the several townships were elected as follows: J. A. Harrelson in Town-

ship One, J. O. Blackburn in Township Two, A. Lauder in Township Three, J. G. Schroder in Township Four, W. F. Clarke and W. R. Wiggs in Township Five; and the constables, as follows: A. Bertrandis in Township One, Joseph Leeson in Township Two, Louis H. Abbott in Township Three, John A. Henderson in Township Four, and C. L. Johnson and L. C. Davis in Township Five.

On January 3, 1881, Mark Howell was appointed county surveyor in place of John W. Bost, who had resigned on account of his election to the assembly. On March 31, John F. McSwain by appointment succeeded E. J. Hamilton as recorder; and on May 7, I. J. Buckley was appointed to succeed J. A. Harrelson, resigned, as justice of the peace in Township One. On November 10, J. A. Langan was appointed justice of the peace in Township Five to succeed W. F. Clarke, resigned. On December 29, W. P. Stoneroad was appointed county surveyor in place of Mark Howell, resigned. N. Bibby was chairman of the board during this year also, but Thomas Upton succeeds him in that capacity in 1882.

On May 31, 1882, I. J. Buckley having resigned as justice of the peace in Township One, J. A. Harrelson, his predecessor, was appointed to the office again.

At the general election on November 7, 1882, the county cast for Congressman, 532 votes for G. L. Wood and 892 for P. B. Tully; and for Representative to Congress at large, 543 for Henry Edgerton, 548 for W. W. Morrow, 881 for Charles Sumner, and 878 for John Gascock (Glascock?). Evidently they were voting for two. For essemblyman the county cast 657 votes for R. S. Clay and 745 for W. L. Smith. A. J. Meany was elected sheriff; John H. Simonson, clerk; John F. McSwain, recorder; M. D. Wood, treasurer; Frank H. Farrar, district attorney; William B. Aiken, assessor; W. P. Stoneroad, surveyor; E. T. Dixon, superintendent of schools; J. E. P. Williams, coroner. There were elected three new supervisors: B. H. Dean from District One, W. H. Hartley from District Two, and J. L. Crittenden from District Three. Justices of the peace were elected as follows: J. A. Herrelson in Township One, J. W. Robertson in Township Two, T. J. E. Wilcox in Township Three, J. F. Ward in Township Four, and W. J. Stockton in Township Five; and constables as follows: A. Bertrandis in Township One, Joseph Leeson in Township Two, A. K. Bagwell in Township Three, William Steele in Township Four, L. C. Davis in Township Five.

On May 11, 1883, Dan Donovan was appointed constable of Township Three to succeed A. K. Bagwell, resigned.

On March 4, 1884, Merced and Mariposa Counties appear to have been made into one assembly district. On the 15th of the same

month, W. L. Smith, assemblyman, having removed from the State, there was a special election for assemblyman, at which this county cast 254 votes for N. S. Rogers and 528 for J. W. Breckinridge. On April 12, Andrew Lauder was appointed justice of the peace of Township Three in place of T. J. E. Wilcox, resigned, and two days later, E. C. Fitzhugh, constable of Township One in place of A. Brandis, resigned.

At the general election on November 4, 1884, the county cast for Congressman, 806 votes for J. A. Louttit and 969 for Charles A. Sumner; for State senator, 807 for A. E. Wagstaff and 973 for J. D. Spencer; and for member of assembly, 807 for I. J. Buckley and 961 for G. G. Gaucher. C. H. Marks was elected superior judge; J. L. Crittenden, sheriff; John H. Simonson, clerk; Robert N. Hughes, auditor; John G. Elliott, recorder; Frank M. Ostrander, district attorney; M. D. Wood, treasurer; L. H. Bradley, coroner and public administrator; L. M. Gillham, surveyor.

We now arrive at the point where the county has five supervisors instead of three, and find an entire new board elected: John A. Montgomery from District One, Henry Creighton from District Two, W. W. Gray from District Three, E. L. Sturgeon from District Four, and C. W. Smith from District Five. This board went in at the beginning of 1885, and on organization elected E. L. Sturgeon chairman. J. L. Crittenden was chairman in 1884.

In Judicial Township One, J. A. Harrelson and S. W. Blaisdell were elected justices of the peace and E. C. Fitzhugh, constable; in Township Two, N. Breen and Andrew Lauder, justices, and F. M. Gardenhire and T. H. Leggett, constables; in Township Three, W. R. Wiggs and W. J. Stockton, justices, and L. C. Davis and J. W. Graham, constables.

On April 7, 1885, A. E. Knight was appointed constable in Township Three, "L. C. Davis having failed to return to State at end of sixty day leave." On July 10, Henry Latour was appointed constable of Township One in place of E. C. Fitzhugh, resigned.

In 1886, C. W. Smith was chairman of the board. On May 19 of that year, John F. McSwain was appointed sheriff to succeed J. L. Crittenden, deceased.

At the general election held November 2, 1886, the county cast 967 votes for Marion Biggs, for Congressman, and 698 for J. C. Campbell. A. J. Meany was elected State senator for the Thirtieth District; and J. W. Bost, assemblyman for the Sixty-seventh District. Meany received in this county 955 votes, to 656 for C. F. Wade; and Bost, 1034 against 637 for W. E. Gallison. John H. Givens was elected sheriff; Jerry Myall, clerk; R. N. Hughes, auditor; J. G. Elliott, recorder; J. W. Breckinridge, district attorney; J. K. P.

Price, treasurer; J. A. Norvell, superintendent of schools; M. D. Wood, assessor; C. D. Martin, surveyor; E. S. O'Brien, coroner; W. W. Gray, supervisor from District Three; and W. J. Stockton, supervisor from District Five. In Township One, C. E. Blewett and J. A. Harrelson were elected justices, and A. Bertrandis and T. V. Estes, constables; in Township Two, Andrew Lauder and J. W. Robertson, justices, and H. W. French and F. M. Gardenhire, constables; in Township Three, W. E. Merritt and T. W. Ralley, justices, and A. A. Bither and B. W. Jeffers, constables. Apparently Judicial Townships Four and Five have lapsed, having been merged into the first three. W. W. Gray appears as chairman of the board for 1887, and J. A. Montgomery for 1888.

On April 30, 1888, Frank Howell was appointed treasurer to succeed J. K. P. Price, deceased.

At the general election on November 6, 1888, the county cast for Congressman, 764 votes for John Eagan and 968 for Marion Biggs; for assemblyman, 977 for W. M. Rundell, 40 for J. O. Blackburn, and 70 for John Conway. C. A. H. Warfield was elected sheriff; Jerry Myall, clerk; R. N. Hughes, auditor; E. A. Hicks, recorder; J. W. Breckinridge, district attorney; E. J. Rector, treasurer, C. D. Martin, surveyor; E. S. O'Brien, coroner; J. A. Montgomery, supervisor from District One; C. C. Nelson, supervisor from District Two; and J. H. Edwards, supervisor from District Four. For Township One, J. A. Harrelson and W. C. Bennett were justices of the peace, and C. E. Blanchard and Edgar Latour, constables—the latter now constable in the same Township; for Township Two, J. W. Robertson and J. Y. Jones, justices, and Thomas F. Carrigan and T. H. Leggett, constables; for Township Three, W. E. Merritt and C. W. Smith, justices, and B. W. Jeffers and A. A. Bither, constables.

At the general election on November 4, 1890, this county gave A. Caminetti 990 votes for Congressman, and G. G. Blanchard 868; for State senator, T. O. Hays 988 and J. C. Needham 889; and for assemblyman, F. H. Gould 959 and Henry Nelson 902. J. K. Law was elected superior judge; C. A. H. Warfield, sheriff; J. G. Elliott, clerk; Nick Breen, auditor; E. A. Hicks, recorder; B. F. Fowler, district attorney; J. H. Simonson, assessor; R. F. Bartlett, treasurer; J. A. Norvell, superintendent of schools; E. S. O'Brien, public administrator; C. A. Robinson, surveyor; R. Shaffer, supervisor from District Three; and J. W. Haley, supervisor from District Five. William M. Gray appears as chairman of the board in 1890; and J. A. Montgomery again in 1891.

On March 4, 1891, H. R. Potter was appointed justice of the peace in Township Three to succeed W. E. Merritt, resigned, and on May 13, James E. Hicks in Township Two to succeed J. W.

Robertson, deceased. The death of J. W. Robertson removed one of the original officers upon the formation of the county; he was assessor in 1855.

John A. Montgomery appears as chairman of the board in 1892. On May 2 of that year the name of T. A. Mack, the present sheriff, first appears as a county officer; he was appointed constable in Township Two to succeed T. F. Carrigan, resigned. On September 29 of this year, George A. Kahl was appointed justice of the peace in Township Four.

The general election of 1892 took place on November 8. The county cast 713 votes for William M. Bowers and 893 for Olin Wellborn, for Congressman; 646 for J. S. Alexander and 1055 for F. H. Gould, for assemblyman. C. A. H. Warfield was elected sheriff; J. G. Elliott, clerk; N. Breen, auditor; Jeff. Fruit, recorder; R. F. Bartlett, treasurer; F. G. Ostrander, district attorney; A. G. Clough, coroner and public administrator; W. P. Stoneroad, surveyor; George P. Kelsey, supervisor from District One; C. C. Nelson, supervisor from District Two; and J. H. Edwards, supervisor from District Four. The election of F. G. Ostrander as district attorney put into that office the second son of Harvey J. Ostrander, pioneer of the county. Another son, Frank M. Ostrander, had been elected to that office in 1884, as we have seen. F. G. Ostrander and his nephew Frank M. (the latter the son of the Frank M. elected in 1884) are now practicing law in Merced under the firm name of Ostrander & Ostrander.

At this election of 1892, J. A. Harrelson and Jesse Neighbor were elected justices, and Fred Griffith and C. E. Rhodes constables, of Township One; James E. Hicks and J. B. Ralston justices, and Thomas A. Mack and G. W. Yoakum constables, in Township Two; Charles W. Smith and S. A. Smith justices, and Jacob Gardner, Jr., and B. W. Jeffers constables, in Township Three; G. A. Kahl and F. G. Poor justices, and Norman Moss and John A. Artman constables, in Township Four. Township Four now appears again.

The two constables elected that year for the Merced Township are now, one of them, sheriff (T. A. Mack), and the other in charge of the court house park (G. W. Yoakum). Fred Griffith, elected constable at Snelling, was a son of that Dr. Joshua Griffith who came to Merced River bottom in 1852, when the only men on the river, according to his information given in his life sketch in the history of 1881, were John M. Montgomery, Samuel Scott, and James Waters.

Township Five now appears again. On January 12, 1893, L. M. Gillihan was appointed justice of the peace for the new township. The appointment was rescinded the next day. Gillihan was reappointed March 6, 1893. On October 5 of this year, Edgar Latour was ap-

pointed constable in Township One to fill a vacancy caused by the creation of the new Township Five.

The People's Party appears in the general election held on November 6, 1893. In this county, C. H. Castle, People's Party, received 832 votes for State senator; E. D. McCabe, Democrat, 603; and John H. Shine, Republican, 458; and for assemblyman, Horace G. Kelsey, People's Party, received 742 votes; J. R. Broughton, Democrat, 470; and L. A. Richards, Republican, 660. C. A. H. Warfield was elected sheriff; J. H. Simonson, assessor; T. H. Leggett, recorder; William H. Cook, auditor; O. W. Grove, school superintendent; W. P. Stoneroad, surveyor; A. G. Clough, coroner and public administrator; F. G. Ostrander, district attorney; R. Shaffer, supervisor for District Three; and J. W. Haley, supervisor for District Five. In Township One, G. B. Neighbor and J. A. Harrelson were elected justices and Edgar Latour and A. L. Standiford, constables; in Township Two, John Naffziger and Fred Read, justices, and T. A. Mack and John Rahilly, constables; in Township Three, C. F. Bertholf and C. S. Cothran, justices, and Jake Carter and Joel Webb, constables; in Township Four, George A. Kahl and B. C. H. Turner, justices, and William Boyd and Thomas D. Willson, constables; in Township Five, B. Berry and R. A. Weaver, justices, and W. W. Abbott and C. S. McSwain, constables. E. A. Hicks and A. M. Vanderlip tied for county clerk, and on December 20 a special election was held for that office again and Hicks defeated Vanderlip. C. C. Nelson appears as chairman of the board during 1894, and also during the next two years.

On January 15, 1895, C. F. Blewett was appointed justice of the peace in Township Five. For some reason the two justices elected in Township Four at the general election in November, 1894, were appointed in March, 1895, to the same offices. The appointment of B. C. H. Turner was made March 4, and that of George D. Kahl on March 7.

A special election of January 21, 1896, to elect a supervisor in District Four, resulted in the choice of John Q. Drummond.

The general election of that year was held on November 3. For Congressman, C. H. Castle received in the county 1000 votes and William W. Bowers 578; for assemblyman, A. S. Emory, 544, and J. G. Elliott, 1155. J. K. Law was elected superior judge; A. B. Hamilton, supervisor for District One; Paul Neumann, supervisor for District Two; and G. W. Abbott, supervisor for District Four.

On January 7, 1897, S. W. Dickinson was appointed constable in Township Four, and on December 9, R. N. Hughes was appointed recorder to fill a vacancy caused by the death of T. H. Leggett. J. W. Haley was chairman of the board this year and during 1898.

At the general election on November 8, 1898, the county gave Curtis H. Castle 1169 votes for Congressman, against 699 for James C. Needham; for State senator the Twelfth District gave J. B. Curtin 1066, against 774 for Joseph McNeil; and for assemblyman the Fifty-seventh District gave A. T. Hastings 964 and G. R. Stewart 944. It is interesting to observe the gradual growth of the total vote; but it is still only about one-quarter of the total which the county now casts. Allowance must now be made, however, for the women's vote. C. A. H. Warfield was again elected sheriff; W. B. Croop was elected clerk; A. G. Clough, assessor; D. C. Bambauer, treasurer; W. H. Cook, auditor; E. W. Stockird, recorder; F. G. Ostrander, district attorney; O. W. Grove, superintendent of schools; H. H. Henderson, surveyor; George W. Kibby, tax collector; F. E. Lilley, coroner and public administrator; C. H. Deane, supervisor for District Three; and W. H. Ogden, supervisor for District Five. In Township One, J. A. Harrelson was elected justice of the peace and E. J. Feldhaus, constable; in Township Two, George F. Crocker, justice, and J. M. Smith, constable; in Township Three, C. S. Cothran, justice, and C. H. Wiley, constable; in Township Four, George A. Kahl, justice, and Wade Turner, constable; in Township Five, Benjamin Berry, justice, and John George, constable.

In 1899, Paul Neumann appears as chairman of the board. On November 16 of that year, W. J. Stockton was appointed coroner and public administrator in place of F. E. Lilley, deceased.

On March 13, 1900, T. A. Mack was appointed the county's first game warden. The following day Jeff. Fruit was appointed justice of the peace in Township Two to succeed George L. Crocker, resigned. On May 15 of this year F. G. Ostrander was appointed superior judge to succeed J. K. Law, resigned. J. F. McSwain was appointed district attorney to fill the vacancy caused by Judge Ostrander's promotion.

The general election of this year was held on November 6. The county gave for Congressman, Seventh District, James C. Needham, 788; W. D. Crichton, 1046; for assemblyman, Fifty-seventh District, J. W. Haley, 1217; Thomas R. Scoon, 648. E. N. Rector was elected superior judge; A. B. Hamilton, supervisor from District One; Thomas Price, supervisor from District Two; and George H. Whitworth, supervisor from District Four. Judge Rector has held his office continuously since, and George H. Whitworth's service as supervisor was terminated only by his death in 1922.

On April 9, 1901, W. M. Davis was appointed constable in Township Three in place of C. H. Wiley, resigned. On July 9, 1901, appears a new Township Six, Gustine; Eugene McCabe was appointed

justice of the peace, and B. W. Jeffers constable, of Township Six on that date.

Paul Neumann continues as chairman of the board in 1900, but in 1901 A. B. Hamilton succeeds him in that capacity. On August 11, 1902, G. R. Summers was appointed justice of the peace of Township Five; and on September 15 of the same year, W. F. Blewett was appointed constable of the same township to succeed J. H. George, deceased.

At the general election on November 4, 1902, the county gave Gaston M. Ashe 1005 votes and J. C. Needham 819 for Congressman in the Sixth District; J. B. Curtin 1241 votes for State senator, Twelfth District; and V. E. Bangs 1213 for assemblyman, Twenty-fifth District. John S. McSwain was elected sheriff; W. B. Croop, clerk; A. G. Clough, assessor; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; W. H. Cook, auditor; S. J. Allen, recorder; E. H. Hoar, district attorney; Mrs. Anna Silman, superintendent of schools; Arthur E. Cowell, surveyor; W. F. Clarke, tax collector; G. E. Nordgren, coroner and public administrator; C. H. Deane, supervisor from District Three; and W. H. Ogden, supervisor from District Five. Justices of the peace were elected as follows: In Township One, J. A. Harrelson; in Township Two, J. J. Griffin; in Township Three, C. S. Cothran; in Township Four, J. D. Price; in Township Five, J. H. Sorensen; in Township Six, Eugene McCabe. Edgar Latour was elected constable in Township One; J. H. McNamara, in Township Two; W. M. Roberts, in Township Three; A. K. Ellett, in Township Four; W. F. Blewett, in Township Five; and John Hickey, in Township Six.

In 1903, Thomas Price is chairman of the board. On August 4 of that year, C. M. Harrelson was appointed justice of the peace in Township One to succeed J. A. Harrelson, resigned. At the general election on November 8, 1904, the county gave James C. Needham 880 votes for Congressman from the Sixth District and William M. Conley 1026; S. S. Burge 912 for assemblyman, Twenty-fifth District, and Fred W. Yokum 937. Henry Nelson was elected supervisor for District One; J. R. Baxter, for District Two; and George H. Whitworth, for District Four. George H. Whitworth was chairman of the board during 1905 and 1906.

On September 19, 1905, Henry Knight was appointed constable in Township Six to succeed John Hickey, resigned.

On February 6, 1906, a new Township Seven appears, with the appointment of Ambers Brown as justice of the peace and F. J. Clausen as constable. This is Dos Palos, then quite newly colonized, thus making now three judicial townships on the West Side and four on the East Side.

At the general election of November 6, 1906, the county gave J. C. Needham 1028 votes and H. A. Greene 919 for Congressman from the Sixth District; H. J. Ostrander 948 and J. B. Curtin 1057, for State senator from the Twelfth District; and R. K. Whitmore 894 and F. W. Yokum 1049, for assemblyman from the Twenty-fifth District. John S. Swan was elected sheriff; P. J. Thornton, clerk; A. G. Clough, assessor; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; W. H. Cook, auditor; S. J. Allen, recorder; H. S. Shaffer, district attorney; Belle Smythe, superintendent of schools; A. E. Cowell surveyor; W. F. Clarke, tax collector; G. E. Nordgren, coroner and public administrator; C. H. Deane, supervisor from District Three; and J. W. Haley, supervisor from District Five. I. J. Buckley was elected justice of the peace in Township One; J. J. Griffin, in Township Two; W. E. Burch, in Township Three; J. D. Price, in Township Four; J. N. Hitchcock, in Township Five; Eugene McCabe, in Township Six; and J. S. Sitton, in Township Seven. Edgar Latour was elected constable in Township One; J. H. McNamara, in Township Two; W. M. Roberts, in Township Three; G. A. Watson, in Township Five; B. W. Jeffers, in Township Six; and F. J. Clausen, in Township Seven. There was a tie in Township Four; and at a special election on December 1, W. C. Wilson was elected constable of that township.

J. R. Baxter appears as chairman of the board of supervisors in 1907, and continues through that year and 1908. On January 9, 1907, I. J. Buckley was appointed justice of the peace of Township One, and Edgar Latour constable, to take effect October 1, 1907. They were the incumbents, elected the previous fall. Their election appears to have been considered good until October 1, 1907; and as the appointment could not apparently have been to cure an invalid election, it was probably to effect a change in salary. On October 1, 1907, C. B. Harrell was appointed county recorder to succeed S. J. Allen, resigned. On April 27, 1908, E. F. Mugler was appointed auditor to succeed William H. Cook, deceased; and on June 1 of the same year, Frank J. McNerny was appointed to succeed Mugler, resigned.

At the general election on November 3, 1908, the county gave James C. Needham 1087 votes and Fred P. Feliz 1020 for Congressman from the Sixth District, and Charles W. Wagner 988 and John R. Richardson 1047 for assemblyman from the Twenty-fifth District. E. N. Rector was elected superior judge; Thomas H. Scandrett, supervisor from District One; J. R. Baxter, supervisor from District Two; and George H. Whitworth, supervisor from District Four. On December 8, 1908, W. F. Meredith was appointed justice of the peace of Township Six in place of Eugene McCabe, resigned.

In 1909 and 1910, C. H. Deane was chairman of the board. On March 11, 1909, A. L. Silman was appointed auditor to succeed Frank J. McInerny, resigned.

At the general election on November 8, 1910, the county gave J. C. Needham 1037 votes for Congressman from the Sixth District, and A. L. Cowell, the present attorney for the Merced Irrigation District, 1264; L. L. Dennett, for State senator from the Twelfth District, 1071, and J. B. Curtin 1207; D. D. Thompson 1045 for assemblyman from the Twenty-fifth District, and J. J. Griffin 1154. S. C. Cornell was elected sheriff; H. S. Shaffer, district attorney; P. J. Thornton, clerk; L. R. Johnson, auditor; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; A. G. Clough, assessor; W. H. Wegner, tax collector; Margaret Sheehy, superintendent of schools; A. E. Cowell, surveyor; G. E. Nordgren, coroner and public administrator; H. G. Peck, supervisor from District Three; and C. S. Cothran, supervisor from District Five. In Judicial Township One, I. J. Buckley was elected justice of the peace and Edgar Latour, constable; in Township Two, W. B. Croop, justice, and J. H. McNamara, constable; in Township Three, W. E. Burch, justice, and W. M. Roberts, constable; in Township Four, L. S. Cardwell, justice, and W. C. Wilson, constable; in Township Five, J. N. Hitchcock, justice, and J. A. Watson, constable; in Township Six, C. F. Reutter, justice, and T. J. Hazelwood, constable; and in Township Seven, J. S. Sitton, justice, and Clyde Painter, constable.

T. H. Scandrett appears as chairman of the board in 1912. At the general election on November 5 of that year, J. C. Needham received in this county 1482 votes for Congressman from the Seventh District (note the reapportionment following the census year 1910), and Denver S. Church 1835. George Marchbank received in the county 1358 votes for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District, and J. J. Griffin 1884. T. H. Scandrett was elected supervisor from District One; D. K. Thornton, supervisor from District Two; and G. H. Whitworth, supervisor from District Four.

On May 6, 1913, J. J. Garibaldi was appointed tax collector in place of W. H. Wegner, deceased; and on June 1, 1914, T. A. Mack was appointed sheriff to succeed S. C. Cornell, deceased.

At the general election held November 3, 1914, the county gave Francis J. Heney 1174 votes for United States Senator, Joseph R. Knowland 1476, and James D. Phelan 2002; Denver S. Church 2614 and A. M. Drew 1752 for Congressman from the Seventh District; A. P. Ferguson 2499 and L. J. Maddux 2462 for State senator from the Twelfth District; and Edward Stanton Ellis 3456 and Ernest D. Kahl 1486 for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District. E. N. Rector was elected superior judge; T. A. Mack, sheriff; C. H. Mc-

Cray, district attorney; P. J. Thornton, clerk; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; L. R. Johnson, auditor; A. G. Clough, assessor; James J. Garibaldi, tax collector; J. C. Ivers, recorder; G. E. Nordgren, coroner and public administrator; Margaret Sheehy, superintendent of schools; A. E. Cowell, surveyor; Frank Pebley, supervisor from District One; and C. S. Cothran, supervisor from District Five. J. C. Larsen was elected justice of the peace and Edgar Latour, constable, in Township One; Frank H. Farrar, justice, and J. H. McNamara, constable, in Township Two; L. A. Sischo, justice, and W. M. Roberts, constable, in Township Three; J. D. Price, justice, and W. C. Wilson, constable, in Township Four; J. N. Hitchcock, justice, and August E. Warn, constable, in Township Five; C. F. Reutter, justice, and J. T. Hazelwood, constable, in Township Six; J. S. Sitton, justice, and T. C. Painter, constable, in Township Seven; and W. H. Osborn, justice, and E. W. Fulkerth, constable, in Township Eight.

Judicial Township Eight appears in an election here for the first time. Justice Osborn and Constable Fulkerth have held their offices continuously since the creation of the township, Atwater, ten years ago. W. C. Wilson won the office of constable in Township Four only after an election contest.

At the general election on November 7, 1916, the county gave Hiram W. Johnson 2635 votes for United States Senator and George S. Patton 1495; Denver S. Church, for Congressman from the Seventh District, 2279 and W. W. Phillips 1769; H. Kylberg, for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District, 2729, and Walter C. Maloy 1712. T. H. Scandrett was elected supervisor from District One; D. K. Thornton, supervisor from District Two; and George H. Whitworth, supervisor from District Four. T. H. Scandrett continues as chairman of the board.

On November 13, 1916, Winifred H. Bigley was appointed county librarian for a four-year term beginning on November 16. This is not the beginning of Miss Bigley's service as librarian, however.

On August 7, 1917, W. M. Griffin was appointed coroner and public administrator to succeed G. E. Nordgren, deceased. On October 7, 1918, Mrs. M. A. Clough was appointed assessor to succeed her husband, A. G. Clough, deceased.

At the general election on November 5, 1918, the county gave Henry Hawson 2098 votes and H. E. Barbour 1801 for Congressman from the Seventh District; J. B. Curtin 1964 and L. L. Dennett 1977, for State senator from the Twelfth District; and Guy Windrem 2871, for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District. P. J. Thornton was elected clerk; T. A. Mack, sheriff; C. W. Croop, district attorney; Smith E. Acker, auditor; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; F. A.

Robinson, assessor; J. J. Garibaldi, tax collector; J. C. Ivers, recorder; W. M. Griffin, coroner and public administrator; A. E. Cowell, surveyor; Mrs. Belle Smythe Gribi, superintendent of schools; Frank Pebley, supervisor from District Three; and C. S. Cothran, supervisor from District Five. In Township One, I. J. Buckley was elected justice and Edgar Latour, constable; in Township Two, Frank H. Farrar, justice, and J. H. McNamara, constable; in Township Three, W. H. Purdy, justice, and C. M. Watkins, constable; in Township Four, C. T. Dooley, justice, and W. C. Wilson, constable; in Township Five, J. N. Hitchcock, justice, and August E. Warn, constable; in Township Six, H. K. Morris, justice, and Oliver F. Carey, constable; in Township Seven, Ernest E. Winters, justice, and T. G. Arbuthnot, constable; and in Township Eight, W. H. Osborn, justice, and E. W. Fulkerth, constable.

On February 3, 1919, F. H. Cronwell was appointed justice of the peace in Township Three. On February 2, 1920, John R. Graham was appointed by Governor Stephens supervisor in District One to succeed T. H. Scandrett, resigned. Mr. Scandrett had been chairman up to this time; Frank Pebley succeeded him as chairman and is the present chairman. On June 10, 1920, H. K. Landram was appointed district attorney to succeed C. W. Croop, resigned. On July 7, 1920, Charles A. Miller was appointed justice of the peace of Township Six to succeed H. K. Morris, resigned.

At the general election on November 2, 1920, the county gave Samuel M. Shortridge 2549 votes for United States Senator; H. E. Barbour 3570 for Congressman from the Seventh District, and Guy Windrem 2838 for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District. E. N. Rector was elected superior judge; Frank R. Henderson, supervisor from District One; D. K. Thornton, supervisor from District Two; and G. H. Whitworth, supervisor from District Four.

On November 9, 1920, G. D. Soper was appointed constable for Township Three in place of C. M. Watkins, resigned. On April 5, 1921, J. L. Mulkey was appointed constable of Township Seven in place of T. G. Arbuthnot, resigned. On August 1, 1921, Winifred H. Bigley was reappointed county librarian for four years. On September 6, 1921, J. W. Hall was appointed justice of the peace of Township Five to succeed J. N. Hitchcock, deceased. On April 4, 1922, Harold Bone was appointed justice of the peace of Township Two to succeed Frank H. Farrar, deceased. On August 7, 1922, G. E. Winton was appointed county surveyor to succeed A. E. Cowell, resigned. On October 23, 1922, W. E. Bunker was appointed by Governor Stephens supervisor for District Four to succeed G. H. Whitworth, deceased.

At the general election on November 7, 1922, the county gave Hiram W. Johnson 4090 votes for United States Senator, Harry E. Barbour 3955 for Congressman from the Seventh District, L. L. Dennett 3763 for State senator from the Twelfth District, and D. C. Williams 3096 and Guy Windrem 2135 for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District. C. S. Weaver was elected superintendent of schools; T. A. Mack, sheriff; C. H. McCray, district attorney; S. E. Acker, auditor; G. W. Kibby, treasurer; F. A. Robinson, assessor; J. J. Garibaldi, tax collector; J. C. Ivers, recorder; W. M. Griffin, coroner and public administrator; W. E. Bedesen, surveyor; Frank Pebley, supervisor from District Three; and G. B. Smith, supervisor from District Five. In Township One, I. J. Buckley was elected justice of the peace and Edgar Latour, constable; in Township Two, Harold Bone, justice, and J. H. McNamara, constable; in Township Three, F. H. Cronwell, justice, and G. D. Soper, constable; in Township Four, C. T. Dooley, justice, and W. C. Wilson, constable; in Township Five, T. W. Pedigo, justice, and Dave Bennett, constable; in Township Six, D. E. Hales, justice, and Oliver Carey, constable; in Township Seven, H. Boyd Smith, justice, and John R. Campbell, Jr., constable; in Township Eight, W. H. Osborn, justice, and E. W. Fulkerth, constable.

On June 4, 1923, Essae M. Culver was appointed county librarian to succeed Winifred H. Bigley, deceased. On September 4, 1923, John R. Campbell, Jr., was appointed constable of Township Seven. On February 9, 1924, C. E. Welch was appointed coroner and public administrator to succeed W. M. Griffin, deceased, and E. D. Huffman was appointed constable of Township Two to succeed J. H. McNamara, deceased.

At the general election on November 4, 1924, the county gave H. E. Barbour, for Congressman from the Seventh District, 3942 votes; and D. C. Williams, for assemblyman from the Forty-ninth District, 3021 and E. G. Adams 2725. F. R. Henderson was elected supervisor from District One; J. C. Maddux, supervisor from District Two; and W. E. Bunker, supervisor from District Four. No other changes have occurred up to December 21, 1924.

CHAPTER XVII

POPULATION

Since Merced County was created and organized in 1855, the first federal census we have on it is that of 1860. We have already seen, in the chapter on the assessment roll of 1857, where the probable population of the county at the time of organization is discussed, that the county's population by this census of 1860 was 1141. In the chapter mentioned we saw that the 1857 assessment roll gave 277 assessments, and on this basis, counting 5 population for every 2 assessments, we arrived at an estimated population of 692, or approximately 700 for the spring of 1857, just three years before the census of 1860 was taken. Further, estimating approximately the same rate of increase for the two preceding years, from the spring of 1855 to that of 1857, we estimated somewhere around 400 or 500 people in the county when it was organized. This is frankly little more than a guess.

At any rate, we had 1141 people in 1860. In 1870 this had grown to 2807, an increase of 146 per cent. In 1880 it had grown to 5656, or just over a 100-per-cent gain over the 1870 figures. In 1890 the county's population had grown 2429 more, to a total of 8085, representing a 43-per-cent gain over the 1880 census. In 1900 it was 9215, being 1140, or about 14 per cent of growth since 1890. By the 1910 census we had 15,148 people, a gain of 5923, about 64 per cent, for the decade. The 1920 population was 24,579, with a gain of 9431 people, or about 62 per cent, for the decade then ending.

While the county made some growth during every decade for which we have the census figures, this growth, we see, slacked up to rather near a standstill during the ten years from 1890 to 1900, when the gain was only 1140, or about 14 per cent. It will be remembered that the nineties were a period of hard times generally, a condition reflected by Merced County's small growth. This was also the period when the grain-raising industry in the county had reached its peak and begun to decline. Merced City for this ten years shows an actual decrease of forty inhabitants; the town had 2009 people in 1890, and 1969 in 1900. Other towns in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys show similar conditions. Modesto decreased from 2402 to 2024 during the ten years; Tulare from 2697 to 2216; Woodland from 3069 to 2886. Fresno shows a small growth, from 10,818 to 12,470; Visalia a smaller one, from 2885 to 3085.

An analysis of Merced County's population by judicial townships shows an actual decrease for the East Side of the county during these ten years, which was somewhat more than made up by the growth of the West Side. Township Number One (Snelling country) had 1834 population in 1890. Between 1890 and 1900 Township Number 5 was carved out of Number One; and in 1900 Number One had 842 people and Number Five had 779, a total of 1621 in 1900 against 1834 in 1890. Township Number Two, including Merced City, had 4363 people in 1890 and 3705 in 1900; but Number Four appears in 1900 with 656 people, showing just about a standstill for the territory of the two. Township Number Three, centering at Los Banos, had 1888 people in 1890, and 3233 in 1900, a growth of 1345.

We have run ahead of the chronological order in the above. There was less detailed information in the earlier censuses; the Merced County townships, for example, were not separately returned in 1880.

This census of 1880 is of course the first one which shows Merced City, or rather town, for it was not incorporated until the eighties. Merced, the town, in 1880 had 1446 people. This fact standing by itself means less than it does when we give the population of some of most striking comparison is with Fresno, which in 1880 had only 1112, or 334 less population than Merced. Bakersfield was also the other towns in this and some of the other counties. Perhaps the smaller than Merced; it had 801. Madera, not yet with a separate county of its own, had only 217 people and was overshadowed by such metropolises as Mariposa, 342; Columbia, 650; Coulterville, 224; Hornitos, 350; Lockeford, 322; Mokelumne Hill, 515; and Woodbridge, 245. Modesto, with 1693, was the largest town in the San Joaquin Valley south of the old valley metropolis, Stockton, which had 10,282; and was nearly even with Los Angeles, which had 11,183. South of Stockton in the Valley, in order of population after Modesto and Merced, came Visalia, older than the railroad with 1412 people. Sonora was larger than Visalia or Merced; it had 1492 people.

Bear Valley had 150 people; Centerville, 108; Chinese Camp, 184; Groveland, 59; Hills Ferry, 161; Grayson, 113; Jamestown, 212; Knight's Ferry, 191; La Grange, 145; Merced Falls, 150; Snelling, 187. Lodi had 606; Lemoore, 463; Tulare, 447; Hanford, 269; Porterville, 202. Plainsburg had 143; Cressey and Waterford, 63 each; Kingsburg, 88. In those days San Francisco was easily "The City"; it had 233,959 population, more than ten times as many as Sacramento, with 21,420.

These comparisons enable us to reconstruct in some measure the California of 1880. It was a California which did not yet know

anything of intensive farming. It was long before the days of automobiles and the good roads which automobiles have brought. The percentage of the population living in towns was much smaller than it is now. It will be noted that the towns in the Mother Lode country—Mariposa, Sonora, and their neighbors—were of a good deal more importance than they are now; and so also were the towns along the San Joaquin River. Hill's Ferry had 161 people; the railroad had not yet come to the West Side, and this town had not moved to Newman. Hill's Ferry is now just about as completely gone as its neighbor, Columbia, up near Sonora—once, in the early gold days, a good deal larger than the 650 which it had in 1880, and one of the first incorporated cities in the State.

The earlier censuses did not give as much detail as the more recent ones, but that of 1860 does show that Merced County's population of 1141 was made up of 1114 whites, 23 colored, and 4 Indians—nearly 100 per cent white. The few negroes are easily accounted for when we remember that the whites came largely from the South. Why there are only four Indians shown we are left to conjecture: quite possibly the Indians who were left had about all gone into the foothill country. We find 37 Indians shown in the 1870 census—probably they were finding it seemingly safe to come out and settle as individuals amongst the whites, and likely their tribal relations were breaking up. There were 36 colored people in 1870, and 186 Chinese—none of the latter appeared in 1860. The white people in 1870 numbered 2548. The non-white population in 1860 was between 2 and 3 per cent; in 1870 it was over 9 per cent.

In 1880, out of the 5656 total population of the county, there were 5015 whites, 59 colored, 7 Indians, and 575 Chinese—over 11 per cent of non-whites. This is the largest Chinese population shown by any of the federal censuses, apparently. The Chinese population had decreased to 357 in 1900, 278 in 1910, and 135 in 1920. But statements of oldtimers indicate that 575 does not represent the height reached by Chinese population; Ah See, a Chinese resident of the Plainsburg and Le Grand section for many years, and still a resident there, says there were once 400 Chinese in Plainsburg. There was once a considerable Chinatown in Snelling. Probably almost all of the 135 Chinese remaining in 1920 are in Merced.

Thirty Indians are shown in 1890, 4 in 1900, none in 1910, and 7 in 1920.

In 1870 the total of 2807 consisted of 2196 native-born and 611 foreign-born. In 1880 the total of 5656 consisted of 3956 native-born and 1700 foreign-born. This was less than 22 per cent foreign-born in 1870 and just over 30 per cent in 1880.

Of the 3956 native-born in 1880, there were 2010 born in California, 221 in New York, 287 in Missouri, 103 in Massachusetts, 131 in Ohio, 139 in Illinois, 98 in Pennsylvania, 88 in Maine, 106 in Iowa, and 60 in Indiana. Of the 1700 foreign-born in 1880, 121 were born in British America, 93 in England and Wales, 265 in Ireland, 38 in Scotland, 177 in Germany, 59 in France, 27 in Sweden and Norway, 577 (given elsewhere as 575) in China, and 110 in Mexico. The Chinese were the most numerous foreigners, with Irish second and Germans third, and then British Americans and Mexicans. Of native-born, after California-born the largest number came from Missouri and the second largest from New York; and then in order came Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

The marked pioneer conditions which still prevailed in the county as late as 1880 are indicated by the fact that out of the 5656 total population 3790 were males and only 1866 females—a proportion of more than two males to one female. There were 649 males and 582 females between 5 and 17 years of age (school age), 2131 males from 18 to 44 inclusive (military age), and 2595 males 21 and over (voting age).

Data are not available for analysis of the foreign population of 1870, in full. Out of the 611 foreign-born in that census, the 186 Chinese were no doubt almost 100 per cent foreign-born. It is probable that the Irish, who had begun to come in the late sixties, equalled or exceeded the Chinese, and probably Mexicans were another of the three largest constituents of the 611. It would be interesting if we had the figures for the proportions of males to females in the census of 1870 and the earlier one of 1860. They do not seem to be available, but it seems certain that the males in those pioneer days would be found to outnumber the females in an even greater ratio than in 1880. Probably by 1880 the shortage of women was a good deal more marked among the foreign-born than among the native-born part of the population; many of the foreigners were quite new arrivals, and young single men seeking their fortunes doubtless largely predominated.

By 1890 some modern trends had begun to show themselves in the population of the Valley. Fresno County, which in 1880 had only 9478 population, had grown to 32,026, passing San Joaquin, which had grown from 24,349 to 28,629; Fresno City, with 10,818, had distanced its rivals south of Stockton, and was approaching the latter city's 14,424. Los Angeles had jumped from 11,183 to 50,395 and become the second city in the State. Merced County had 8085 population, and Merced City, now incorporated, had 2009. There were 5413 males and 2657 females in the county, still a full two to one, and 5658 native-born and 2427 foreign-born—just about 30 per cent

foreign-born, maintaining the same percentage as that shown ten years earlier. Whites numbered 7262; negroes, 47; Indians, 30. This accounts for 7339 out of the 8085. Query: Were the remaining 746 Chinese?

In 1900 the county had 9215 total population, an increase, as has already been pointed out, of only about 14 per cent over 1890. Of this total 5644 were males and 3571 females. There were 7020 native-born and 2195 foreign-born. There were 8780 whites, 31 negroes, 4 Indians, 357 Chinese and 43 Japanese. Of the native-born there were 3941 males and 3079 females; and of the foreign-born, 1703 males and 492 females, indicating the continuance of a condition which has already been suggested about 1890—namely, that most of the pioneering condition of a great preponderance of males over females applied to the foreign-born part of the population.

Of the 2185 foreign-born included in the 1900 census, Italy furnished 385; China, 335; Portugal, 287; Germany, 223; Ireland, 196; England, 108; Denmark, 102; Mexico, 93; Canada, 91 (81 English and 10 French); France, 81; Switzerland, 56; Japan, 43; Atlantic Islands, 38; Sweden, 32; Spain, 18; Holland, 15; Scotland, 13; Norway, 15; Austria, 8; South America, 7; Wales, 7; Australia, 6; Russia, 5; Hungary, 4; Pacific Islands, 3; and other countries, 24. The most significant features of this analysis, in the light of later growth, are the considerable numbers of Italians and Portuguese, and the beginning of the coming of the Japanese.

The 1910 census shows 15,148 people in the county, an increase of 5933, or 64 per cent, over 1900, as compared with a growth of only 1130, or 14 per cent, for the decade from 1890 to 1900. Of this total, 3102 are given as urban and 12,046 as rural, the urban being the population of the City of Merced. The census returns give the area of the county as 1995 square miles, probably a previous figure, and somewhat in excess of the present area, and on this basis gives the density of population as 7.6 per square mile for the county as a whole and 6 per square mile for the rural part.

The City of Merced, as stated, had 3102. Of its neighboring cities in the Valley, Fresno was now the largest, with 24,892; then Stockton, 23,253; Bakersfield, 12,727; Hanford, 4,829; Visalia, 4,550; Modesto, 4,034; Madera, 2,404; Los Banos, 745.

By judicial townships, there were 568 people in Township Number One, 5503 in Number Two (including Merced City's 3102), 1869 in Number Three (including Los Banos's 745), 669 in Number Four, 2838 in Number Five; 2366 in Number Six, 1335 in Number Seven, these last four townships consisting of the country in and around Le Grand, Livingston, Gustine, and Dos Palos, respectively. Of the total, 14,697 were whites; 75, negroes; and 376, Indians,

Chinese, Japanese and all others; and of the negroes, 50 were black and 25 were mulattoes.

Of the foreign-born whites, Italy contributed the largest number of any one country, with 1101; Portugal, 593; and the Atlantic Islands, 301; Mexico, 355; Sweden, 311; Germany, 258; Denmark, 176; Switzerland, 167; Ireland, 165; England, 153; Canada, 127, of whom 8 were French; France, 94; Greece, 82; Spain 38; Norway, 33; Scotland, 31; Austria, 12; Russia, 11; Finland, 4; Turkey, 4; Australia, 2; Hungary, 1; other foreign countries, 45. This gives a total of 4054 foreign-born besides the 376 Indians, Chinese, and Japanese (mostly foreign-born of course). Including these 376, however, the percentage is a little below the 30 per cent which we found earlier.

By the 1920 census the county had a total population of 24,579. Of these, 14,298 were males and 10,281 females, considerably lessening the preponderance of males over females previously observed. There were 17,515 native-born whites, of whom 9510 were males and 8005 females; 6441 foreign-born whites, of whom 4366 were males and 2075 females; and 48 negroes, 34 males and 14 females. There were 7 Indians, 135 Chinese, and 420 Japanese. The Chinese had decreased from 357 in 1900 and 278 in 1910, and the Japanese had increased from 43 in 1900 and 98 in 1910. The total population consisted of 71.3 per cent native-born whites, 26.2 per cent foreign-born whites, and 0.2 per cent negroes. These percentages agree very closely with 10,633 native whites and 4064 foreign-born whites in 1910, giving 70.2 per cent native whites and 26.8 per cent foreign-born white. The percentage of negroes in 1910 was 0.5 per cent.

Of the foreign-born included in the population of 1920, the Portuguese led with 2010; Italians were second, with 1301; Mexicans third, with 658; Swedes fourth, with 422. There were 258 from the Atlantic Islands, 254 Germans, 214 Canadians other than French and 9 Canadian French, 185 English, 164 Danes, 152 Irish, 149 Swiss, 115 French, 89 Greeks, 79 from Spain, 69 from Scotland, 59 from Norway, 32 from Russia, 31 from Austria, 26 from Finland, 20 from Syria, 19 from South America, 18 from the Netherlands, 16 from Hungary, 16 from Jugo-Slavia, 12 from Wales, 11 Czecho-Slovakia, 10 from Australia, 8 from Poland, 6 from Belgium, 4 from the Pacific Islands, 2 from Armenia; and 24 from all other countries.

By judicial townships the population was as follows: Number One, 885; Number Two, including Merced, 6796; Number Three, including Los Banos, 3487; Number Four, 1065; Number Five, 5804; Number Six, including Gustine, 2769; Number 7, 1639; Number Eight, 2134. The population of Merced was 3974; that of

Los Banos, 1276; that of Gustine, 716. These three were the only incorporated cities; Atwater and Livingston have since been incorporated. Only the population of Merced is classed as urban; the rest is classed as rural—under a rule, we believe, which classifies the population of towns of 6500 or over as urban.

The population of the county, in its various elements and its changes, offers an interesting study. The names on the latest great register differ a good deal from those on the 1857 assessment roll. There is now a great variety; the names then were almost English, with the exception of a few Mexican or Spanish names. The Indians, never numerous, are practically gone. The Chinese have dwindled to a small remnant of their former numbers. The Japanese, who showed such an increase from 1910 to 1920, are probably less numerous now than they were in 1920, by reason of the increased stringency of the anti-alien land law. At Merced Falls and in Merced there has been an increase of negroes since 1920. Of the larger elements of the population, it remains to be seen whether the restrictions upon immigration recently adopted by the United States will check growth here. Taking the three largest groups, the people of Portuguese, Italian, and Swedish blood, we see that the county had 1101 Italians in 1910 and 1301 in 1920—no very rapid increase. It had 593 Portuguese in 1910 and 2010 in 1920; it is probable that there will be a check in immigration here that the county will feel. There were 311 people of Swedish birth in the county in 1910 and 422 in 1920. These figures fall a good deal short of representing all the people of Swedish blood in the county, mostly in the section around Hilmar and Irwin. It is probably a conservative estimate that there are 2000 people of Swedish blood, wholly or in part, in that section; the great majority of them, however, are native-born Americans, and many of them, in fact, are natives of Merced County. Another large element is the Mexicans, who increased from 355 in 1910 to 658 in 1920. While the Swedish, Portuguese, and Italian elements are very largely farmers, the Mexicans are very largely laborers. The number of foreign-born Germans decreased by 4 during the decade, and the number of foreign-born Irish decreased 13. The foreign-born Danes decreased 12. The foreign-born Swiss decreased, while English, Scotch, French, Russians and Greeks of foreign birth increased.

Prophecy is vain; still, now in the spring of 1925, half-way on the road to another census year, it is possible to guess with perhaps some basis, at what the population is likely to be by 1930—not as to its elements, but as to its numbers simply. It seems probably that there are 30,000 people in the county now. Such criteria as the assessor's records, the increase in the number of school children regis-

tered, and the like, so indicate. There are two large irrigation districts in process of development—the Merced, with nearly 200,000 acres, and the West Joaquin, with about 550,000, about half of it in this county—nearly half a million acres in all. We have seen how the county, after making a pause with only about 14 per cent of growth between 1890 and 1900, has during each of the succeeding decades grown 60 per cent or upward. It does not seem unreasonable to forecast that it will probably make substantially this percentage of increase during the present decade, and that by 1930 the population will be 40,000. If it does that, the county, while it will still be one of the smaller ones of the State in population, will have well up towards 100 times as many people as it had when it was organized in 1855, seventy years ago this spring.

CHAPTER XVIII

TRANSPORTATION

There is perhaps no one factor which enters into the history, especially the early history, of the county which sheds more light upon that history than the story of the transportation connected with it. The story of that most necessary handmaiden of the early production and consumption of the region is extremely picturesque; but more important than that, the story of where people were coming from and going to, and what they were bringing with them and taking back, is very illuminative of what manner of life they were living, very illuminative of the sum total of their history.

In no particular is it more necessary than in that of transportation, that we should resolutely put from us the history of the present if we are to understand that of the past. There are now half a dozen railroads coming into the county, paved highways and automobiles, telegraph and telephone lines, airplanes overhead—in short, all the complex fabric of modern transportation and communication. To understand the early transportation we must reconstruct in our minds a Merced County in which these things did not exist; indeed, a world in which most of them did not exist. We have seen how Harvey J. Ostrander and a companion walked here from San Luis Obispo; how J. L. Ivett walked here from San Francisco; how pioneers, men and women, came here across the plains in wagons drawn by ox teams, and took half a year in the journey. In this speed-crazed age, one of the hardest things for us to realize about the transportation of those earlier days, is the extremely slow speed at which they traveled. Only recently there was exhibited in Merced the moving picture based on Zane Grey's novel, "The Thundering Herd." It was about as false to realities as most movies are; and one of the respects in which it was most essentially false was, that the pioneers were represented as driving their teams and wagons at a furious gallop. Also, the villains robbed a four-horse team of its load of buffalo hides and carried them off, dragging them with a saddle horse, partly on the front wheels and axle of the wrecked wagon and partly on the ground. We shall not understand the transportation of those days unless we realize that they hauled heavy loads, that they went not only at a walk, but at a slow walk, making something like twelve or fifteen miles a day, and that they did not indulge in any gallops over the plains, for the excellent reason that one such piece of foolishness was pretty likely to damage stock and wagon both, and all the re-

pairing of such damage the travelers had to make with such scant means as they had at hand.

We have seen that the first comers to the county came, some of them, from the north, from Stockton or Sacramento or San Francisco, and some of them from the south by way of Los Angeles and Tejon, Visalia and Fort Miller. Also that their first objective was not this valley country at all, but the mining country of the hills—the Southern Mines. But though the immigrants came from both north and south, supplies came practically all from the north. Stockton was the point from which nearly all the freight was shipped; it came that far from San Francisco by water, and from Stockton it was hauled by wagon to the mines. The main artery of travel was not down in the valley where the railroad and the State highway now parallel each other, but along the edge of the foothills. This was so for two reasons: first, because it was to the hills that the freight was going; and second, because of the difficulty of crossing the tributary rivers which flow into the San Joaquin from the east, which difficulty would have been much greater down in the plains than it was at the edge of the foothills.

Very early there were ferries established across these tributaries along the edge of the foothills; we read in the biographical sketch of Judge James W. Robertson, for example, that he arrived on the Merced River near where Snelling was afterwards established in January, 1850, at the old California Ferry, where Young's Ferry afterwards was. Phillips' Upper Ferry was the point mentioned in the description of the line dividing Merced from Mariposa County when Merced was created in April, 1855. During the first year of the county's history we find in the minutes of the board of supervisors that there was quite a fight on between Phillips and Young with their ferries and Murray with his bridge, and that the board licensed them all three, charging them each \$250 or \$300 license a year, and putting each under bond at something like \$20,000. That indicates a good deal of traffic by that time. Going to indicate that a large portion of this traffic stopped between these points and Millerton, is the fact that the yearly license on Converse's Ferry across the San Joaquin at the latter point was but \$75, and the bond somewhere in proportion; the mines did not extend much south of Fort Miller.

These ferries and this bridge, like practically all the others which existed in those early days, were toll-ferries and toll-bridges. They were established by private individuals, under permission granted by the county or counties concerned; the county, as we have seen, put them under bonds and collected a license from them, and also the county prescribed the rates which they might charge. There were also toll-roads, established in like manner by private individuals or

companies for their own profit but under some county regulation. In the first year or two of Merced County's history we find numerous references in the minutes of the board of supervisors to A. Firebaugh and his toll-road across Pacheco Pass. Firebaugh and several associates, under permission from this county and Santa Clara, built the road across the range between the San Joaquin Valley and Gilroy, and there was a proviso in the franchise granted them that after a period of years the road should become public. Proprietary toll-roads were built in many places in the hills; places where the expenditure of more money than the county could afford to spend on some hill would produce a road enough better than the public one so that teamsters would pay the toll. One of the most interesting toll-roads locally was that which Washburn built from this side of Cold Springs into Yosemite, which was opened to travel in 1875, and which remained a toll-road until just a few years ago; many people since the coming of the automobile will remember paying toll on it. "Toll House" is a geographical name which occurs repeatedly in the foothills and commemorates the day of the toll-roads.

In Merced County, in the valley country, a road was created in the early days by the simple process of dedicating a more or less indefinite strip of country to the purposes of travel. The line was made definite upon the ground by traveling over it, but in case of washouts and ruts the travelers pioneered out a new route alongside the old one. There was plenty of land, and for the most part it was public land, and was used only for cattle range, except the comparatively small areas along the river and creek bottoms. As we have seen in the chapter on the No-Fence Law, the law prior to 1870 required the farmer to fence stock out instead of requiring the stockmen to fence their animals in, and accordingly the roads were for the most part not fenced. Roads were worked by the system of road overseers; and in the early minutes of the supervisors we find repeatedly where they appointed overseers, a dozen or more for the different districts into which roughly they divided the county, with each overseer given the men who lived in his district, each man being required to work out his road tax.

) The great artery of travel was the road from Stockton out to the edge of the foothills about Knight's Ferry and thence along the edge of the hills by way of La Grange, Merced Falls, the Union Post Office, Newton's Ferry across the Chowchilla, Converse's Ferry across the San Joaquin, Fort Miller, and so on to Visalia and Tejon and Los Angeles. But the bulk of travel stopped with the limit of the Southern Mines, for the most part north of the San Joaquin. The greater number of early roads in Merced County were for the purpose of connecting the settlements which were creeping out into the

flat country with this Stockton and Fort Miller road; the chief exception to this was the road running down the north side of the Merced from Merced Falls clear to Hill's Ferry at the mouth of the Merced. Somewhat later other roads connected Hill's Ferry with the country on west to the Coast Range. From San Jose across Pacheco Pass a stage road led to Visalia; the San Luis Ranch was a station on this road, and from the San Luis Ranch also we find pretty early a road to Stockton. A principal fact which we must never forget is that along the line of the Central Pacific and the main valley highway, where now the principal towns and the thickest settlements are located, there was in the early days no route of travel—for the two reasons already indicated, that it was to the hills and not to the valley that travel was bound, and that crossing, and travel between crossings too, was easiest up next to the hills. Along that line there may have been up and downs, but there was at least solid bottom, and freighting across the valley country would in the winter have made one continuous mire hole of the road clear from Stockton to Visalia. It was not until almost the end of the sixties, when grain-farming had come as far south as Stanislaus County, that travel began to leave the edge of the foothills for further out in the valley; in 1868 we read of the establishment by Congress of a new mail route from Stockton to Millerton by way of French Camp, Tuolumne City, Paradise, Empire City, "Hopetown," P. Y. Welch's store on Mariposa Creek, Appling's store on the Chowchilla, and so on to Millerton.

Along about 1870 the newspapers carry notices of intention to petition for three new roads which may be said to have constituted a road system for the East side: one from Montgomery's Ranch, the present Wolfsen place, down the north side of Bear Creek to Dover; a second from Sandy Mush northeastward, joining the road from Snelling to Mariposa Creek near Montgomery's Ranch; and the third from the vicinity of Fergus or the Franklin schoolhouse to McSwain's Ferry, leading from the first road to the country north of the Merced River. As indicating the unfixed locations of the roads up to this time, we cite the complaint which Steele makes about the people of Plainsburg, of how the farmers, who have recently settled on the grain lands, are changing the routes of the roads to suit their own convenience or whim, so that in many cases the bridges which the county had been at pains to build across some of the creeks were left without roads connecting with them.

The quantity of freight hauled between Stockton and the Southern Mines, and the country tributary to the mines, was immense. Large freighting businesses were built up. Among the men who were notable in this business were Alvin Fisher, C. H. Huffman, and Hughes &

Keyes. W. H. Hartley was also in this business before he settled on Bear Creek and went to wheat-raising. Fisher afterwards was one of the notable figures in the stage business to Yosemite, at first from Stockton, and then as the railroad was built southward, from Modesto, and then from Merced. A few miles out of Stockton on the Sacramento road, Fisher had his own stock ranch, where he raised the horses he used in his teaming business. C. H. Huffman, the old-timers will tell you, had the finest teams and hauled the largest loads on the road. These were only a few of the notable figures in the business. They were not only teamsters, but also commission merchants; they bought supplies for regular and occasional customers in the mining country and along the route from Stockton south, and delivered the purchases. E. M. Stoddard, before he came to Merced about the time that town was started, was in the teaming business out of Stockton, with a partner named Ladd. They had a warehouse on Hunter Street. After the railroad reached Bear Creek and Merced was built, Stoddard & Hubbard were commission merchants and teamsters for a number of years. Stoddard later absorbed the business.

This freighting and staging business employed hundreds of men and thousands of horses. Merced County farmers raised a lot of hay, for which the teaming business furnished a market; and Merced County stockmen raised a good many of the horses and mules, and there were a lot of both used. There were also, as we have seen in the case of Peter Fee, some oxen used. J. M. Montgomery and a lot of others raised oxen. The oxen, however, went pretty early, except in the logging in the lumber camps, where they were used up into the present century.

Everything, as we have seen, came out of Stockton. The best teams would haul about a ton to an animal. It was a pretty level haul from Stockton to Snelling's. The freight rate in the fifties was about \$30 a ton. They made, as we have said, about twelve or fifteen miles a day, and this made frequent stopping-places necessary. And they were there, every two or three or four miles, ranch houses usually, with the ranch sometimes the main thing, and sometimes the accomodation of travelers being the chief occupation of the owner, as the fates and his gifts willed it. Peter Fee kept travelers, as he tells us in his dairy; and he also tells us of a number of others, where he sometimes stayed when he was on one of his frequent teaming trips—Young at the ferry, Dingley up towards Knight's Ferry, with whom Fee 'swopt oxen,' the Dutch Ranch, and so on. John Loftus Ivett, on his ranch above Snelling, kept a house of entertainment for travelers and teamsters and a trading post also, where little local teamsters would haul in

wool and other local produce in small loads and Ivett would make up big loads to send out to Stockton.

Necessary adjuncts of these stopping-places were of course large stables and corrals; and they were in many cases adjuncts of hotels in the towns too, as we learn from the early hotel advertisements in the Snelling papers. Many men who had products to sell had also teams and wagons to deliver them with, as had Greeley with his sawmill and William Nelson & Son with their flour mill. Henry Nelson tells of hauling flour to pretty much all of the foothill towns from Sonora to Grub Gulch with their own team; and in the summer of 1872, after their mill had burned up and they had the team on their hands with nothing in their regular line to do, he came over to the new town of Merced and hauled wheat from the region about Planada and Tuttle to the new warehouse at Merced, with a Chinaman to help him load the sacks. He also went out and bought wheat along down the Merced, and some of the first wheat that was raised on the site of the town of Merced, and hauled some of it to the mill himself.

The railroad, the Central Pacific, the first one, came in 1872; and this did away with the freighting by team from Stockton. But there was a great deal of teaming for many years later, of course; the coming of the railroad simply moved the starting-point further south, first to Modesto, then to Merced, and so on down the line. Out of each of these towns went the traffic to the hills, and by and large it went by wagons. Even today the hills are but partially served by railroads. and the regions between the railroads were served by teams until these gave way to automobiles and trucks. The last of the freighters by team out of Merced was "Vic" Trabucco, who for twenty years or more has hauled the merchandise for the Trabucco store in Mariposa from Merced, and who only three or four years ago replaced his four-horse team with a truck. For purely local hauling, of grain and hay from the ranches to the railroad, the trucks have not yet wholly replaced the horse and mule teams, and the same is true of the harvesting; only five years ago a thirty-two-animal harvester was used on the land where the California Packing Corporation's four-thousand-acre orchard is now flourishing.

The Central Pacific, as we have seen, was completed in 1872. The West Side Railroad and the Oakdale Branch were built in 1890; the Valley Road, or Spreckels' Road, now the Santa Fe, was built in 1896; and the Yosemite Valley Railroad, in 1907; while the Tidewater Southern came into the Hilmar country in 1917. We have told the story of the Central Pacific in considerable detail, for it was significant of the change from cattle to grain, and that change marked a fundamental change in the character of the county, since it was a determining factor as to the direction its growth should take. Of none of the later

railroads can anything like this be said; they all added to the convenience and completeness of transportation, but no one or all of them could turn the county's course aside essentially from the lines in which it had been cast when the wheat men had once replaced the cattle men.

The freighting from Merced into Mariposa County continued then to be a big industry after the Central Pacific came. It was mostly freighting to the hills. The product there was chiefly gold; and neither it nor any of the lesser products had much bulk, except lumber and wood. Lumber shipped up the San Joaquin began pretty early to compete with lumber from the Sierra Nevadas, and after 1872 the outside lumber came in by rail. Hauling lumber from the mountains was difficult and expensive. This fact led to the construction of the Madera Flume in the early seventies, shortly after the railroad was completed; and in Steele's paper of that time we may read of the plan to build this means of conveying lumber from the mountains, and how it was to reach the railroad "at a point between Berenda and Borden"—from which we may infer that both these stations are older than Madera itself, which derives its very name from the timber for which it was the terminus on the railroad. Merced men were largely instrumental in the founding of Madera, prominent among those who took part in the flume enterprise being J. M. Montgomery and J. B. Cocanour—and they lost a lot of money in it, too, which is no criticism of the soundness of the project itself.

Into the hills, so long as the mines were active, there was much freight to go, all that fed and clothed and furnished the houses of the population there; and we have seen that that population was large enough so that Mariposa had an Assemblyman to herself, while Merced and Stanislaus shared one between them. And there was mining machinery, exceedingly heavy hauling—stamp mills, engines, boilers—you may find some of it up there today, rusting away in places where you marvel how they ever hauled it. Just for a sample, there was the famous old Hite Mine at Hite's Cove on the South Fork. John Hite had fifty stamps there in the seventies, and they say took out a million dollars. He built a road, a grade twisting down the side of a point for three miles, to get to it; the grade was so crooked and steep that old-timers will tell you of a valley teamster who took a contract to haul some stuff in there, and who went to the top of the hill and took one look and then departed and returned no more. There were mines around Mariposa, Hornitos, and Coulterville and along the river, and the sum total of heavy machinery that went in to them was appalling—and all by teams.

Just as Alvin Fisher, C. H. Huffman, and Hughes & Keyes had done out of Stockton, there were men who freighted out of Merced and acted as commission merchants and purchasing agents for numer-

ous companies, associations, and individuals up in the hills. Ladd & Stoddard had been in the business out of Stockton, and Stoddard & Hubbard were in it out of Merced. The business was later absorbed by E. M. Stoddard. Stoddard was purchasing agent for a number of years for John R. Hite, buying and hauling up to Hite's mine the flour, potatoes, and supplies in general that the mine needed. And he had a very valuable contract to do the hauling for the Chinese Six Companies, to many places in the mountains. At Mormon Bar there were thousands of Chinese to whom he hauled supplies. Every once in a while they would send out a load of human bones, being shipped some to China for burial.

For the first few years of Merced's existence the mountain freighting was the big thing. Then along about 1880 the mines began to be worked out, and the Chinese Exclusion Act put an end to the Chinese business. Meanwhile the passenger business was growing. The stages from Stockton to Mariposa had been operated from the beginning by the Alvin Fisher lines, and this continued until Fisher died and his business was sold out in 1874 in Merced. Fisher was a factor in the Yosemite business up to his death, and that was growing. Upon the sale in Merced in 1874, the interests of the Fisher estate were bought by a group of men headed by M. McClenathan, who had followed the livery and teaming business south with the railroad; A. J. Meany and C. S. Peck were among the group who were with McClenathan. They ran a stage by Coulterville for three or four years in Yosemite. Meanwhile, in 1875, Washburn Brothers (A. H. and John), had built a road into Yosemite from Clark's Station, now Wawona; and along about the end of the seventies they induced the railroad company to build the branch to Raymond and make that the jumping-off place for the Yosemite travel. McClenathan entered into an arrangement with the Washburns to haul to Wawona such traffic as got off at Merced, and the route by Coulterville was abandoned for a number of years. The passenger business continued to increase, and the freight business to decrease as the population of Mariposa County decreased.

McClenathan died in 1886, and E. M. and D. K. Stoddard bought his business in July of that year. McClenathan's stables were where the Hotel El Capitan stands today. Within a few weeks after the Stoddards had bought the property the stables burned down. They were rebuilt. E. M. and D. K. Stoddard continued the arrangement with the Washburns which McClenathan had made to carry passengers from Merced to Wawona. In 1896, when the Valley Railroad, the Santa Fe, was completed, they established a rival passenger business to the Central Pacific's, and Stoddard & Son made an arrangement with the new railroad to carry their passengers into Yosemite by way of Coulterville. They did about forty per cent of the business, against

about sixty per cent by the Central Pacific and the Washburns, by Wawona. The business by way of Coulterville and also that by way of Big Oak Flat had languished during the intervening years; the Southern Pacific routed the bulk of the travel by Berenda and Raymond and Wawona.

Then years after the Santa Fe came, the construction of the Yosemite Valley Railroad was begun. E. M. Stoddard then turned the business over to his son, and D. K. Stoddard moved his headquarters for a brief time to Merced Falls, and in the spring of 1907 on to the terminus of the new railroad at El Portal. Under a five-year contract he carried on the stage business from there into Yosemite until 1911, when the stage line was sold to the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company and they began in the spring of 1912 the use of automobiles, using part machines that year.

The best year in the history of horse-drawn stages into Yosemite was 1910, when about 16,000 passengers were carried into the Valley. The greatest day, however, occurred in the previous year, when, on June 6, 1909, they took 601 passengers from El Portal into the Valley in 68 stages, with 272 horses. It was a Knights of Columbus Excursion, a one-day run, worked up by J. B. Duffy, now general passenger agent of the Santa Fe west of Albuquerque; he was then an excursion agent for the Santa Fe. The 68 stages consisted of 48 regular ones belonging to this run, 4 with teams and drivers borrowed from the government, 12 borrowed from Wawona, and 4 borrowed from Coffman & Kenney. They had them all lined up, each with a big number on, and the passengers were assigned to their stages by number before the train arrived at El Portal. The saloons at El Portal were closed for the occasion, so that no driver might be late or befuddled; and the whole party was loaded in about twenty minutes and everybody was landed in Yosemite without mishap. On October 7 of this same year they took in President Taft and party, seven stages in all, including amongst other the President, Governor Gillette, United States Senator Flint, Congressmen Inglebright, Needham, and McKinley, Shaw, the President's secretary, and Butts, his body guard. Henry Hedges drove the stage "Loya," with a team of four browns, which carried the President and his immediate party. Following were six other stages with the rest of the party, including a lot of railroad and telephone men.

Among the stage drivers were Dowst, Grant, Snediger, George Powell, Jimmie Leonard, and Frank Tryer. They knew their business, and maintained schedules like a railroad. Mr. Stoddard relates that one summer, from April 1 to November 1, they carried the mail from Coulterville to Merced with such regularity that they nearly jarred the government of the United States. They left Coulterville at 5

A. M. and were due at the post office at Merced at 11:45. They proceeded to arrive at 11:45 with such exactness that the post office authorities back at Washington concluded that Postmaster Charles Harris was drawing on his imagination a little when he recorded the time of their arrival. He received instructions to report the exact time of arrival. Still the reports continued to go in "11:45." The honor of the stage drivers was touched. They made sure of arriving a little before that objectionable 11:45 and then waited just long enough so that their arrival was always just at that time. The Post Office Department sent an inspector out from Washington, and presently a second one. The record stands that for seven months the mail from Coulterville arrived each day at 11:45 a. m.

It must be realized that the coming of the railroads, even after there were four or five of them, still left a lot of hauling and that the roads were bad. They were bad until the day of the automobile had been a reality for several years. It is scarcely a dozen years ago now since the main Valley Highway of the State system was paved through the county alongside of the Central Pacific tracks. Since that time there has been another paved highway built across the county from north to south on the West Side, part of which was built under the million-and-a-quarter-dollar county-highway bond issue voted in November, 1918, and part of which is State-aid road. The State-aid road runs from the Pacheco Pass through Los Banos and by way of Santa Rita out to the Chowchilla Ranch, and thence into Madera County and out to the Valley Highway at Califa. Other portions of the county highway extend from the Chowchilla Ranch to within three miles of Merced, from Atwater to Winton, from Livingston to the American Vineyard, and after a two mile gap, from the new Milliken Bridge north through Irwin and Hilmar to connect with the Stanislaus County highway to Turlock, from Hopeton to above Snelling, and from the State-aid highway between Los Banos and Santa Rita to Dos Palos and Dos Palos Colony. About nine years ago the portion of the State Highway lateral in Mariposa County from Merced to Mariposa was constructed—an excellent mountain road, ultimately to be paved. Three or four years later the part of this lateral in Merced County, about fourteen miles, was built and paved. Within the last three years this road has been extended by the State Highway Commission from Mariposa on about fourteen miles to Briceburg on the Merced River, and for more than a year now has been extended on up the south side of the river by convict labor to connect with the federal road which already leads from El Portal into Yosemite. This will be completed for use in the summer of 1926, and there is a fund already in existence for paving it. The road beyond Mariposa is twenty-one feet wide in the cuts and twenty-four feet in the fills, and

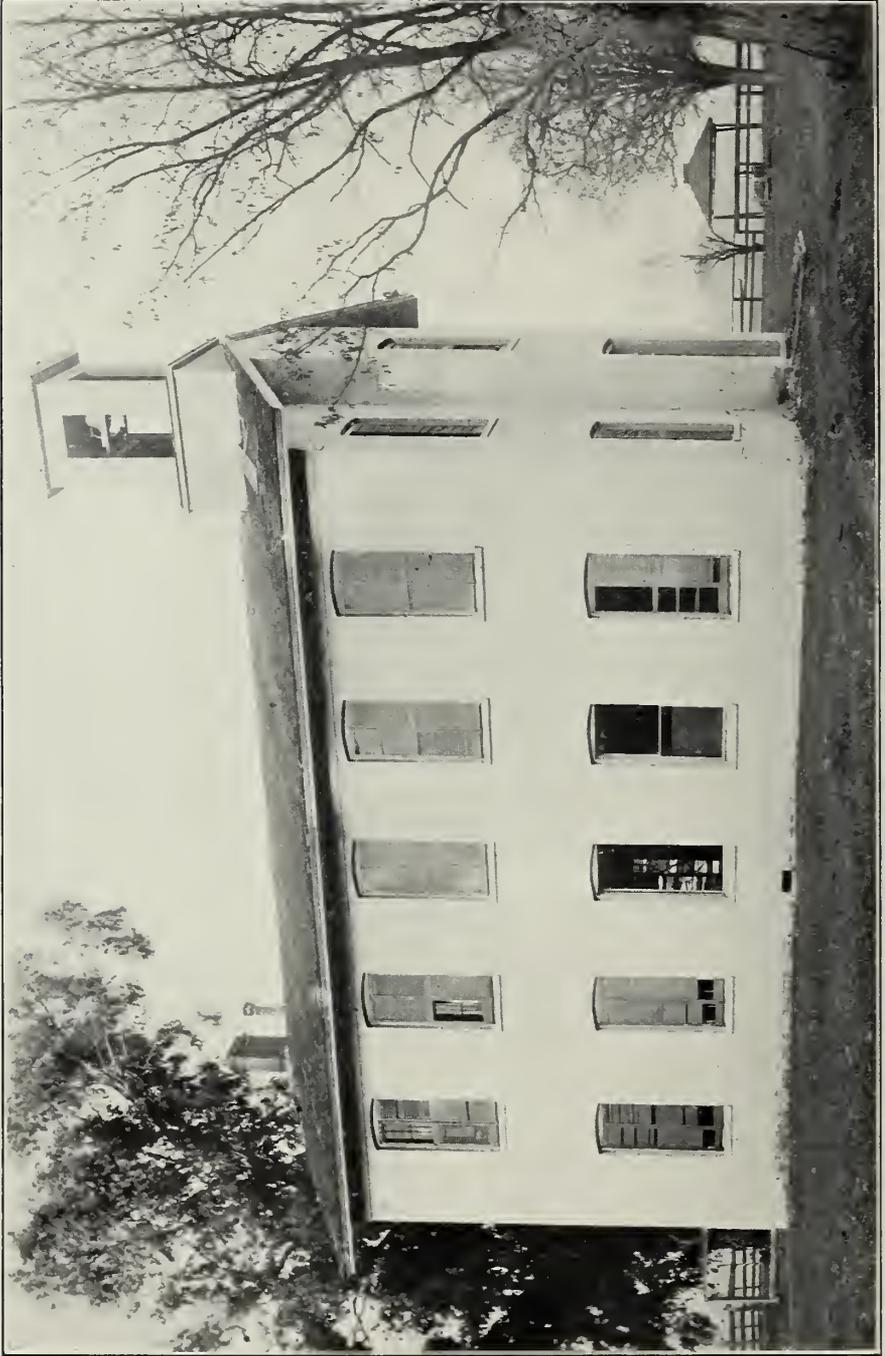
is well banked on the curves; its highest point in crossing the divide between Mariposa and the Merced River is only 2900 feet above the sea, and it will provide a year-around highway into Yosemite, open to automobile travel fifty-one years after the Washburn Brothers opened their road by way of Wawona. Meanwhile the State has graded the highway across the Pacheco Pass, and there is a paved road from San Juan to the ocean.

All of this marks the approaching fulfillment of a vision of a Yosemite-to-the-Sea Highway which such road boosters as John R. Graham, Richard Shaffer, Jr., H. B. Stoddard, Frank Barcroft, J. W. Haley, and a number of others have for a number of years been working for, and the fulfillment of a desire which we see cropping up in the columns of the papers of the county every now and then ever since the beginning of the wheat-farming days in the late sixties—a road across the river, connecting the East and the West Sides of the county, extended to a road connecting Yosemite with the Coast Highway and the towns on Monterey Bay.

Only the day before this is written, the county papers carried a story of how Los Banos has joined the newly formed County Chamber of Commerce, the last of the various towns of the county to do so, thus completing the roster. You can drive from the county seat to Los Banos now in an hour and a quarter and keep within the speed limit. It is quite a long time since Henry Miller kept a team ready for his service in each town, and J. W. Mitchell spent the greater part of his time driving about with a span of horses and a buckboard over his 110,000-acre ranch. The county reaches from the summit of the eastern Coast Range to the Sierra foothills, but there are probably not two per cent of the people in it who cannot drive from where they live to any other part of the county in less than three hours; and for the movement of freight, either supplies coming in or produce going out, while the roads are not perfect, they are so vastly better than they were twenty years ago, when there used to be from 500 to 1000 horses stabled every night in Merced, that the men who drove those horses would hardly recognize it as the same county.

|| One form of transportation which in one sense of the word did not affect the course of the county's growth materially, may be said in another sense to have affected it profoundly. This was the river steamer transportation, and the sense in which it affected the county's history was what may be called a negative sense. It affected the course the county's growth should take because it was such a failure as transportation. We have seen how Steele in the late sixties, when the new grain-raisers had begun to pour into the country south of the Merced and into the West Side country, indulged in a good deal of erroneous prophecy about the continued growth of Snelling, and

especially about the assured future and permanence and growth of Dover. The essential reason why his prophecy was erroneous was that the San Joaquin and the Merced ran too low for navigation, by about midsummer, particularly as it was not until about this low water stage that the grain began to be ready for shipment. It is said that steamers, some of the small free-lance freighters, a few times came up the Merced as far as Cox's Ferry, and we have assurance that the pictures of steamers in the pictures of the Stevinson and Turner ranches in the old 1881 history are founded on fact. On the San Joaquin the head of navigation seems to have been Sycamore Point, only a short distance below where the Central Pacific crosses the stream. The San Joaquin is still officially considered by the United States Government as a navigable stream, and the bridges are turn bridges below that point. Oldtimers in Merced tell of seeing the smoke of steamers from the county seat as they puffed up against the current. They frequently took cargoes of wool from Firebaugh and points lower down. It is interesting to speculate how different the history of Merced County and the whole San Joaquin Valley would have been if river navigation with heavy cargoes had been possible the year around. The two lines of railroad first built across the county from north to south may be regarded as admissions that river navigation had been tried and found wanting. If the river had been navigable, it would have proved a bond of union instead of a barrier between the West and the East Sides, the railroads would not probably have been built where they were, the towns would not have been built where they were— and other "ifs" could be added indefinitely; but enough of them have been suggested.))



THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING AT SNELLING

CHAPTER XIX

EDUCATION

The records that are left about the early schools in the county are pretty fragmentary. In February, 1856, the minutes of the board of supervisors show that William Nelson presented a petition that the county be divided into school districts. The board granted the petition and made the division easily enough. The county had already been divided into Judicial Townships One and Two, the former north and the latter south of a line drawn half-way between Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek from the Mariposa line to the San Joaquin, "and thence in a straight line to the Coast Range." Upon Mr. Nelson's petition the board now established three school districts by drawing one additional line. It ran from Scott's Ranch north to the Stanislaus boundary and south to the line between Townships One and Two. Township One was thus divided into two school districts and Township Two constituted a third. Over this little educational kingdom Mr. Nelson was forthwith appointed the first superintendent of common schools. The names and dates of the successive superintendents are given in the chapter on County Officers. These three first school districts were numbered instead of being named.

The early schools struggled along under very difficult circumstances. Seven years after the appointment of William Nelson as the first county superintendent, a report of R. Byron Huey, then superintendent, shows total funds for maintaining the schools of the entire county of less than would now pay the annual salary of one teacher. We quote parts of his report, which was dated January 10, 1863:

"It is certainly very desirable that our schools should be liberally sustained. . . . Merced County reports 267 children, which at ninety cents each, would entitle her to \$240.30. This distributed among the four districts, would be, Jefferson District, 134 children at ninety cents each, \$120.60; Pioneer, fifty-six, at ninety cents each, \$50.40; Jackson, forty-two, at ninety cents each, \$37.80; and Merced Falls, thirty-five, at ninety cents each, \$31.50. Total, \$240.30. There has been reported to the County Superintendent for school purposes up to December 8, 1862, the sum of \$813.67, derived from the revenues of the county set apart for that purpose. This gives to Jefferson School District the sum of \$414.51; Pioneer, \$162.73; Jackson, \$128.95; Merced Falls, \$107.46. These figures will be slightly in-

creased from a small amount yet to be apportioned. In the aggregate the county fund will probably reach \$1000."

The next month we find Huey making an appeal to the people for better support for the schools, in the form of a call for a meeting. The meeting was held June 4, 1863. It convened at the court house at 10 a. m., and since court was in session, adjourned to the school-house at Snelling. This, by the way, was the Jackson District. Merced Falls explains itself, Pioneer was over on Mariposa Creek where part of the old district still bears the same name, and Jefferson, we find towards the end of the sixties, embraced the country between the lower Merced and the San Joaquin from the range line between Ranges 10 and 11 westward (substantially). At this later date there had come to be three districts on the West Side; but here in 1863, judging from the large portion of the total number of children which Jefferson District had, it presumably embraced that portion of the West Side in Township One, and probably more territory further up the Merced.

Returning to the meeting at Snelling on June 4, 1863, it organized itself into the first County Teachers' Institute. R. B. Huey was president and C. S. Hatch was secretary (pro tem., at least), and among others present were J. M. Fowler, J. W. Longworth, and G. P. Lake.

In 1865 the four school districts showed census children as follows; Jackson, 52; Pioneer, 81; Jefferson, 214; Merced Falls, 41; total, 388. Since 1863, Jackson had gained 10, Pioneer, 25; Jefferson, 80; and Merced Falls, 6, a total gain of 121, or between 45 and 46 per cent, assuming that the basis of age was the same in both cases. E. T. Dixon reported the 1865 figures in a statement published in the 1881 history, and he says in this statement that the salary first paid the superintendent of schools was \$200 a year, without stating when this began, however.

We find Supt. T. O. Ellis, Sr., appointing a board of examiners in 1865 consisting of Judge J. W. Robertson, Rev. J. C. Pendergast, S. K. Spears, and J. C. Breen. This is said to have been the county's first board of examiners, and the board of education which met at the court house at Snelling on December 29 of the same year is also said to have been the first board of education of the county. These "first" statements are statements which are easy and tempting to make and hard to disprove—we have found, for example, three different "first" flour mills on the Merced River. Whether this was or was not the first board of education, it examined and granted certificates to three applicants: "Mr. Everett of Merced Falls, Mr. Monroe of Forlorn Hope, and Mr. Folwell, of the mouth of the Merced River." Note that all the teachers who have been mentioned so far are men. This item about the first board of education is evi-

dently from J. W. Robertson's Herald, which was the one paper in the county at that time. The item closes with the following: "The subject of common schools in our county is one of much interest, and one which has heretofore been comparatively neglected. We shall allude to the subject hereafter." At this period just after the Civil War the people of Merced County, like people everywhere else in the country, were beginning to resume normal activities which had been to a considerable extent suspended by the war. The quotation may be true; it is pretty clearly true so far as the statement that schools had been neglected is concerned.

In the issue of Steele's Herald for July 3, 1869, we find:

"School Census Returns.—Mr. J. C. Breen, census marshal of the Snelling [Jackson] School District, reports the following as the number of children in the district: Number of white children between five and fifteen . . . 86. . . . Boys, 47; girls, 39. . . . Under 5, 55. . . . Negro children, 13. Though this district has been recently divided, the report shows a large addition to the number of children entitled to school money as shown by the last annual report. None of the families of the children embraced in the report live more than two miles from the schoolhouse, and only three or four a greater distance than a mile and a half."

On December 4 of the same year is the following: "School Tax.—The Trustees of the Bear Creek School District give notice in another column of an election to raise a tax for the building of a schoolhouse, to come off on the 27th. . . . We hope the . . . citizens will vote the tax, and thereby add to their present facilities for educating their children."

On January 1, 1870: "School Bell.—We have been shown a subscription list containing the names of many of our citizens as contributors to a fund to purchase a bell for the schoolhouse. Of course the amount required will be raised, and in a short time we will hear the merry tones of the school bell as it calls the happy children of our prosperous little town each day to their studies."

We have run a few months ahead of the chronological order in the last two, for during the summer of 1869 there appeared items about the Jackson and the Merced Falls districts voting taxes to build schoolhouses. On July 10 we read that the contract for the new Jackson schoolhouse has been let to C. S. Peck and Jamison & Meany, and that it is to be "brick, thirty by forty-eight feet, and two stories high, of approved modern design."

On February 19, 1870, appeared the following instructive item:

"Increasing.—If one thing more than another will show the increase of population and prosperity of Merced County, it is the fact that, at nearly every session of the board of supervisors, new school

districts are created. Four new districts were set off at the February session, and the May term will create several more. If the season be not a disastrous one to farmers, Merced can be numbered among the most prosperous counties of the State, and there is nothing to hinder her from being so. The diversity of the soil and her salubrious climate are in her favor, and her citizens are not lacking in vitality and enterprise. Let the immigrants come; there is plenty of room and a hearty welcome for all."

In the summer of 1872 the *Argus* published for several successive issues a legal description of the boundaries of the eighteen school districts which the county then contained. It was more than a column of six-point type. Without copying it here, we may show the names and approximate locations of the districts. There was Anderson in the extreme northeastern part of the county. South of it was Merced Falls, on both sides of the Merced River and running clear over to Bear Creek, next to the Mariposa line. Below Merced Falls on the north side of the river were successively Snelling, Hopeton, Madison and Fairview, the latter running to the San Joaquin. On the West Side were Clay, reaching from about two miles north of Volta to the Stanislaus line, Monroe, and Los Banos. Mariposa District embraced the territory from Bear Creek to the Fresno line lying east of a north and south line drawn about through Planada. West of this, two miles and a half wide, and also reaching from Bear Creek to the Fresno line, was Plainsburg, and west of that again, reaching from the Chowchilla to a mile south of Childs Avenue, and about six miles wide east and west, was Pioneer. West of Pioneer, extending to the San Joaquin, was Lone Tree. Eden, Washington, and Jefferson came in succession from east to west, going down the Merced on its south side from Merced Falls to the San Joaquin; and straddling Bear Creek between the three just named and the southern tier of districts, extending from about the Bonner Fig Orchards on the east to as far west as the road which runs north from the old Hartley ranch house, and a township wide from north to south, was Bear Creek. Below that was McSwain.

With the definition of the district boundaries thus effected, which seems to have been necessary on account of the rapid settling up of the country with the wheat-growers and a new law providing for substantial State help to schools, the real pioneer stage of the county's schools may be said to have come to an end. It is interesting to note that along shortly before this time B. F. Fowler was the teacher in the Hopeton school. Miss Fanny Ward was the teacher in the Eden school, and the *Argus* publishes several different months the roll of honor of her pupils. In the new Bear Creek school, the schoolhouse of which was located about six miles up the creek from where Merced was afterwards to be, just south of the creek and to the left on the

road which now leads north from Tuttle, Miss Felicia Hemans Gould was the teacher before the school was moved to Merced, and likewise afterwards. Miss Gould afterwards became the wife of H. W. French and the mother of C. M. French.

Reports now existing in the office of the county superintendent of schools go back only to the school year 1900-1901. In that year we find the number of school districts has increased to 43, with 56 teachers, 5 men and 51 women. The average number of pupils enrolled in the whole county, exclusive of high schools, was 1251; average daily attendance, 1171. There were only two schools with over 100 pupils; Merced's average number enrolled was 292; its average daily attendance, 278; Los Banos' figures were 131 and 126, respectively. The total enrollment for the grammar schools of the county was 1567, 826 boys and 741 girls. For 56 teachers in 43 schools the monthly bill for salaries was \$3912.50. The year's bill for teachers' salaries was \$32,194.75; the total expenditures, \$52,642.04; the total valuation of school property, \$77,720.

The year 1901-1902 showed 2381 children between 5 and 17, and a total enrollment of 1723. There were 50 districts and 64 teachers. The year's bill for teachers' salaries was \$38,941.10; and the total expenditures, \$54,360.63.

The following year showed the same number of schools and teachers; the enrollment was only 9 more, salaries totaled \$36,471.60, and total expenditures were \$57,808.28. The next two years are missing.

In 1905-1906 there were 56 districts keeping school and 76 teachers, 7 men and 69 women. The total enrollment was 2126; total teachers' salaries, \$43,393.14; total expenditures, \$60,613.83.

One teacher was added the next year; the enrollment increased 91; salaries totaled \$49,108.31, and total expenditures, \$63,887.69.

The number of teachers was two more the next year, and the total enrollment three less. They spent \$52,509.25 for salaries and a total of \$69,491.08.

In 1908-1909 there were 55 districts, 85 teachers, 7 men and 78 women, and an enrollment of 2357. Teachers' salaries for the year were \$55,467.40, and total expenditures, \$99,926.20. The valuation of school property had increased \$100,000 since eight years earlier and was \$177,275.

The next year there were three more teachers, 88 in all, 6 men and 82 women. The enrollment had increased to 2485. Teachers' salaries were \$59,773.65, and total expenditures, \$88,428.89.

In 1910-1911 there were 93 teachers in 56 districts, 8 men and 85 women; the enrollment was 2644; salaries were \$63,909; total expenditures, \$111,482.26; and valuation of school property, \$206,165.

The number of districts from this time on increased up to nearly or quite 70, but by reason of the uniting of districts in such cases as the Elim Union, Merquin Union, and Merced Union, was in 1923-1924 down again to 63.

In 1911-1912 there were 98 teachers, 8 men and 90 women. They received \$72,390 in salaries; the total expenditures were \$146,895.39; and the total valuation, \$247,714.19.

The next year, 1912-1913, the number of teachers had increased to 108, 11 men and 97 women. The total enrollment was 3063 against 2951 for the year previous. Salaries amounted to \$76,586.81; total expenditures, to \$127,143.58; total valuation, to \$266,683.

Eight teachers were added the next year; total, 116, 11 men and 105 women. Enrollment, 3289; salaries, \$84,734.67; total expenditures, \$151,236.42; total valuation, \$291,808.

In 1914-1915 two men and two women teachers were added, making the total 120. The enrollment was 3511; salaries were \$86,301.95; total expenditures, \$155,634.10; total valuation, \$313,370. In 1915-1916 there were 128 teachers, 14 men and 114 women; 3673, enrollment; \$94,995.34, salaries; \$145,701.59, total expenditures; \$326,658, total valuation.

The number of teachers was the same the next year, 13 men and 115 women. Enrollment, 3828; salaries, \$99,070.87; total expenditures, \$165,101.40; total valuation, \$403,851.

In 1917-1918 there were 136 teachers, 12 men and 124 women. Salaries passed the \$100,000 mark, \$103,850.81; total expenditures were \$234,312.89; total valuation was \$417,415.

In 1918-1919 there were 137 teachers, 8 men and 129 women. The enrollment, an emergency figure on account of the flu epidemic, was 4080. Salaries amounted to \$117,052.25; total expenditures, to \$167,792.48; and valuations reached \$426,305.

The year 1919-1920, closing the decade, shows 149 teachers, 11 men and 138 women, and an enrollment of 4429. Salaries amounted to \$145,021.20; total expenditures, to \$228,248.10. School property was valued at \$461,401.

There were 151 teachers in 1920-1921, 9 men and 142 women. We note the smaller number of men during the last few years, due of course to the war. Enrollment was 4935; salaries, \$188,609.12; total expenditures, \$332,656.11; valuation, \$507,572.

The next year there were 164 teachers, 10 men and 154 women. Enrollment was 5400; salaries, \$232,354.78; total expenditures, \$530,819.62; total valuation, \$785,981.

In 1922-1923 there were 182 teachers, 13 men and 169 women. The enrollment was 5656; salaries, \$253,110.79; total expenditures, \$452,249.59; total valuation, \$847,983.

In the last year completed, 1923-1924, there were 184 teachers, 12 men and 172 women. The enrollment was 5863; salaries were \$264,620.49; total expenditures, \$453,852.58; total valuation of school property, \$864,685.

There were two high schools in existence in 1900: the Merced County High School, organized in 1895, and the West Side Union High School at Los Banos, organized in 1897. In 1900-1901 the former had 5 teachers, 4 men and one woman; and there were 37 boys and 51 girls enrolled. The average daily attendance was 73, and the number of graduates, 13. Salaries cost \$6250, and total expenditures were \$8998.17. The West Side Union High School had two teachers, both men, with 13 boys and 10 girls enrolled and an average daily attendance of 20; and it graduated 9 students. Salaries cost \$2350, and total expenditures were \$9587.74, of which \$6875.94 was for building.

Two years later there were five teachers, four men and one woman, in the Merced County High School; and three teachers, two men and one woman, in the West Side High School.

In 1905-1906 the two high schools showed 137, average number enrolled; 130, average daily attendance. They employed respectively five and four teachers, and graduated respectively 19 and 5 students. For teachers' salaries they spent \$10,174.55; for total expenditures, \$14,512.42; and the total valuation of their property was \$44,950. These figures had not changed materially the next year.

The next year, 1907-1908, a third high school comes in, the Dos Palos Joint Union High School, joint with Fresno County. This year the high schools had an average daily attendance of 150, employed 12 teachers, and graduated 26 students.

In 1908-1909 the three high schools had a combined average daily attendance of 144, employed 14 teachers, and graduated 29 students. They spent for teachers' salaries \$15,713.05, their total expenditures were \$25,514.30, and the valuation of all their property was \$56,150.

Le Grand Union High School, established in 1909, comes in the next year's reports. The four schools employed 17 teachers, had a combined average daily attendance of 162, paid \$19,810 in salaries, and made total expenditures of \$29,542.39.

In 1910-1911 the four high schools employed 19 teachers, had a combined average daily attendance of 167, graduated 33 students, and spent \$23,618 in salaries and \$37,366.33 in total expenditures; and the combined valuation of their property was \$60,350.

Hilmar Colony Union High School, established in 1911, comes in the next year's report. The five high schools employed 22 teachers, had a combined average daily attendance of 195, graduated 25 stu-

dents, paid \$27,610 in salaries, and had property valued at a total of \$137,335.

The next year showed 25 teachers, 257 average daily attendance, 39 graduates, \$31,662.75 salaries, and \$151,713 total valuation.

In 1913-1914 the sixth high school, established in 1913 at Gustine, was added. The six schools employed in this year 31 teachers, had a combined average daily attendance of 301, graduated 44 students, paid \$40,477.75 in salaries and \$62,743.71 in total expenditures, and had property valued at \$162,025.

The figures the next year had grown to 34 teachers, 323 average daily attendance, 69 graduates, \$44,415 salaries, \$106,151.82 total expenditures, and \$212,444 valuation.

In 1915-1916 there were 38 teachers, an enrollment of 440 and an average daily attendance of 372, 52 graduates, \$46,308.75 salaries, \$76,222.04 total expenditures, and \$215,775 valuation.

The next year there were 40 teachers, 436 enrollment and 377 average daily attendance, 59 graduates, \$51,727.50 in salaries, \$95,199.94 total expenditures, and a valuation of \$217,600.

In 1917-1918 there were 39 teachers, an enrollment of 469 and an average daily attendance of 398,73 graduates, \$50,113.67 in salaries, \$85,196.16 total expenditures, and a property valuation of \$227,550.

The next year there were 40 teachers, 528 enrollment, 67 graduates, \$59,219.30 in salaries, \$115,604.73 total expenditures, and \$268,677 total valuation.

The year 1919-1920 showed 47 teachers, 560 enrollment, 71 graduates, \$64,197.05 salaries, \$210,137.35 total expenditures, and \$403,300 valuation.

There were 46 high school teachers employed in 1920-1921, an enrollment of 712, and 93 graduates. Salaries amounted to \$89,082.76, total expenditures to \$193,903, and valuations to \$480,115.

The next year there were 50 teachers, 839 enrollment, 91 graduates, \$101,804.86 in salaries, \$214,161.26 total expenditures, and \$464,378 valuation.

In 1922-1923 the six high schools employed 59 teachers, enrolled 933 students, and graduated 106. They paid \$124,432.35 in salaries and \$311,513.98 in total expenditures, and had property valued at \$661,914.

The next year they employed 70 teachers, enrolled 1030 students, paid \$149,267.05 in salaries and \$430,974.57 in total expenditures, and had property valued at \$722,761.

For the school year now drawing to a close, 1924-1925, there is an additional high school to be added, the new one at Livingston, which is just completing its first year; but it will be seen that the high

schools before this current year enrolled over 1000 and graduated over 100 students a year, and that the total number of teachers in the high schools is approaching 100, the total expenditures annually \$500,000, and the valuation of high school property \$1,000,000. This is the record of growth from two high schools, 7 teachers, 121 students, 22 graduates, \$8600 salaries, about \$18,000 total expenditures, and school property of only a few thousands of dollars' value in 1901.

Besides the grammar and high schools there are now four kindergartens in the county, at Merced, Los Banos, Dos Palos, and Livingston, besides evening classes which last year enrolled nearly 400 students. In round numbers, the schools of the county at the end of this year employ about 300 teachers to teach over 7000 pupils, pay over \$400,000 teachers' salaries annually, and over \$900,000 total expenditures, and have property valued at over \$1,500,000. It is a large growth since sixty-three years ago, when Superintendent Huey reported that there would be available \$1000 for the instruction of 267 children.

CHAPTER XX

NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper of Merced County was the Merced Banner, established by Robert J. Steele and his wife, Rowena Granice Steele, at Snelling, in the summer of 1862. The press and material were purchased from the Stanislaus Index, at Knight's Ferry, Stanislaus County; and as we have seen before, they were hauled from Knight's Ferry to Snelling by Peter Fee with his ox team. Mrs. Steele is presumably the author of the account in the 1881 Elliott & Moore history, and she says there that it was on the 25th of June when Fee arrived with the press and type. Fee's diary shows that this was an error and that it was on July 2 when he arrived. Mrs. Steele says the first issue came out on July 5. Mrs. Steele's two sons, Steele's stepsons, Harry and George Granice, Mrs. Steele tells us, were then aged respectively nine and twelve years; we shall find the family figuring in the newspaper history of the county for nearly thirty years. So far as we have been able to learn, there are no files, nor even copies, of the Banner now in existence.

In the 1881 history Mrs. Steele has this paragraph: "The Banner was a Democratic paper, but not disloyal. It was not Democratic enough for some. Things were getting so unpleasant that Mrs. Steele withdrew her name from the paper as editress; she still continued to write domestic stories and pleasant locals." We have seen that the editorials in Wigginton and Robertson's Herald after the war was over were what we should consider now very strong and partisan; just how strong and partisan those in the Banner were we have no samples to show us. At any rate a party of Union soldiers in February, 1864, came to Snelling and threw the press and type out of the window. Mrs. Steele styles them ruffians and naturally enough takes the stand that the Banner and its owners were made martyrs. An article entitled "History of Snelling" in the Argus of June 18, 1870, says this occurred on February 1. Mrs. Steele tells us that when the men came in she was busy preparing breakfast in a back room, and that she caught up her infant son and made her escape; this infant son was presumably Lee J. Steele, who was later to edit the Argus. According to Mrs. Steele's account the soldiers were twenty-eight in number, and stated that they were "a band of brothers on our own hook." She has the following foot-note: "It was afterwards ascertained that this ruthless set of fellows were a company of United States Cavalry, who had been sent from Benicia to Visalia under

Captain Starr, but had become so unruly that the Captain had sent a request to headquarters to have them exchanged for a company of Infantry, and they were on their way back to Benicia and had reached Hill's Ferry, when they proposed to cross over to Snelling and 'bust up the Banner office.' Captain Starr refused to accompany them, and being defenseless with twenty-eight armed men on a desert, he could not detain them. The excuse of the ruffians was that certain articles reflecting upon them as soldiers had appeared in the Banner, and they would have their revenge."

In J. W. Robertson's Herald of February 10, 1866, we get the following light upon the end of the Banner and upon its immediate successors: "Some of our exchanges are yet quoting news items from the Merced Banner, which has been dead two years.'—Colusa Sun. You are nearly right, Mr. Sun, as to the Banner. That sheet expired in June, 1864, after a lingering illness—brought on by some of Uncle Sam's soldiers. They 'pied' the concern in February, after which it never came fully to life again. It was succeeded by the Merced Democrat, edited by one Hall, who was sent to Alcatraz for 'treason'—and the Democrat succumbed. Then followed the Democratic Record, which lived till after the Presidential election. Now the Herald is on the boards, and is bound to live. We are neither afraid of the soldiers or Alcatraz, and as long as the Herald is as well supported as at present, neither Principalities nor Powers shall hold us down. So, gentlemen of the Press, if you see anything in our little sheet worth copying, why copy it—but be sure and give the Herald credit therefor."

In the Argus of June 18, 1870, in the article already referred to on the History of Snelling, we read that the Banner was "busted up" by the Union soldiers on February 1, 1864, and that it continued in a smaller form until June 18 of the same year. Then three issues of the Merced Democrat were published by "Wm. Pierce, alias Wm. Hall," who then went to Alcatraz. Then in September, 1864, F. C. Lawrence started the Democratic Record, which continued three months. Then follows the history of the Herald, which was established by J. W. Robertson and P. D. Wigginton on May 13, 1865. Wigginton severed his connection with the paper on September 30, 1865, and Robertson continued it; he had the aid of a man named Kennedy for a few weeks, after which he continued it alone until November 10, 1866, when W. G. Collier became associated with him until July 10, 1867. On May 11, 1867, the paper was enlarged to six columns. On October 12, 1867, Robertson sold out to L. W. Talbott, under whom the paper languished for thirteen weeks, and then expired; the editor's illness appears to have been the reason. Talbott had a man named Wickham associated with him in the enterprise.

Robert J. Steele revived the Herald on August 22, 1868, after an interval extending from January 11, when Talbott's last number appeared. Steele's last issue of the Herald appeared on August 14, 1869. He had apparently been operating under a contract with the former owners for this year. After skipping one week, he brought out the first issue of the San Joaquin Valley Argus on August 28, 1869.

The Argus continued to be the only paper in the county until after the new town of Merced had been established. Less than two months after the sale of lots in the new town, L. F. Beckwith established the Merced Tribune. We find in the Argus along shortly before this, when the rumor first circulated that someone was coming to Merced to start a paper, a rather scorching article from Steele's pen by way of welcome. And the Steele family had forestalled Beckwith's move, for on March 24, 1872, Harry H. Granice, Steele's stepson, established the Merced People, which was therefore the first paper in Merced. The Merced People ran for only fourteen issues; and then on June 22, 1872, Harry Granice, in a "Valedictory" editorial, bows himself off the newspaper stage—for the time being. He was to come back, about two years and a half later, in the most tragic incident in Merced County newspaper history.

Beckwith ran the Tribune for about a year and was succeeded by a young man named Edward Madden. Just about the time that Madden took over the Tribune, Steele, on April 5, 1873, moved the Argus office from Snelling over to Merced. We have seen that Steele, in 1869, when there was talk of establishing a paper in Plainsburg, made objections; also, as just mentioned above, that he scored the newcomer who was proposing to establish a paper in Merced. There is no use at this late day in trying to establish the blame for the bitter feeling which led to the tragedy of December 7, 1874. There are many scathing editorials in both the Argus and the Tribune during the time from April, 1873, to December, 1874—and it is evident that there must have been bitter hatred between Madden and the Steeles. Mrs. Steele, who was a tireless writer, had written a book and was going about the central portion of the State canvassing for orders for it. On December 5, 1874, Madden published in his Tribune a short paragraph about this which Harry Granice, Mrs. Steele's son, took to be an unforgivable insult to his mother; and on the following Monday, December 7, 1874, as Madden was walking with his friend Hamilton, the county auditor, on Front Street in front of where M. Zirker's store now is, Granice stepped out with a navy revolver and shot him dead, firing five or six shots into his body.

Feeling ran very high, and Sheriff Meany sent N. Breen and a man named Hathaway with the prisoner to the Half Way House, later known as the Six Mile House, on the road towards Snelling, to

get him away from a mob which gathered. The mob proceeded out toward the Half Way House; and as they approached, or news of their approach arrived, Granice escaped—it was disputed whether with the acquiescence of the officers. He made good his escape for the time being and is said to have been hidden for several days in a friend's home in Merced. He seems to have given himself up later. We read of the sheriff sending R. Shaffer to take him to the jail at Modesto for safe-keeping.

In the *Express* of March 20, 1875, we read that, in the case of the *People vs. Harry Granice* (indicted for murder), in the district court, no district attorney being present, the court appointed R. H. Ward to represent the people; that Ward was assisted by William L. Dudley of Stockton, special prosecutor, and that Jo. Hamilton and E. F. Littlepage represented the defendant; that a motion for a continuance was denied; and that upon motion and affidavit the case was transferred to Fresno County and set for trial on June 23. There was a slight further delay; but on July 7, 1875, Granice went to trial and on July 10 the trial was concluded and the jury found him guilty of murder in the first degree and fixed his punishment at life imprisonment, under a law then apparently from the press comments quit new. A book entitled "Hunted Down, or Five Days in the Fog," was written about Granice's escape at the Half Way House and the subsequent days; it has sometimes been attributed to Mrs. Steele, but a "card" signed by N. Breen and published in the *Express* during 1875 described it as "purporting to have been written by Harry H. Granice." The card was published by Mr. Breen to deny the truth of several statements in the book, he says, which reflected upon the sheriff and his deputies in their treatment of the prisoner. From the comments of the press at the time, the conviction seems to have been regarded as marking an end of the old pioneer idea that homicide was justifiable for rather numerous causes.

Granice did not serve any of the term, however. Because of some technical flaw in the indictment or proceedings, Judge Terry got him off. It appears that it was either because the indictment turned up missing or because it showed signs of having been altered.

The publication of the *Argus* was suspended for about three months, apparently, after the killing of Madden; we find it continuing again about March, 1875. The *Tribune* was published for six issues after Madden's death, December 12, 19, and 26, and January 2, 9, and 16, with Hood Alston as editor, and then the *Merced Express* continued without a break from where the *Tribune* left off. The *Express* was published at the start under a board of directors consisting of P. D. Wigginton, A. J. Meany, Patrick Carroll, E. M. Stoddard, and Samuel C. Bates. The fact that Stoddard was one Repub-

lican among four Democrats may perhaps be taken as another indication of the new order of things.

In April, 1875, Frank H. Farrar, who had been managing agent of the Express, became its editor and proprietor. On November 27 of the same year he sold a half interest to W. P. Stoneroad. In March, 1877, N. B. Stoneroad purchased Mr. Farrar's interest and the paper was published by W. P. and N. B. Stoneroad with J. W. Robertson as editor. On March 1, 1879, N. B. Stoneroad sold his interest to W. L. Howell. Howell and W. P. Stoneroad published the paper until January 28, 1882, and then W. P. Stoneroad retired. In July, 1882, Joseph A. Norvell became editor; and in March, 1884, he bought Howell out. Mr. Norvell published the paper until his death in December, 1909. Mrs. Norvell continued its publication until February, 1911, and then sold it to P. H. Griffin, the present proprietor.

The Argus continued until January, 1891, when it was succeeded by the Merced Sun. The paper carried on page 2, until January 25, 1890, the names of Robert J. Steele, Editor, and Mrs. R. G. Steele, Associate Editor; but on page 1 appeared the names Steele and Steele, Mrs. R. G. Steele, Lee R. Steele, from October 24, 1885, and for a time before that the name of Mrs. Rowena Granice Steele. Robert J. Steele appears to have been ill for several years prior to his death. He died on January 28, 1890. Following that the name of Mrs. Steele appears on both page 1 and page 2 until June 7, 1890. In that issue Lee R. Steele's name appears on page 2, and in the next issue on both page 1 and page 2, as editor and publisher.

On October 4, 1886, the Daily Argus was launched, with Lee R. Steele as editor. It was a small four-page five-column paper. No files seem to be extant, but by quotations in the weekly "From Monday's Daily"—or some other day's—it appears to have continued as long as the weekly.

During the summer of 1890 there was established in Merced a paper called the Journal, published by a group of leaders of the High License Party, led by John W. Breckenridge and James F. Peck. Both the Journal and the Argus were purchased by Charles D. Radcliffe and J. H. Rogers, and merged in the Merced Sun, the first issue of which appeared on January 19, 1891. Rogers sold out soon to Willard Beebe, and Radcliffe & Beebe continued to publish the paper until 1893, when Beebe sold out to Radcliffe and went to Los Banos and bought the Enterprise at that place. C. D. Radcliffe then ran the Sun alone until 1894, when his brother Corwin Radcliffe came to California and became a partner in the paper. C. D. Radcliffe died on May 26, 1919. After his death, about the beginning of 1920, Urban J. Hoult became a partner and Radcliffe & Hoult published the paper

until Hault's death on October 31, 1924. The publication was continued by Corwin Radcliffe until May 1, 1925.

On June 1, 1880, Charles and Thomas Harris established the Merced Star, a weekly which was published continuously under the firm name of Harris Brothers until April, 1921, although Thomas Harris died many years before this date and the paper was carried on by Charles Harris. In April, 1921, Walter H. Killam, who had purchased the paper, took it over and made it a daily, and continued the publication a little more than four years, to May 1, 1925. On that date, Ray and Hugh McClung, who had purchased both the Star and the Sun, issued the first number of the Merced Sun-Star, the present and now the only daily in the county seat, and indeed in the county.

Outside of the county seat there are now published the following weeklies: The Los Banos Enterprise, established in 1888, B. A. Wilson, proprietor; the Livingston Chronicle, now in its seventeenth volume, Elbert G. Adams, editor and proprietor; the Atwater Signal, Thomas D. Calkins, editor and proprietor (the issue of June 5, which is the date of this writing, is numbered Vol. XV, No. 51); the Gustine Standard, in its seventeenth volume, Miller & Woodruff, proprietors; the Dos Palos Star, in its twenty-ninth volume, Roy M. McKay, publisher; the Le Grand Advocate, in its nineteenth volume, C. L. Zimmerman, editor and publisher; the Hilmar Enterprise, Betty Wright, editor and publisher, in its seventh volume. In Stevinson, for a time a few years ago, was published the Stevinson Colonist, now discontinued. In Delhi, for the past two or three years, a small paper called the Delhi Record has been published.

CHAPTER XXI

IRRIGATION

The first irrigation from the Merced River was along the river bottom, where a number of small ditches were early constructed and water rights obtained. Several of these ditches are shown on the surveys of the township plats, which for that region were surveyed for the most part from 1852 to 1854. Peter Fee, in his diary covering the years 1858 to 1862 inclusive, refers more than once to working on the ditch, and under date of February 6, 1862, records that a man named James Morton was shot by Erastus Kelsey, in a quarrel over a ditch apparently, and speaks of Kelsey's "trial" the following day—doubtless meaning his examination before a magistrate. Henry Nelson and Mrs. Mary J. Little both mentioned this episode. Mrs. Little stated expressly that no blame attached to Kelsey; and nothing more appears to have been done about the matter. It would be more than useless now to attempt to go into the merits of the quarrel. Fee records the bare facts of the shooting and the "trial," and as Morton appears to have been working for Fee (though this is but an inference), it is reasonable to expect that Fee would do him at least justice. The examining magistrate appears to have concluded that Kelsey acted in self-defense.

These early ditches for the irrigation of the river-bottom lands have had a very important effect upon the use of those lands, but have scarcely affected any broader extent of the county, beyond leaving a little less water for the non-river-bottom lands. They and their water rights still exist, and have had to be taken into account in all subsequent appropriations of water from the river, but beyond that we may dismiss them from further review. The extent of the water claimed for them was given some publicity at the time, about ten years ago, when an attempt was made to form an irrigation district to take over the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company's system and water rights. This statement, which may be taken as substantially correct, was that the average flow of the river is approximately 1665 cubic feet of water a second, and that of this the old Ruddle mill, or Lee Hamlin mill, was entitled to the first forty second-feet, and of the next 300 second-feet the river-bottom ditches were entitled to 75 per cent and the Crocker-Huffman Company to the remaining 25 per cent. The Crocker-Huffman Company claimed the remainder of the river's flow. These quantities are again being gone into in the trial of the case of the Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Company et al.

vs. the Merced Irrigation District et al., the trial of which ran for some ten days during April of this year and was then continued until June. Something less than one-sixth of the river's average flow is therefore the maximum which these ditches together with the Hamlin mill claimed, and this would be subject to be scaled down somewhat, as the river falls below the 300 or 340 second-feet of flow after midsummer.

The Merced River naturally was the source of supply which attracted all early as well as later irrigators or would-be irrigators of the East Side, with the exception of those near enough to the San Joaquin to draw on its waters. The first move on a large scale to divert the waters of the Merced was in fact made by men whose main design was to take the water clear to the San Joaquin, and whose main place of proposed use was close down to that stream. The moving spirit in this enterprise was William G. Collier, who was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, July 17, 1827. Like so many Kentuckians among the Western pioneers of that time, he came to Missouri and lived there for a time, and made it the jumping-off place for California. He came to California in 1853 and to Merced County in 1859. He was an educated man; was a student for three years at the University of Missouri, and was trained as a surveyor. For a number of years during the sixties he was county surveyor of Merced County. On March 30, 1870, together with William P. Sproul and Stephen Baltzley, Collier incorporated the Robla Canal Company, with a total capital stock of \$25,000, consisting of 250 shares of a par value of \$100 a share. The corporation's principal place of business is designated in the articles of incorporation as Collier's Ranch. Collier was president and manager, and also engineer.

In organizing this corporation, Collier was putting into effect a dream which he had had for a number of years, for irrigation on a large scale. He had first located in Merced County on the north side of the Merced River somewhere about across from the Stevinson Ranch; but to obtain better water facilities he had soon abandoned his location there and moved to the south side, where he came to own about 3000 acres of land, not all, however, at the one place. Almost from his first location on the Merced he had turned over in his mind plans for irrigation on a large scale, and the Robla Canal Company was the fruition of these dreams. The corporation planned to construct a canal from substantially the diversion point of the main canal now owned by the Merced Irrigation District, out across the lands south of the river until it struck the north branch of Bear Creek, thence down that branch to the main stream of Bear Creek and down that to "the Roblas and the Lone Willow," and thence in a northwesterly direction to the vicinity of the junction of the Merced

with the San Joaquin. Members of Mr. Collier's family, who were familiar with how this project originated, believe that in it he promoted and organized the first irrigation system of a sufficient size and extent to be fairly entitled to be called a "system" in the State of California, and that as a consequence he is entitled to be called the father of irrigation in the State.

In the Merced River at the point of diversion was a dam belonging to three men named Blunt, Yeiser, and Perrings. Deeds from Thomas Blunt and James Perrings to the Robla Canal Company conveying respectively three-eighths and one-eighth of this dam, with its water right, appear of record in May, 1873. The grantors conveyed rights of way for the canal across their lands; they stipulated that the corporation was to keep the dam in repair, and it appears that each one-eighth was to have one foot of water under a four-inch pressure as part of the consideration. There was also a nominal money consideration; Blunt, for his three-eighths, got a dollar in money besides the other considerations mentioned. One at least of these instruments, besides being signed by the grantor, is signed also by William G. Collier, President of the Robla Canal Company, on the grantee's behalf.

What the size of the Robla Canal was to be does not appear from the articles of incorporation. Several miles, apparently six or seven, appear to have been constructed under Collier's direction, and a tunnel on this stretch was regarded as an innovation in engineering.

On May 20, 1873, the Farmers' Canal Company was incorporated; and in November, 1876, we find recorded a number of deeds from the Robla Canal Company to the Farmers' Canal Company. The latter, which attacked the problem on the larger scale which three years' increase in population in the country made possible, was formed by the following men, who subscribed the sums set opposite their several names, thus raising, in all, the sum of \$41,000 for the project: H. J. Ostrander, 50 shares, \$5000; W. W. Gray, 50 shares, \$5000; M. D. Atwater, 60 shares, \$6000; Thomas Upton, 60 shares, \$6000; William P. Fowler, 60 shares, \$6000; Wilson E. Elliott, 60 shares, \$6000; Norval Douglass, 30 shares, \$3000; R. H. Morrison, 15 shares, \$1500; H. B. Jolley, 20 shares, \$2000; Stephen Fitzgerald, 5 shares, \$500.

The purpose and object were declared in their articles of incorporation to be "the mutual benefit of its stockholders in agricultural pursuits, by appropriating 100,000 inches of water of the Merced River . . . for the purpose of irrigating the lands of the stockholders of this corporation and of others who may wish to purchase water of this corporation for irrigating purposes." and "to construct, use, and keep in repair, a canal commencing at a point on the left bank of

the Merced River, in said Merced County, near the line dividing township ranges fourteen and fifteen east of the Mount Diablo base and meridian, and between a certain dam on said river, known as the Blunt, Yeiser and Perrings Dam, and a certain oak tree standing on the left bank . . . above said dam; which said oak tree is about thirty inches in diameter at this time and is marked on the westerly side with the letters R. C. C. and B. T., being a bearing tree marking the head of the Robla Canal Company's canal. From thence running in a southerly direction to the highest bank attainable on or near the right bank of the San Joaquin River, as shall hereafter be determined and located by the engineer of this corporation; said canal to extend in its course across Bear Creek, Mariposa Creek, and the Chowchilla. Said canal to be of sufficient size to carry the said 100,000 inches of water." They then go on to claim for carrying water the channels of all the streams and their branches the canal shall cross, below the point of crossing to their mouths, and state that their purpose also includes the construction of branch canals.

It will be seen that this was an ambitious project. The 100,000 inches of water claimed, undoubtedly would mean that quantity daily, which would be equivalent to 2500 cubic feet per second, or about fifty per cent more than the average flow of the Merced. Nowhere nearly as much of a project was ever constructed as was here projected; but we must remember that this statement of the extent of the company's aims and of its claims of water was designed to be broad enough to cover any possible future growth, up to what the river could irrigate. The Elliott & Moore history of the county, of 1881, says the canal from its head to its terminus, following its sinuosities, was about fifty miles long. It did not go down towards the Chowchilla, however, or even apparently to Bear Creek, but came down the present course of the canal below the diversion point to Canal Creek and down to the Livingston country.

C. D. Martin, who came here in 1884 to work temporarily for C. H. Huffman on the work this company's successor, the Merced Canal Company, was doing, and who has been a resident of Merced ever since, says that the Farmers' Canal Company built a narrow canal about twenty feet wide and about seven miles long, down through the upper tunnel, which was ten feet wide, and they also built the Livingston Canal to about two miles north of Livingston and the Colony Branch to the vicinity of Atwater, to land northeast of Central Camp which was going to be colonized. This work, according to Mr. Martin's information, was done in 1879.

In 1882 C. H. Huffman organized the Merced Canal & Irrigation Company, and they bought out the Farmers' Canal Company. The new company began work in 1883. The first year's work was widen-

ing the first seven miles of canal and the tunnel. In 1884 they completed about five miles of the new canal, from the upper tunnel down to the Carmichael place. In 1885 they started the second tunnel. In 1886 practically all of the canal was completed to the reservoir, now known as Yosemite Lake, and part of the reservoir. In 1887 the reservoir was completed and a big celebration held. There were great expectations and a boom in Merced property.

Mr. Huffman bought the Farmers' Canal for about \$80,000, Mr. Martin thinks. Huffman had interested William H. Crocker of San Francisco in the project, and Crocker had financed it. Huffman had a lot of land; he was a big grain-raiser. He acquired more land, a lot of it out towards Cressey, and in other parts of the territory served by the canal system. Shortly after the completion of the system the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company was organized, with Huffman and Crocker the chief owners. Huffman put in his land and retained a little more than fifty per cent of the stock of the company. The year 1888 is familiar to all water-users under the Crocker-Huffman system, for the life of the corporation was fifty years and the water contracts were all drawn to run to 1938.

But we have run ahead of the construction work on the Merced Canal & Irrigation Company's works. Charles Barrett was first in charge of the construction work, and Mr. Martin, when he came here in 1884, as he intended temporarily, became assistant under Barrett. Martin was afterwards promoted to the charge of the job. They had about 400 mules, mostly on two-animal scrapers, and about 200 men at work for three years. Mr. Martin had over 200 men at work on the Rotterdam Colony when they were developing that.

Development and colonization followed the construction of the canal and reservoir. V. C. W. Hooper was about the first colonizer, Mr. Martin states. He colonized Yosemite Colony. About the same time A. N. Towne, a director of the Southern Pacific Company, subdivided Bear Creek Colony. The only improved land when Mr. Martin came here in 1884 was the Buhach Ranch, which raised the buhach plant, from which an insect powder was made, and also had a vineyard and made wine and brandy. C. H. Huffman, chief promoter of the Merced Canal & Irrigation Company, was a grain farmer. W. H. Hartley, one of the other directors of the concern, was another. Not all the grain-raisers, used as they were to dry farming, favored the project. This seems to have been among the reasons why the irrigation was never extended any further south than it was.

The Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company grew and lasted. It sold its land with a water clause in the contracts, the purchasers paying \$10 or \$20 an acre for the water right, and \$1 or \$2 an acre a year usually for the water service. There were a few contracts which

called for payments of only 62½ cents an acre a year, and perhaps half a dozen free. It was said during the negotiations which led up to the purchase of the Crocker-Huffman system by the Merced Irrigation District in 1921-1922, that the company made no money out of its dollar or two dollars a year an acre for delivering water. It was a time for trading talk, but it is probable that it did not make much from that directly. It had its land sales, and its \$10 or \$20 an acre in payments for the water rights; and it had the Bellevue Ranch, which enjoyed water from the system, including later water than the contracts obliged the company to deliver to the contract-holders.

At any rate, at the time when the irrigation district bought the system the Crocker-Huffman Company was serving approximately 50,000 acres with water. This was distributed over an area which included a lot of other land not under its water contracts, running from several miles south and east of Merced to Livingston, and from the edge of the foothills well out towards the San Joaquin from the State Highway and the Central Pacific Railroad.

The formation of the Merced Irrigation District did not result from the first efforts towards that end. There was an effort to form a district which began late in 1913 or early in 1914; by the spring of 1914 it was well under way. Horace G. Kelsey was chairman of the committee for the purpose; and Edward Stanton Ellis, then publishing the Livingston Chronicle and afterwards the Assemblyman from this district at the 1915 session of the State legislature, was secretary. The Crocker-Huffman Company was willing to sell out; it employed M. D. Wood, whose long acquaintance with the section and his high standing in the community commanded confidence, to promote the district project, and opened and maintained offices for several months in an effort to carry the plan through. In May, 1914, S. F. B. Morse, the local manager for the company, appeared before a gathering of some fifteen large landowners and real estate men interested in the project, and made an offer to the effect that if the people would within a year organize a district to include something like 253,000 acres, the Crocker-Huffman Company would construct storage facilities, extend its canals, and turn the completed project over to the district at a price amounting to \$32 an acre. The plan contemplated a period of years to pay this off, but that fact was not well understood by the people generally. There was a good deal of opposition, due to several causes—the natural unwillingness of men to change from the known to the unknown, the fear of too great a cost and of inability to pay the resulting heavy assessments, jealousy between the town of Merced and the surrounding country, and doubt as to whether the system thus offered would be adequate to supply the full need for late irrigation water for a large district.

The question of the duty of water thus brought into the light is, with reference to the streams running down from the Sierras, such a complicated and difficult one, that the facts will afford pretty good support for arguments on either side. This matter was one of the factors of the problem then, and again when the later and successful attempt to organize a district was made, and needs to be noticed here briefly.

The Merced River, pretty much like all the other tributaries of the San Joaquin from the east which rise in the high mountains, is subject to great variations of flow during the year, and to very material variations from year to year. Records of its flow have been kept for a considerable number of years, and the information in pretty reliable shape was available as early as this 1914 attempt on how much water, on an average, the river might be expected to carry. But there was room for a good deal of difference of opinion as to how much would be needed for a district such as proposed, and how much storage reservoir capacity would be required to meet that need. The average annual flow of the river amounts to about 1,100,000 acre-feet, but this is subject to variations as wide as from 400,000 in abnormally dry years to about 2,000,000 in abnormally wet ones. The records showed cases of several abnormally dry years coming in succession, and the question was thus presented of how much water the district would have to carry over in its reservoir or reservoirs to be safe for such periods as these.

In addition to this, the flow of the river within any one year, as has been said, varies greatly. The days of greatest flow will be found during December or January; the greatest day's flow recorded is about 55,000 cubic feet per second, about thirty times the stream's average flow, which occurred in January a number of years ago when the ground was well soaked with previous rains, and when a soft snow had fallen to low down on the foothills, and there then came a warm rain. The resulting run-off washed out the old power dam at Exchequer, which proved unable to withstand a flood that ran many feet deep over its crest. The months of greatest flow, however, come in May or June, when, owing to the rapidly melting snows in the mountains, the stream runs high every day until the bulk of the snow is melted, after which it falls very rapidly until there is scarcely any water at all for a system depending on the mere flow of the river without storage. The small prior rights for the Ruddle mill and the small ditches of the Merced River bottom set a somewhat earlier date for the last water that could be run in the canals, for a point was reached while there was still some water in the river when these prior rights took practically all of it. This point came as a general thing about July, and the remaining portion of the summer was without irri-

gation water for the farmers under the canal system. The much greater flow of the time of the melting snows, however, furnished a surplus of water which could be stored without depriving the irrigators of any water needed for their spring and early summer needs—which would only run to waste to the ocean unless it were stored. There was enough water there; the problem was simply to distribute it over the whole irrigation season instead of the first part of that season. With these several variations of the river, both from year to year and from month to month or day to day within a given year, to reckon with, it is no wonder that the problem was at least complicated enough to afford plenty of ammunition for argument in support of any view of the advisability of a district which the viewer chose to take.

At any rate, the attempt of 1914 came to naught. It remained for the Merced County Farm Bureau, then quite newly formed, to start the attempt which was at last carried through to the point where the 300-foot-high Exchequer Dam, to store about 300,000 acre-feet of water, is now in process of construction on the river about six miles above Merced Falls, and about thirty above Merced. The election which resulted in the actual formation of the Merced Irrigation District took place on November 25, 1919; but as much as two years before this, on November 10, 1917, we find the irrigation committee of the Merced County Farm Bureau, consisting of A. H. Poore, E. G. Adams, and Manuel Marshall, reporting in favor of the formation of an irrigation district "under the Maddux bill." A conference with Professor Frank Adams of the University of California resulted in a recommendation from him that the work to be attempted should be confined, for the time being at least, to the one project on the East Side, the Crocker-Huffman system. The first discussion had included the West Side as well. Professor Adams further recommended that as a method of proceeding a committee of three be appointed to confer with the State engineer and the College of Agriculture on the subject. Pursuant to this recommendation a committee consisting of Horace G. Kelsey, C. H. Edwards, and George T. Parr was appointed. By the December meeting, E. G. Adams reported to the directors that the matter had been submitted to and approved by every farm center in the county except Planada, which had not yet had an opportunity to consider it. In January, Adams reported that data were being gathered on the Crocker-Huffman system. He was appointed a committee of one to confer with the company to ask them their price for their system, including the so-called Dry Creek reservoir site, and to outline approximate boundaries. At the February meeting Mr. Kelsey reported the conclusion that tentative boundaries should include the existing system and 60,000 acres around it, approximately 100,000

acres east of it, and 10,000 acres on the north side—briefly, all land commanded by the reservoir site—leaving the acreage, however, to be determined by the sentiment of the owners.

The matter proceeded through the summer and fall of 1918, with conferences with the State engineer and federal engineers. On November 16, 1918, Adams recommended that the farm bureau accept the State engineer's report and proceed to form a district of approximately 175,000 acres, about ten per cent of which consisted of road and railroad rights of way. The scheme at that time was to exclude the Le Grand section. At this meeting George T. Parr reported that a finance committee would soon be appointed in the matter. The next month we find a report that the committee has been enlarged by the addition of (or, as it is put, a sub-committee has been formed to include) C. H. Edwards, F. E. Crowell, E. G. Adams, Ward Minturn, and H. E. Carmichael, of Livingston; H. G. Kelsey, of Merced Falls; George T. Parr, of Atwater; and John R. Graham and J. D. Wood, of Merced. Community committees were to be created to circulate petitions for the formation of the district. It was at this meeting, in the language of the minutes of the farm bureau, that "the project of the Farm Adviser called the Irrigation Project, covering this plan to form an irrigation district, was submitted and adopted." The farm adviser, the first man to hold that position in the new Merced County Farm Bureau, was J. F. Grass, Jr. Acting in strict accordance with the policy of the extension service, Grass did nothing, either before or after this, to thrust this project upon the farm bureau in the least degree; but he had formulated the project, and credit is due him for thus early doing some of the constructive work on it.

These activities had not gone this far without opposition. In the minutes of a meeting of the farm bureau directors on January 3, 1919, we find it recorded that four representatives of those opposed to the project were present and stated their objections to it, and that the directors voted to proceed and back up the project. At this time it was reported that about 300 signatures to the petition had been obtained.

At a meeting on February 15, Adams reported a change in the boundaries to conform more nearly to recommendations of the State engineer, and that new petitions would be circulated. He also reported that Walter D. Wagner had been appointed campaign manager and would soon start a wide publicity campaign. On December 13, 1919, we find a report by Adams that the district is now formed and the matter out of the hands of the farm bureau. As a matter of fact, it was practically out of their hands early in the year. The appointment of Wagner as campaign manager was not made until there had

been organized a strong campaign committee which no longer represented exclusively the farm bureau, although it was engaged in carrying on the work they had started. The financing of the campaign, for which George T. Parr had reported the previous November a finance committee would soon be formed, had drawn other forces into the matter. The Merced chamber of commerce contributed \$300 to a fund for the purpose. Individual citizens and business men made contributions. The campaign committee numbered some fifteen members; and C. M. Cross, of Merced, was chosen as its chairman. To him, more than to any other one man, from this time on until his defeat as director in February, 1923, is due the credit for carrying on the work. He gave of his time, his energy, his means—this much others did also—but more than all he gave of his splendid business ability and experience, and of his ability to stand firm under fire. He was the target for lies and vilification; but his hand guided the district through its critical days.

The opposition to the district held a mass-meeting at the city hall in Merced and formed an organization called the Merced Protection League, the name signifying their purpose to protect themselves and those who might become associated with them from what they believed would prove a too great burden of assessment. They opened offices and employed a publicity man, and took other steps to make their opposition to the project effective. There was a hotly waged campaign throughout the summer and fall of 1919, until the election for voting on the question of whether the district should be formed, and for electing officers for it in case it carried.

It is necessary to add here that the proposed boundaries of the district had been laid out definitely, and the district divided into five divisions, each to be represented by a director. At the election the project carried by something over 1900 votes for to something over 900 against. L. L. Burchell was elected director for Division One, around Le Grand; C. M. Cross, director of Division Two, including an easterly portion of the City of Merced and the country out towards Lingard; C. E. Kocher, director of Division Three, including the remainder of Merced and the McSwain, Robla, and Franklin neighborhoods; Mrs. Matie Root Langdon, director of Division Four, including the Atwater country; and L. D. Love, director of Division Five, including the Livingston country. L. A. Paine was elected collector; W. D. Snyder, assessor; and C. B. Harrell, treasurer. The board organized on December 8, 1919, by electing C. M. Cross chairman, and employed Walter D. Wagner, who had carried the campaign for the organization of the district to a successful termination, as manager.

The task which confronts the directors of any newly organized irrigation district is a heavy one. This one had several complica-

tions of its own thrown in for good measure. There was the strong and active and well-organized opposition. There was a system of irrigation canals ready constructed, it is true; but they belonged to the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, who were quite naturally inclined to get as good a price as they could for them. We may be sure that the efforts of the farm bureau's committee to get a price from them had not produced any tangible results; there was no one with authority to deal with them for their system until the district was organized. One of the problems which hung over the district board from the beginning was this one of the purchase of the Crocker-Huffman system.

Besides this, and in fact constituting the chief difficulty as soon as it came to be known that the reservoir site at Exchequer was the one to be worked on, there was the hard and unescapable physical fact that the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company had its tracks up the Merced River Canyon, within less than a hundred feet of the water, and the reservoir would necessitate the relocation of a long section of this railroad—something like seventeen miles, it eventually proved. Another problem which presented itself as soon as it became definitely known that the 300-foot-high dam at Exchequer was the one determined upon, was the disposition of the large quantity of hydro-electric power which would be developed, and for the sale of which a contract was afterward entered into with the San Joaquin Light & Power Corporation for twenty years, with an option on the part of the district to renew it for another twenty, at a price which under the contract was to be fixed by the Railroad Commission of California, and which was so fixed at four and one-half mills per kilowatt-hour.

The railroad and power problems, however, did not immediately present themselves. Surveys of a sketchy nature previously made had led to the general conclusion that what had come to be known as the Dry Creek reservoir site would be the one chosen. This had been the site contemplated when the attempt was made in 1914 to form a district, and was the one in most people's thoughts now. This site the Crocker-Huffman Company, when the 1914 plan was in contemplation, had taken pains to purchase at a price which was considerably higher than its value as range land, for they had been unable to keep their purpose secret and the owners had seized the opportunity to get a good price. The site consisted of some 20,000 acres forming the large shallow basin of Dry Creek, beginning just over the bluff some two or three miles north of Snelling. Any layman could see that dams could be built and water impounded in it—a lot of water. No one up to this time had been in a position or found it worth while to find out how good a site it was, what its drawbacks might be, beyond the obvious fact that it was not on the river, or what it would

cost, or to find out what other possible sites there might be and how they compared with this one.

The board of the new district was now in a position to find out these things with exactness for the first time, and they proceeded to do so. On February 3, 1920, they employed J. D. Galloway, of San Francisco, to make an engineering investigation and report on the best water supply for the district, and the cost of the necessary works to store and deliver it. Mr. Galloway put on a considerable force of engineers, surveyors, and draftsmen and made a very complete investigation and report. The report was filed with the board of directors on January 18, 1921, and consisted of about 500 typewritten pages, accompanied by maps, tables, and graphs.

Galloway's investigation of the Dry Creek reservoir site showed him that some of its defects were very serious. It would necessarily be shallow, and evaporation would be great. Investigations by Professor Andrew Lawson, geologist of the University of California, indicated that seepage would also be great. It would require a large and expensive diverting canal, some seven miles in length, to bring the water from the river; and when the water was there, it would be on the wrong side of the river, so that the plans necessarily would include another canal to run it back to the river at the present diverting dam and across as it was needed. The type of dam it called for was an earth dam, or rather one large and several smaller ones. The soil of the site consisted of only a few inches of earth upon a hard lone formation, and material would have to be scraped from a prohibitive distance. The low dam would afford no practicable hydroelectric power development possibilities. To cap all of these, the site was so low that when it had been drained as low as any canal delivering water across the river at the diverting dam could drain it, there would remain 80,000 acre-feet of water still in the reservoir—more than a quarter of the whole contemplated storage. And in addition to all of these things, or partly because of them, the cost was prohibitive, or so near so as to indicate that it was desirable to seek another site if possible.

With the idea of finding a site suitable for power development as well as storage, to reduce the total net cost by bringing the district back part of what it would have to expend, Galloway turned to the Merced River Canyon. Here he had a deep and narrow gorge, which would mean a high dam and a consequently high head of water. Moreover, he got away from the expensive canals for diverting the water several miles from the river and bringing it back across the river again; but he at once ran hard and fast against the fact that the Yosemite Valley Railroad occupied the canyon. He did not confine his investigations to Dry Creek and Exchequer alone. The Dry

Creek project included smaller reservoirs on Burns Creek and another small creek south of the river; and he also investigated possible sites further up the river, even as far up as Little Yosemite. Weighing all his facts, he recommended the Exchequer site. He estimated that the total cost of the project, with this reservoir, including building the dam and power house, relocating the Yosemite Valley Railroad, purchasing the Crocker system or paralleling it, and extending and enlarging it to carry water to the whole district, would be about \$14,500,000, and that from the sale of the power which could be developed the district should realize approximately \$500,000 a year, enough to capitalize something over \$8,000,000 of the total cost.

The board submitted Galloway's report to the State Bonding Commission as required under the law. The State engineer worked over his estimates. Henry Hawgood was employed by the district, at the request of the Bonding Commission and the State engineer, one of the commission's members, to make a special investigation and report on the matter of the relocation of the railroad. He made some reduction in Galloway's estimate of \$3,000,000 for this item. The result of the Bonding Commission's investigation of the matter was that they recommended that a bond issue of \$12,000,000 be what should be submitted to the people to vote on. The district put on a vigorous campaign for the bonds, and the \$12,000,000 were voted on November 22, 1921, just three days short of two years after the district had been carried at the first election. A majority was required; the vote was 2027 for and 1146 against.

Meanwhile, on May 20, 1921, after a good deal of negotiating back and forth, the district had entered into a contract with the Crocker-Huffman Company for the purchase of their system of \$2,250,000.

The job for which Galloway had been hired was finished. He had been paid \$25,000 a year. The board now advertised for an engineer to carry on the construction work, and on January 3, 1922, employed Rex C. Starr, who had recently completed the Kerckhoff power dam on the San Joaquin for the San Joaquin Light & Power Corporation, as chief engineer of the district at a salary of \$15,000 a year. On January 18, 1922, pursuant to the contract made the 20th of the preceding May, the district purchased the Crocker-Huffman system for \$2,250,000. This included the canals and laterals, the diverting dam on the river, the small Lake Yosemite Reservoir, and the company's water rights.

Starr set vigorously to work. There was the canal system to enlarge and to extend to a region which had suddenly grown from about 50,000 acres to about 173,000, including the entire Planada and Le Grand sections in the new part besides a lot of land elsewhere. There were the dam and power plant to be designed. There

was the railroad relocation survey to be made in final and detailed form, for both Galloway's and Hawgood's surveys had purposely been limited, as a matter of economy, to sufficient work to give such an idea as was needed for the purpose of the estimates. There were permits to be obtained from the federal power commission for the construction of the dam, by reason of the fact that some government land was to be flooded; and there was the approval of their engineers of the plans for the dam.

One change that had been made in Galloway's plans involved the canal to supply the Planada and Le Grand region. Galloway's plans contemplated that the water for these sections would not be run through the power plant at the foot of the dam, but would be diverted near the top of the dam and carried through a high line canal through a cut across a pass in the foothills and around at a height sufficient to command the whole eastern part of the district by gravity. During 1921 a committee from the Livingston section, which with the adoption of the Exchequer site for the reservoir had become hostile to the prosecution of the plans, appeared before the board of directors and asked that an engineer be employed to seek further with a view to finding out if some other reservoir site could not be found. This committee and those it represented had an idea that one might be found on Canal Creek in the vicinity of Amsterdam. Pursuant to their request the board employed E. C. Eaton, who had been an assistant of Galloway during the work of 1920. Eaton, as was to have been expected after the careful survey of the whole situation which Galloway had made, found no adequate new reservoir site, but he made a recommendation that the plans be so changed that the high line canal to the eastern part of the district would be eliminated, all of the water be run through the power plant, thus increasing the power developed, and the water for the Le Grand section be carried in the main canal to Lake Yosemite and thence through a canal as high as practicable, and that the portions of the land which could not be reached otherwise be supplied with water by boosting it by large pumping plants situated in the country back of Planada. This modification was adopted.

Starr did no construction work on the dam, power house, or railroad—what had come to be designated as the upper works. He did, however, carry the canal system practically to completion. This was a big job in itself; but this actual construction work, part of which was done under contract and part under the direction of the district's engineers, was perhaps the least trying part of Starr's job. There was a tremendous lot of work in the matter of plans for the dam and power house. There were numerous and difficult negotiations with the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company with reference to the relocation, both as to engineering features and as to the compensation which

the company was to receive from the district. The matter of the compensation was finally settled by a board of three arbitrators.

In February, 1923, W. D. Wagner resigned as manager of the district and E. V. Givens was elected director from Division Two in place of C. M. Cross. The opposition forces had waged a strong fight against Wagner, and among other things they had raised the cry of economy as to the \$500 a month salary he received. The board, after the election of Givens, consisted of L. L. Burchell from Division One, who had held from the beginning; Givens from Division Two; C. E. Kocher from Division Three, who had also served from the beginning; George S. Bloss, Jr., from Division Four, who had succeeded Mrs. Matie Root Langdon, resigned; and Dr. C. L. Garvin, the third director from Division Five at Livingston, L. D. Love having been succeeded by L. E. Danley there, and Danley having afterwards been recalled and Dr. Garvin elected in his place. The board determined, in response to the cry for economy, to dispense with a manager, and Starr assumed the duties of that office for the time being in addition to those of engineer. The office of secretary, which Wagner had held as well as that of manager, was filled by the appointment of H. P. Sargent.

Starr was young and vigorous, and was a worker of the "high pressure" type. On the Kerckhoff job he had suffered something in the nature of a nervous breakdown, and the fear of a repetition of this appears to have haunted him now. He carried on his heavy duties, however, took a part in the civic and social life of the community, and bucked the difficulties presented by the opposition. The strain proved too much, and on May 2, 1923, the community was inexpressibly shocked to learn that his body had been found in the shallow water of one of the large new canals back of Planada, dead of a shot self-inflicted while he had been temporarily deranged.

Meanwhile, on May 3, 1922, pursuant to a clause between the district and the San Joaquin Light & Power Corporation, at a hearing at the superior court room in Merced presided over by Commissioners Stanley Benedict and Chester Rowell, the Railroad Commission had fixed the rate which the company was to pay the district for the hydro-electric power at four and one-half mills per kilowatt-hour. While the construction of a dam of only partial height was under contemplation, later there was an agreement reached that this rate should in that case be slightly less; but with the full-height dam now being built, the rate as fixed by the commission stands, for a period of twenty years, with the option on the part of the district to renew it for twenty more. It may be said here that forty years is the period at which the last of the district bonds will be retired, the greater part of them maturing during the second twenty years after the creation

of the district, according to a schedule arranged to equalize the yearly burden of combined interest and sinking fund as nearly as practicable.

On May 14, 1923, the board appointed R. C. Starrett, who had been Starr's assistant, to be chief engineer, and on June 8 employed Thebo, Starr & Anderton, Starr's firm of construction engineers, as consulting engineers on the upper works. On July 10, 1923, the surveys of the railroad relocation having been theretofore completed in detail, and the arbitrators having finished their work, the district executed an agreement with the railroad company permitting the relocation to be made and prescribing the terms of settlement.

The board advertised for bids for the construction of the upper works, to be opened on August 3. When the bids were received, they were all considered too high, and the board rejected them all and ordered the work to proceed under the direction of Thebo, Starr & Anderton. Mr. Thebo and Mr. Anderton, the surviving members of the firm, were both personally on the job here. But there were objections raised to this. General Goethals, the builder of the Panama Canal, was here to look at the project, and there were people who wanted him to build the upper works. The matter so worked out that the board ordered only enough work done in the bottom of the river to clean it out to solid bottom and to pour concrete to a height such that the high water of the coming winter should not interrupt operations. This work was done along through the fall and early winter; the winter proved abnormally dry, so that there was no interruption from high water. With the completion of this start on the dam, Thebo and Anderton tendered their resignations; and on January 2, 1924, the board appointed R. V. Meikle chief engineer and A. J. Wiley consulting engineer for the district. They had worked in the corresponding capacities on the construction of the Don Pedro project, and their record there inspired confidence.

The difficulties peculiar to this job had by this time been disposed of one by one. The Crocker-Huffman Company's system had been bought; the contract had been made with the San Joaquin Light & Power Corporation for the sale of the power, and the price the district was to receive for it had been fixed; the railroad relocation survey had been completed; and the agreement had been reached with the railroad company as to the settlement between them and the district.

One other difficulty which has not been mentioned had been disposed of by the final definite selection of the Exchequer reservoir site. The Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, as has been said, had some years before the move for the present district had been started purchased something like 20,000 acres of low foothill range land constituting what came to be known as the Dry Creek reservoir site.

The price had been high—altogether too high for the value of the land as cattle range—something like \$700,000 in all, it is said. This had not been included in the purchase which the district had made from the company, for the Exchequer site had been chosen when that purchase was made. The company was naturally anxious to sell the Dry Creek site to the district. They did not quit without a struggle when J. D. Galloway recommended Exchequer; they employed engineers to make a showing to the board, if possible, in favor of Dry Creek. The engineer in charge was City Engineer O'Shaughnessy, of San Francisco. His report, agreeing with Galloway's preference for Exchequer, ended any overt attempt after that to sell Dry Creek to the district; but the Dry Creek site still served as a talking point to that phase of the opposition which centered upon the heavy expense of the railroad relocation at Exchequer.

Still another difficulty which for a considerable time threatened the peace at least, if not the further progress of the district, was what came to be known as the Crocker-Huffman Contract-Holders matter. When the district bought the Crocker-Huffman system, the company had outstanding, as has been said, contracts on something like 50,000 acres of land, to supply water until 1938, for which the holders had paid usually \$10 or \$20 an acre down, and under which they paid \$1 or \$2 an acre a year for the delivery of water through the canals. The question of what compensation these contract-holders were to receive for their rights proved one of the most troublesome which the district had to struggle with. There was no doubt in the minds of practically everybody in the district that these people had something of some material value, but the difficulty was to determine how much. The opposition seized upon the matter eagerly as a means of obstructing the progress of the work. On the other hand, there were a lot of the contract-holders who expressed a willingness to leave the settlement of the matter to the board of directors, and some even went so far as to offer to surrender their contract rights without any compensation. A so-called "Crocker-Huffman Contract-Holders' Association" was formed, and Attorney Edward F. Treadwell, of San Francisco, former chief counsel for Miller & Lux, was retained on a largely contingent basis. A suit was filed against the district. The matter was later worked out on the basis that the district agree to pay the contract-holders \$70,000 a year for seventeen years in settlement of their rights, leaving them of course, as was necessary, on the same basis as every other landowner in the district as to the payment of district assessments and rates. With this agreement the contract-holders' matter became quiescent, and has remained so ever since.

During some time preceding the employment of Engineers Meikle and Wiley, the question of the type of dam to be built at Exchequer

had presented a good deal of difficulty. The board at one time decided on a multiple-arch type, but the federal engineers vetoed this on the ground that no such dam of that type had ever been built of anywhere near any such height as 300 feet. The gravity-arch type, similar to that at Don Pedro, was finally adopted and approved.

When this was accomplished, there remained for the new engineers only one major difficulty besides the actual engineering and construction. It had been realized, since the summer of 1923 at least, that the estimate of \$12,000,000, and the bond issue voted on that estimate, were not going to be sufficient to complete the project. This was the first matter which the new engineers attacked. On February 1, 1924, they filed a report with the board recommending an additional bond issue of \$3,250,000, thus carrying the total now estimated slightly over Galloway's original estimate. A petition for the election was circulated and filed with the board on March 4, 1924, and the election was called for the 31st of the same month. It was partly a sign of a new harmony which had been attained after a great deal of discord, that the bonds carried by between nine and ten for to one against.

An additional incentive was the fact that the district was by this time too far committed for even those who had formerly opposed it to see any way to go except forward. About \$5,000,000 of the bonds had already been sold, \$3,120,000 in the first block and \$1,800,000 in the second, on which in all there had been received a premium of a little over \$100,000. The Crocker-Huffman system had been purchased for \$2,250,000. Approximately \$2,750,000 has now been expended on the lower works and about \$328,000 on drainage, most of which was spent before the election. The point had nearly been reached where the income from the power would carry the remaining amount estimated to be necessary, and the people at this election showed no doubt that most of them wished to complete the system.

The problem of the sale of the remaining \$9,010,000 of bonds was now the chief one before the board. After a good deal of negotiating with a number of bond houses, the bonds were sold on July 23, 1924, to a syndicate composed of about a dozen San Francisco and Los Angeles banks and bond houses, at a discount of four per cent below par; and the board let the contract for the railroad job to F. Rolandi of San Francisco, and the dam and power house to Bent Brothers of Los Angeles. The total cost of the railroad relocation, including engineering, rights of way, bridges, construction and everything else, estimated on the unit prices of the bid and with estimates for the bridges, is put at \$3,836,271.69; of the dam and reservoir, on the unit bids for the estimated quantities, \$3,878,120.59; and of the power plant, \$1,097,613.44. The total cost, as now estimated or actually known, is put at slightly over \$15,000,000.

The Merced Irrigation District Bond Syndicate, on September 20 and 21, 1924, sent a body of about 225 salesmen here. They inspected the completed Don Pedro Dam, as a basis for judging what the Exchequer Dam will look like when completed, and examined the Exchequer site and the work started there, and also traveled over the district and made an examination of the territory which constitutes the security for the bonds. The bonds were then put on the market at \$102.50, and a considerable portion of them has been sold. F. Rolandi now has several hundred men at work on the railroad job, and the schedule calls for the completion of the railroad and bridges before the end of 1925. Bent Brothers have several hundred more at work on the dam and power plant. By the spring of 1926, the work is expected to be completed, and the railroad is to be out of the way in time to permit the reservoir to be filled during the winter of 1925 and 1926. The summer of 1926 will see storage water in use in the district.

The board of directors of the district at present consist of T. H. Scandrett, formerly chairman of the board of supervisors, who has succeeded L. L. Burchell from Division One by appointment; E. V. Givens, from Division Two; C. E. Kocher, the only remaining member of the original board, and chairman since the election of Givens in C. M. Cross's place in February, 1923, from Division Three; George S. Bloss, Jr., from Division Four; and Dr. C. L. Garvin, from Division Five.

We have dealt at considerable length with the subject of irrigation from the Merced River. It would give an entirely wrong impression of the county if one were to conclude that other irrigation in the county had not been as extensive or more so than that from the Merced. Irrigation from the San Joaquin has been more extensive, in the county, than that from the Merced. However, the story of irrigation from the San Joaquin may fairly be said to lack the abundance of detail which there is in the story of irrigation from the Merced. It did not begin as early, although we have seen in the chapter on early days on the West Side that Henry Miller had completed his lower canal early in the seventies. Secondly, part of its story lies outside of the county. And thirdly, in no other irrigation undertaking touching the county has there been any struggle, involving a large number of Merced County people, to parallel the Merced Irrigation District story.

Along about the time that the Crocker-Huffman canal and its Lake Yosemite reservoir were completed, towards the end of the eighties, all the other large tracts which are irrigated even to this day may fairly be said to have been also begun, at least, to be brought under irrigation. The Wright Irrigation Law had been passed; and on May 28, 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District was organized, one of the

pioneer irrigation districts. It had years of costly litigation ahead of it, with consequent grievous delays in getting water to the land, but it was organized. A glance at the map will show that a very large part of that portion of Merced County between the Merced River and the Stanislaus line and between the San Joaquin River and the Santa Fe is covered by the canals of this district. The greater part of the district of course lies in Stanislaus County. Its headquarters are at Turlock in that county. But the whole of the intensive settlements of the Hilmar and Irwin, Riverside, and Delhi regions in Merced County are made possible by the waters which the Turlock Irrigation District brings from the Tuolumne. The story of the Turlock Irrigation District in detail belongs rather to Stanislaus than to Merced County, however, for while a very large acreage in Merced County partakes of its waters, the struggle for its establishment was broadly speaking a Stanislaus matter.

While the Turlock District was getting organized, and the Crocker-Huffman canal system was drawing towards completion, another large irrigation movement was under way on the East Side of Merced County. On November 30, 1886, James J. Stevinson filed on 300 cubic feet per second of the water of the San Joaquin River. His notices stated that he intended to construct a canal to convey this water to his "present residence on the Merced River. Said canal to begin at a point where the slough leaves the San Joaquin River, and thence in a northerly and northwesterly direction along the most feasible route to the terminus. Said canal to be not less than forty (40) feet wide on the bottom and not less than four (4) feet deep. Said water to be used for irrigation purposes." There is an affidavit of John W. Bost attached, that he posted a copy of the notice at the proposed head of the canal on the San Joaquin on November 27, 1886. On November 30 the notice was recorded at General Bost's request.

A year later two notices of much larger appropriations were posted, one on November 3, 1887, by J. J. Stevinson and John W. Bost, claiming 3,456,000 cubic inches under a pressure of four inches for irrigation, navigation and domestic and manufacturing purposes. It contemplated a canal sixty feet on the bottom, seventy-five feet on top, and seven feet deep. The proposed point of diversion was on the right or east bank of the San Joaquin about six miles below the bridge at Firebaugh. The third notice, dated November 17, 1887, and recorded on November 25, was by James J. Stevinson, John W. Bost, and John W. Mitchell. It was for the appropriation of 3,450,000 inches, under a pressure of four inches, for the same place of use and the same-sized canal as in the preceding notice. The point of diversion was on the north or right bank of the San Joaquin near the

head of a large slough and near and above the line dividing Ranges 16 and 17, Township 12 South, M. D. M., and in the County of Fresno.

It is interesting to consider these quantities of water as here specified. One cannot escape the conclusion that someone was confused by the various units. The first notice, with its 300 cubic feet per second, is obviously correct, but the addition in the notice that it is to be under a six-inch pressure shows that the person who drew the notice was more familiar with the miner's inch than with the unit he was here using. The second calls for a flow of 3,456,000 cubic inches under a pressure of four inches. If this was meant for miner's inches, it would, since one cubic foot per second is equal to forty miner's inches, be equal to 83,200 cubic feet per second, rather more water than the average flow of all the rivers of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys together. The third notice calls for 3,450,000 inches (it does not say cubic) under a four-inch pressure. Because of the extremely large number of inches called for, and the extremely large quantity of water it would mean if we take it to be miner's inches, and from the further fact that 3,456,000 cubic inches is exactly 2000 cubic feet, and considering further the size of canal designated, there is no practical doubt that the second and third notices meant cubic inches per second—as one of the notices says—in short, that the second and third notices called for exactly or approximately 2000 cubic feet per second.

In the Merced Express of November 12, 1887, we find the following very comprehensive summing up of the irrigation projects of the county, for which clearly we are indebted to the civic pride which led Editor J. A. Norvell to draw comparisons between Merced and Fresno Counties which were more or less odious to the latter:

“Merced County.—Whenever a rise comes in the Merced and San Joaquin rivers, Merced County will have with the present facilities an area of irrigated land equal to the actual area of the land under permanent irrigation in Fresno County. When the contemplated canal on the East Side of the San Joaquin, from Firebaugh's in Fresno County to the land of Judge C. H. Marks west of Livingston in Merced County, is completed, then the area of land will exceed any possible acreage of agricultural land that ever can be placed under permanent cultivation in either Fresno or Stanislaus counties. Under the direction of General Bost, the Mitchell and Stevenson (so it was spelled) canal is now about completed. This canal is intended to water about 45,000 acres of the deep rich soil near the course of the San Joaquin south of its junction with the Merced. This land is mostly owned by John Mitchell and Colonel Stevenson, and the canal has been completed quietly and expeditiously at their expense. The Merced River canal and reservoir east of Merced will water a very

large area of Merced plains in the vicinity of this town. The main canal of this enterprise is completed. The reservoir will be finished in a few weeks, and the fortunate owners of water rights from this source will be able to turn an unlimited supply of water out on their lands whenever the first storm in the Sierras sends a winter freshet down the Merced.

“The West Side Canal has been in successful operation for a number of years. This carries a large volume of water from the San Joaquin below Firebaugh’s clear through Merced County down to points in Stanislaus below Hill’s Ferry. Except at Badger Flat and Cottonwood, most of the land irrigated is owned by Miller & Lux. By the agency of this canal this firm has transformed a region originally affording only a scanty and uncertain pasture into the best grazing farm and most productive region in the State. The whole of the Merced River bottom is already watered by numerous canals that carry abundance of water at all stages of the river.

“General Bost is authority for the statement that the new East Side Canal will be commenced forthwith and completed within a year. He surprised the community by completing his last task before half the folks in town knew there was a canal building near Dover. We believe the Merced Express is warranted in stating that within one year from the date of this issue, Merced will have one-third more land under permanent irrigation than Fresno has now or ever can possibly supply with water for agricultural purposes.”

In the “Mitchell and Stevenson canal” which “is now about completed” we recognize the present East Side Canal & Irrigation Company’s canal, more commonly known as the East Side Canal or the Stevinson Canal. The “new East Side Canal,” the “contemplated canal on the East Side of the San Joaquin, from Firebaugh’s . . . to the land of Judge C. H. Marks,” on the contrary, was a project which was fated never to become a reality. What the reasons were which prevented the carrying out of this undertaking, which when Mr. Norvell wrote the editorial just quoted, in November, 1887, seems to have been regarded as something which would be carried out in the immediate future, we cannot inquire fully here. We know that there has been a long series of water lawsuits between the Miller & Lux interests on the one hand and the Stevinson interests on the other, regarding the waters of the San Joaquin River. Whether in these alone we find the reason why this “new East Side Canal,” larger and more ambitious than the one that was built, was to remain only a canal on paper, or whether other reasons (difficulties of financing, less favorable results than had been expected on some of the land from irrigation, or what not) were either wholly or in part responsi-

ble—these are interesting questions, but properly to write the history of them would require a book in itself; they can only be asked here.

The greatest irrigation project of all those which touch Merced County is one which is now in progress of being worked out, and which is accurately described by its name of San Joaquin River Water Storage District. The history leading up to this district includes the stories of the Stevinson canal, of the Miller & Lux canals (including several others besides the San Joaquin & Kings River Canal & Irrigation Company), and several which came in quite recent years and will be noticed later. In the chapter on Early Days on the West Side the construction of the first Miller & Lux canal has been noticed. The second, or so-called upper canal, was constructed shortly after the Crocker-Huffman canal, and shortly after the organization of the Turlock District and the work which we have just read of on the Stevinson canal by General Bost. It was about 1889 that the upper canal was completed, and with its completion there was somewhere about 200,000 acres under canal on the West Side of Merced County.

The San Joaquin, unlike the Merced, has a long course through the level valley lands, and thence arose many complications of water rights. The lawsuits between the Miller & Lux and Stevinson interests have already been mentioned, and they were by no means the only ones having the waters of the San Joaquin as their subject.

Contemporary with the organization of the Merced Irrigation District in 1919, the organization of the Madera Irrigation District was effected. They held their election a short time before Merced held hers. The proposed district was to embrace about 300,000 acres, and the plan involved the building of an immense storage reservoir at Friant, where the San Joaquin comes out of the hills into the plains. Their project called for a bond issue of \$28,000,000, in a country materially less developed than the Merced District territory. They carried the bond issue by the remarkable vote of 3100 for to 25 votes against. Miller & Lux had a lot of land in the district, and also of course had large water rights on the river. They brought suits against the district on the grounds that its assessments would amount to confiscation of the corporation's lands in the district, and that the taking of water which the district proposed would deprive them of their water rights.

Meanwhile a movement was on foot on the West Side of Merced County, carried on largely by the farm centers, to organize an irrigation district under the Wright Act to embrace about 208,000 acres, for the most part in this county, and to be called the West Joaquin Irrigation District.

Negotiations between Miller & Lux on the one side and the Madera and West Joaquin Districts on the other have resulted in the two districts being dropped, or rather merged with other land in the great San Joaquin River Water Storage District, to embrace about 540,000 acres in Madera, Fresno, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties, with a board of directors chosen in part by Miller & Lux and in part by the people. Included in the district also is the Stevinson land on the East Side of the river.

The act under which this great district is proceeding provides for appraisals of the properties of the various concerns and districts which are to be included, and for the submission of these estimates and appraisals to the State engineer and his acceptance or rejection of them within sixty days. The appraisals were completed during April of the present year. A summary of them is as follows:

Miller & Lux, Inc.:

Physical Properties:

Canals.....	\$ 820,900
Drains.....	701,900

Water Rights:

Grass Lands	4,628,000
Seepage Water	334,000

San Luis Canal Company:

Physical Properties: Canals.....	1,362,000
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Firebaugh System:

Canals and Pumping Plants.....	509,100
Water Rights	263,000

San Joaquin & Kings River Canal & Irrigation Company:

Canals.....	2,810,400
Water Rights.....	2,421,000

Chowchilla Farms, Inc.:

Blythe Canal: Physical Property, Water Right.....	172,750
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Chowchilla Canal:

Physical Property	153,500
Water Rights	289,600

East Side Canal & Irrigation Company:

Physical Property and Water Rights.....	404,300
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Gravelly Ford Canal: -

Inchoate Water Right.....	157,000
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Sullivan's Ditch.....	10,700
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Damage to Riparian Lands.....	1,027,000
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Total.....	\$16,065,150
Power Plant	2,000,000
Dam and Reservoir.....	6,450,000
Distribution System and Other Expenses.....	8,484,850

(This last figure secured by deducting other items from \$33,000,000. Detail to appear in final report.)

The report shows a total of 548,550 acres, of which 415,300 is intended to be included in the project for immediate work and 130,200 acres deferred. The total of 548,500 acres is made up of: Madera, 183,700; River, 46,800; Stevinson, 20,000; Slough, 11,900; Canal, including Central and West Side, 179,000; Firebaugh, 53,200; Ortigalita, 25,900; Santa Nella, 8400; Quinto, 5300; Outside Extension, 14,300. There is \$4,600,000 included for irrigation works in Madera, and nearly \$1,500,000 for other irrigation works, about half of which is for outside enlargements, and for drainage, the need of which was one of the main reasons which led the farm centers of the West Side to move to organize the West Side District; there is \$840,800 for the Central and West Side divisions, and \$104,800 for the Stevinson.

The directors of the big San Joaquin River Water Storage District are J. Leroy Nickel Sr., J. Leroy Nickel Jr., D. B. Harris, A. O. Robertson, W. E. Bunker, J. F. Clyne, Charles G. Murray, George Boles, and W. A. Sutherland.

The attorneys have worked out the priorities of the various water rights, a matter of no small difficulty. The engineers have worked out an estimate of the cost per acre to the various sections included in the district, as follows: For the present West Side irrigated territory, both old and new canal territory, about \$56.25 an acre; for the additional territory outside the canal, northern section, \$93.50; for the Quinto section, \$93.70; for the Stevinson district, \$63.75; for the Firebaugh district, \$86.00; for the Madera district, \$74.25.

Modifications in the above cost figures made before submission to the surveyor general call for a total cost of \$31,497,561.48, divided into two parts. In the first part are included property and water rights to be bought: Water rights, \$9,738,350; physical properties, \$5,911,100; miscellaneous properties, \$322,610.46. In the second part, for works to be built, are included: Irrigation works, \$6,215,310.31; drainage work, \$1,220,354.71; storage works, \$6,073,836; power works, \$2,016,000. Total for first part, \$15,972,060.46; second part, \$15,525,501.02. Total, \$31,497,561.48.

Within a day or two of the time when this is being written, comes a report that the surveyor general has disapproved the project as reported to him. How serious a set-back this may prove, it is impossible to say. It is the purpose of that portion of the storage district act which provides for this submission to the surveyor general, to have him pass upon the feasibility of the project from an engineering and a financial point of view. The fact that there is here a vast area of land which can benefit from irrigation, and the second fact

that there is in the San Joaquin River a large supply of water to irrigate it with, make it certain that a way will be worked out to apply the water to the land. After the long years of litigation which have marked the earlier history of the various conflicting claims to the water of the river, there is a great deal of hope for an amicable solution of the matter in the fact that the San Joaquin River Water Storage District has been formed; it is the first attempt of any magnitude to work out the problem as a whole. It may be said here that it is not proposed to attempt to do away with rights which have long existed. The priorities, as stated above, have been worked out, and the plan contemplates simply providing new storage water in addition to the old flow of the river water for which the various rights have attached, keeping the priorities alive and effective when the water has fallen each season to the flow of the river, or in case of seasons of unusually light rainfall, if such occur, when no water has been stored.

This is the up-to-the-minute news of irrigation in the county. By way of contrast, and bearing somewhat upon the question of claims to be the earliest irrigator, this quotation from the *Merced Express* of February 19, 1887, carries us back more than three-quarters of a century to what must have been one of the earliest, if not the very earliest, of irrigation projects for the county. The article does not show the source of Mr. Norvell's information upon a matter which was already something like ancient history when he wrote. We give it as it stands:

“Fremont's Farm.—Colonel Fremont formerly owned several leagues of land in the vicinity of Plainsburg. Believing the mining regions of Mariposa to be more valuable, he floated his grant up there. While the Pathfinder held forth on the plains, he had a canal surveyed from the Merced River to his agricultural domain. If Fremont had carried out his original ideas, all this part of the San Joaquin Valley would have been populous twenty years ago. The original Fremont tract is all under cultivation now, producing unfailing crops of the best grain shipped from Merced County.”

It is interesting to see how from even the beginning of the grain-farming days men were thinking and planning irrigation—Henry Miller on the West Side, and on the East Side such grain-farmers as C. H. Huffman and John W. Mitchell, and such engineers as William G. Collier and John W. Bost. The end of the grain-farming may be said to have been in sight from its very beginning; and now, while there is still some grain raised in the county, and a considerable number of grain-raisers can be named on both the East Side and the West, the industry is yielding more rapidly to intensive farming than the stock-raising which the grain, we are accustomed to say off-hand, so thoroughly displaced. It did not do away with it, though it did largely

displace it from the level lands, except for the Miller & Lux ranches, and sent it back to the beginning of the foothills and to the grass lands along the San Joaquin. The county today is a great cattle county, though it is no longer a great grain county. As of January 1, 1924, it was credited with 42,000 dairy cattle, 86,000 stock cattle, 72,000 sheep, and thirty odd thousand hogs. In number of dairy cattle it was exceeded among the counties of the State only by Stanislaus; in number of stock cattle, only by Kern. This very large cattle industry needs to be emphasized before we pass on to the newer intensive farming which flourishes, for the most part, in two broad belts lying adjacent to the railroads on the West and East Sides, and extending up and down the Merced.

Notable agricultural products of the county today include figs, grapes, peaches, apricots and a variety of other fruits, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cantaloupes, alfalfa, dairy products, cattle, sheep, and hogs, and their products, and barley still to a considerable extent. During the present spring some activity is being set afoot to encourage the raising of cotton in this county as well as others of the San Joaquin Valley. Along with the growth of intensive farming, the towns are growing. The county has a farm bureau with sixteen centers, and the Merced Chamber of Commerce has this spring been succeeded by the Merced County Chamber of Commerce. It is not inappropriate to mention these agencies here, for they have grown out of intensive settlement, and intensive settlement has followed and is following the development of irrigation.

CHAPTER XXII

TOWNS AND SUBDIVISIONS

The building of towns from a very early, and the establishment of subdivisions from a somewhat later period, have served to mark the course of the county's growth; and what is given here is intended as a use of towns and subdivisions as such landmarks rather than for the sake of the individual histories of the smaller units themselves.

The first group of towns may be said to have consisted of Snelling, Merced Falls, and Hopeton, the latter called Forlorn Hope in its earlier days, three little villages along the Merced River bottom.

By reason of the fact that Snelling was the county seat and had the newspaper, a good deal more has been preserved about it than about the other two. We know that John M. Montgomery, Col. Samuel Scott, and Dr. David Wallace Lewis established it in the spring or early summer of 1851, and that the start was a house of entertainment, at first a brush tent, but soon replaced by a more permanent structure. The Snelling family came in the fall of 1851 and bought the place and ran the hotel. The place continued to be called Snelling's Ranch for some years; it was "Snelling's Ranch" which won out in the election to choose a county seat in the fall of 1855, and the name Snelling's, with the apostrophe and "s," is still used by oldtimers. It was Charles V. Snelling who deeded to the county the site for the first court house and jail. As we should expect, Snelling led all other towns of the county in the matter of having a map filed. A blueprint copy in the recorder's office shows that the original map was filed in the office of the county clerk on November 24, 1856, and that there was a recording in the recorder's office at the request of Peter Sharer on September 23, 1869, in Book C of Deeds at page 590.

There is a map of the "Town of Hopeton," recorded at the request of E. Eagleson on April 2, 1870. This of course was long after the founding of the town under the name of Forlorn Hope. The early name suggests that it was bestowed by a miner who probably realized that he was too far from the hills; the streets shown on the map suggest somewhat one of the New England Congregation-founded villages. Broad Street paralleled the river, and crossing it were Campbell, Wesley, Salem, Center, and East. The early presence of Elder D. McSwain, of the Christian denomination, and the fact that in the early papers we read of the reproach of Snelling in that Forlorn Hope had two churches while she had none, indicate

that this was the nearest to a Congregation-founded town of any that Merced County had, unless it be Hilmar, sixty years later.

Merced Falls, like Forlorn Hope, could not cope with the county seat in the way of publicity. The county seat, with its newspapers and their civic pride, early laid claim to be the earliest settlement in the county and has pretty consistently stuck to its claim ever since—referring to the arrival of Montgomery and Scott in the fall of 1849 and not to the building of the brush tent in the spring of 1851. There is a strong probability, however, that there was something in way of settlement near Merced Falls earlier. We read of Judge Robertson arriving in January, 1850, at "the old California ferry," about where Young's Ferry afterwards was, and remaining there several months. The mines were well on their way by the fall of 1849, and it is very likely that there was some sort of settlement where the travel to them crossed the Merced; perhaps not yet a ferry, but even a ford would probably mean stopping-place enough so that some one would have settled there. There seems never to have been a map of Merced Falls recorded.

Following these three, and preceding the Central Pacific Railroad, came Dover and Plainsburg. There is a map of Dover recorded at the request of A. C. Hill, March 9, 1869. It is shown located on the northeast quarter of Section 26, Township 7 South, Range 10 East. It was on the east bank of the San Joaquin, a half mile or a little more below where John Dugain's house is today. There were Front, First, Second, and Third Streets, paralleling the river, and Olive, Vine, Hill, Pine, and Pike crossing them. The names of a few owners are given: Simpson & Scott, Simpson, Soper, and Wilkerson. There were sixteen blocks and an odd piece next to the river, probably where the boat-landing was; it was Simpson & Scott's. H. B. Jolley made the survey. The whole map was started off from a stone 150 feet from the river; and the title men will tell you that the location of this stone, and therefore the exact location of the whole town, is now uncertain. Joseph Heacox remembers that the hotel and stable there were moved up the river to Dickenson's Ferry, or Chester, as the post office was named, after Dovers short-lived glory had departed. It is doubtful if a careful search at the site of Dover now would reveal any trace beyond a few remaining marks of excavation.

Chester, we may remark here, owed its existence not to traffic which sought to follow the river, but to such as wanted to cross it. It was a point on the old road between the East and West Sides. Its name was obtained from a part of George Winchester Dickenson's middle name, and in its prime it boasted a hotel and stable, a post office, and the ferry.

We have read of the beginnings of Plainsburg in the late sixties, when the influx of grain-growers had begun. The place was formerly designated as Welch's Store; it was so designated on the new mail route established in 1868 from Stockton by way of the towns on the lower Tuolumne, where the grain-growing began a year or so earlier than in Merced County, and so on through "Hopetown" and Snelling, and by P. Y. Welch's store on Mariposa Creek and Appling's store on the Chowchilla, to Millerton. In the next year, 1869, Farley's hotel was established and the name Plainsburg was applied to the place, and there were soon two stores, two blacksmith shops, and other business establishments.

To employ an Irish bull the only map of Plainsburg there is of record is a map of Athlone. It was surveyed by James T. Stratton on April 16, 1873, and recorded on December 2, 1874, and apparently marks one of the steps in the unsuccessful attempt to move Plainsburg over to the Central Pacific shortly after the railroad was built. Jefferson Price recalls that his father bought a warehouse from one of the merchants in Plainsburg along about this time, and how the merchant wished he had it back when the expected move did not take place. And we find an item in the *Argus* also which prophesies that in six months Plainsburg will be all moved over to the railroad. Like some of the other prophesies of the *Argus* about other towns, this one proved inaccurate—signifying, not necessarily that Steele was such a bad prophet, but that he was prophesying in a pretty uncertain field.

The "Town of Plainsburg" shown on this map contains twelve blocks 300 by 400 feet, each containing 16 lots 50 by 150 feet like those in Merced, but with no alleys; and with 80-foot streets, also like Merced. There are four blocks west of the railroads and eight east of it; and on each side of the railroad there is a 220-foot reservation besides the 80-foot street.

The town of Merced was first formally opened with the sale of lots on February 8, 1872. The name "Merced" was first applied to the town in its present location on the railroad. There was, however, a small predecessor a mile or two down Bear Creek before the railroad came. Goldman's store was located there before it was moved to Merced. There was a blacksmith shop, and also a saloon. Steele records first learning about the embryo town in 1871, on a trip when he got several new subscribers there. It seems at that time to have had no more definite name than "Bear Creek," which designation was applied to the whole region up and down for several miles. It was absorbed by the new town on the railroad when that was established.

Merced was a railroad town, but the land on which it was built was not originally railroad land. The original patentees of the four

sections of land which the town occupies the greater part of were John M. Montgomery, Warner Oliver, Joseph F. Goodale, William P. Fowler, and Job Wheat. Montgomery was six years earlier than the next comer; he patented 240 acres lying along Bear Creek in 1862.

To outline the situation briefly, Merced occupies the greater part of four sections lying in a square two miles on a side. These are sections 24 and 25 in Township 7 South, Range 13 East; and directly east of them, Sections 19 and 30 in Township 7 South, Range 14 East. The town is laid out with its streets respectively parallel and at right angles to the Central Pacific tracks, and at such an angle to the section lines that the railroad and the streets parallel to it run $24^{\circ} 40'$ south of east as one goes towards Fresno, or slightly more than a quarter of a right angle. The section corner common to the four sections is located not far from the southwesterly corner of Lot 11 in Block 165; that is, about 100 feet east of O Street on the north side of Seventeenth. The north and south section line through the middle of our two-mile square passes from the road corner at the Catholic cemetery northward through this point, and about three-quarters of a mile further north crosses Bear Creek at approximately the Y. V. crossing on R Street. The east and west line from the central point going east cuts G Street about 100 feet south of Twenty-first Street, and going west strikes into the British Colony Road at the western edge of town.

Warner Oliver was the patentee of the two southerly sections, 25 and 30, of the south one-half of the northeast section, 19, and of the south one-fourth of the northwest section, 24. His patents were all dated 1868.

William P. Fowler patented the northeast quarter of Section 19 in 1868. The southwest corner of this quarter-section is roughly near James Ryan's residence at Twenty-sixth and L Streets and the quarter includes the part of the town east and north of that point, but lies for the greater part on the north side of Bear Creek.

The south half of the southwest quarter of this same Section 19, reaching a half-mile in length and a quarter in width, practically all on the south side of Bear Creek, approximately from the Huffman mansion to the Y. V. crossing, was patented by Job Wheat in 1872.

On west in Section 24, Joseph F. Goodale, Wheat's brother-in-law, had the eighty directly west of Wheat's, also the next eighty south, and also the west forty of the next eighty north. This last forty is for the most part north of Bear Creek. All of this, except his southeasterly forty acres, Goodale patented in 1872; the south-easterly forty he patented in 1868.

Montgomery had the forty upstream and the one downstream from Goodale's northerly forty, and also had the hundred and sixty

square directly west of Goodale's hundred and sixty square. Montgomery certainly, and Goodale presumably, had taken the land chiefly for the water-holes. Montgomery's land lay on both sides of Bear Creek from the Central Pacific, approximately up the Santa Fe; and from the Santa Fe crossing up to the Y. V., Goodale had the first quarter of a mile and Montgomery the second.

In 1868 Goodale deeded his southeast forty to Wheat; in May, 1871, Wheat deeded it back and also deeded Goodale his original eighty. In the same month, on the 26th, Warner Oliver and Deborah, his wife, deeded all their land to the Contract and Finance Company at a consideration of \$22,960. On June 6, 1871, W. P. Fowler and Fannie A., his wife, deeded the portion of the northeast quarter of 19 south of Bear Creek, about twenty acres, to Charles Henry Huffman; and on the same day Huffman took a deed from Goodale and Martha, his wife, to all their lands mentioned that lie south of Bear Creek, and also a forty north of the creek. Huffman bought this Goodale land for \$8350. On August 1, 1871, he conveyed all of it except the forty north of the creek to the Contract and Finance Company for \$7150. On January 17, 1872, J. M. Montgomery conveyed to the Contract and Finance Company his land in Section 24 lying south of Bear Creek. One dollar is the consideration mentioned. On August 4, 1873, Huffman conveyed to the Contract and Finance Company the twenty acres he had bought from Fowler. On October 26, 1875, the Contract and Finance Company conveyed to Charles Crocker all of the four sections "south of Bear Creek, 1525 acres, including the town site of the town of Merced, except the lots therein heretofore sold and conveyed by the party of the first part." The Contract and Finance Company was discontinued the following day, and on April 27, 1876, E. W. Hopkins, E. T. Miller, and Jas. O. B. Gunn, as trustees, and in accordance with the order of dissolution, executed a deed to Charles Crocker to convey the same lands as the last one, to correct errors in the latter.

The first map of Merced was the "official map of Town of Merced, Merced County, Cal., on line of San Joaquin Division, Central Pacific Railroad" recorded at the request of H. B. Underhill on February 10, 1872, in Book F of Deeds at page 400. It embraced only the part of the town from Twelfth to Twenty-third Streets and from H to R.

The next map was that one recorded in Volume X of Deeds at page 540 "at the request of Charles Crocker per C. H. Huffman," May 7, 1885. It was filed in the clerk's office the preceding December as shown by the endorsement: "Filed Dec. 22, 1884. J. H. Simonson, Clerk per A. Zirker, Dep. Clerk." It embraced the territory from Eleventh to Twenty-eighth Streets, and from G to R inclusive.

The next, embracing the same territory and entitled "Supplemental Map to Town of Merced," was recorded March 4, 1889, at the request of Wells Fargo & Company. This was just about the time of the calling of the election on the incorporation of Merced as a city of the sixth class.

A "Map of the City of Merced and Subdivisions of Adjoining Acreage Property, . . ." resurveyed in June, 1897, by L. D. Norton, and certified by the Pacific Improvement Company, H. E. Huntington, president, F. S. Douty, secretary, on December 10, 1897, was recorded on May 15, 1901. It includes all of the four sections south of Bear Creek except the triangle east of G Street and north of the Central Pacific.

The last map of Merced was the one recorded on August 23, 1912, in connection with a proceeding to perpetuate the testimony of M. D. Wood and others. It is accompanied by an affidavit by Mr. Wood to the effect that when he was county assessor, during the years 1886 to 1890, there was in the assessor's office a map known as the "Official Map of the City of Merced," and that this map is a true copy.

It was on March 6, 1889, that the board of supervisors, in response to a petition filed for the purpose, called the election to incorporate Merced as a city of the sixth class. The election was held on March 30, and the votes were canvassed on April 1. There were 300 votes for and 59 against. The first board of trustees, elected at the same election, consisted of M. D. Wood, E. T. Dixon, W. L. Silman, J. R. Jones, and W. H. Turner. H. L. Rapelje was elected city marshal; M. S. Huffman, city treasurer; and J. O. Blackburn, city clerk.

Livingston was evidently named for the African explorer. We find it spelled with the final "e" in the early mention, when it was a candidate for the county seat in the latter part of 1872. Its first name, however, was Cressey, bestowed for the large landowner and grain farmer of that well-known name, whose ranch was extensive enough so that his name was afterwards applied to the present Cressey on the Santa Fe. E. J. Olds built a hotel in the first Cressey in its earliest days. A man named W. J. Little was postmaster and owned some land there; and as he was not in favor of the name of another landowner for the town, he succeeded in having it changed to a name of his choosing, "Livingstone," from which the final "e" was soon dropped.

The map of the town of Livingston was recorded in Book Y of Deeds at page 121, on December 4, 1872; the date indicates that the surveying was in all probability a part of the campaign to make the town the county seat.

With this we come to the last of the towns which may be fairly classed as early towns. One exception, however, should be noted,

a place that has been mentioned in another chapter, and that never attained to the dignity of much more than a postoffice. This was the Union Postoffice, out on Mariposa Creek near the Mariposa county line, kept by P. B. Bennett in the early days of the travel on the Stockton and Fort Miller Road.

The oldest of what should perhaps be called the new towns is Atwater. The earliest map of Atwater was recorded on March 15, 1888, with the approval of Ella Stone Bloss, George S. Bloss, and the Merced Land & Fruit Company, by H. N. Rucker, president, endorsed upon it. It was filed at the request of J. F. McSwain & Company. The date of this map is significant; it was the year of the completion of the Lake Yosemite reservoir, the last step in the building of the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company's irrigation system, the fruition of the dreams of William G. Collier and his associates of the Robla Canal Company, and their successors of the Farmers' Canal Company, whose earlier work had been brought to completion by the ability and energy of C. H. Huffman, backed by the capital of Charles Crocker.

To return to Atwater, the town was laid out about 1888 by the Merced Land & Fruit Company. They held an auction in Merced and sold lots in the new town. The original town lay all south of the Central Pacific tracks, in the portion of the present town where the packing plants and canneries now are. Mr. George S. Bloss, Sr., arrived in 1884. At that time there were only three buildings where the town now stands. The chief of these was a grain warehouse; the others were a little station and a dwelling-house. There was a family living in the warehouse; Mr. Bloss moved into the dwelling-house. With the station or depot was combined a general store and a post office. This is said to have been the first building built in the town. It was owned and operated by John Giddings.

The site of Atwater was originally a part of the huge 117,000-acre ranch of J. W. Mitchell, which included all of the later Dallas, Bloss, and Crane Ranches. Grain-farming was of course the main business of the whole region. Wheat was raised on the heavier lands, rye on the lighter and sandier soil. Barley was also raised. M. D. Atwater, for whom the town is named, farmed here for a good many years, on part of J. W. Mitchell's land, and later on 6000 acres belonging to Stewart, Newell, and a third man. While farming the Mitchell land, he lived about a mile west of where the town is. The 6000 acres which he farmed later was located north of town, extending down from about the present site of Winton to the highway and Central Pacific about where the Fruitland road turns off. Mr. Atwater afterwards retired to the ranch east of town now owned by his widow, Mrs. Laura Atwater, and his son-in-law, F. W. Hender-

son. Two young men named Mix and Bruen, the former a nephew of Mr. Atwater, farmed the 6000 acres for several years during the eighties.

Even as early as 1884 there had been small beginnings made in fruit-raising. There was a considerable orchard on the Buhach Ranch, besides large plantings of the plant from which the insect powder buhach was made. Supervisor Frank Pebley's father had an orchard north of the Central Pacific about opposite Buhach Station. Two retired school teachers had about 80 acres each between there and Atwater, north of the State Highway about where the Shaffer Road leaves the highway. One of these was G. D. Smith; the other was the father of C. C. Boynton. In 1888, the year when the Merced Land & Fruit Company laid out the town site, they also planted the first vineyard, the one now known as the Giannini vineyard. C. C. Mitchell, brother of J. W. Mitchell, came in 1884. He bought 280 acres and built the house where Charles Osborn later lived. About 1890 he planted a peach orchard. About 1891 J. W. Mitchell planted what was later known as the Sierra Vista Vineyard—about 300 acres.

The Fin de Siecle Investment Company's Addition to the Town of Atwater, five blocks long by half a block deep, on the north side of the railroad, was made about 1899. Mr. Bloss bought 36 acres of acreage and twenty lots 25 by 115 feet each, from the Fin de Siecle Company, and from this he has made three additions to the town as its growth warranted it. The first was made in 1904 or 1905, the last in 1921. The Sierra Vista Company have also made three additions. J. B. Osborn bought out John Giddings, the keeper of the first store. Later he purchased a lot on the main corner of the town from the Fin de Siecle Investment Company, and about 1897 he built a store building on it. At that time there were about 100 people in the town.

Subdivision and colonization began in the nineties. Buhach Colony, put on the market by the Merced Land & Fruit Company, was among the first subdivisions. Fruit-growing increased and the growing of sweet potatoes began. It was at this time that the first Portuguese settlers came. Such representative men as Tony and Frank Dutra and John Avila were among the early settlers of Buhach Colony. The Elliott Ranch, just south of Buhach Colony, was subdivided. Landram Colony was another of the early subdivisions. The Atwater Colony, of three-quarters of a section, was laid out in 1899, and the Fin de Siecle Company's Addition to Atwater Colony a year or so later. These were laid out in twenty-acre tracts. Then came the Jordan-Atwater Tract, five sections, in twenty-acre lots, sold by the Co-operative Land & Trust Company; the Arizona Tract

and the Martin Tract, 1120 acres, sold by J. M. Martin of Turlock; Gertrude Colony, 640 acres, by Walter Casad of Merced; Fruitland Colony, 1280 acres, by the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company; and Casad Colony, 1280 acres, by Walter Casad.

Subdivision in the country lying below Lake Yosemite followed close upon the boom of 1888 which the completion of the canal system brought. Several of the subdividers along Bear Creek between the lake and Merced have been mentioned in the chapter on Irrigation from the Merced. In the papers of 1889 and 1890 we find large advertisements of V. C. W. Hooper & Son, of lands in Yo Semite Colony (so they spelled it, the latest instance we have noted of the word divided into two). They offered ten- and twenty-acre farms with perpetual water rights, at from \$80 to \$150 an acre, one-fourth at the end of five years, one-fourth yearly thereafter. The lands of Mrs. A. A. Dunn and John Archer were offered by the Hoopers along with their own. This was in the latter part of 1889. We also see in October of that year an "ad." of Hooper & Son offering orange trees for sale. We see the Merced Land & Fruit Company mentioned again, and W. H. Turner as its secretary. In the April 5, 1890, issue of the Express we find an "ad." of Rialto Colony, only one and one-fourth miles from the court house, where H. H. McCloskey offers lands at \$150 per acre with water rights, one-fourth cash.

On June 14, 1890, we read in the Express: "Now that the Southern Pacific Company have actually let the contract we may expect to see the Oakdale road in process of construction during the coming week." The article goes on to say that the work was to begin at this end, that it will be an "entering wedge for the S. P. machine shops," and that the road will be done in time to move the then current season's crops.

Meanwhile, or rather a little earlier, the San Pablo and Tulare Extension Railroad had been built across the country from north to south on the West Side. The first town map recorded as a result was a map of Volta. It was adopted and approved by the board of directors of the Volta Improvement Company on March 21, 1890, and signed by Antony Pfitzer, vice-president, and C. W. Smith, secretary, and was recorded on March 28, 1890. Volta was intended to be *the* town on the West Side, by its founders. The old Dogtown was more or less completely moved down to the railroad at this point—it was only a short move. The Volta Boosters appear, however, to have reckoned without Miller & Lux, which was quite frequently a mistake on the West Side. There was a map of the Miller & Lux Subdivision of the Town of Los Banos filed on November 28, 1890; the map of the Town of Los Banos, surveyed by L. D. Norton, was not filed until October 29, 1892. Old Los Banos, it will be remem-

bered, had been established in 1872 by the process of Henry Miller's leasing for five years for one dollar a section of land to Gus Kreyenhagen on the condition that the latter would start a store. Kreyenhagen started it, but within a few years, as we have seen, Miller & Lux came to be the owners. When the railroad had proceeded south past Central Point and the partnership got good and ready, they moved their store down to the tracks several miles south of the aspiring Volta and established the largest West Side town there.

Returning to the East Side, we find that same issue of the Express of June 14, 1890, with an item about well-to-do Hollanders choosing Merced County to settle in, and how this brings Merced County to the attention of Santa Clara and Santa Mateo Counties. These were of course the Rotterdam settlers. The "Map of the Town of Rotterdam, Merced County, Cal., situated in the S. W. portion of the N. W. 1/4 of Sec. 28, Twp. 6 S., R. 14 E., M. D. B. & M., surveyed by Chas. D. Martin, scale 100 ft. equals 1 inch" was filed December 2, 1890. The location is on the elevated ground out near Lake Yosemite. In one of Hooper's "ads," of his lands out there he speaks of its picturesque rolling character as an advantage. Irrigation was still pretty young then.

Maps of Dos Palos Colony and of Ingomar appear in 1895. A map of the Town of Dos Palos does not appear to have been filed until the one in 1907. These dates do not represent the beginning of Dos Palos—either settlement. A mid-winter historical edition of the Dos Palos Star published on January 4, 1924, says the colony was opened in 1892; that in 1893 Bernhard Marks established a colony on the "dobie" land which lies just southeast of what is now known as South Dos Palos; and that this land proved unsuitable for the small farmer, and with the consent of Miller & Lux, Inc., the colonists were moved to the present site of Dos Palos Colony. "This move proved to be the salvation of the early settlers, and in the latter part of that year the country began to have the appearance of being occupied by men rather than horses and cattle.

This should not be understood as contradicting the statement that Dos Palos was a colony founded by Miller & Lux. The use at this time of the name Miller & Lux, Inc., appears not to be strictly correct, however, if we are to judge from the "Map of that part of Dos Palos Colony that lies in Merced County." It was surveyed by H. Wanzer and dedicated January 11, 1895, by Henry Miller, surviving partner of Miller & Lux—clearly a partnership and not a corporation. This map was not filed for record until July 15, 1896.

"In the month of February, 1893," says the article in the Star, "the first fruit tree was planted by an early settler and the inhabitants began an active campaign of cultivation and otherwise improving their

land. . . . J. O. Hoyle opened up a store on the corner of Elgin and Cornelia Avenues. It was a success, and he had the first post office in the colony. F. A. Bennett opened an exchange in the summer of 1896, with a cash capital of \$10, it is said; it afterwards grew to be the Dos Palos Colony Rochdale Association. O. D. McPherson early established a broom factory. L. B. Woodruff, now a job printer at Newman, established the first paper in the colony, the Colonist. The News was the second paper. The first number of the Dos Palos Star, the present paper, was issued on July 9, 1897, by Mr. Bowen; he became postmaster in 1898. By January 1, 1899, there were six hundred people in the colony. The town which grew up as the center of the colony was first known by the obvious name of Colony Center, but this name gave way to the longer established one of Dos Palos, from two tall poplar trees, long dead, which stood on the site of the village.

The "Town of Dos Palos" is what is commonly called South Town, to distinguish it from Colony Center. It is the town on the San Pablo and Tulare Extension Railroad. The map of it was filed on July 22, 1907. It was a Pacific Improvement Company town, and the certificate attached to it is dated May 23, 1907, signed by the company by A. D. Shepard, secretary.

The certificate on the map of the Town of Ingomar of its subdivision into lots for the purpose of sale was made on October 7, 1895, by the Pacific Improvement Company, by F. S. Douty, secretary, and the map was recorded on October 10, 1895.

Maps of only two more towns appear before the end of the century, both in 1896, in which year the San Joaquin Valley Railroad, or Spreckels Road, was built through the county. It was soon taken over by the Santa Fe. One of the two towns was Le Grand. The "Map of the Town of Le Grand, Merced Co., Cal., on line of San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley R. R., S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 17, T. 8 S., R. 16 E., M. D. M., Surveyed by W. P. Stonerod, August, 1896," was filed September 5, 1896. It had endorsed upon it a certificate of approval by Luella J. Dickenson, which states that she changed the names of seven of the streets before approving it. The streets after the change were: Parallel with the railroad, on the south side, Broadway, Washington, and McDowell, and on the north, Canal and Cottonwood. At right angles to these and the railroad: Adams, Jefferson, and Madison. Running due north and south on the west side of the town, Dickenson Avenue; and running east and west along the south side, the county road.

The map of the town of South Le Grand, surveyed by W. P. Stonerod in October, 1896, was filed November 12 of the same year, at the request of Nels Ipson. The name is spelled "Ipson" where he signed it; elsewhere, "Ipsen." There are three blocks in a strip one

block wide south of the county road, and between Block 1 on the east and Block 2, just west of it, it "Ipsen" Avenue.

"The Map of the Town of Geneva" (now Whitton), recorded November 25, 1896, will probably puzzle comparatively late comers to the county as much as the town of Dover. Both of these were early names of Planada. The owner who dedicated the streets to the public was James Bean, and the certificate is dated at San Jose on November 20, 1896. There is a later map of the Town of Planada, surveyed by E. D. Severance, and recorded on January 30, 1911.

The town of Gustine is the first appearing in the new century. The map of it, surveyed by F. P. McCray, was recorded on November 14, 1906. The certificate attached shows that it was subdivided by Miller & Lux, Inc., by Henry Miller, president, and David Brown, secretary, September 29, 1906. There is an acceptance of the streets by the board of supervisors. Gustine was built by Henry Miller as a rival town to Newman, across the Stanislaus border, founded by the rival Simon Newman Company. It is said to have been named for Miller's daughter.

There is no map of record of the Town of Stevinson. The acreage subdivision there begins, as indicated by the maps on file, in 1903. The acreage property was land belonging to James J. Stevinson. The town of Stevinson was begun a few years later than 1903 and was built on land of Miss Sara B. Collier.

Irwin City was founded in 1907. The "Map of Irwin City, being a replat of a portion of Hilmar Colony, Merced County, Cal.," surveyed by George S. Manuel, March 30, 1907, and dedicated by W. A. Irwin the same day, was recorded on May 8, 1907. The board of supervisors rejected the streets. The map shows the "I. C. & S. W. R.R."

It will be most convenient to leave the strictly chronological order and deal with Hilmar Colony and the town of Hilmar here with Irwin City. The town of Hilmar was not established until 1917, when the Tidewater Southern Railroad reached its site; Hilmar Colony, however, was established before Irwin City, in 1900 or 1901. Gust Johnson, who is a pioneer settler of the colony, came there in the spring of 1903, and that was the year in which most of the settlers came. It was largely a Swedish colony. The land was originally owned by J. W. Mitchell. He used to back men who wanted to farm portions of it to grain, but the grain-farming was a good deal of a gamble, producing perhaps two crops in five years in the blow sand there. Eventually Mitchell had to take a good deal of the land back. As W. J. Stockton tells us of Henry Miller, Mitchell backed his men as long as they wanted to keep at it, furnished them seed and was always willing to give them another chance.

The Fin de Siecle Investment Company handled a good deal of the land. Mr. Johnson states that the deed to his own land came

from the Richard estate. N. O. Hultberg and A. Hallner were the men who promoted the colony. Hulberg, who had been a minister, became a real estate man. Andrew Hallner was an old newspaper man and also a preacher. There was a man named Soderberg associated with Hultberg, and Hallner became their manager and publicity man. Hultberg had been a missionary in Alaska, and Soderberg had been in Alaska also. They had made a little money there. They returned to Alaska in 1904 and placed Hallner in full charge, at Turlock, which was headquarters. It was the only town in the entire settlement then. Hallner was largely instrumental in obtaining settlers. The greater number of them came from Minnesota and Nebraska; and as has been said, the heaviest settlements were made during 1903 and the following winter.

Mr. Johnson recalls the early days in the colony vividly with an account of a fight which he and his family had to save from the grasshoppers twenty acres of orchard which they had planted. The grasshoppers bred in the uncultivated ground north of the canal of the Turlock Irrigation District, and when they had attained an age to move they advanced on Mr. Johnson's little oasis in the desert in mass formation. Mr. Johnson tells how he hauled dry manure from an old grain ranch for smudges, and he, his wife, five children, and a hired man worked for three weeks to get the grasshoppers through the orchard, and finally saw them fly away. Pioneer days were not so many years ago in Hilmar Colony, but the industry of the thrifty people of that section has conquered grasshoppers and other pioneer difficulties and made Hilmar one of the most flourishing sections of the county.

Irwin came up from Santa Monica and laid out Irwin City in 1907; the town of Hilmar was established in 1917, when the Tide-water Southern arrived. Mr. Beers of the railroad wanted the people of Irwin to move their town up to the railroad; but they refused to do it, and the two towns stand close together on the paved county highway which extends from the Milleken Bridge across the Merced to the Stanislaus line and connects with a Stanislaus County paved highway which continues it into Turlock.

The "Map of the Townsite of Hilmar, being Lots 82 and 83 of the Hilmar Colony . . ." was surveyed by J. C. Lindsay of Stockton, and dedicated on May 7, 1917, by B. T. Cowgill; the streets were rejected the following day by the board of supervisors, and it was recorded. The "Map of the Townsite of Hilmar, No. 2, Blocks 1 & 4 of the Townsite of Hilmar, Merced County, California," was surveyed by A. E. Cowell and W. E. Bedesen, certified by them and dedicated by B. T. Cowgill on June 3, 1918, accepted by the supervisors on June 6, and recorded on June 7, 1918.

Hilmar has a \$40,000 Swedish Lutheran Mission Church, which was dedicated in the fall of 1921, and subscriptions for which were taken in the summer of 1920. A man prominent in the colony and in the building of the church was John Brynteson, who had known Hultberg in Alaska, who had bought 800 acres of land in the colony, and who comes there from time to time from his home in Sweden. He contributed \$4000 towards the church. Irwin also has a church, in addition to the one at Hilmar. The community's size now may be judged from the fact that there are 130 pupils in the Hilmar Union High School and 265 in the Elim Union Grammar School, the latter having its schoolhouse between Hilmar and Irwin. The Hilmar Union High School was started in 1911. It has issued bond issues of \$28,000 and \$6000, and the high school building, completed in 1919, represents an investment of \$35,000.

The town of Cressey was founded by the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company. The certificate accompanying the map is dated September 16, 1912. The survey was made by Cowell and Bedesen. The map was recorded September 26, 1912.

Maps of Arena and Delhi were recorded in 1911. The survey of Arena was certified March 9, 1910, by A. E. Cowell and G. E. Winton. The certificate of subdivision was executed by the Hunter Colony Company, by George T. Hedges, president, and A. F. Paddie, secretary, in Linn County, Iowa, March 31, 1910. But the map was not recorded until December 30, 1911. The "Map of the Town of Delhi, comprising those portions of Sections 5, 8, and 9 in T. 6 S., R. 11 E., M. D. B. & M., lying south and west of the right of way of the Central Pacific Railroad Company and marked on the map of Shank's Delhi Tract 'Townsite,'" was surveyed by Cowell and Bedesen and certified by them September 20, 1911, dedicated by Edgar M. Wilson the same day, and recorded October 7, 1911.

The "Map of the Town of Winton, comprising all of Lots 111A, 112, 113, 121A, 100B, and parts of Lots 98B, 99B, 97B and 128 of Merced Colony No. 2," was surveyed by Cowell and Winton and recorded April 24, 1912, at the request of the Co-operative Land & Trust Company. The name Winton was more or less an accident. It was first called "Winfield"; but the Santa Fe had one "Winfield" on their lines and refused to stand for another, and in the observance of an economy which sought a substitute that would involve the minimum of painting out on existing signs, they changed the last syllable and made it Winton.

Amsterdam, on the Oakdale Branch, was subdivided by the Pacific Improvement Company. The certificate attached to the map is by Wm. H. Crocker, vice-president, and A. D. Shepard, secretary. It is dated April 2, 1912, and the map was recorded July 30 of the same year.

Aladdin, on the Santa Fe north of the Merced River, was subdivided by Edgar M. Wilson and J. K. Mills in 1913. The map was drawn by Cowell and Bedesen and recorded November 18, of that year.

El Nido, about twelve miles south of Merced, has no map of record. A store and post office adjoining the district schoolhouse serve a thickly settled farming community largely devoted to dairying.

North of the Merced River, on the Oakdale Branch, is Ryer, a grain-shipping point.

Arundel is a switch on the same line just south of the river.

On the Santa Fe, north of Aladdin, is Cortez Station.

On the West Side Railroad, between Gustine and Ingomar, is Linora Station.

On the Santa Fe, north of Merced at Hoff, is a tomato-packing plant.

South of Merced on the same line six miles east is Tuttle, where there are two large warehouses formerly used for grain, one still devoted to that use and the other to the purposes of the California Packing Corporation, which has its big Del Monte orchard extending from Tuttle to Planada.

There are also grain warehouses and switches further south on the Santa Fe in this county, Burchell between Planada and Le Grand, and Marguerite south of Le Grand. On the Yosemite Valley Railroad, between Merced and Hopeton, there is a switch at Eden.

Merced County now has five incorporated towns. We have already told of the incorporation of Merced itself in 1889. Los Banos was the next to incorporate. The petition was filed April 2, 1907, and the election called for April 30. On Monday, May 6, the board of supervisors canvassed the votes and found 83 for and 15 against. J. D. McCarthy, J. E. Place, J. V. Toscano, W. T. White, and A. Genelly were elected the first board of city trustees, with 99, 96, 91, 70, and 65 votes respectively; J. J. Sweeney, clerk, with 96; S. B. Dis-mukes, treasurer, with 61; and Joel Webb, marshal, with 62 votes.

The election to incorporate Gustine was called on October 1, 1915, and held on November 1. There were 114 votes for and 27 against. There were 22 candidates for city trustee, 7 for clerk, 4 for treasurer. The office of marshal had become appointive. D. T. Haley, with 100 votes; Peter Bladt, with 133; W. W. Wehner, with 79; George M. Currier, with 108; and J. R. Jensen, with 128, were elected trustees. W. L. Chappel was elected clerk, with 118 votes, and C. W. Hawks, treasurer, with 122 votes.

The petition for the incorporation of Atwater was presented July 3, 1922, and the election held August 11. There were 140 votes for and 20 against. Charles Osborn, with 103 votes, Clarke Ralston, with

100; George Bloss, Jr., with 103; A. R. Neves, with 99; and T. A. Wayne, with 97 votes, were elected trustees; and there were 21 scattering votes. A. T. Rector was elected clerk, with 95 votes; and B. D. Garlock, treasurer, with 95.

Livingston followed close on the heels of Atwater. The petition was filed August 7, 1922, and the election held September 6. There were 135 votes for and 51 against. Charles Ottman received 154 votes; G. H. Winton, 135; S. R. Swan, 94; A. Court, 82; and Bert Davis, 74; they were elected the first board of trustees. L. E. White was elected clerk, with 131 votes; and Claude Brooks, treasurer, with 77 votes.



John Ruddle

BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

PIONEERS, PAST AND PRESENT

JOHN RUDDLE

It is enlightening and inspiring to read the lives and see the faces of the men and women who have built up Merced County to the position it now holds, and who have been the very foundation of all development work which has taken place since their early settlement here, in building up the population of the County and State, and in demonstrating the fertility of the soil for future productiveness. Among these pioneers, none more thoroughly deserves mention in the history of the county than the late John Ruddle, "pioneer of pioneers," who crossed the plains in 1849, and one year later settled in Merced County, where his last days were spent.

John Ruddle was a native of Missouri, born in Madrid County, on October 17, 1830. He crossed the plains to Los Angeles in 1849, and went to the Mariposa mines in 1850. Though only a young man of twenty, he saw with a keen vision that the development of California would depend more upon farming than upon mining; and late in 1850 he came down to the Merced plains and took up land on the Merced River, near Hopeton, then called Greens, and later, for a time, justly called Forlorn Hope. This land he traded to his father for land in Missouri, which he in turn traded for cattle, bringing them across the plains in 1854 to California. Upon arriving here he bought 160 acres from S. Hyde, and this quarter section was the first permanent start of the 3800 acres now comprising the J. G. Ruddle Properties, Inc., and known as the Ruddle Ranch, founded by John Ruddle almost three-quarters of a century ago and now turning largely to dairying and fruit culture. It is unique that this large holding is one of the few ranches of the State that is still in the possession of members of the family by whom it was founded in the early fifties.

A sad incident of this narrative is the tragic fate of Allan Ruddle, brother of John, who had accompanied him across the plains and engaged in ranching with him. Allan left the river home one morning with an ox-team for Stockton, with several hundred dollars in gold dust to buy furniture for the ranch home. When the oxen returned late that afternoon, minus their driver, the worst was feared.

and these fears were confirmed the next morning when the searching party found Allan Ruddle's body about six miles out on the Stockton road, toward the Tuolumne River. His rifled pockets, broken whipstock, and a bullet wound in the head told the ghastly story. As Joaquin Murietta, the bandit, who struck terror to the scattered communities in that day, was known to be operating in the neighborhood, the murder was laid to the door of the desperado and his gang.

In 1854, John Ruddle went back to Missouri and brought out the drove of cattle already mentioned, starting with 300 and arriving at his ranch with about 240 of the animals. He spent the years from 1854 on for twenty-seven years conducting his ranch and gradually adding to it. In the late sixties he became connected with the private banking house of Wigginton, Blair & Company, of Snelling. When the county seat was moved to Merced, this company came to the new town and organized the Merced Bank. Late in the seventies Mr. Ruddle became president of the bank and continued with it until it closed up its affairs, in 1894. He then moved to the Merced River Flouring Mills, near Snelling, which he had purchased from the Curtiss interests in 1890, and with his family lived on the hill near the mill, in the house which was a landmark in that vicinity for many years. He at that time turned over his ranch to his son James, and in 1905, after being farmed to grain for half a century, the river bottom half of the ranch was turned to dairying, which has proved highly remunerative. There are now six complete dairying outfits on the ranch, conducted by tenants, who are milking 1000 cows on shares. The land is well adapted to alfalfa,

The marriage of John Ruddle, occurring August 23, 1860, united him with Ann Elizabeth Hardwick, daughter of a pioneer Merced River family. She made him a most worthy helpmate, and five children were born to them. Of these, the only child who lived beyond infancy is James G. Ruddle. He married Annette Stockird, born in Merced County, and is the father of three children: James Garland, Allan B., and Alice.

In 1900, Mr. Ruddle moved back to Merced from the old mill, and made his home in the city until 1910, when he removed to Santa Cruz; and there he and his good wife remained until 1918, that year returning to Merced to stay. Here, on February 1, 1925, after enjoying ninety-four years of life, John Ruddle passed to his reward, at the family home at 436 Twentieth Street. His was a life rich in labor, not only for himself and family, but for the common good and the upbuilding of his community. He held a place in the ranks of pioneers which never can be filled; for he was one of that comparatively small band of men who crossed the plains in their youth and here planted the seeds of industry that were to bear abundant harvests of

achievement. The results of his labors have been and will continue to be so far-reaching that it is impossible to estimate the true value of this one man's life and endeavor. We can only, as a State, appreciate the fact that it is through the true vision and unceasing labor of men like John Ruddle, men who gave their entire lives to the developing of a barren country into one of the most productive valleys in the world, who came out to the frontier West, and stayed, not to speculate, nor to seek adventure, but to devote their God-given brain and brawn to the upbuilding of new communities and the betterment of humanity—it is through the efforts and achievements of such men that our glorious State has come to be known throughout the world. And as long as their spirit lives, emulated by their descendants, we know that we need never fear for the perpetuity of our commonwealth.

The Ruddle Ranch is now conducted by J. G. Ruddle Properties, Inc., of which J. G. Ruddle, son of John Ruddle, is president, and his sons, Allan and J. Garland, are vice-president and secretary and treasurer respectively. The corporation recently voted bonds to the extent of \$300,000, and will proceed to develop the ranch into one of the best orchard and vineyard properties in California.

John Ruddle was the last remaining of a large family, and is survived by his devoted wife, his son, James, and three grandchildren. At Hopeton, in 1865, he joined the Methodist Church, South, which congregation was organized in 1853, Dr. J. C. Simmons and Rev. Burris being the ministers there in early days. The ministers always stopped at the Ruddle home, and he took pride and joy in housing them and was all his life an ardent supporter of the church.

HON. JOHN M. MONTGOMERY

A man of upright character, a firm friend and a patriotic citizen, John M. Montgomery held a warm place in the hearts of all who knew him. He was born in Hardin County, Ky., September 18, 1816, and died in Merced County, May 4, 1891. Between these dates his life and work were an open book to the communities he so well served. He went to school in the locality where he was born, and upon reaching young manhood he went to Missouri, where he remained until the spring of 1847. He then followed the westward trend of civilization, crossing the plains to California behind the slow-moving ox teams, and upon arrival he entered into the business life of Monterey, remaining there until the discovery of gold. Instead of seeking the precious metal as a miner, he thought he could do better as a freighter and fitted out his team of oxen that had brought him across the plains and began hauling supplies to the new

diggings and to the miners. In the fall of 1849, with Samuel Scott as a companion, he located in what was probably the first settlement in what is now Merced County, being but a little distance from what is now the town of Snelling. Here he engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which he met with good results and continued many years.

In 1852 Mr. Montgomery went back to his old home in Missouri and there was united in marriage with Elizabeth Armstrong. Together they made the return trip to California and settled in the home already established by Mr. Montgomery on Bear Creek, six miles east of Merced. The following children were born of this union: Mary, wife of I. Jay Buckley; Jennie, wife of H. K. Huls; Ella, who married E. L. Smith; John A.; Robert H.; William S.; Katie and Lizzie. In politics Mr. Montgomery was a Democrat and was often called upon to fill positions of trust and honor. In 1861 he was elected to the board of supervisors and in 1875 to the State Senate, and in the sessions that followed he gave valuable service. One of the broadest acts he ever did had to do with his election to the Senate: His seat was hotly contested, and rather than allow the State to meet the expense he paid it himself. He was loved by all who knew him and his death was a source of regret to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

ELBRIDGE GERRY RECTOR

A Mexican War veteran and a pioneer of 1849 in California, Elbridge G. Rector first saw the light in Sevier County, Tenn., on February 19, 1816. His father was Kenner Avery Rector, a Virginian, who participated in the War of 1812, and gained the reputation of being the best shot in General Jackson's army. He married Elizabeth Randall, prominently connected with families of the Old Dominion. The Rector family was transplanted on American soil from German forebears who first went to Scotland, thence to Virginia, where, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Charles Rector, a prosperous planter, accompanied by several of his sons, joined the ranks of the colonists and fought for their independence. One of his sons was named Benjamin, born in Virginia and later a planter in Sevier County, Tenn. Next in line was Kenner Avery Rector.

Elbridge G. Rector went to Texas in 1835, where in 1836 he joined the Texan army and in the battle of San Jacinto was twice severely wounded, from the effects of which he never recovered. Later he was in the Indian War as a Texas Ranger under Colonel Jack Hayes and Captain Bird. In 1847 he took part in the Mexican War and served until peace was declared. In 1849, this intrepid fron-

tiersman took a train of pack mules and set out for California, via El Paso, Tucson and Yuma to Los Angeles, and thence up the coast and across the mountains to San Joaquin County. He landed in Mariposa County in September, made memorable in the history of the State as the date of the election of members of the California constitutional convention. He mined for a time, then turned his attention to ranching in 1853, and later conducted a hotel at the Green Valley ranch for a time. He settled on the Merced River and became closely identified with the interests of the citizens of the locality. His first public effort was to circulate a petition for the setting off of Merced County from Mariposa County, which was successfully accomplished in 1855, and he was elected the first county clerk and for seven years he filled that post; he was next elected to the office of sheriff and served two years (1864-1866).

In 1868, Mr. Rector moved into Stanislaus County and farmed opposite the present site of Modesto, but in 1870 he removed to Mariposa County, and followed the same line of endeavor near Coulterville. His next move took him to Texas, in 1877, and there he engaged in the stock business in San Saba County. Five years later, in November, he came back to Merced County and from January, 1889, to January, 1891, he was county treasurer. For many years he had been a leader in the Democratic party and he had a happy faculty of making and winning friends. He was very public spirited and what he did was from a sense of public duty, not for emoluments that he might attain. He was a Mason of the Royal Arch Degree. He died in Merced County on October 19, 1902.

The marriage of Elbridge G. Rector in 1860, in Merced County, united him with Amanda McFarlane, who was born in Jackson County, Ala. Her parents, Robert and Elizabeth (Hobbs) McFarlane, were natives of Virginia and settled in Tennessee at an early day, thence removing to Alabama. There were five children in the family of Elbridge and Amanda Rector: William Fielding, Thomas Blackstone, Elbridge N., Mary E. and Laura A.

MRS. LOUISA M. WILSON

The oldest of the pioneer residents of Merced Falls, Mrs. Louisa M. Wilson is a native of the town, being the fourth and youngest child of the late Charles Murray. He was born in Ireland and was brought to America when a child and was reared in Missouri. In 1849 he came West, driving his own cattle and stock across the plains and arrived in Merced Falls after a long and tiresome journey of seven months. From the proceeds of the sale of his stock, Mr.

Murray built a hotel and opened a general store, which he conducted under the name of Murray's Hotel and Store, and was very successful and built up a large trade with the miners. He also acted as postmaster of Merced Falls. In the early sixties a disastrous fire destroyed his store and hotel and, having no insurance to cover his loss, he quit the business and moved three miles below the Falls and engaged in the stock business, each year adding to his holdings until he had considerable land in Sections 3 and 4. In the latter part of 1865 he concluded the purchase of the balance of Section 4 and built a house into which he moved his family, and this is the home of Mrs. Wilson to this day. She has in her possession old account books kept by her father, including early postoffice records, which are very interesting from a historical standpoint. When Charles Murray moved from the ranch into Merced Falls again he purchased the ferry business from "Hookey" Wilson, who had built and was conducting it. Mr. Murray made of the bridge a most elaborate affair, completely housing it in, with a separate passageway for pedestrians, the toll office being on the Merced Falls side of the river. This entire structure was swept away by the flood of 1861-1862. In later years he operated this ferry until his death, at which time James McCoy, the first husband of Mrs. Wilson, carried on the business until about 1900, at which time the county supervisors bought the ferry and soon after replaced it with the present steel bridge.

The Murray children were reared in Merced Falls. Charles Sheridan Murray was accidentally drowned in the Merced River at the age of sixteen, by slipping and falling from the top of the ferry. Sam R. Murray now resides in Madera County, and his son is Judge Murray of the superior court of Madera County. William E. Murray died at the age of twenty-two. The mother died at her home in Merced Falls on October 1, 1873, aged forty-six, and the father passed away at Oakdale on October 22, 1879, aged sixty-seven.

Louisa Murray was educated in the local schools. The sessions at Merced Falls were held in two localities prior to the erection of the present building. The first school was on the Kelsey ranch one mile below the Falls, but when fire destroyed the building a new school house was built on the same road, and is still standing, though vacated about ten years ago. Louisa and her brother attended these schools. The present school is a modern structure, located above the sawmill site of the Yosemite Lumber Company. In May, 1877, Miss Murray was married to James M. McCoy at Merced. He was born in 1851 in Silver City, Iowa, and came to California early in the seventies and conducted the livery stable and ferry business at Merced Falls; he died on July 4, 1906, survived by one son, Grover Cleveland McCoy, who is employed in the plumbing department of the Yosemite



an Elizabeth Buddle

Mills, and married Eva De Camp of Fresno; and they have three children. He is a member of the Native Sons, belonging to an Oakland parlor.

On the edge of Merced Falls is the 160-acre ranch belonging to Mrs. Wilson. It is used for stock range, and here she engaged in the stock business with her late husband, James Clinton Wilson, whom she married on December 11, 1910 at Fresno. He was born in Iowa, on September 19, 1857, and was reared in Bates County, Mo. He arrived in Los Angeles, Cal., in October, 1888, and followed prospect mining for sixteen years in Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties. After locating at Merced Falls, in November, 1900, he resided here until his death on November 23, 1924.

MRS. ANN ELIZABETH RUDDLE

One of the best-known and beloved women in Merced is Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Ruddle. She was born in Jackson County, Ala., on August 25, 1841, the daughter of the late Thomas Jefferson and Ann (McFarlane) Hardwick, the former born in Georgia and the latter in Tennessee, where they were married. Soon after their marriage they moved to Alabama, where Mr. Hardwick was elected judge.

Judge Hardwick and his family, which consisted of his wife and six children, crossed the plains in 1859, from Jasper County, Mo., where Mr. Hardwick had been farming for some years. Upon their arrival in this State they settled on the Merced River, and there he farmed for many years. He died at the age of sixty-three. Mrs. Hardwick lived to reach the advanced age of ninety-six, making her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Ruddle for thirty years prior to her death. They were both honored pioneers. Everybody knew "Grandma Hardwick," as she was affectionately called by old and young. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and had scores of friends.

The Hardwicks had six children: William J.; Amanda Malvina, who became the wife of James Dickinson; Mary Catherine, who married William Hoskins; Ann Elizabeth, Mrs. Ruddle; Jackson Gilmore, who resides near Turlock and is eighty years old; and Huldah Jane, who became the wife of Mark Howell, at one time surveyor of Merced County. Of these six children, only Mrs. Ruddle and Jackson Gilmore Hardwick are living.

Mrs. Ruddle is familiarly known by her many friends as "Aunt Betty Ruddle." She is an active member of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church of Merced.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM

One of the most highly esteemed citizens of Merced County was the late James Cunningham, who had the distinction of being one of the organizers of the county. He was born in Dungiven, County Londonderry, Ireland, May 12, 1824, the son of James and Margaret (Dunlap) Cunningham. The father was born at Castle Colley, eight miles from Londonderry, served in the South Fifteenth Infantry for seventeen years, twelve of which he was color sergeant, stationed in the West Indies. He took part in some of the most famous battles of his time and was the last man to leave the island of Martinique when the island was given up to the French, wading to the boat with water up to his neck.

James Cunningham, our subject, remained at home until he was sixteen, when he ran away and went to sea in company with a boy friend, being apprenticed for four years as a sailor with the firm of Booker, Bond & Co., merchants of Liverpool, who shipped goods to all parts of the world. He was soon made second mate, and a few months later first mate of the ship Lancaster and it was while on this vessel that he met with an accident, breaking his collarbone and shoulder, which laid him up for six months, during which time he was not idle as he attended a school of navigation, and when again able to assume active duty he was made captain of the ship Cyclops. He followed the sea for eleven years, rounded Cape Horn three times and twice was over two-thirds around the globe. In his travels he had heard of the discovery of gold in California and made several attempts to reach the Eldorado, even offered to work his passage as an ordinary seaman, without success. It was his idea that he would work in the mines and the more rapidly accumulate wealth, which he intended to invest in ships.

In the fall of 1850 came his golden opportunity, he being selected as chief officer of the clipper ship Canada. After the ship had outfitted in 1851 he started for the New World and California, and at the end of a long and stormy voyage landed in San Francisco in February, 1852. Here the entire crew deserted ship. Mr. Cunningham had eight months pay coming to him but never received it and he found himself in a strange land and practically penniless. He soon found a friend in a Mr. Livingston, to whose cabin he removed his effects, and some time later a party was organized to go to the mines; Robert Sherwood supplied him with money and the party of five, among whom was a geologist, a Mr. Stephenson, who had been a passenger on the Canada, set out for the mines on Yuba River. Here Mr. Cunningham spent two years mining when he made a trip on horseback to Mariposa County to visit a cousin, William Laughlin,

who is buried in the Cunningham lot in the Masonic Cemetery, and while there he located a claim on Mariposa Creek. Returning to the mines in Grass Valley, he there purchased some land, but continued mining. He made another trip to Mariposa County, only to find that some one had jumped his claim. In the meantime some parties had secured some 320 acres of land and put in a crop of barley and this Mr. Cunningham bought for \$1000, and this was the beginning of his prosperity and his large land holdings. He got a good price for his barley. His nearest neighbors were seven miles distant.

Not meeting with success in mining ventures, Mr. Cunningham turned his attention to raising stock, in 1864, with Thomas Fowler, later Senator from Tulare County. He made several trips to the southern part of the State to buy cattle for his ranch and for beef to supply the mines. That same year was noted for its dry season and many of his cattle died. He with Alfred Harrell, Joseph Rodgers and J. G. J. Moray joined together and started for Humboldt County, Nev., but lost nearly all of their stock and barely escaped with their own lives owing to the depredations of the Indians. Mr. Cunningham gave up the idea of becoming a ship owner and turned his attention to farming and stock raising, having on his ranch an average of fifty head of fine horses and 1200 cattle. Beginning with his 320 acres he added to it from time to time until he owned some 16,000 acres which was operated by the Cunningham Corporation, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, his two sons, James C. and Emmett T., and his daughter, Mrs. E. Massengale, all of whom lived on the ranch, which was located sixteen miles northeast from Merced.

On July 30, 1868, occurred the ceremony that united the lives of James Cunningham and S. Elizabeth (Turner) Henderson. She was born in Jackson County, Mo., the daughter of Capt. Nicholas Turner, a Forty-niner in California, who made two subsequent trips overland as captain of wagon trains, then remained in this State. There were three children born of this union, viz: James Charles, born July 28, 1869, married for his first wife Miss Leota Williams, a native of Indiana, born in Muncie. After her death he married Miss Stella Smith, a native of Mariposa County, and they have three children, James Byron, Vesta and Augusta. Emmett T. was the second child and was born on November 23, 1870. He married Miss Bernice Brandon, born at Ione, Amador County, the daughter of Amberson Brandon, of Jefferson County, Wis., a California pioneer. His father, Var Price Brandon, was a Virginian who married Martha Engart, of Pennsylvania; they also came to California as pioneers. Amberson Brandon married, August 31, 1868, in California, Julia A., daughter of Henry and Rachael Misenheimer, of North Carolina, and California pioneers of 1852. Julia A. Brandon was born in

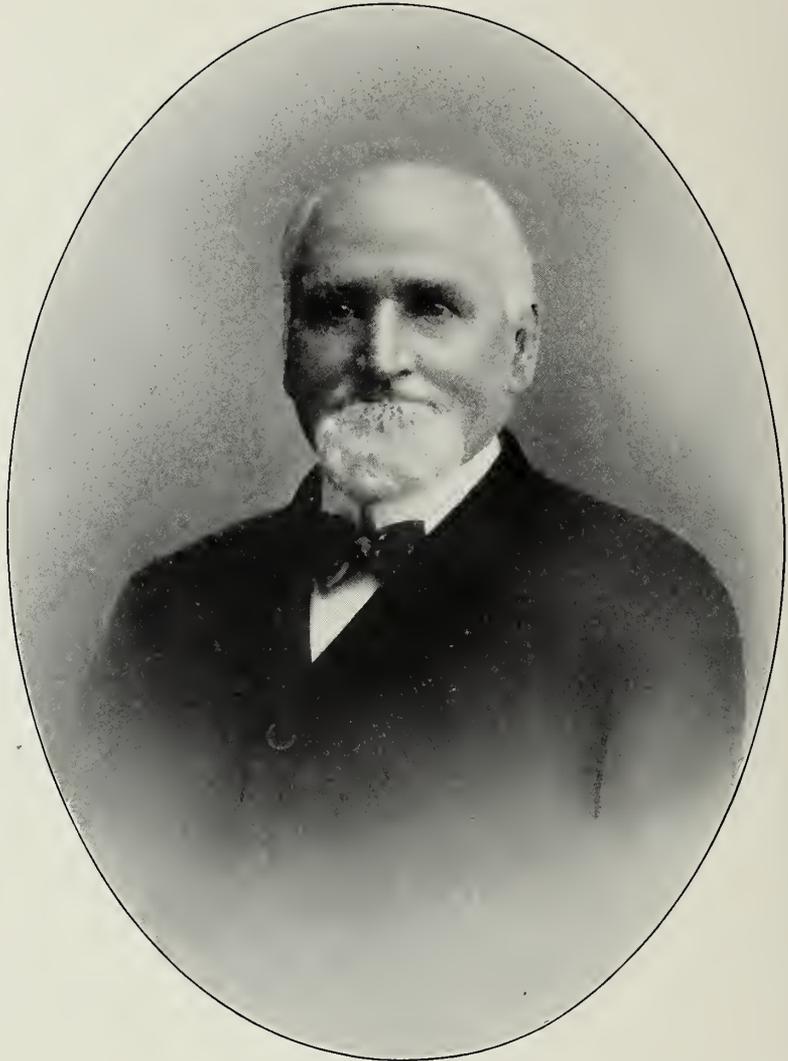
Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Brandon had the following children: Susie, Bernice (Mrs. Emmett Cunningham), Howard, Myron (deceased), Frances, Lloyd, Rodger, Audley, Gladys, Roscoe (Ted), and Horace. Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Cunningham have four children: Margaret E., Mrs. George W. Clark, of Los Angeles; Julia Ione, Mrs. Arnold Grasmoen, of Merced; and Carlston E. and Nancy Rose, both at home. The third child born to this worthy pioneer couple was Margaret Evaline, born February 7, 1873. She became the wife of R. E. Massengale, of Le Grand and they have had three children: James, Mary (deceased), and Cecil. Mrs. James Cunningham's first husband was Henry Helm, by whom she had a daughter, Ollie, now Mrs. Samuel Rothery, of Santa Cruz. She has three living children, Ollie, Edward and Daisy. Mrs. Cunningham's second husband was a Mr. Henderson, of Snelling. Mr. Cunningham died on May 12, 1908, and his widow passed on in April, 1913.

James Cunningham was a Democrat and took an active part in the councils of that party, serving as a delegate to county and State conventions, and held the office of supervisor from 1860 to 1864. He served for many years as a school trustee. It was ever his policy to elevate the standard of education and he contributed liberally of his means to that end. He was made a Mason in Ireland and demitted to La Grange (now Yosemite) Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M. of Merced. In his long and eventful life he had many interesting and thrilling experiences. Of the latter, one incident will perpetuate his memory for generations. This was in 1862, during the flood at Snelling that threatened the lives of thirty-five people who sought refuge in the trees when the hotel was washed away from its foundation. Accustomed as a sailor to act quickly when danger threatened, he, with the assistance of others, among them Judge Breen, Hon. W. H. Howard, and a Mr. Perkins, constructed a raft and by hard work and great danger to their own lives, safely rescued the people from their perilous position.

In the later years of his life he was in the enjoyment of all his faculties, could read without glasses when past eighty, and took an active interest in all topics of the day and in the improvement of his property.

JOHN SANDERSON SWAN

As a city trustee of Merced and former sheriff of Merced County, John Sanderson Swan has been intimately associated with the public life of this locality for many years. He was born in Waterford, Maine, September 30, 1849, a son of Thomas and Eliza (Sander-



J. J. STEVINSON

son) Swan, of Welsh and Scotch ancestors, respectively. Both parents are deceased.

John Sanderson Swan was educated in the public schools of his native state and in the Bridgeton Academy; at nineteen years of age he began to earn his own way in the world and for fifteen years was foreman for one company in New England. As his parents were getting old and needed his assistance, he went back to his home in Maine and remained with them until they both passed away. In 1881 he came to Merced County; the first year he was occupied with farm work, then he rented land and followed grain farming for twenty years, having as many as 6000 acres under cultivation in one season. For many years he conducted a livery stable business in Merced and was also engaged in buying and shipping of hogs from Merced and vicinity. He was elected sheriff of Merced County on the Democratic ticket and served for eight years with entire satisfaction to the public.

Mr. Swan has been married twice. The first time he was united with Miss Sarah Swan, the same name, but no relation; after her death he was subsequently married to Miss Eldora Fuller, a native of Rhode Island. In 1920 Mr. Swan was appointed to his present position of head janitor of the high school building, a responsible position which he capably fills. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and an Elk. As a good citizen he is now serving his second term as city trustee of Merced. Politically he votes for the best men and measures.

JAMES J. STEVINSON

Among the outstanding pioneers of Merced County there were none more widely known than the Stevinsons, father and son, Archibald W., and James J., who both were called "Colonel" by their intimate friends—not as a military title, however, but partly because they were from the South, and partly because of their participation in the Mexican War.

James J. Stevinson was born in Boone County Mo., on November 6, 1828, the son of Archibald and Charlotte Stevinson. When he was five years old his mother died, and he and an older sister were placed with an uncle, Samuel Stevinson, and there the lad made his home and grew to young manhood. In 1846 he joined a trading train of General Kearney's Division and crossed the plains with Doniphan's Regiment, en route to Mexico, spending that winter on the Del Norte River and on the road to Santa Fe, N. M. Resuming the journey again, he arrived at Chihauhau on March 1, 1847, and was happily surprised to meet his father, whom he had not seen for eleven

years and who was engaged in merchandising there. He visited with him for two months and then joined the soldiers and arrived at Saltillo, where the troops met General Wool's Division. Mr. Stevinson remained at Saltillo until the close of the war, after which he returned to Chihuahua, with two companions, making the trip on mule back, a distance of 600 miles, in seven and one-half days. Here he again met his father, with whom he remained until December 27, 1848, when he started on his trip via Durango and Mazatlan, to San Francisco, where he arrived on March 25, 1849, "flat broke," having spent thirty days on the water, which he often referred to as thirty-five days—on account of the hardships endured.

Mr. Stevinson went to the mines on Mormon Gulch, Tuolumne County, and followed mining during the months of April and May, 1849, with fair success; he then acted as agent for Colonel Jackson, at Jacksonville, for three months. Then, his father arriving here from Mexico, they formed a partnership and carried on a general merchandise business in Mariposa County from November, 1849, to August, 1852, when James J. Stevinson arrived in what is now Merced County. Here he obtained a large tract of land and began agricultural pursuits, and in time developed one of the most productive ranches and had one of the most beautiful homes in the entire San Joaquin Valley. He had 15,000 acres of land and about 1500 head of cattle and some 3000 sheep, besides other stock. The residence is on the left bank of the Merced River, upon which, in early days, stern-wheel steamers used to run and gather up the grain stored along the banks. In the course of time Mr. Stevinson accumulated 25,000 acres of land. He farmed on a large scale, raising stock and grain, and became one of the wealthy men of the county.

On December 27, 1855, James J. Stevinson was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Jane Cox, daughter of Isham J. Cox, of Cox's Ferry on the Merced River. She was born in Illinois and was brought to California by her parents. They had three children: Samuel, Mary E., and Fannie B. After a long and useful life, filled with good works, not alone for his own family, but for the people of Merced County in general, James J. Stevinson passed to his reward on November 13, 1907, at the age of seventy-nine years.

Archibald W. Stevinson, the father of James J., was born in Clark County, Ky., in 1804, and received a good education in his native State. He was a man of high intelligence, and a farmer by occupation. When he was twenty he moved to Boone County, Mo., where he married; and there his children were born. In 1830 he engaged in the Santa Fe trade. Business required him to journey between Independence, Mo., and Chihuahua, Mexico, and he made

these trips no less than nine times during the eighteen years he was engaged in this business. He set out for California on April 10, 1849, and reached Los Angeles in July. He was engaged in various mercantile operations in California and arrived in what is now Merced County on September 23, 1852, settling on the Stevinson ranch; and there he died in 1883, aged seventy-nine years.

There were three children born to Col. A. W. and Charlotte Stevinson, namely: James J., Elizabeth March, and Charlotte Silman.

IRWIN JAY BUCKLEY

As justice of the peace of Township No. 1, in Merced County, Irwin Jay Buckley is rendering efficient service to his constituents. He was born in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, November 17, 1845, and represents the eleventh generation from Peter Buckley (spelled by him Bulkeley), who came from England in 1635 and was educated at St. Johns College, Cambridge, England, of which he was a fellow for some time. He was rector of Woodhill for twenty-one years, and having, through his non-conformity, come into conflict with Archbishop Laud, emigrated to Cambridge, Mass. In 1636 he was the principal founder of Concord, where he was pastor until his death in 1659. In direct line of descent Sylvanus Buckley, father of I. J. Buckley, was born in Norwich, Otsego County, N. Y., on a farm owned by his father. He married Phoebe Merriman, also born in that same county of Scotch and Irish ancestors, who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. She was also closely related to the Winchesters, founders of the Universalist religious denomination. Sylvanus Buckley was energetic and ambitious and in 1844 he located at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and began manufacturing plows. While so engaged he heard the glowing accounts of the discovery of gold on the Pacific Coast, and accordingly closed his business and started across the plains to California in 1849.

Arriving at his destination Mr. Buckley mined in Placer County and was among the Forty-niners who pioneered mining on the Yuba River. So successful was he that he was enabled to make his family a visit in 1853, removing the family from Iowa to New York. He came back to the mines and in 1856 made his second trip to see his family and bring them to the Coast. They came via Nicaragua and arrived in San Francisco on July 20 of that year. From this time he turned his attention to ranching, but he was unfortunate in investing in what later proved to be a Spanish grant in Alameda County, near Alvarado. In 1861 he located in Merced County, and in the vicinity of Snelling embarked in the sheep business, at the same time

that he was interested in some mines in Nevada. In his stock enterprise he met with fair success and became owner of about 16,000 acres of land. He gave of his time and means to promote the welfare of his adopted home and was held in high regard by all who came in contact with him. He died at the age of seventy-nine years, in 1888. He was survived by his widow, who died in 1892, at the age of eighty-four. There were six children: Henry A., who died in 1872; Horace F.; Irwin Jay, of this review; George W., who died in 1902; S. P., residing at Merced Falls; and C. O. E. Buckley, who died at Hopeton in 1920.

Irwin Jay Buckley attended the public schools in Iowa and was reared under the parental roof, accompanying the family to California in 1856, via Nicaragua. He took passage on the S. S. Orizaba, Captain Blethen, on the Atlantic side and on the S. S. Sierra Nevada, Captain Tinklepaugh, on the Pacific side. He well recalls the encounter with the government troops who were in pursuit of Walker; also the Nicaragua rioters. He and his brother walked across the Isthmus as they found some 1200 people waiting on the Pacific side for transportation to California. After locating in this state our subject was closely associated with his father until the death of the parent. In 1887 he bought his ranch of 315 acres located between Snelling and Merced Falls and improved the place and became a very successful and progressive rancher. Three years of his time were spent in Merced, since which time he has lived in the section of the county he now makes his home. He has now retired from active agricultural pursuits, having leased his property, but he gives his entire time and attention to the duties of justice of the peace, to which post he was elected, and in which he is now serving his twenty-first year—though not in consecutive service, having held forth in the old court house (Merced's first) at Snelling.

The marriage of Mr. Buckley, in 1878, united him with Mary Montgomery, daughter of the late Hon. J. M. Montgomery, who is represented on another page of this history. Of this happy union there is one daughter, Irma, now the wife of Charles G. Connors; she has a daughter, Jean Jardine, by a former marriage. Judge Buckley is a Republican and has served his party well in various capacities in Merced County. He is unassuming, public-spirited and is very fond of good books, and was at one time the owner of a very large private library, which, unfortunately, was destroyed by fire some years ago. Both he and his good wife are liberal supporters of all progressive and upbuilding projects. They dispense hospitality of the old Californian type, and being among the very oldest of the living settlers in this section of the county, they have a wide acquaintance and a large circle of loyal friends.

ADAM KAHL

The late Adam Kahl will be gratefully remembered by posterity as one of the foremost men of his day in Merced County, where he located in 1860 and established what has come to be known as the Kahl Ranch, near Plainsburg, along Mariposa Creek. From the time of his settling here he was active in every organization and movement that would be of benefit to the ranchers and help towards bettering the condition of the people of the county and State. He owned a ranch of 2000 acres and this he had improved with a splendid set of farm buildings and a substantial and commodious brick house. His ranch was stocked with the best breeds of live stock and he did much to raise the standard of live stock in the county. Such was his success that his accomplishments were the means of many others settling here and trying to follow his example. He was always ready and willing to advise others as to best methods to pursue to attain their own success.

He was born in Franklin County, Pa., September 6, 1825, a son of Jacob and Catherine Kahl, farmers in their day and place. He grew to manhood on the farm, attending the common schools and in time migrated to Richland County, Ohio, and later to Carroll County, Ind. It was while he was living in Indiana that he decided to come to California, for the discovery of gold had been heralded throughout the nation and he was among the first of his section to leave for New Orleans. He embarked on a sailing vessel, landing at Chagres, and crossing the Isthmus he secured passage on the barque *Alyoma* for San Francisco, arriving on June 20, 1850.

Upon his arrival he was engaged in mining in Butte Flat, Jackson and Mokelumne Hill and river districts for four years. He returned home for a visit in 1855, subsequently went to Iowa, thence to Pettis County, Mo. There, on July 4, 1858, he married Lydia A. Spangenberg, a native of Pennsylvania. Immediately after their marriage they set out for California. This time the trip was made across the plains behind ox-teams and via Salt Lake and the Carson Canyon route. They arrived at Snelling, Merced County, in October, 1859, but soon went to the Pajaro Valley, Monterey County, where he lived until 1860, when he bought a ranch near Plainsburg, now owned by the family. He paid from \$1.25 to \$35 per acre for his land. At the time of his death, January 11, 1889, Merced County lost one of her most progressive citizens. His estate was divided between his widow and children, each child receiving 320 acres. There were five children: Ernest D.; Alice M., who married John Dickinson; George A.; Charles W., who is a successful physician in Merced; and Arthur S., of Merced County. To such men as Adam Kahl the county of

Merced and the State of California owe much of their prosperity. Mrs. Kahl, lovingly called "Grandma Kahl" lived to be eighty-five years old, dying on September 23, 1924, at her home at Le Grand. Several years prior to her death Mrs. Kahl took an airplane trip from Merced to San Francisco with Emmett Tanner, at that time she was the oldest woman to take such a flight in the history of aviation and her journey was widely reported.

CHARLES MORTIMER FRENCH

As city marshal and tax collector of Merced, Merced County, Charles Mortimer French is sustaining the reputation for ability and judgment, energy and thorough qualification for holding public office won entirely by his own efforts. In 1908 he was elected to the office of city marshal, and in addition to this he holds the position of tax collector for the city. His birth occurred in Augusta, Kennebec County, Me., on July 13, 1864, a son of Hayden Winfield and Felicia Hemans (Gould) French. Hayden Winfield French went to Montana in 1865, after having served in the Civil War. In 1868, when Charles Mortimer was a child of four years, the family joined him in California and the home was established in Merced County. The father was in the sheep business for many years; then for fourteen years he served as deputy sheriff under Sheriff A. J. Meany. After that he became constable, an office he held until his death, April 7, 1894. The mother, who was born in Augusta, Me., April 23, 1837, was married November 25, 1859. She was the first teacher in the first public school held in Merced. She died February 4, 1897.

Charles Mortimer French received a grammar school education, for in the days of his schooling there was no high school in Merced. He was reared to hard work, and his summers were spent in farm work and during the winter months he worked in a blacksmith shop. In 1888 he established a transfer and hauling business, which he still operates, the firm name being French and Wood, Mr. Wood having been a member of the firm since 1912.

The marriage of Mr. French united him with Miss Mary Corrine Yoakum, born in Oakland, Cal. Mr. French is a Democrat in politics. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World; and he belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, all of Merced. Mr. French is an honorary member of the fire department and a charter member of the old El Capitan Hose Company No. 1, of early days. He has lived continuously in Merced since 1872.



LOUISA J. STEVINSON

MRS. LOUISA JANE STEVINSON

One of the oldest living of the pioneer women of Merced County is Mrs. Louisa Jane Stevinson, daughter of that pioneer Isham J. Cox, of Cox's Ferry fame on the Merced River and one of the staunch upbuilders of the county from its beginning. Isham J. Cox was born in Tennessee, went to Shelby County, Ill., and thence to Texas, and with ox-teams and wagons came overland to California, arriving at Hill's Ferry in March, 1850. He went to the gold mines on Sherlock's Creek, Mariposa County, and met with more than ordinary good luck; and when he returned to his family, they moved to a place four miles below Snelling, where he settled on the Merced River and built a ferry, which was operated as Cox's Ferry for many years. His wife was Rebecca Chisenhall in maidenhood and was of Scotch descent. Her progenitors were early settlers in Virginia and were large planters.

Louisa Jane (Cox) Stevinson was born in Shelby County, Ill., over eighty-five years ago, and was only two years old when she was taken across the plains by her parents to Texas, where they lived during 1846-1847. In 1849 they came to California via the southern route to San Diego, where they spent the winter of 1849-1850. She was ten years old at the time and well remembers the journey from Texas and the early-day history of this section of country, where she grew to womanhood. She attended school at Quartzberg, Mariposa County.

The marriage of Louisa Jane Cox and James J. Stevinson was solemnized on December 27, 1855. Of this union the following children were born: Samuel, Mary E., and Fannie B. Samuel married Alice Reed and had three boys: Archibald, in the cattle business in the Stevinson Colony, is married and has two children; Howard, who married Blanche DeGraff, by whom two children were born, died in 1917; Floyd I., a rancher, married Carmella Sorensen, and they have five children. Mary E. became the wife of Charles P. Harris of San Francisco, who died in 1899, and she is now living with her mother. Fannie B. married Howard H. Hogan, promoter of the Stevinson Colony, and had two children: Paul Iribe, art designer with Cecil De Mille at Culver City; and Judith B., wife of George Hatfield, an attorney in San Francisco. Mr. Hogan died in 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevinson worked hand in hand and in time accumulated 25,000 acres of land, upon which they became independent. Together they planned their home and made extensive improvements on their property; and at the same time they did their full duty as citizens of their county. Their home has always been the center of

a delightful California hospitality to their many friends. The commodious house was completed in 1891. It is fitted with all conveniences and is surrounded by a spacious lawn, which is decorated with flowering shrubs and trees. Here, amid the surroundings so dear to her, Mrs. Stevinson is living in peace and contentment, the center of a large circle of dear friends, and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Stevinson, an account of whose life is given on another page, passed away on November 13, 1907, when seventy-nine years of age.

HENRY MILLER

Few among the names of those pioneers who did the big things in helping to develop and build up California into the Golden State have come to have half the fascination of romance and glamor of renown that surround the honored name of Henry Miller, the cattle king of California and father of Los Banos, whose story is the narrative, like that of a fairy tale, of the remarkable career of a man whose industry, intellect and integrity conquered one of the most promising, and in truth one of the richest empires on the face of the earth. A butcher boy in the days of his youth in San Francisco, he won lands and amassed a fortune above that of many a king, and was lord, not only of all that he could survey, but of twice the area of the kingdom of Belgium. He reached his ninetieth year, and it is safe to say that nearly eighty-five of those years were periods of hard toil, and strenuous activity.

Henry Miller was born in Brackenheim, Wurtemberg, Germany, on July 21, 1827, and grew up a farmer's boy, familiar with country life from early childhood. When fourteen years old, he had, among other duties, the job of watching over a flock of geese; but one day he walked home, leaving the geese to look after themselves, and informed his astonished and skeptical sister that he was through with that sort of slow routine and was going out into the world to do something for himself. Two or three years were spent in Holland and England, and then, setting sail for New York, the ambitious young German arrived in that city, even then the New World's metropolis, and was there engaged as a butcher. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 attracted not only the attention of most of the civilized world, but it seized hold of Henry Miller with such a grip that in the famous Argonaut year of 1849 he joined the hurrying throngs trying to cross the Isthmus of Panama, and himself sought the new El Dorado. Upon arriving in Panama, Henry Miller, then only twenty-two years of age, discovered an exceptionally good op-

portunity for engaging in business and there formed a partnership with an American; but the enterprise had been launched only a few weeks when Miller was stricken with Panama fever—a most serious malady at that time of inadequate medical skill and attendance. When he had sufficiently recovered to hobble down to his business house, he discovered that his partner had swamped the business beyond all possibility of salvation, so that when all the bills had been paid, Miller had barely sufficient cash to obtain passage to San Francisco, where he landed in 1850, with just five dollars in his pocket, and a walking stick in his hand. He was still weak, from the effects of the fever; but he resolutely hobbled forth to seek employment, and made it a point to call at every business house along Montgomery Street. Usually he met with disappointment; but before the day was over, he had engaged himself to a butcher.

A young man of Henry Miller's natural and already developed ability could not be expected to accept employment from another person long. After the San Francisco fire in 1851, he leased a lot on Jackson Street, erected a one-story building, and there opened a retail butcher shop; and this unpretentious business store, with its very small stock but early openings and late closings, became the cornerstone of the Miller fortunes. He went down into the valleys below San Francisco, purchased beef cattle and drove them into the city for butchering; and in these journeyings about the country he became well acquainted with the cattle-raisers of the State and their condition. There were several large competitors in the butcher business in San Francisco at that time, and among them was one in particular, Charles W. Lux, who was soon to appreciate Miller's capabilities. In 1857, Henry Miller visited the cattle-raising regions and quietly secured options on all the available beef cattle north of the Tehachapi range; and when the astonished buyers of his competitors appeared, there were no beeves to be had by them. This splendid stroke of enterprise, marked at that time, enabled Miller to make his own terms with Lux and others, and partnership with Lux was the immediate outgrowth of the puzzling situation.

The new firm entered the field vigorously, and gradually began to acquire lands upon which to graze its herds, for when Miller & Lux began their business as a firm, a vast domain of unfenced grazing land existed in the great sweep of valleys and western slopes of the Sierra Nevada range—in fact, millions of acres were unclaimed from the Government. As the population increased, and the business of Miller & Lux expanded, it became necessary to increase the acreage held for grazing purposes, and Spanish grants were bought at prices that would astonish the ranchmen of today. A square mile could then

be purchased at a figure now quoted for a single acre, and in those days even cowboy employees took up Government land under the preemption, homestead and desert-land acts, and after acquiring a title would dispose of it to their employers for a few cents an acre. In this way, and by purchasing the rights of discouraged ranchers, the vast and tremendously valuable Miller & Lux empire was obtained. It required foresight to inspire the investors, the power of looking ahead and discerning what so many others with equal opportunities failed to discover; but it also required courage, nerve to carry the details through.

One of the most notable purchases made by this epoch-making firm was the great Santa Anita rancho of 100,000 acres near Los Banos, which was obtained from Hildreth & Hildreth with its vast herds, soon after Henry Miller's advent in the San Joaquin Valley; and the Hildreth brand of three bars, crossed through the center, became the Miller & Lux brand for many years thereafter. And wherever the brand of Miller & Lux was to be found, one might bank upon it that it represented a desirable, superior quality, for the secret of the rise of Henry Miller to the position of millionaire cattle baron was his remarkable knowledge of cattle, and an equally remarkable knowledge of men.

It is stated that Henry Miller at one time had the ambition to own the whole of California; but whether that be true or not, it is known that he was never anxious to part with lands after he had once acquired them, especially if they were suitable for grazing purposes, and he was ever ready to invest all surplus cash in the purchase of land. It is said, on the other hand, that Charles Lux at one time became frightened at his partner's purchasing proclivities, and sought to retire from the business. "Mr. Miller, we now have \$100,000 in the bank in cash, and I think that this is an opportune time to dissolve partnership. Let us settle up." "You say that we have \$100,000 in cash?" replied Mr. Miller. "Well, wait until I return from this trip." When Mr. Miller came back, Mr. Lux found that the firm had just invested in more land to the tune of \$100,000, for Miller could not pass up a good chance to invest in acreage when the cash lay temptingly at hand. While Mr. Lux was a good financier and office man, there is no doubt of the fact that he was made a millionaire in spite of himself, and that he owed much of his own prosperity to his more aggressive partner. He could not let go when he wished to, and he remained a member of the firm until his death in 1887.

Henry Miller reckoned his holdings by the square mile, not by the acre, and a bit of evidence he gave in court some years ago—entertaining reading today. "In taking it ranch after ranch," he said,

“in Santa Clara County it has an extent of twenty-four miles north and south, and about seven to eight miles east and west. In Merced County we have thirty-six miles north and south, and then about thirty-two miles east and west. The Malheur property is an extent of ninety miles northwest to southeast, and about sixty miles north to south. Then comes the purchase of what we call the Todhunter & Devine property. That lies in Harney County, Ore., and comprises over seven-tenths of 125 miles north and south and about seventy-five miles east and west, with a good distance in between.” There is no doubt whatever, however, that the amount of the Miller & Lux holdings have been greatly overestimated. A special writer for one of the noted San Francisco dailies gave an estimate of 14,539,000 acres; but behind these astounding figures was a journalistic purpose of exaggerating, for with ownership and leases combined, the total would not reach half of that figure. The richest holdings are in Merced and Madera Counties, and amount to probably 350,000 acres. The Buttonwillow district will swell the total by 200,000 more, and Fresno County and other districts will probably increase the San Joaquin holdings to 700,000 acres, and there are nearly 20,000 acres in the region of Gilroy, and other, smaller tracts scattered over the State. The Miller & Lux acreage in the States of Nevada and Oregon will bring the grand total up to nearly 3,000,000 acres. It is a common saying among stockmen that Henry Miller could travel from the Idaho line to the Mexican border and camp on his own land every night; and no other man in America ever has, or ever will again, control such an immense acreage of agricultural lands. It almost staggers belief that this tremendous empire was owned and occupied by one man’s interests, and was nearly all under his personal supervision. Henry Miller was almost continually on the move in the years of his health and activity, for he did most of his work in the days before the automobile, although he was one of the first to import a fine French car. He came to dislike the machine, however, owing to the rough roads he was generally compelled to travel, and in rather short order he discarded it again, and once more took to either his favorite buggy or his buckboard, in making his round of visits across the vast Miller & Lux ranches.

In 1860, Henry Miller was married to Miss Sarah Wilmarth Sheldon, a lady of culture and refinement. Two daughters and a son were born to them. Henry Miller, Jr., died in his fortieth year, survived by a widow, an honored resident of Gilroy. The youngest daughter, Miss Sarah Alice, was killed by a runaway horse. Another daughter, Mrs. J. Leroy Nickel, resided at 2101 Laguna Street, San Francisco, and it was at her residence that Mr. Miller expired, on

October 14, 1916. George Nickel, a grandson of the famous pioneer, has resided on the Ortigalito ranch, eight miles to the southeast of Los Banos. The immediate life estate was left to Mrs. Nickel and her husband, who had taken a leading hand in the management of the Miller & Lux properties, and some \$225,000 for surviving relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, and \$30,000 in smaller amounts to employees, were provided for by bequests in the will.

A notable achievement of Henry Miller was his organization and control of the San Joaquin & Kings River Canal and Irrigation Company, and not a few of his enterprises were productive of much benefit to others as well as to himself and near of kin. William J. Stockton, the pioneer, who first became acquainted with Mr. Miller in 1872, soon overcame his prejudices against great landholders and found that Miller was performing a great service to other folks seeking to establish themselves. The pioneer could go to his straw-stacks and get straw for the asking, and to Canal Farm and get a cow; and such courtesies were given to rich and poor alike. When the section from Los Banos to Newman was in dire straits for water, Henry Miller, at a cost of some \$3,000,000, built a canal and delivered water to the people, without an extra cent of cost to them. He also made a present to the county of a road built at an expense of \$45,000, and running to the San Joaquin River. He was born to rule, to lead, to point the way to others, and to get there himself; he testified in court that during the hard times in the five years following Mr. Lux's death, he made \$1,700,000 a year, or \$8,000,000 in five years, an amount that seems almost incredible, but which must be true. Henry Miller was of striking personal appearance, and in his prime was an exact image of General U. S. Grant. He was simple in his habits, and would tolerate no homage from anyone. Dr. J. L. McClelland said, when Mr. Miller died: "He has endowed no colleges, but he has given millions as he went along without exacting any pledge of remembrance, or making any condition of publicity. There are thousands of humble men and widows who can testify that his giving of valuable land and goodly sums of coin has been in strict accord with the Scripture admonition, 'Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.'" And Andrew R. Schottky, the distinguished lawyer, said: "I saw a poor butcher boy coming from Germany to California; I saw him accumulating vast acreages of land on the Pacific Coast; I saw thousands of happy and prosperous homes on land developed and sold by him; I saw no instance of colonists being defrauded and impoverished by being placed on poor land at high prices. Under-thinking persons will perhaps censure him for his great wealth; but the fair-minded will think of the fact that in accumulating his wealth

he developed land and took advantage of opportunity, but did not crush and destroy men. When all is said and done, his was a life of intense usefulness, and his contribution to the present and the future of California is large. The words of Mark Anthony at the death of Brutus are peculiarly appropriate at the death of Henry Miller: 'This was a man!'

CAPT. HENRY GEORGE JAMES

Few men have had a more interesting, as well as serviceable career than the late Capt. Henry George James, a native of Camborne, Cornwall, England, and the son of William and Elizabeth Eva James, who had three sons, all born at Camborne, the others having been Edward and William. The elder James, a blacksmith by trade, was a member of an English exploring company which visited South America, and having accidentally broken his ankle, he was carried over the Andes Mountains lashed to a chair strapped to the back of a stalwart native. Returning to England, he immigrated to the United States, about 1832. His brother, Edward, took part in the Black Hawk War. He was a correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat and lost his life in war journalistic service. During the trouble with the Indians in this Black Hawk outbreak, the men of Iowa County, Wis., formed companies for drill, and so did their sons; and thus it happened that Henry G. James was dubbed "Captain," a title he always bore.

He came out to California in 1850, walking across the Isthmus of Panama in the more primitive days before the railroad was built there, and upon his arrival at Sonora, Tuolumne County, he engaged in mining. Later he went into the cattle business and in time became one of the largest cattle men in Stanislaus County, and for twenty years he furnished cattle, hogs and sheep to wholesale butchers in San Francisco. During his experience in furnishing beef for a butcher firm in Sonora, he once made a journey to the coast to purchase stock; meeting a company of men in charge of a band of steers, Capt. James bought what he wanted and started to drive them home. Before he had traveled far he was overtaken by the real owners of the steers, who informed him that the cattle had been stolen. The Captain and his companions pursued the thieves to San Francisco, where they obtained the assistance of Capt. Harry Love, a famous detective of that time, by whom one of the thieves was arrested. The other made his escape. While on the way back with their prisoner, Captain James and party stopped to have lunch and ostensibly to give the prisoner a trial. They assumed an air of carelessness and the thief thought that it would be a good opportunity to escape; so he crawled

off into the chaparral; but several shots followed him and he was killed. No one knew whose shot did the business.

In 1873, at Salida, Stanislaus County, Captain James was married to Miss Nannie Jamison, the daughter of A. H. Jamison, a native of Arkansas, who served for two terms as supervisor in Stanislaus County when the county seat was at Knights Ferry. One daughter married John R. Barnett, sheriff of Madera County. Captain James was a Democrat and a sympathizer with, and an active supporter of the Confederacy of the Southern States. He served at one time as a trustee of Modesto. He belonged to the Masons and assisted with their ritual at the laying of the cornerstone of the Stanislaus County court house. He died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Root, at Salida in 1901 or 1902.

JOSHUA CASARETTO

Another of the native sons of the Golden State who has made his influence felt in agricultural circles is Joshua Casaretto, now living in retirement on his ranch on Bear Creek about three miles from Merced. He was born at Hornitos, Mariposa County, on April 19, 1859, a son of the late Giuseppe and Catherine (Daneri) Casaretto, the former born in Genoa, Italy, and the latter at Chiavari. Giuseppe Casaretto left his native country in 1852 and came by way of Panama to California to make his fortune in the mines, but after trying his luck until 1855 he decided the surest way to fortune was in something more substantial and he engaged in working at the trade of stone mason. He had married in Italy and when he sent for his wife and son in 1855, he quit mining for his trade. They settled in an adobe house near Benton's Mill; then in the late fifties he moved to Hornitos and built a stone store building, which he later traded to Mr. Olcese, who had a store at Indian Gulch, for his building and business there, but this did not prove to be a profitable exchange for the store at Indian Gulch was soon to become extinct with the dwindling of the mines. In 1857 Mr. Casaretto moved to Merced Falls and took up his home, working at his trade and raising stock. He died of blood poisoning while at Snelling, on June 28, 1885, when fifty-eight years old. Three boys and one girl in the Casaretto family grew up and are still living: John lives at Merced Falls on the old home place; David is a butcher in Atwater; Joshua is the subject of this review; and Mrs. Julia Fee lives in Modesto. Her husband was the son of the late Peter Fee, who came to California in 1849 and conducted the first hotel in the mining section of Mt. Bullion, known as Norwegian Tent, because it was only a tent house. The elder Casaretto was a man of integrity of character and was highly esteemed.

Joshua went to the school in Indian Valley and was brought up on the mountain ranch owned by his father and spent much of his time in the saddle, during which time he learned to speak the French, Spanish, Italian and English languages fluently. In 1870 he was a joint owner in a sheep and wool growing business; and in 1872-1873, with John and David, his brothers, conducted a general store at Hopeton, but continuing his sheep business until 1884, when he was forced to quit during the Cleveland administration when wool dropped so low in price that no one could afford to keep sheep. He then turned his attention to cattle and horse raising on a part of the old home place, and at the same time was made manager of the Casaretto interests. He sold out his stock interests in 1919 and decided to retire when he moved to his present place of eighty-six acres. The rich Bear Creek land had such an attraction for him that he once more began farming, raising Poland China hogs and fruit; he also owns 1800 acres of foothill land in Mariposa County where he runs some stock, and with the help of his sons they are making a success of their ventures.

When Mr. Casaretto married on September 8, 1902, he chose for his wife Miss Marceline Leota, born on November 15, 1861, on a ranch at Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras County, the daughter of Leon Leota, born in Marseilles, France, and a man of considerable intellect and culture. He was proficient in seven different languages; came to California in 1851 and settled in the mining section. He was the second man in Calaveras County to receive a patent from the United States Government for land. Her mother was Mary Mullin, born in Ireland of Scotch parents, and she died in Oakland in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Casaretto have two boys, Victor Emanuel and Emanuel Victor, who are assisting their father to run the ranches owned by him. Mr. Casaretto is a Republican and the family belong to the Catholic Church.

J. MIGUEL ARBURUA

One of the most prominent citizens of the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley, now a resident near the city of Los Banos, is J. Miguel Arburua, who is living retired after many years of useful activity. He was born in the Basque Province of Etchlar, in the Pyrenees, Spain, on November 24, 1844, and received a limited education, so practically what he received was obtained from contact with the world. He came to the United States and California, via Cape Horn in 1866, taking six months to complete the journey. He had no money and his only assets were his indomitable courage and a willingness to work. His uncle, Miguel Aguirre, had settled in San Francisco in an early day, and when the nephew arrived in San

Francisco he obtained a job for him in Butchertown at twenty dollars per month and the young man held down that job for four years, saving his money and paying back the amount advanced him for his fare to the new world. He had no knowledge of English and that made it harder for him, but he stuck to his job and in time mastered enough of the English language to enable him to transact business—and in time there was no shrewder business man and financier than J. M. Arburua.

The first venture our subject tackled was in partnership with J. Lugea. They carried on a sheep business for four years and made it a success, though suffering severe losses in 1877 on account of the drouth, when he took his sheep to Nevada. In 1886 Mr. Arburua located on the Carrizalito grant in Merced County, purchasing the property of 22,000 acres for \$42,000 from the man who had previously bought it for \$65,000 and failed to make good and was willing to turn over the huge indebtedness to Mr. Arburua for \$2000 and he to assume the mortgage. He had no money, but he bought the land, having as his only assets about 7000 head of sheep. He made money from the start and in time added by purchase from various settlers in his vicinity 6500 more acres. On this large tract of land he engaged in the cattle and sheep business until 1915, being assisted by his entire family to attain their independence. In the year mentioned he divided his large acreage among his children and turned over the management of its affairs, bought sixty-five acres near Los Banos, known as Rouse ranch, and settled down to farming on a small scale and is now living retired on this ranch with his wife. He is known as one of the most honorable men of his day and age, public spirited, generous and at eighty is hale and hearty and enjoys life to its full. He has always been a hard worker and expected his sons to do their share, which each of them has done and all are worthy representatives of their honored parent.

The marriage of J. Miguel Arburua occurred on November 24, 1882, when he was united with Josefa Lavayn, daughter of Baptiste and Michaela Lavayn. She was born in the same province, in 1860, as her husband and came to America when fourteen, receiving her education in California. To this wonderful woman Mr. Arburua gives great credit for his success as she helped in the management of their affairs. They had the following children: Carmen, single; Helen M., married I. B. Cornett and lives in Los Banos; Frank J., married Helena Harms and resides on the home ranch; Louis P., married Marie M. Chotro, has two children, Lucille and Josephine, and is the proprietor of the City Market in Los Banos, besides largely interested in ranching; Joseph M. is a veterinary surgeon in San Francisco and married to Eleanor Kehoe and has a son John Joseph. He was

a first lieutenant and saw service on the Mexican border and in France with the Eighth Division. Mr. Arburua was a director of the First National Bank, now the Bank of Italy, in Los Banos. He has always been prominent in educational affairs and donated land for two school buildings and served as a trustee for many years. He believes in doing good wherever he can and has always been a liberal giver to churches and church work, regardless of denomination. His great outstanding characteristic has been his ability to get results from those he has employed and at the same time cement a friendship that lasts while either party lives. He has worked unceasingly himself and attributes his good health to that activity. With his good wife he is enjoying the fruits of their labors and their friends are legion.

HENRY FREDERICK FERDINAND SALAU

Among the pioneers of Merced County none had a more eventful career than Henry F. F. Salau, who made his home five miles southwest of Los Banos. He was a prominent rancher and stockman in California, and few had touched at as many ports of the world as had Mr. Salau while he was sailing the seas. He was born June 3, 1835, at Kiel, Germany, the son of John and Catherine (Kremhoff) Salau, also natives of that same place. The mother died in 1854 while the father lived to reach the age of sixty. He was a weaver by trade and he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church and strict in the discipline of their children.

The oldest son in the family, Henry Salau remained at home until he was fourteen; then, feeling the touch of poverty and lack of opportunity, he became a sailor aboard the brig "Betsy of London," which was the vessel used by John Paul Jones fifty years before, sailing to London, then to Quebec, Canada, but before reaching the latter port experienced his first shipwreck, in which eleven of the crew were rescued by the Humboldt of Hamburg and taken to New York. Three months later he shipped on the Humboldt for Hamburg, then on the same ship made two trips to New York. The last time he came around the Horn to California, reaching San Francisco in August, 1852. Thereafter he was engaged in the coasting trade between San Francisco and Puget Sound. In 1861 he shipped on the Challenger for Liverpool, a voyage of 103 days. His next ship was the Nicholas Biddle for New York, after which he took a trip to the West Indies on the Warwick. His next trip was around the Horn on the clipper ship, Magnet, 140 days. He continued as a sailor on various ships and had reached the rank of second officer. During the years that had passed he had become well informed on conditions in nearly every

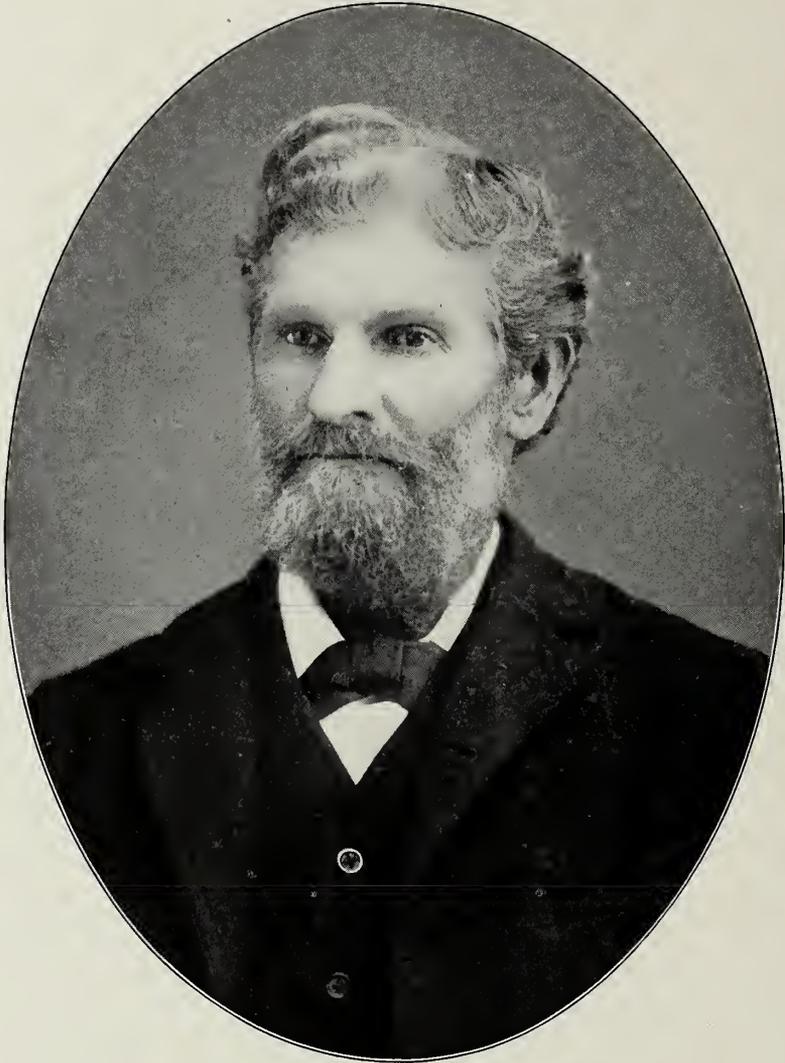
part of the world, and when he had spent about a year in Germany, where he worked in a moulding factory, he decided he would come to the United States and California. Like the majority of men who follow the sea, he had not accumulated any money, so he had to begin at the bottom and work his way to the top. His arrival in San Francisco was in April, 1867, on the *Moses Taylor*. Going to Santa Clara he farmed in that vicinity until 1869, then went to the West Side in Merced County and entered 160 acres near Volta. He did not prove up on this land but soon settled near Los Banos and engaged in the sheep business. In 1871 he located on 160 acres and improved it and made that his home for many years, adding to his property until he had 700 acres which he devoted to grain and stock.

Mr. Salau entered into every movement that had for its end the betterment of general conditions, was a strong Republican and served on the County Central Committee and as a delegate to county and state conventions. Fraternaly he held membership in the Workmen. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and belonged to that church in Los Banos. He married at Kiel, Germany, Miss Marie Dorathea (Weber) Salau, born in Holstein, and they had five children: Augusta C., the wife of M. Becker of Berkeley; Adolph of Fruitvale; Mary; Louis, who died in 1918; and Doretta C., of Los Banos. Mr. Salau died on April 12, 1910, aged seventy-five, and Mrs. Salau passed away on November 23, 1919.

WILLIAM FIELDING TAYLOR

A real pioneer of California and an early settler in the San Joaquin Valley, William Fielding Taylor was a lineal descendant of the Zachary Taylor family, the twelfth President of the United States. He was the son of William and Martha Taylor, who were of English descent and early Colonists, who migrated from the New England states to Tennessee, where they cleared the land for pioneer farming. Born June 20, 1821, near Nashville, Tenn., William F. Taylor was reared in that locality, receiving but a limited education, owing to lack of schools on the frontier, attending a private school for a few months each year. When seventeen years of age, his father having died, he moved among the early pioneers to Missouri, and there engaged in clearing land and farming, until 1852.

Still seeking a newer country in which to make his home, in 1852, Mr. Taylor brought his family to California, landing at French Bar (now La Grange) on the Tuolumne River, and followed mining for three years, then conducted an eating-house for seven years. He later bought land on Dry Creek, near Snelling, and farmed. Due to



WM. C. TURNER

the drouth of 1864, he moved to the Gwin ranch, now owned by the Buckley Brothers, in the Merced River bottom. In 1868 he moved to Bear Creek, near Merced, and took up land in what is now known as the British Colony. The last years of his life were spent in Merced, his death occurring January 6, 1896. Mrs. Taylor died at the home of Mrs. G. W. Baxter in 1910, aged eighty years.

The marriage of Mr. Taylor, which occurred on March 16, 1848, near Springfield, Mo., united him with Elizabeth Ellen Inman, daughter of Ezekiel Inman. Her parents were of Scotch and Philadelphia Dutch extraction, and were engaged in the mercantile business. Several brothers served in the Civil War in the Union Army. Ten children were born to William and Elizabeth Taylor, as follows: Martha A., widow of W. B. Aiken, of Fresno; John H., married Miss Lilly Van Blaricum of Oregon; George, deceased, married Hettie J. Booker, of Sonora; William D., married Molly Quinly, lives at Zion City, Ill.; Atlanta B., Mrs. G. F. Hannah of San Jose; Milton T., deceased; Mary A., now Mrs. Vern Christy of Modesto; Fanny B., now Mrs. George Baxter of Le Grand; Rebecca F., Mrs. W. A. Quinly of El Cerrito; and Miss Sidney J., deceased. The two oldest children, who took the pioneer trip across the plains with their parents, are living and active today, Mrs. Martha Aiken of Fresno, aged seventy-six years, and John H., of Oregon, aged seventy-four.

WILLIAM C. TURNER

The late William C. Turner was one of those intrepid pioneers who were the forerunners of our present-day civilization in California. He was born in Caswell County, North Carolina, on February 14, 1827, and in 1849, with a party of 150 men, all on the hunt for the gold to be found in the new Eldorado, left Greene County to take the northern route; but upon hearing that cholera was prevalent along that route, they turned south and with their ox-teams and wagons began the long trek that was to occupy six months. Their trip was without incident, and to relieve the monotony of the days they would organize hunting parties and go after buffalo, bear, deer, antelope, and elk, which were plentiful on the plains. Among the men of their party, to Mr. Turner was given the credit for killing the first buffalo. Upon reaching Los Banos, N. M., they traded their oxen for pack-mules and employed two guides to pilot them through the mountains to Salt Lake. En route they ran out of provisions and most of the party stopped at Utah Lake while the advance guard went on to get provisions from the Mormons. When they reached Salt Lake, September 15, they were told by the Mormons that it was too late to cross

the Sierra Nevadas, on account of the snow; but the party, under the guidance of James Waters, reached Los Angeles without mishap. They traveled through Cajon Pass up to Tulare Lake, and crossing the various streams reached Fort Miller. Resting for a few days, they then continued on to Fine Gold Gulch and did some prospecting, and then went on to Mariposa County. Large bands of elk were found in the San Joaquin Valley; and while one of their party was following one of these bands, he got lost in a heavy fog and wandered about for eighteen days. He was found in a hollow log on the Merced River, with his feet so badly frost-bitten that he lost some of his toes. He was taken to a New York company camped on the river, and later went back to Alabama without trying his luck at mining.

Mr. Turner reached the Mariposa mines on December 8, 1849, and began operating on Sherlock's Creek. Having brought sheet-iron with them, they made what the miners called a cradle and from the dirt obtained gold very rapidly, some days taking out as high as fourteen ounces. He remained in Mariposa County until 1852, when he came onto the Merced River and began farming and stock-raising; and that same year he reaped a good crop. In time he accumulated 2500 acres of land, with water facilities for shipping, and later the railroad came within eight miles of his place. His house was located on an eminence that commanded a fine view for miles around the valley. Here he set out a fine family orchard and a vineyard, all of which grew on the fine sandy loam without irrigation. His average yield was twelve bushels of wheat to the acre; and he kept about 1000 head of cattle and some 1200 head of hogs, and 100 head of horses and mules to operate his ranch.

On one occasion, it is related, Mr. Turner, while teaming into the mountains, secured a large grizzly bear, which he hauled to Stockton from near Jamestown. He built a strong log cabin or corral on his wagon, into which he got the bear, and with a ten-horse team hauled it to Stockton. During the journey the grizzly became very hot and angry and nearly tore the cabin to pieces; but the bear was landed safely in Stockton, where for years it was an exhibit in one of the parks.

About 1860, Mr. Turner was married to Miss Elizabeth Walling, who was born in New Madrid County, Mo. They had ten children. William E. was a superintendent for Miller & Lux for twenty years, and was a prominent stockman of Merced County. He married Ella Rucker and died in 1923. Mary E. married Capt. W. W. Gray, formerly a supervisor of Merced County. She is deceased. John Archibald is mentioned on another page of this history; Harriet E. is the widow of John Breckenridge, and resides in Santa Cruz; Thomas C. is also mentioned in this history; Mrs. Lucinda Barson lives in

San Francisco; Mrs. Diana Henderson lives in Berkeley; Virginia died in Santa Cruz; and Eva and Evy both died in early childhood. Mr. Turner died at the age of sixty-four, on February 14, 1892; Mrs. Turner lived until February, 1922.

The life story of Mr. Turner is one of great interest; for the pioneers are practically all gone, and with them the stories of their trials and tribulations, as well as their jublations. He was always optimistic and public-spirited, and their home always dispensed that particular kind of hospitality which is only to be found in the homes of the pioneers who have lived for others as well as for themselves.

C. H. HUFFMAN

At one time known as the "wheat king" of the San Joaquin Valley because of his close association with Isaac Friedlander, who was known as the "wheat king" of California during his active career in the wheat growing, buying and shipping business, C. H. Huffman left a void in the ranks of the upbuilders of Merced County when he sold out his interests to take up his residence in San Francisco, in which city he died on July 7, 1905. His was a busy life, filled with work for the State he adopted for his home. He participated actively in the initiation and development, in the county in which he lived, of the irrigation projects that have had such far-reaching effects on the expansion of its agricultural and horticultural interests, thereby enriching the people who sought homes in what is considered by many as the garden spot of the San Joaquin Valley.

C. H. Huffman was born at a point near the mouth of the Mississippi River, on July 14, 1829. In early boyhood he received a fairly good schooling, and evinced a desire to make his own way in the world when he was but ten years of age, for we find the records state that he was then working his own way and acquiring a knowledge of business on board a pilot boat at the entrance of the Mississippi River. Following his experience on the river, and up to his nineteenth year, he followed the sea on vessels plying between America and European ports; and in this manner he was widening his scope of knowledge of the world and its people, and the lessons he learned and the experiences he met with helped to mould his future life and work. At the age of nineteen he was a second officer of a full-rigged ship.

When the tide of emigration started West in 1849, Mr. Huffman decided to get to California and made his way around the Horn, in company with other California pioneers, who later became prominent in the making of the State. Mr. Huffman remained in San Francisco

a short time and then made his way to Seirra County. There he followed mining for a time; but his health necessitated a change, and so he located in Stockton and began teaming into the southern mines. Meeting with gratifying success, he gradually built up an extensive freighting business, and for twenty years was identified with Stockton as one of her sound business men and financiers of more than ordinary ability.

In 1868 Mr. Huffman visited Merced County; and, being favorably impressed with its many advantages, he concluded to purchase land and in time accumulated many hundred acres of good farming land. Through his connection with the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, which had so much to do with the irrigation of the East Side of this fertile region, he added very materially in bringing the fame of Merced County as an agricultural section prominently to the fore.

Mr. Huffman became associated with the late Isaac Friedlander in the buying of grain throughout the San Joaquin Valley, acting as his agent and continuing thus until the death of his employer. Thereafter Mr. Huffman devoted his time to raising wheat and became a large grower of that commodity. He accumulated much property and was very successful in all that he undertook, working not alone for his own personal gain, but also to advance the general welfare of Merced County.

From the small beginnings of irrigation made before the advent of Mr. Huffman in Merced County, he readily saw that the future prosperity of the entire San Joaquin Valley depended upon getting water onto the fertile lands that only wanted that necessary adjunct to make the whole section "blossom as the rose"; and through his association with the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, he did his full share to bring about the present prosperity of Merced County. The details of the initiation and successful consummation of the irrigation movement are given in detail in the historical section of this volume and need no repetition here. Suffice it, here, to say that no one man did more to promote the various movements directed toward obtaining water for the lands in the county than did our subject. He was the prime mover in the organization of the First National Bank of Merced, and was its president from its organization until it was reorganized into the Commercial and Savings Bank in 1892, when he retained his position as a director and helped to guide its affairs through the trying times of its early life in the community. Mr. Huffman was a man of rare executive ability and maintained a personal contact with his large interests until he retired. He moved to San Francisco in 1893 and located in the home he had purchased

at Broadway and Buchanan Streets; and there he passed to his reward on July 7, 1905.

The marriage of C. H. Huffman, which occurred on May 26, 1869, united him with Miss Laura A. E. Kirkland, born in Missouri, the daughter of R. M. and Catharine (Woods) Kirkland, natives of Missouri and Kentucky, respectively. At the age of nine years, in 1861, the daughter accompanied her parents across the plains to California behind slow-going ox-teams. Her father was a dentist. Upon arriving in California, they settled in Gilroy, where the daughter grew up. After her school days were over, she was married and then moved with her husband to Modesto. They first lived at Paradise City, where Mr. Huffman built a house, which later he moved to Modesto. Of this union there were ten children. William R. died at the age of twenty-eight years, unmarried; Caroline is now the wife of Dr. A. C. Griffith and resides at 119 Palm Avenue, San Francisco; Mary E. became the wife of Espie White, of Portland, Ore.; Fred H. is a cattleman in Modoc County; E. T. is interested in the automobile business at Miami Lodge and is also connected with transportation into the Yosemite Valley; Mercedes is the wife of Maj. G. E. Nelson, who is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.; Genevieve married Col. Matt C. Bristol and lives in Honolulu; J. Walton lives in Merced; Hazel died at the age of fifteen months; and another infant died unnamed. By a former marriage Mr. Huffman was the father of three children. Mr. Huffman was recognized as townsite man for the Southern Pacific Railway and located nearly all the towns along the railroad through the San Joaquin Valley. The family moved to Merced; and there Mr. Huffman erected on the banks of Bear Creek, a large residence known as the Huffman Mansion by nearly everybody in that section of the country. This property was sold at the time they moved to San Francisco to the home in which he died; and this, in turn, was sold later by Mrs. Huffman, after a residence there of twenty-three years. She now makes her home at 119 Palm Avenue, San Francisco.

WALTER E. LILLEY, M. D.

Merced County has been most fortunate in the class of business and professional men who have chosen to come here and establish their homes and business careers. The fertile valley of the San Joaquin is today the background for many thriving community centers, and the business and professional offices, as well as the mercantile establishments, are equal to any like communities in the United States, long famous for its cities, developed from what were formerly "coun-

try towns," but now ranking with the larger metropolis in point of wealth and convenience. That this is due to the caliber and work of the men who have lived and been identified with the towns for the past decade or two, goes without saying, and is a lasting monument to their individuality. Among these in Merced we find Dr. Walter E. Lilley, born in Portland, Chautauqua County, N. Y., November 5, 1868, the son of Abner Lilley, also a native of that State. After finishing his preliminary education, Dr. Lilley attended the Baltimore Medical College, from which institution he graduated in 1894 with his degree of M. D. He practiced in Findley's Lake, N. Y., and later in Barnard, Windsor County, Vt. In 1899, he came out West and located in Merced, and has ever since that date been prominent in the medical fraternity of the city and county. He is county physician of Merced County, in charge of the County Hospital, in addition to his private practice, and has built up a most enviable reputation as a conscientious and able doctor of humanity. He is past president of the San Joaquin Medical Society, serving twice in that office, and is also past president of the Merced County Medical Society; a member of the State Medical Society and the National Medical Association; and surgeon for the Santa Fe and Yosemite Valley railways.

The marriage of Dr. Lilley, occurring at Mayville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., united him with Mabel Crosgrove, a native of that city, and two sons have blessed their union: Harold, a graduate of St. Mary's College, Oakland, now engaged in fig culture; and Ivan, a graduate of the University of California, and now a member of the firm of Lilley and Stribling, nurserymen. Prominent in the financial and civic life of his community, as well as professionally, Dr. Lilley is a director in the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merced; he is a member of the Merced Rotary Club; belongs to the Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; and is a Mason of high standing, a member of Merced Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., and all branches, including Aahmes Shrine, of Oakland. As dean of the practicing M. D.'s of Merced County, and a man learned in his profession both through practical experience and scientific knowledge, Dr. Lilley is held in high esteem by the entire county, and by his friends and business associates, who have found him to be relied upon at all times when the greater good of Merced and Merced County were in question, doing all in his power to advance the civic, economic and educational life of his district. His opportunities for public welfare work have been many, and have been taken advantage of unostentatiously and with a true regard for humanity. It is such men as this who have helped build up our communities, and now stand with their shoulders to the wheel to help tide over any temporary difficulties and make the way clear for posterity.

JAMES V. TOSCANO

The rise from very moderate circumstances to a position of honor and affluence has been the lot of James V. Toscano, leading citizen of Los Banos, solely through his energy and business integrity. A native of Italy, he was born in Basilicata, Potenza, on December 1, 1868, a son of Joseph Toscano, with whom he came to America in 1878. The mother and other members of the family followed them four years later and the home was established in New York City for a short time; later they came on to San Francisco. The year 1881 marks their advent in Merced County, the father purchasing forty acres of land in Badger Flat, near Los Banos. Improvements were made by building a house and fencing the property, our subject, then only a lad, assisting his father with this work. They raised vegetables and James V. sold them from a wagon, traveling over the countryside in a territory twenty miles wide by sixty miles in length and working from daylight until after dark.

In 1890 James V. Toscano came into Los Banos and embarked in business on his own account and erected the first business house in the new town. Seven years later his was the largest general merchandise business in Los Banos, the store growing in proportion to the increase in population. For nineteen years he carried on his business; then after a lapse of two years he engaged in the furniture business, which he continued for twelve years. In the meantime he became the leading spirit in the town, giving of his time and means to help every project that he had an idea would help develop the community. He was the founder of the First National Bank of Los Banos, in 1911, serving as its president for twelve years, until the bank was taken over by the Bank of Italy, when he retired. During the twelve years he served as president of the bank it paid an average yearly dividend of over forty-three per cent to the stockholders. He helped organize the Merchants' Association and was its president for nine years; for eleven years he served as a city trustee, part of the time as chairman of the board; and he was one of the prime movers for the incorporation of Los Banos, being on the board when this became a city; he worked for the installation of a sewer system, for street improvements, in fact every movement that would advance the city met with his hearty support. He was one of the organizers of the local Chamber of Commerce and served as treasurer for four years. Since 1909 Mr. Toscano has served as a member of the board of education; he was instrumental in having the local telephone service extended to give night service. After his retirement from the bank he engaged in the real estate business and was the means of having the Miller and Lux land sub-division of forty-two acres put on the market; also the sub-division southeast on the highway, and he sold most of the lots.

In June, 1888, James V. Toscano was united in marriage with Miss Mary Sarbo, who was born in the same town as himself, in 1871, and was brought to California by her parents when a baby. They have had eight children, viz: Joseph L., engaged in the life insurance business in Los Banos, is married and the father of two daughters, Sydney and Inez; William P., who was a prominent attorney is now deceased; Rosie, Mrs. Julio Bartolomeoni of Los Banos; Margaret; Julia, a teacher in the Los Banos schools for the past seven years; Antone, attending the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco, Class of 1925; Violet, attending the San Francisco Teachers College; and Jeanette, a student in the Los Banos High School. Mr. Toscano helped organize the Druids Lodge and was a Grand Trustee of the Grand Lodge for six years, and for one year was Grand Herald; he was one of the organizers of the Foresters of America and for sixteen years was District Grand Chief Ranger; he has passed all the chairs in the Mountain Brow Lodge of Odd Fellows, is a member of Newman Encampment and Modesto Canton; and he belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and to the Fraternal Brotherhood. After many years of activity Mr. Toscano is living practically retired, only looking after his own private interests for he owns considerable property in Los Banos, as well as ranch land. He is fond of outdoor life and spends much of his time enjoying the great out-of-doors.

DANIEL K. THORNTON

A citizen of whom any community might be proud is Daniel K. Thornton, and the people of Merced County, appreciating his public spirit and ability, elected him to the office of county supervisor, in which position he served for three consecutive terms of four years each. Not only while in office but in the common walk of life does he command the respect of all the people.

The son of Michael and Ellen (Hanlon) Thornton, he was born two and a half miles west of Merced on April 15, 1873. His father came to Napa, Cal., via Cape Horn, in 1866, and to Merced County in 1868, and bought the place on which his son Daniel was born; this he sold in 1883 and moved on to the P. Bennett ranch on the Mariposa and Merced County line. He moved again, in 1885, to Bear Creek, where he staid fourteen years; from there he went into the Planada district for six years. His next move was to the old Hooper place near Yosemite Lake and two years later he returned to Merced. He died in the fall of 1924 at the age of eighty-six years. His wife, whom he had married in San Francisco, where she had come as a

girl, died about 1905. There were thirteen children in his family, ten boys and three girls, of whom eleven are still living.

Daniel Thornton was educated in the public schools of Merced County and helped his father on the ranch in the farming season. From the age of twenty to thirty he worked for wages and then was able to engage in farming on his own account, which he did on several different rented places, first on the old Twitchell place for two years and next on the old Ivett ranch of 1300 acres for two years; then on the McClosky place for a like period. His last place to rent was the Cleek ranch near Plainsburg, after which he purchased his present place of forty acres on the Athlone-Buchanan road. In all his farming operations he has been fairly successful.

Mr. Thornton was married in 1904 to Miss Jessie Frances Poor, daughter of a pioneer rancher, and they have three children; Jesse Marvin, Ronald Daniel and Theresa Belle. Mr. Thornton's activity as county commissioner was marked by an activity for the good of the county in general and was highly commendable; the concrete highways and bridges in the county have all been built during his terms in office. Fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, and the Modern Woodmen. He is a member of the Le Grand Band and also plays the violin.

JOHN A. RODUNER

One of the prosperous and well-known ranchers and diarymen of Merced County, John A. Roduner has spent most of his life in the San Joaquin Valley, and has thus become well versed in its possibilities, both as to soil and climatic conditions, and in the products best calculated for successful growth in this most fertile region of California, and his success has been founded on the knowledge thus gained and on its practical application. He is a native of Minnesota, born March 10, 1853, at St. Anthony Falls, the eldest of two sons born to his parents. His father, John Roduner, was born in Switzerland on August 24, 1824, and came to the United States in 1846, with his parents, first locating in New York, then moving to Wisconsin, and later to Minnesota, following his trade of carpenter. He came to California in 1863, via Panama, bringing his family with him; they boarded the steamer Ocean Queen from New York, and from the Isthmus came on the Golden Shore to San Francisco. Locating in Stockton, Mr. Roduner, Sr., there worked at his trade as carpenter until he retired from active business cares. His wife died in Stockton on September 2, 1902, and that same year he came to Merced County and made his home with his son, until his death on August

19, 1909, at the age of eighty-four years. The mother is also buried in Merced County.

John A. Roduner received his education in the public schools of Stockton, and also took a course at Heald's Business College, in San Francisco. He then followed teaming for ten years, in Stanislaus, Mariposa and Merced Counties, coming to the latter in 1869, as a teamster hauling grain to Murray's Mill near Snelling. In 1871 he located in the county and worked for John Montgomery, and in 1879 located on land seven miles southwest of Merced in Merced County, 140 acres of which was given over to grain raising, and the balance to alfalfa and stock. In 1886 or 1887 he developed a fine nine-inch artesian well on his ranch, with an inch and a half flow at the top, and flowing 24,000 gallons every twenty-four hours, and this is the only one of five wells that is now flowing. Ranching was a little harder in his earlier days of development work, and it meant hard application and good management to bring land to where it meant success for the owner, and future prosperity for the whole section of which his life and work are a part. Of late years Mr. Roduner has been engaged in raising registered Holstein dairy cattle, and he owns a herd of 200 fine cattle of this breed, milking sixty-five cows; he was a breeder of pure bred Poland-China hogs, but since his son has taken over the ranch, he changed to Red Durocs. During 1891-96, he conducted a retail milk delivery in Merced, supplying a large patronage.

At Hornitos, Mariposa County, on November 7, 1879, occurred the marriage of John A. Roduner to Miss Hattie Arthur, who was born in Ohio, and brought to California in 1862, a babe in arms, and the eldest of ten children born to Robert and Belle (Steele) Arthur, both natives of Ohio, the father a blacksmith by trade and a pioneer in that business at Coulterville, and Hornitos, this State. Ten children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Roduner: J. Edward; George A.; Belle, the wife of Samuel Hale; Julia, deceased; J. Elmer; Mary, wife of C. A. Blauert; C. Roscoe; Cornelius A., deceased; Walter P., who now rents his father's ranch; Robert S., of Merced. Two sons, C. R. Roduner and Walter P., served their country in the World War; C. R. as a corporal in the A. E. F. from May, 1917, to July, 1919, receiving his honorable discharge at the Presidio, San Francisco. He is a member of the Merced American Legion post. Walter P. served in the U. S. N. R., attending the Radio School of the 12th Naval District, and received his honorable discharge September 30, 1921. In October, 1924, Mr. Roduner retired from the ranch and now lives at 436, Twenty-second Street, Merced. Fraternally, he belongs to Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; Yosemite Lodge No. 30, K. of P., and the Woodmen of the World.



S. L. Givens

SAMUEL LEWIS GIVENS

Of the pioneers living in Merced County, there are few who can so clearly recount the early stories and incidents that happened in the lives of the men and women who blazed the trail for the generations that are to follow, as can Samuel Lewis Givens, the retired rancher of the Bear Creek district, near Planada. A representative of a distinguished family who came to California in 1853, he was born in Union County, Ky., November 8, 1842, the youngest of ten children born of the marriage of Thomas and Catherine D. F. (Richards) Givens. His father was born in Virginia on December 1, 1798, and his mother was born in Kentucky on February 1, 1805. They were married on June 23, 1825, and became the parents of the following children: Robert R., born April 7, 1826, who now has a daughter Ada teaching school in Merced; Lewis R., born June 21, 1827, and died July 22, 1840; Eleazar, born October 17, 1828; Matilda L., born May 24, 1830, died August 7, 1853; Jane R., born March 7, 1832, married D. M. Pool of Mariposa County, who served in the State legislature; Catherine A., born November 17, 1833, married A. J. Gregory, who served in the legislature (she died November 25, 1856); Thomas Jr., born October 15, 1838; John H., born October 15, 1838, served one term as sheriff of Merced County; Mary R., born October 30, 1840, married E. E. Thrift of Stockton; and Samuel L., our subject and the only one of the family now living.

It was on December 24, 1852, that the Givens family left their home in the Eastern States and started for California, reaching New Orleans on January 1, 1853, from which port they embarked on board the Pampero for Greytown, which they reached twelve days later. They crossed the Isthmus on the backs of mules and then took passage on the Brother Jonathan for San Francisco, reaching that city on February 2. The Brother Jonathan disappeared on its next trip and was never heard from again. The family proceeded to Mariposa County by way of Stockton on the mail stage and arrived at their destination in due time over some very bad roads, as it was a wet season. Mr. Givens bought the possessory rights of the Texas Ranch, comprising 1040 acres, which ranch is now owned by our subject. Here the father died on September 12, 1860.

Samuel L. Givens was educated in the pay schools of Mariposa County, attending about four months each year, and finished with a course at the University of the Pacific at San Jose. His schooling over, he returned to the home ranch and remained until 1869 and then engaged in running stock into Inyo County until 1876. In 1878 he bought the ranch he now owns in Merced County, known as the M. O. Barber ranch, on Bear Creek, upon which he has since lived. This

ranch comprises some 520 acres, which has been devoted to grain and stock-raising; in addition he has been a large leasor of land for stock purposes.

Mr. Givens has been closely allied with all movements for the upbuilding of this part of the county and has maintained his interest in the events of the period, keeping abreast of the times by observation and reading. In politics he is a Democrat. Since his retirement the ranch has been managed by his son Archibald, who is an only child, and who has been given the best of educational advantages.

On December 20, 1877, in Mariposa County, Mr. Givens was united in marriage with Miss Susan Lurana Wills, a native of Mariposa County, born December 9, 1855, a daughter of Benjamin Wills, a native of Alabama, who married Miss Amanda Cathey. Mr. Wills made his first trip to the Golden State in 1849, and afterwards he went back East for his family. Mr. and Mrs. Givens have one son, Archibald, who married Miss Virginia McReynolds of Santa Rosa; and they have a daughter, Virginia Lurana.

On Mr. Givens' ranch stands an orange tree, a seedling grown from a seed of an orange which Mrs. Givens obtained when she was coming across the Isthmus of Panama in 1853, and which she planted seventy-five years ago on their Texas Ranch in Mariposa County. In 1900 the tree was moved to the ranch of our subject, and still bears a bountiful crop each year.

GILBERT B. NEIGHBOR

The late Gilbert B. Neighbor of Snelling, Merced County, was one of the pioneer merchants of that village and he was one of the foremost upbuilders of his adopted State. He was born in German Valley, Morris County, N. J., September 14, 1836, a son of Jacob Weise and Mary Ann (Trimmer) Neighbor, both born in that same state. His paternal great-grandfather, Leonard Neighbor, and the grandfather, also named Leonard, served in the War of the Revolution. The latter lived to be ninety-one years old. In 1855 Jacob Neighbor moved to Princeton, Ill., and there both himself and his wife died.

Our subject received a common school education and was nineteen when the family located in Illinois. In 1859 he came on to California, via Panama, and arriving in San Francisco he went at once to Tuolumne County where he farmed seven years, then for the next seven years he was a clerk in a general store. In 1873 he came to Snelling with his experience and embarked in the general merchandise business that he followed until his death. He was interested in sheep raising and in farming, owning 120 acres, besides some town prop-

erty. As one interested in the upbuilding of the county he served as justice of the peace four years and in every way possible gave of his time and means to advance the interests of the people and the county.

Mr. Neighbor married Matilda H. Smith, born in Augusta, Me., the daughter of P. B. Smith, who came around the Horn to California in 1850 and lived for many years in Jamestown, Cal. Of this union eight children were born: Charles G., a rancher in Merced County; Marjorie A., married William C. Richards; May N., became the wife of Fred G. Robinson; Ada Grace, married R. H. Allen; Pearl, deceased; Josie; Melvin, postmaster at Snelling; and Ethel. Mr. Neighbor died February 20, 1922, aged eighty-six years, and is survived by his wife, who lives in Snelling. He was faithful to every trust reposed in him, as was attested by his serving the Wells Fargo Express Company for almost forty years. He is missed by a wide circle of friends who appreciated his noble qualities of mind and heart.

WILLIAM EDWARD LANDRAM

There are few names more closely identified with the history of Merced County than that of William Edward Landram, who, as banker and citizen, has wielded a strong influence that has done much for the growth and prosperity of Merced, which has been his home for more than a third of a century. His birth occurred in Cairo, Mo., March 11, 1867, a son of W. L. and Betty (Boney) Landram. W. L. Landram was drafted for service during the Civil War and was on his way to the front when the war ended; he had been a farmer all his lifetime and died on the old homestead in Missouri on June 8, 1924, having reached the venerable age of ninety-one years; the mother of our subject passed away on April 29, 1922, aged eighty-five years.

William Edward Landram first attended district school in the vicinity of the home farm in Missouri; then he attended the Kirksville Normal and the Kirksville Business College. He was reared to farm work and spent twenty years of his life on the farm in Missouri, receiving practical knowledge of agriculture that proved of great worth after coming to California. On September 29, 1887 he came to Merced and soon thereafter became an employee of the Merced Lumber Company. After working and saving his money he bought stock in the business. For a time Mr. Landram ran the Merced River Flour Mill, on the river near Snelling; then he was in the transfer, wood and coal business for six years and for two years had charge of some land in the vicinity of Merced, and he now owns 320 acres of land in the Merced Irrigation District. In 1900 he took charge of the

Merced Lumber Company, of which he has been vice-president and was general manager until January, 1924, when he came into the Farmers and Merchants Bank to give it his entire attention.

The marriage of Mr. Landram occurred in Merced on September 23, 1890, and united him with Miss Ida Banks, daughter of the late John Banks, senior member of the firm of Banks & Bedesen, pioneer butchers of Merced. Mrs. Landram was also a native of Missouri. One son was born of this union, John William, manager of a branch lumber yard at Livingston. Mrs. Landram passed away March 28, 1924. Mr. Landram is a thirty-second-degree Scottish Rite Mason; he also belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World and with his wife was a member of the Eastern Star and Women of Woodcraft. Locally he belongs to the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Landram is the active vice-president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Merced, to which he gives all his time. The family are prominent and active members of the Central Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Landram has been clerk of the board for the past twenty-three years.

JOHN C. JAMES

A retired pioneer of Merced and Stanislaus Counties, John C. James has been identified with the development of the San Joaquin Valley for the past sixty-five years, and in that time he has lived a life full of responsible work for the community at large and developed his own personal resources. He has been a factor for real progress and advancement in all of Central California. Born in Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wis., on November 16, 1840, he was the eleventh child born to his parents, William and Eva James, natives of Cornwall, England, who came to the United States with three children and settled at Dodgeville. The father was a blacksmith in England, but after coming to America he became a farmer, and built and operated a flouring mill on Otter Creek. He was a staunch Republican and after becoming naturalized held the office of justice of the peace in Dodgeville, where both parents died the same month and year.

John C., now the only living son, received his education in the public school and at Mineral Point Seminary. He came West via Panama and arrived in Stockton on May 1, 1861, on the side-wheeler Cornelia from San Francisco, having made the Atlantic part of the voyage on the S. S. Northern Light, and the Pacific journey on the S. S. Constitution, being twenty-three days from New York to San Francisco. His brother, Captain Henry George James, the third child in the family, had preceded him, arriving in California in 1851. In the sixties he was a prominent rancher and stockman living west of

Turlock, Stanislaus County. Another brother, Edward, the oldest of the family, was a Forty-niner, having come around the Horn to the gold fields of California. William, the second child, crossed the plains in 1850. The first work John C. did after reaching this State was on the San Joaquin River, in the employ of a Captain Jones who ran the steamer *Alta*, with a Mr. Ward as pilot. Later, when Captain James and Charles Blair engaged in the retail meat business at Big Oak Flat, John C. was his bookkeeper, after Mr. Blair sold to Captain James. They sold ten dressed beeves daily while the mines were in full blast. Later a shop was opened at Tuolumne City with John Simmons as a partner, but when the majority of the people moved to Modesto, in 1872, the two James brothers moved also; but Mr. Simmons remained in Tuolumne City. James Street, Modesto, is named for Captain James, deceased pioneer.

In the years up to 1879, John C. James resided in the great ranching center of Stanislaus County, where he served as the first enrolling clerk on the registry law; that year he came to Merced County, and farmed 2000 acres of the J. W. Mitchell lands, wheat being his chief crop. With the exception of four years absence in Oregon, where he conducted a shingle mill at Coquelle, he has made Merced County his home from that date. He developed a choice vineyard of fifty-three acres, north of Atwater, which since has been subdivided and is a part of Gertrude Colony. He also owns desirable real estate and rental property in Merced, and has prospered with the developing of the fertile Valley of the San Joaquin, for his keen foresight and ability to see the wonderful future in store for this section of the State have netted him good returns, and at the same time he has been able to contribute to the settling up and further advancement of the State's resources.

The marriage of Mr. James, which occurred in 1876 at the home of Jack Hayes, Modesto, united him with Miss Jennie Weston, the first girl babe born on Sherlock Creek, Mariposa County. Her father, Lewis Weston, was a native of New England who crossed the plains and settled in California in 1849. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James; Sydney L. is married and the father of three sons and resides in Mariposa County; John H. is a rancher of Merced, married and father of three children; and Gertrude A. Casad of Merced is the mother of four children. Mrs. James passed away in Oregon in 1903.

Mr. James has always maintained a deep interest in State history, and he has done much for his fellow pioneers; he contributes to local newspapers, a most interesting style of writing, on past events and early California history, his *Nom de Plume* being "Wilkins McCawber," and he often favors civic clubs and the like, during banquet

hours, with his presence and gives little talks, and is always received with ready response for "More, more!" A most likable man, he holds the respect and liking of his friends and acquaintances throughout the great central valley. Fraternally, he is an Odd Fellow; and in line with other civic work, he served one term as deputy county assessor of Stanislaus County under Tom Wilson. In 1919, in company with his brother, Richard, he made an extended visit to eastern states, but while enjoying the sights of the "effete East," he saw nothing to make him regret his early decision to "come West and grow up with the country."

PETER J. WOLFSEN

A native son of California, born near Oleta, Amador County, on August 8, 1866, Peter J. Wolfesen is the eldest of nine children born to Henry C. and Amelia (Howell) Wolfesen, pioneers of that county. Henry C. Wolfesen was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and came to California during the Gold Rush, via the Panama route. He engaged in work, first in the Southern Mines, later in the silver mines in Nevada, and also in sawmill work, finally devoting his whole energies to agriculture. In the fall of 1875, he moved to Merced County, and located on the old Crawford ranch, near what is now Planada; this property he leased, and operated for three years raising wheat with good success. He then moved to the Page ranch of 1280 acres, operated it for one season, and finally settled on the J. M. Montgomery ranch, embracing 4000 acres, on Bear Creek, and this property he purchased in 1880 and made it the family home for the remainder of his days. He was a well-known Odd Fellow, and an active man in school work, serving as a trustee of the Bear Creek district. Amelia (Howell) Wolfesen was a native of England, but came to the United States when a girl, with a party of friends, and crossed the plains with ox-teams from Missouri. She and Mr. Wolfesen were married in Amador County, and were among the permanent upbuilders of the central part of the State. Mr. Wolfesen died January 30, 1901, aged sixty-five years, four months and eleven days; Mrs. Wolfesen passed away January 20, 1918.

Peter J., being the eldest of a large family, and the times uncommonly hard for the early ranchers, had opportunity for but little schooling, and was forced to go to work at an early age, learning the ranch business through contact with its practical side in close association with his parents. He remained at home until 1889, and then, following his marriage, he commenced ranching on his own account on one-half of his father's home ranch. This he continued until 1894, when he moved to his present place six miles southeast of

Merced. This property then comprised 1360 acres, and he was very successful as a grain- and stock-raiser for many years; he later sold off some of his land, and today owns only 200 acres, highly improved to intensive ranching, and with modern residence and ranch buildings.

The marriage of Mr. Wolfsen, at Hornitos, April 8, 1891, united him with Miss Mary Arthur, born at Coulterville, Cal., the daughter of the late Robert and Belle (Steele) Arthur, both native of Ohio of Scotch extraction. They were also among the early settlers of Central California. Married in Ohio, they came west in 1865, via Panama, and that year settled in Coulterville, where Mr. Arthur ran a blacksmith shop. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wolfsen: Arthur, married Agnes Ball, of Nevada, and is the father of two children, Norman and Gertrude; Ruth, at home; and Chester, married Hazel Elliott, of San Francisco, and is the father of three children, Elliott, Harlan and Beverly Jean. Mrs. Wolfsen passed away on September 22, 1924, aged fifty-seven years. Mr. Wolfsen is highly esteemed in his community as a man of good principle, and one who has the real upbuilding of his district at heart. He is a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, of Merced.

JOSEPH SPENCER SPARKS

One of the early settlers who became a successful stock-raiser on the West Side in Merced County was Joseph S. Sparks. He was born in Kentucky, May 12, 1830, a son of Madison Sparks, a Virginian, who had married Winnie Thomas, who bore eight children, Joseph S. Sparks being the third in order of birth. He was able to get a fair education in the local schools and remained in his native county until he was of age. He had heard of the discovery of gold in California and it so fired his enthusiasm that he decided he would cast in his lot with the pioneers and followed the trend of emigration, crossing the plains in 1852.

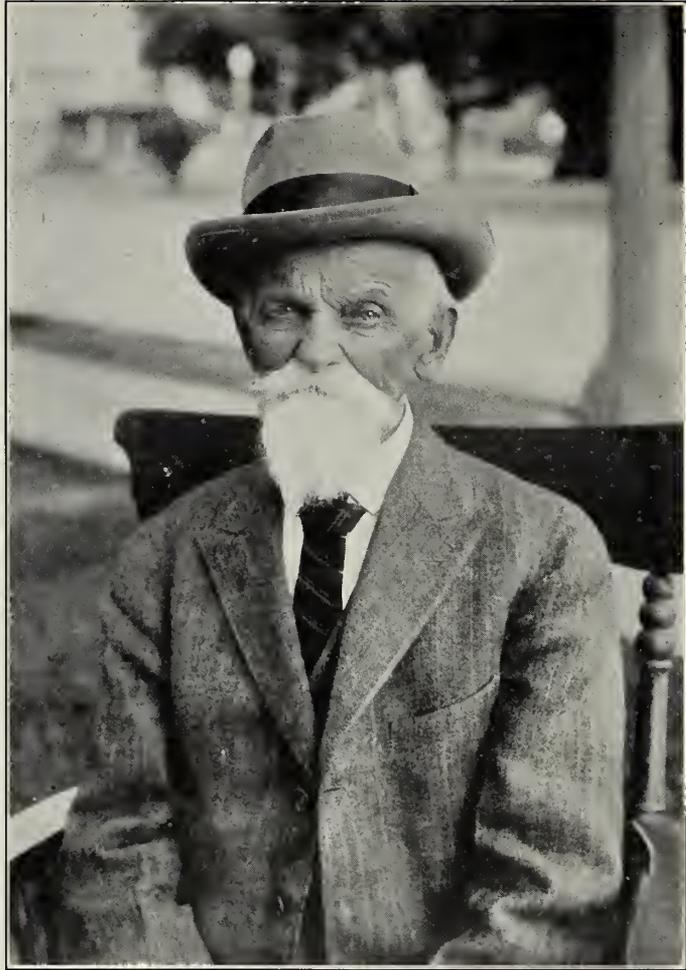
Upon his arrival in this state he went to the mines in Placer County and was engaged in mining for many years, meeting with the usual luck of the miner, sometimes meeting with good success and sometimes with reverses, but continuing with the hope that he would find his fortune. In 1867 he went to Chico and engaged in the lumber business for a time, filling contracts for hauling logs to the mills. In 1869 he came down into the San Joaquin Valley, bought 160 acres of land, and the following year added 320 acres near Ingomar, which he fully improved and farmed for many years. He became a successful stockman, noted for breeding and raising fine horses. He operated his farming operations on a large scale and became a valued member of his community.

In Chico, Mr. Sparks married Melissa C. Eachus, who was born in Iowa, and came with her parents to California in 1865. They had six children: David William, deceased; May L., Mrs. Detlefsen; Nellie Bird, deceased; Margaret Russell, wife of H. J. Miller of Oakland; George Madison of San Francisco; and Joseph Spencer, Jr. deceased. Mr. Sparks, who was much beloved by all who knew him, died in 1892. He was an Odd Fellow and a consistent Christian, holding membership in the Methodist Church. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Sparks continued on the home place and in 1901 erected a modern house on the ranch and at the same time conducted the place with the aid of her sons. She now makes her home in Oakland. Mr. and Mrs. Sparks won a host of friends who appreciated their worth as citizens and neighbors.

JOSEPH VASCHE

Numbered among that intrepid band of pioneers who came to California in the stirring times when gold was discovered we find the name of Joseph Vasche, who had come across the plains behind slow-moving oxen to reach the land of opportunity and share in the wealth that seemed to be obtainable here. He and his hardy band met with the usual trouble that the immigrants experienced with Indians, though no record has been made that any of their party were killed or injured. Upon arriving in this state he followed mining for a time, and although a mere boy, he participated in the stirring times of the Vigilante Days in San Francisco. He turned his attention to the more secure method of gaining his independence and engaged in the sheep business, continuing until about 1875, when he disposed of his flocks and went to San Jose and was engaged in the mercantile business for six years. The future of Merced County appealed strongly to him and he returned here and invested his money in 2100 acres of land at Athlone, which he developed into a fruitful ranch with diversified products, though he was one of the large grain raisers here.

Joseph Vasche was born in Germany in 1826, came to America when he was but fourteen years of age, grew up in Missouri until 1848, and then began his journey to the unknown West. In 1871 he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Bielenberg, the wedding taking place at the famous old "stone house" above Plainsburg. They had one daughter, Josephine, Mrs. Ringnalda, now connected with the schools in Los Angeles. The wife and mother died in 1872, after which Mr. Vasche toured Europe. In 1874 he was married to Maria Halenkamp, born in Germany and who became the mother of ten



Henry Nelson

children, four of whom remain at home. The children are: Pauline Lines, deceased; Gertrude, supervisor in the schools of Merced County; Joseph, Henry, Francis (deceased), Elma (deceased), Fredrika, Florence; Karl, who saw service in Siberia during the World War; and Harold, who also was in the service of his country when the armistice was signed.

Mr. Vasche died in 1912. He was a Democrat in politics and cast his first vote for Franklin Pierce. It is to such men as Mr. Vasche that the generation of today owe much of their prosperity for he was among the early trail-blazers in California.

HENRY NELSON

Among the best-known of the old-timers now living in Merced is Henry Nelson, whose memory carries him back to the earliest days in the forming of the county, and who is able to recount the happenings of those early days when a "man was a man" and stood upon his own feet. Mr. Nelson was born in Frederickton, N. B., on August 17, 1844, the son of William and Anna C. (Campbell) Nelson. The former died in May, 1896, at Sonora, and the latter in September, 1895, at Merced Falls; both are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Snelling.

Henry Nelson attended school in San Francisco and Merced Falls and at Nicholson's Seminary in Stockton, in 1865, and the Pacific Business College in San Francisco in 1866. This school became the nucleus of Heald's Business College, Mr. Heald being Nelson's teacher. In the first school he attended, the first in San Francisco, on Washington Street, Professor Pelton was the principal. His school days over, young Nelson returned to Merced County and began driving team for his father, who ran Nelson's Flouring Mill at Merced Falls, delivering flour through Mariposa and parts of Tuolumne and Fresno Counties for three years. They sold over \$2,500,000 worth of flour from the mill during its existence from 1854 to 1893, mostly in the hills. He then became solicitor for the mill, and also was bookkeeper a little later. In 1866 he was taken into partnership by his father, William Nelson, in the mill at Merced Falls. He secured the stock subscribers for the Merced Falls Woolen Mill erected there in 1869. In 1868 Mr. Nelson bought wheat up and down the Merced River, some 500 tons, paying thirty dollars a ton for same; in two weeks the price jumped to fifty dollars per ton and he made a profit of \$10,000. On April 4, 1872, the woolen mill burned down, also the flour mill. The fire is supposed to have caught in the picker room of the woolen mill. Nelson & Son had the con-

trolling interest, amounting to about \$20,000, in the concern. Both mills were rebuilt, but were again burned to the ground on September 23, 1893. While living in Merced Falls, William Nelson was postmaster of the place and Henry had all the work to do for about thirty years; he also was secretary of the Woolen Mill Corporation.

Henry Nelson was married on June 16, 1869, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Hornitos, to Miss Lola Antoinette Lawrence, a daughter of Michael and Adelia (Heicox) Lawrence. Her father was born in Alsace-Lorraine and her mother in Naugatuck, Conn., and Mrs. Nelson first saw the light at Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y. Of their marriage the following children have been born: William H., of Yosemite; Mrs. Lola A. Cease, superintendent of Ahwahnee Sanitarium; Alma May, wife of John Taylor, of Merced; Inez Mildred, wife of Louis Dorn, of San Antonio, Tex.; Miss Etta Myrtle, of Merced; and Beatrice Hazel, who married Frank J. Duncan, of Merced.

Mrs. Nelson came out from the East with her father and three sisters, via Panama. Eudora married William Franklin Overstreet; and their daughter Fanny Eudora, who became the wife of George Kelsey, was reared by Mrs. Nelson after the death of her mother, when she was a little girl. William Lorenzo Overstreet, brother of Mrs. Kelsey, is editor of the paper at Carmel. Gussie married James D. Craighan, and their children are: Lilly, of San Francisco; Mrs. Minnie Morris, of Hollywood; Nettie Louise, a teacher in San Francisco; Mrs. Della Viola, wife of Charles K. Weller, of Fort Bragg; Mrs. C. E. (Favorite May) Kocher, of Berkeley; James D. Jr., of Sacramento. Louise, the oldest sister of Mrs. Nelson, married Mr. Logsdin and died on March 26, 1905. The four brothers of Mrs. Nelson are: Dr. Lorenzo Lawrence, who died in Sonoma about 1894; W. H. H. Lawrence, who died in Salinas in 1924 at the age of eighty-six; Raymond, who died in Mexico; and Francis, who died in early childhood in New York State. The mother also died there, after which the remaining members of the family came to California.

Mr. Nelson has always voted the Republican ticket on national issues, but in local affairs he considers the men best qualified for public office, regardless of their politics. He served as a member of the board of supervisors from District No. 1 for four years. Fraternally he was a member of the Odd Fellows, having joined Willow Lodge No. 121, I. O. O. F., at Snelling, when he was twenty-one; later he withdrew to join Hornitos Lodge No. 99, I. O. O. F., where he held his membership until about 1896. He also belonged to the Oso Encampment at Bear Valley, and passed the chairs of the lodge in the early nineties; and he was a member of the workmen

until 1910. In early days Mr. Nelson belonged to the Sonora Rifle Club, of which Fred Sutton, Dr. Bromley, and Mr. Nelson are the only survivors.

THOMAS ALEXIS MACK

Of southern birth and lineage, Thomas Alexis Mack displays in his character many of the qualities that have distinguished citizens of that section of our country for generations, and have won for himself a popularity and esteem which place him among the influential citizens of Merced County. He has been an active participant in public affairs for the past thirty-five years; for ten years he served as a constable of Merced, then became shotgun messenger for Wells, Fargo Express Company, a position he held for nine years, during the time when gold was transferred from the mountains to the railroad, and each trip was fraught with danger. Mr. Mack established a reputation for courage and fearlessness, which led to his appointment as a deputy sheriff in 1911. Upon the death of Sheriff Cornell, Mr. Mack was appointed to fill his position, and in 1916 he was elected without opposition; again in 1919 he was elected to succeed himself and still again in 1922. His service has been characterized by the strictest integrity, unbounded courage and a spirit of progress that has had a beneficial influence upon the community in general.

Thomas Alexis Mack was born in Carter County, Ky., in 1857, a son of John and Catherine (Roach) Mack, farmer folk in the southern State. Both parents are now deceased. Mr. Mack attended public school in Kentucky and assisted his father on the farm until 1880, when he removed to Washington County, Iowa, where he farmed for three years. His desire to come West was realized in 1883, when he settled at Snelling, Merced County, and found work on the Montgomery ranch. It was not until 1888 that he became a resident of Merced, which has been his place of residence ever since.

The marriage of Mr. Mack united him with Miss Nettie Yoakum, a native daughter of California, and of this union three children have been born. Maude is now the wife of A. T. Munn and they have one daughter, Virginia; the family resides in Los Angeles. George Thomas is an engineer for the State Highway Commission; during the World War he served in France for two years; and William Alexis is with the Yosemite Lumber Company. In politics Mr. Mack is a Democrat. Fraternally, he belongs to the Woodmen of the World and Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Merced Chamber of Commerce.

WILLIAM T. WHITE

Among the well-known men and progressive citizens of Merced County is William T. White, president of the White-Crowell Company, Inc., of Livingston. He was born in Paris, Ky., on May 27, 1868, and was orphaned by the death of his father that same year, while his mother passed away ten years later, in California. William T. White grew up from infancy in the Golden State and received his education in the schools of Merced and San Jose. When he was twelve years old he entered the employ of Miller and Lux, Henry Miller treating him as a son, giving him every advantage possible with the corporation, and this close friendship lasted until the death of Mr. Miller. Promotion followed promotion and soon young White was placed in charge as manager of the Miller and Lux store and other interests at Los Banos. Mr. White's entire life, with the exception of seven years, has been spent in Merced County. Two years he was in the hotel business in Jamestown, two years in the merchandise business in Coulterville, and three years were spent in Old Mexico as a foreman in railroad construction.

In 1901 Mr. White returned to California and again entered the employ of Miller and Lux, where he remained until 1909, the period making him one of their trusted employees for twenty years. The last mentioned year he came to Livingston and purchased the interest of the late R. W. Hammatt in the general merchandise store, the firm becoming White and Crowell; this partnership was continued until 1919, when the business was incorporated under the firm name of White-Crowell Company, Inc. The officers of the corporation are William T. White, president; J. J. Boyle, vice-president; and L. E. White, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Boyle is in charge of the dry goods department, C. R. Davis is the head of the hardware department. Their grocery department was discontinued on January 1, 1923 and the business now includes dry goods, hardware and clothing, with a complete stock in each department.

On November 4, 1891, William T. White was united in marriage with Miss Sadie M. Crowell, a sister of F. E. Crowell, a former partner with Mr. White, and daughter of the late G. F. and Sarah (Warfield) Crowell. Mr. and Mrs. White have two children, Lester Eugene, mentioned on another page in this volume, and Ethel M., whose first husband was W. C. Close; her second marriage united her with N. C. Matthews, cashier of the First Bank of Livingston. Mr. White has been active in all movements for the advancement of his section of Merced County, was one of the organizers of the First Bank of Livingston, is an extensive rancher, landowner and vineyardist, having a twenty-acre alfalfa ranch, a half interest in a fine

forty-acre vineyard, and a half interest in a seventy-acre vineyard and alfalfa ranch near Livingston. During the World War he was at the head of the Red Cross and all bond drives in his section and helped put Livingston "over the top" each time. He served two years as the president of the Livingston Merchants Association, which he helped organize. He is the present president of the Boosters' Club, and was active in getting Livingston incorporated as a city of the sixth class in 1922. A friend of education, he serves as vice-president of the Merced Union High School, and was seven years a member of the board of trustees. He was the moving spirit in securing the Union High School for Livingston, the high school building being completed in October, 1924 at a cost of \$150,000. Mr. White was appointed a member of the advisory committee to the board of supervisors on county highways, being appointed by the supervisors, and through their untiring efforts the many miles of concrete highways have been constructed in the county. In 1913 he completed one of the finest homes in Livingston, where the family reside. There has been no issue put forth for the advancement of Merced County that he has not done his share, giving of his time and means to keep Merced County and its diversified interests on the map. Fraternally, he is a member of the Elks and Knights of Pythias in Merced, and the Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World in Los Banos, having been a member of the last two over thirty years.

WILLIAM MUMBY

In improving the opportunities that have come his way, Mr. Mumby, the proprietor of the principal hardware store in Dos Palos, has evinced both discretion and sound business judgment and has won an enviable place among the upbuilders of his locality. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, April 14, 1874, a son of William and Sarah Mumby, who came to Ontario, Canada, in the fall of 1874, when their son, William, was only six months old. After nine years in Canada they came to Saline County, Nebr., in 1883, where they engaged in farming. In February, 1895, they came to Dos Palos and farmed again. They both died in 1906.

The son, William, was educated in Nebraska and growing up on a farm, he drove teams for his father when he was only ten years old. From 1895 to 1906 he carried on a dairy farm in Merced County; after that he was construction foreman for Miller & Lux, and steam engineer, a trade he had learned in Nebraska. In 1911 he started in the hardware business in Dos Palos on his own account, and six months later lost his business by fire. Then he reopened a

store and as the business has expanded he has moved from one location to another, each time to larger quarters, and is now quartered in the Odd Fellows building. In 1924 he erected a warehouse 50x90 feet. In 1923 he erected a fire-proof building, 45x180 feet, occupied by the Ford agency.

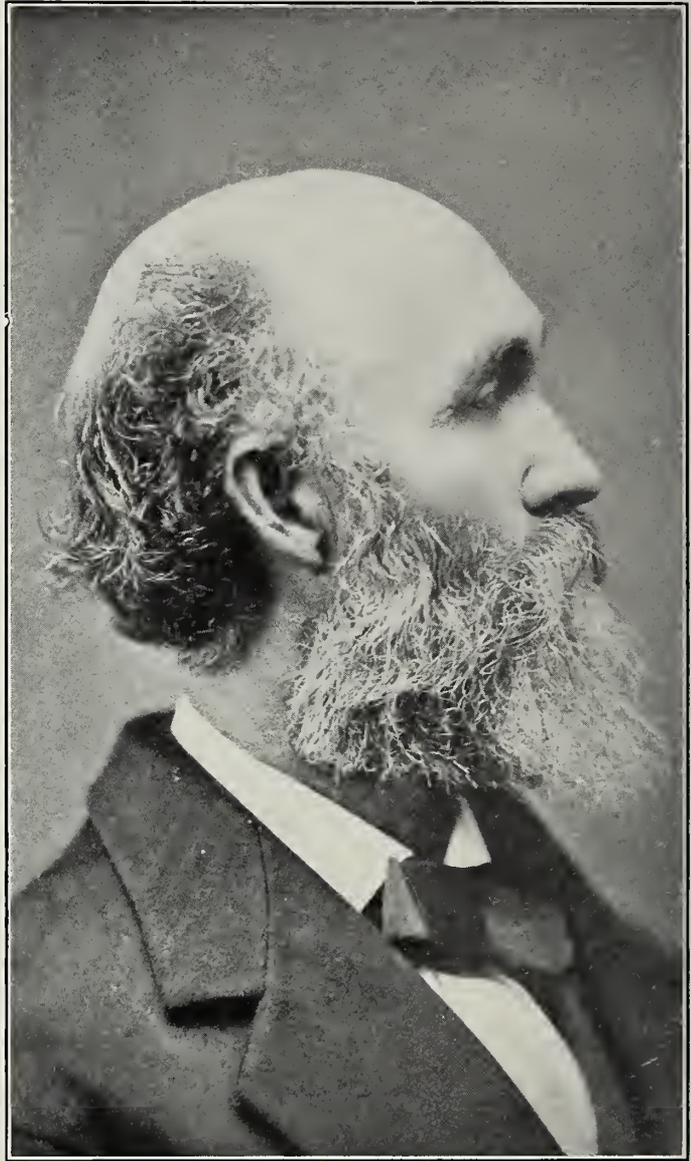
Mr. Mumby had five sons by his first wife, Susan Archer, whom he married in 1898, and who died in November, 1906; they are: William E., in Long Beach; Granville A., who married Eva Ellingson; Isaac Desmond, in Long Beach; Delmar and Maurice Odell, at home. The maiden name of his second wife was Mamie Gies, and she is a native of California; they were married in June, 1920, and there is one daughter by that union, Luella Frances. Mr. Mumby is a member of the Dos Palos Sanitary Board, and \$30,000 bonds have been voted and sold to install a sewer system for Dos Palos. He is a member of Santa Rita Lodge No. 124, I. O. O. F., of Dos Palos, Rebekah Lodge No. 333; Dos Palos Tent No. 31, K. O. T. M.

THOMAS BLACKSTONE RECTOR

A successful rancher and business man of Merced County is Thomas B. Rector, a native son of the State, born in Merced County near Hopeton, on February 10, 1863, the second son and child of Elbridge Gerry and Amanda (McFarlane) Rector, pioneers of California, the former now deceased but the latter is a resident of Berkeley and at the age of ninety-four is in possession of all her faculties and enjoys life to its full. A full detailed mention is made of the family on another page of this history.

After finishing his school work, Thomas B. Rector was employed on his father's ranch until he accepted a position as clerk at Snelling with Simon-Jacobs Company, where he remained for five years. He next was interested in extensive grain-farming on the bottom lands during 1887-1888, meeting with fair results. He then entered the employ of John Ruddle and moved to the Rotterdam Colony and ranched there in 1892. At Hornitos, Mariposa County, he was next engaged as a rancher, then moved back to Merced County and bought forty acres of land at Atwater, which he fully improved. He now owns ten acres near Atwater, two and one-half acres lying in the town limits. He has since made this section his home and is now living retired from farming activities.

The marriage of Thomas B. Rector united him with Miss Mary Ellen Little, born at Hopeton, a daughter of the late William Little, a pioneer in California of 1852, when he had crossed the plains. He followed stock-raising and ranching all his life. Mr. and Mrs. Rec-



Saml. Collier



Ann Eliza Collier

tor have had five children, viz: William Gerry, of Oakland, is married to Miss Genevieve Hart and they have one daughter, Marian; Archibald Thomas, of Atwater; Mary Lee, a graduate of the University of California, Class of 1924, married Paul Thornton and now lives in Petaluma; Stanley and an infant are both deceased. Mr. Rector is a Democrat and he has served as a trustee of the Snelling district. The family are members of the Methodist Church.

WILLIAM G. COLLIER

Remembered as an early pioneer of California, a man of erudition and scholarly attainments, and a citizen whose efforts were always given towards the advancement of public interests, William G. Collier is named among the representative men of the State as the "Father of Irrigation" and as a leader in the early days of the settling of Merced County. A native of Kentucky, he was born in Shelby County on July 17, 1827, a son of Michael and Amelia (Wilcox) Collier. The latter was a grandniece of Daniel Boone, and on her father's side was descended from a long line of Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Divinity. Michael Collier, a Mason of high degree, was a prosperous merchant, following the mercantile business for some years, or until his death early in life. After he died his widow removed to Missouri with her family and settled in Boone County.

William G. Collier passed his boyhood and early manhood in Missouri, and finished his education with a three-years course in the University of Missouri at Columbia. He left the university before his graduation, to take charge of his brother's lumber business, this brother having gone to California as a gold-seeker; and soon after, he bought out his brother and conducted the business for himself until he, too, decided he would come to California, which he did in 1853, selling out his varied interests and embarking in a train that crossed the plains with oxen and the oldtime prairie schooners. Mr. Collier experienced the usual experiences of the pioneer in the long journey of six months crossing desert, plain and mountains; and upon his safe arrival in the Golden State he went to Tuolumne County and there engaged in the lumber business, also taking a very active part in the upbuilding of the county, where he served as a member of the board of supervisors for a time.

The year 1859 marks his advent into Merced County. Here he settled on the Merced River about five miles from its mouth and engaged in stockraising; and when the grain era began, he was among the first to engage in that industry. He kept adding to his landholdings until he came to own some 3000 acres, which he superintended.

Besides ranching, Mr. Collier did a great deal of surveying for Miller & Lux, as well as for others who needed his services. He was very far-sighted and could see the benefit to be obtained by the ranchers if they could get water on their lands; and to William G. Collier, more than to any other man of his time, is due the credit for the irrigation of the lands in Merced County. He promoted the first irrigation enterprise of any size in the entire State, that of the Robla Canal Company, which was incorporated on March 30, 1870, and was financed and managed practically by himself, in company with W. P. Sproul and S. Baltzley, with its principal place of business at the Collier Ranch. Of this company Mr. Collier was the president. Its organization was the result of years of planning and in putting it into practical operation he introduced a measure that was to figure largely in the agricultural development of the Valley. He was also associated with The Farmers' Canal Company, which later became the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, and was thus the forerunner of the great Merced Irrigation District.

Mr. Collier served as county surveyor of Merced County several terms, and in many ways did his full part to place on a safe and sound foundation the future welfare of Merced County.

Mr. Collier was united in marriage on July 29, 1851, in Chariton County, Mo., with Miss Ann Eliza Jackson, daughter of George Jackson, who served as a judge in his county and was a political leader there. George Jackson was a brother of Governor Jackson of Missouri, and was also related to Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. Of this fortunate union were born the following children: Amelia Collier Stone; Harriet Collier Whitworth; Laura Collier Munson; Elizabeth Lee Collier Olds; Frances Collier Hartman; George Jackson Collier, deceased; William Lee Collier, who married Bessie Elizabeth Guier; Mary Collier; Carolina Calhoun Collier, deceased; Virginia Washington Collier; Sara Boone Collier; and Lillian Collier.

Mr. Collier was much interested in politics, and was a staunch Democrat. He was baptized a Catholic, but was reared by Baptist parents; he had no active church affiliations. He died October 9, 1883; and in his passing, Merced County and the State of California lost a most loyal citizen. Mr. Collier was a great reader, an exceptionally well-informed man. He was a thinker, a scholar. In early manhood he had taught school for a short time, until he entered larger spheres of activity. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, or had business or social relations with him; and no one was ever turned away whom he thought in any way deserving of his assistance. An unselfish man, his first thoughts were for his family and friends, and his name will ever be held in memory by posterity.

W. H. OSBORN

As a dealer in real estate and an active member of the Merced County Republican Central Committee and as justice of the peace of Township No. 8, W. H. Osborn of Atwater has been closely identified with all forward movements for the upbuilding of Merced County and of this section of the San Joaquin Valley. A native son, he was born in San Francisco, on February 12, 1856, the eldest of six children (four living) of Henry Augustus Osborn, a pioneer of 1850 in California. He was born in Oxford, Conn., on February 13, 1829, grew up there until he was sixteen, then came to California via Cape Horn. Much suffering was endured by the passengers on that eventful journey, but finally young Osborn arrived in San Francisco, where he later engaged in the draying business. He was a member of the San Francisco Vigilant Committee of that early day and was always much concerned in the world events during his entire lifetime. He was a step-brother of the late J. W. Mitchell, a Forty-niner and a San Joaquin Valley pioneer. Mr. Osborn peddled goods out of San Francisco and Stockton to the miners in Tuolumne and Amador Counties in a cart drawn by oxen; and he also mined in that section. He went through the flood of 1862 while he was ranching on the Mitchell place on Cherokee Lane between Stockton and Woodbridge. He farmed on a large scale for that period as the harvesting was done by hand; no modern conveniences were even thought of at that time. He went to Jackson, Amador County, and for seven years mined in what was once the richest of the gold fields at Poker Flat; he also got out timbers for the mines and did some farming on 160 acres. In 1868 Mr. Osborn went to Turlock and for a time rented land of J. W. Mitchell, but later he invested in 640 acres one mile west of town, the property adjoining the cemetery. Today that same ranch is under irrigation and divided into ten and twenty-acre farms. He married on May 13, 1855, Minerva Jane Baker, born in Arkansas, but living in Amador County. She crossed the plains with an ox-team with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Baker, who settled at Poker Flat. She died at the age of forty-nine, survived by five children. Mr. Osborn died on January 4, 1915, aged eighty-six.

W. H. Osborn attended school in Amador, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties and when twenty-one took to ranching on 1600 acres leased from J. W. Mitchell four miles east of Turlock, raising wheat and rye, and for seven seasons he met with fair success. In 1884 he went to Madera County, and eight miles south of the town of that name, farmed 1700 acres of the Mitchell property, but did not meet with even fair returns and he came to Atwater, where he has since lived and become a potent factor in the progress of the town. He owns fifty acres in his home place and twenty acres near by. About

thirty years ago Mr. Osborn set out his first orchard and planted alfalfa. He has made his second setting of peaches and has exhibited his fruit at the various fairs in the State. His entire property has been brought to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Osborn was married on December 25, 1878, to Miss Lucinda E. Bonnett, a native of Iowa, who came to California in 1864 with her parents, David D. and Elizabeth (Ronk) Bonnett. Her father was born in West Virginia on March 21, 1835 and went to Okaloosa, Iowa, as a pioneer farmer in 1858. With a party of emigrants and with a four-horse covered wagon he came with his family to Utah Territory, and then with ox-teams via Salt Lake, to California. He resided in Lockeford for four years, cleared his land of the timber, which he hauled to the fuel yards in Stockton, for the tan bark, and was engaged in farming. Between 1870 and 1880 he farmed rented land, some 1120 acres, on the present site of Denair, Stanislaus County. He retired from active work about five years before he died, being one of the last of the old pioneers to give up. He prospered and invested in 640 acres, which is now under the Turlock Irrigation District and has been colonized. He was twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth Ronk, was born in Indiana on February 6, 1839, and died in Turlock. His second marriage united him with a Mrs. Bradley, who now resides in Minnesota. Mrs. Osborn attended the same school as did her husband, a pioneer school house with but one room where all grades were taught. Of this union of Mr. and Mrs. Osborn five children were born, viz: Oro E., who married Frank E. Smith and died leaving three children, Bertha, Elvira and Richard; Eathel E., Mrs. W. H. Hurd of Patterson, the mother of three children, Elta, Fern and Erma; W. Lloyd, of Atwater, married Ethel Oswalt and they have six children, Hazel, Ellen, Lester Lloyd, Pauline, Verna and Walter William; Nathaniel Dade, of Atwater, married Ruby Herrod and they have a son Dean. Nathaniel Dade enlisted for service in the World War but never got over seas. And Arita E., Mrs. Perry Deardorff of Patterson and the mother of a son, Alvin. A great-grandchild, Marvin M. Simpson, son of Bertha Smith Simpson of Tulare, brightens the home circle of the Osborn family. The Christmas holidays always find at the Osborn family home in Atwater the foregathering of the Osborn clan. Mr. Osborn has always been an active Republican and since 1900 has been a member of the County Central Committee. On the organization of Township 8, in February, 1914, he was appointed by the supervisors the justice of the peace. He tried his first case on March 7. He established his real estate office on Front Street in February, 1907, and with the exception of a few months in 1908, when he was a partner with Owen Brothers, has operated alone. He was the local agent

for the Jordan-Atwater Tract, Merced Colony Tract No. 2, and the Wood-Arena Tract. He has seen prices go from \$25.00 and \$40.00 per acre for raw land in 1908, to \$200.00 per acre in 1920 and \$250.00 and over per acre in 1925, and says that about fifty per cent of the first settlers made good. He has been an eye witness to the changes that have taken place in the last half century, for in 1870 he drove a supply wagon through here to the sheep camps on Owens Creek when he was working for J. W. Mitchell for \$1.00 per day, and he has implicit faith in the future of the county. There were then only three ranches, the Atwater, the Dillon and the Ritchie ranches in this section and the roads were, according to Mr. Osborn, "wherever you took a notion to drive." In March, 1925, Mr. Osborn had the pleasure of a visit with his school teacher of 1870, Fanny Walsh, now seventy-nine years of age, who taught fifty-three terms in the schools of the State.

JAMES WILLIAM IVES

We may respect the reticence of a modest man with regard to his good deeds, but it is right for the public to know something of them as it is a great stimulus to others to emulate his example. When any one begins at the bottom and builds up a successful business, triumphing over adverse conditions and becomes a public benefactor, it is of general interest and benefit to know how it was accomplished. James William Ives was born on June 3, 1874, in Alameda County, Cal., a son of James H. and Emma J. (Adamson) Ives. Up to twelve years of age he lived in Oakland and after that went to school in Napa County, and finished in the Adventist school at Healdsburg, where he learned the trade of carpenter. From there he went to San Francisco, before the great fire and carried on a sales stable. In 1906 he was burned out and lost what he had accumulated, then he took up the carpenter's trade again and helped to rebuild the stricken city. His subsequent activities in that line include a long and notable list, on which are the Humboldt Bank and the Miller buildings. Coming to Los Banos in 1910 he worked as a carpenter for Miller and Lux, and he helped to erect the old pavilion in the park. Taking up contracting on his own account he erected, among others, the J. V. Toscano and the John Barneich blocks, and sixty and more residences, including the fine home of J. V. Toscano; a number of dairy barns on ranches are credited to his activity. In 1922 Mr. Ives bought the B. R. Bilby hardware store and now has the only exclusive hardware store in Los Banos. When he took the stock over it invoiced \$3700, and in two years time he increased the stock to \$14,000, and has a fine showing of goods.

Mr. Ives was united in marriage with Miss Lydia Baldwin, born in San Francisco, and they have a daughter, Lola. He is prominent in fraternal orders, being a member and a Past Grand of Los Banos Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F.; belongs to Newman Encampment; Modesto Canton, and to the Rebekahs. He is a Past President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie No. 3050, and belongs to Merced Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W. In civic and educational affairs Mr. Ives has shown his public spirit in many ways. He served three years as a member of the board of city trustees of Los Banos; was clerk of the grammar school board, and was the prime mover in having the line of busses put on that now transport the children to and from school; the first bus was a made-over truck that carried the children from the oil tank section. Now there is a fine line of modern busses that carry from 150 to 200 pupils daily.

GEORGE W. BAXTER

A particularly well-known grain and cattle raiser of the San Joaquin Valley, George W. Baxter has lived in this section of the State since 1874, and during that long stretch of time has been a part of the growth and development of his district, where he is prominent as an agriculturist and a man of fine business integrity. Born in Colchester County, Nova Scotia, June 5, 1865, he is the eldest of eight children born to his parents, J. C. and Agnes (Miller) Baxter, mentioned elsewhere in this history. George W. received his education in the Appling school, and later, in 1895-96, took a business course at the Ramsay Business College in Stockton. With his father and brothers he engaged in sheep and wool growing until 1878; in dry years, such as 1877, they drove their flocks into the mountains as far as Inyo County, Owens Valley, where feed was plentiful. His uncle, the late Robert Baxter, who had preceded the family to Merced County, was one of the successful pioneer grain ranchers of the valley and died at their home ranch in 1884. He was the inventor of the Stockton Gang-plow which has been such an important factor in grain development in the entire country.

When twenty-four years old, George W. Baxter went into the grain-raising business on his own responsibility on an extensive scale, planting as many as 2500 acres at times, and raising large quantities of wheat and barley, always ranching in the Appling district. He became well known as a breeder of excellent work stock, having raised more fine mules than any other individual in this part of California, with shipments into Arizona, New Mexico, and even to the Hawaiian Islands, besides supplying local markets. His property embraces 1000

acres of choice land in Merced, Mariposa, and Madera Counties, and 240 acres at Plainsburg, being a taxpayer in three counties. He attributes his success largely to persistency of effort despite reverses, for he has taken the "ups" with the "downs" and won out by staying at the helm in all kinds of weather.

The marriage of Mr. Baxter, occurring at Santa Cruz, Cal., on October 17, 1888, united him with Fanny Taylor, born on Dry Creek near Snelling, Merced County, a daughter of William Fielding and Elizabeth Ellen (Inman) Taylor. Their biography is written at length in another article in the history. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Baxter: Nelly A., deceased; Wallace W., married Leona Grow and has a daughter Nellie, and is a rancher at Le Grand; Alvin, rancher at Le Grand, married Helen Walker; Ellen A., a teacher, now deceased; Glenn W., at home; and Mary E., at home; all natives of Merced County. Two sons, Alvin and Glenn, served their country during the World War. Alvin served in the United States Navy for four years, and Glenn went into training at Stanford University for six months. A Republican in politics, Mr. Baxter has always voted for the men and worked for the measures which meant the future development and upbuilding of his district and the country at large. He has served for twenty years as trustee of the Appling school district, and has been active in other civic and educational affairs. Fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellows, both the Lodge and Encampment at Merced, and to the Merced Camp, M. W. A.

JOHN W. AND CALPHURNIA NEEL THOMAS

John W. Thomas was born at Mountain View, Santa Clara County, on September 22, 1853, the son of Silas and Emaline (Haun) Thomas. The father was a native of Missouri and came to California at the age of nineteen, in 1849; he died in Mountain View, leaving a family of four children: John W.; Seth, deceased; Eliza, who became Mrs. Vaughan of Watsonville and is deceased; Ellen, who became Mrs. Sprague of Oakland and is also deceased. Emaline Haun was also a native of Missouri and crossed the plains with an ox-team. She first married Silas Thomas, and after his death married C. B. Crews. In 1864 the family moved to a ranch at Old Gilroy which is known to this day as the Old Crews Place.

John W. Thomas was educated in the schools of Mountain View and at a private high school which was in Old Gilroy. He has been twice married, first at Oakland, in March, 1875, to Miss Bell Doll, who was born at Red Bluff, Tehama County, in 1856, the daughter of Jacob Granville and Harriet (Johnson) Doll. Mr. Doll was one of

the early settlers of Tehama County, coming with the gold rush. He was a man of affairs and represented Tehama County two sessions in the State Senate. Mrs. Thomas died in 1884, leaving four children, namely: John M., who lives at Fresno and has two boys; Erwin M., superintendent of the Frankenheim ranch of Oakdale, who has two sons; Lucy, Mrs. William Blake, of Gilroy, now deceased; and Emma, Mrs. George Dexter of Betteravia, Cal., who has one daughter and two sons.

In 1875, in company with his brother-in-law, Mr. Thomas purchased 3500 acres of land lying three miles south of Pacheco Peak in Pacheco Pass, and they carried on the stock business on this ranch until 1900, when Mr. Thomas moved to Dos Palos. Having traded some of his mountain land for a thirty-acre ranch one mile northeast of Dos Palos, he improved the place and built a home on it and other farm buildings and has carried on general farming and a diary.

On May 14, 1888, in Gilroy, Mr. Thomas married for his second wife Calphurnia Neel, born in Red Bluff, Tehama County, the daughter of Barnett and Calphurnia (Johnson) Neel, and a cousin of the first Mrs. Thomas, their mothers being sisters. Barnett Neel was a native of Pennsylvania and his family traces its ancestry back to 1700, when the Neel family first landed in America. His great-grandfather fought in the American Revolution. Mrs. Thomas' mother came from Tory stock in Virginia and she was born in Missouri, but her mother, Martha Brock Johnson, Mrs. Thomas' grandmother, came from Virginia. In 1852 Calphurnia (Johnson) Neel came to California, across the plains in the train under the command of Captain Bridger, and landed in Truckee in the same year. Barnett Neel came to California later, settling in Tehama County, and being an expert in figures he was for years a public accountant and served Tehama County as treasurer. He passed away in 1869. Mrs. Thomas was one of four children: Nora, Mrs. Voss of San Francisco; Martha Neel and Granville D., both of Watsonville; and Calphurnia. She was educated in the Oakland Grammar School, and after one year in the high school she was later graduated from the San Jose State Normal School. She began teaching in the Bryant district of Fresno County and for fifteen years followed teaching in central California; the last fourteen years she has taught in the Dos Palos Colony, and one year in the Junior High School of Dos Palos. In 1923 she was appointed by the superintendent of schools of Merced County as rural supervisor of general subjects, and has charge of all rural schools west of the Merced state highway to the west county line. She is a member of the County Board of Education.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have three children, namely: Martha of Oakdale; Granville, of Berkeley, who has a daughter; and Helen,



Jessie F. Ferrel.

Mrs. E. E. Flory of Dos Palos, who has two girls. These children have received the best of educations and all are following the profession of teaching and are very successful educators. Mr. Thomas is a Democrat in politics. Mrs. Thomas is active in club and lodge work, and is a charter member of the Dos Palos Women's Improvement Club. She is a member of the Eastern Star and a Past Worthy Matron of Morgan Hill Chapter; she is also a member of the Ladies of the Maccabees, of Dos Palos.

WILLIAM J. FERREL AND JESSIE F. FERREL

The story of pioneer days may be told by the biographies of the pioneers who struggled amid difficult conditions in order that their successors might find prosperity and comfort. A venerable pioneer, who not only paved the way for others, but reaped the reward of his own labors, was the late William J. Ferrel, landowner and farmer on the Merced River, who was born in Dallas County, Texas, in 1838, and died at Berkeley, Cal., in October, 1911. His father, Walter Ferrel, was a slaveowner; his mother died when he was two weeks old, and his father remarried a year later.

Starting on his own account at the age of eighteen, William J. Ferrel left Fort Belknap on May 7, 1856, with cattle and horses for the West. He arrived in Los Angeles in October, 1856, having been successful in bringing his stock across the plains and selling them after his arrival. He came to Merced County in the spring of 1857, and for seven years worked on ranches, receiving monthly wages. By saving his earnings he was able, in 1861, to invest in land on the Merced River, which proved to be the foundation for his own and his son's fortunes. He bought 500 acres four miles west of Snelling and in time became a prosperous grain farmer, and by industry and frugality he obtained financial independence. By later purchases he added some 1300 acres of hill land northeast of Snelling to his holdings; this acreage he used for grain-raising and the stock business. He was a pioneer in the use of modern methods of agriculture, and on his river ranch he employed hundreds of Chinese laborers. Corn and hogs were raised as a specialty. Dairy farming and the raising of other stock have since replaced the corn and hog combination, and the Chinese have long since disappeared. Mr. Ferrel used to relate the experiences he had had as an early settler in these parts, but he was a man who boasted very little of his achievements. He did his first day's work in Merced County for the late J. M. Montgomery, and they became very close personal friends. Mr. Ferrel was a staunch Democrat, and he will long be remembered for his good work as chairman of the board of school trustees of the Dry Creek school district.

The marriage of William J. Ferrel occurred in the old El Capitan Hotel at Merced, on January 15, 1879, and united him with Miss Jessie Frances Burns, who was born in 1860 at Lake Tent House near Roberts Ferry on the Tuolumne River, on the old Stockton-Mariposa wagon road. She was the youngest of five children of the late John A. and Luinda Frances (Jennings) Burns.

John Burns was born in Missouri and came to California across the plains with oxen and a covered wagon, arriving in Los Angeles in 1849. He spent the winter of 1850 on Monterey Bay and in the spring of 1851 began farming in Monterey County, continuing there for three seasons. He made money there; and when he removed to the Lake Tent country, in Stanislaus County, he conducted a hotel for seven seasons. The surrounding country was sparsely settled, vast cattle and sheep ranges making neighbors few and far between; thousands of antelope and wild horses ran over the unfenced country, and the only marks of civilization were along the main traveled road. In 1864 Mr. Burns moved to a place ten miles below Coulterville, and for nine years he conducted a public house, livery stable and stage station there. He kept many fine horses, which were used by tourists going into Yosemite Valley. While there Mr. Burns dispensed a broad and liberal hospitality to the guests and tourists, who made that stopping-place a lively and enjoyable resort. In 1871 he moved to Merced County, took up land three miles north of Snelling on Dry Creek, and engaged in grain farming, being a pioneer in this venture, for up to that time the government lands were not opened to settlers. He died there at the age of seventy-six.

The children of the late pioneer and Forty-niner, John A. Burns, are as follows: John S. was formerly proprietor of the Athlone Hotel in Merced County, and is deceased. Sarah died in Mexico in 1883. Alla Katherine Welch, widow of the late P. L. Welch, supervisor, Mason, successful storekeeper and grain farmer of Plainsburg, resides in Snelling. By her former marriage she was the wife of Rev. B. A. Hawkins, who was a school teacher and a member of the board of education in Fresno and Merced Counties, and who died in 1908. Isabel M. Haskel, of Le Grand, has been married three times, and had two children by her first husband and eight by her second marriage. Mrs. Jessie F. Ferrel is the youngest of this progressive and highly esteemed family.

The Burns children attended the Anderson district school, where Mr. Burns was a trustee for many years. The region was built up by the settlers, and there were but eighty pupils in the district when at its best. Mrs. Ferrel received the best education the local school afforded. She was reared on a ranch, learned to shoot and ride, and still finds great pleasure and gratification in going hunting, for she

is able to handle a gun and is a good markswoman. She is active as a member of the Snelling Lodge of Rebekahs, being a Past Noble Grand, having served as Noble Grand in 1923, and has been a delegate to the Grand Lodge twice. She makes use of her franchise, voting on public questions, and handles her own business affairs. Since her husband's death she has shown a splendid acumen in the care of her property, which embraces 420 acres of Merced River bottom lands. Her two sons are both in the dairy business. W. J. Ferrel, Jr., owns and conducts a dairy and stock business on his ranch, making his home with his mother at Snelling. Francis Eugene Ferrel, a dairyman, married Miss Ethel Hooper, and has two daughters, Gene and Joyce. During the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco, Mrs. Ferrel took a very active part and ably represented Merced County in an official capacity. She has become well and favorably known in the State of California as well as in Merced County.

In 1919 Mrs. Ferrel bought the store building used by Jacobs and Simons, one of the oldest landmarks in Snelling, the building having been erected in 1858, of sandstone construction. Since 1920 she has lived on this site in a commodious home which she rebuilt from the huge stone structure, and she owns ten acres adjoining this residence property, running back to the edge of the Merced River. Here Mrs. Ferrel dispenses a liberal hospitality to her many callers and friends.

JOHN H. SIMONSON

In political and financial circles in Merced County, John H. Simonson has wielded a wide influence for many years and as a public-spirited and broad-minded citizen has helped to make it the Merced County of today. He was born near Hamburg, Germany, on November 6, 1850, the son of Jasper and Anna Maria (Clausen) Simonson. Jasper Simonson was a cabinet-maker and he immigrated to America in 1857. Purchasing land in Minnesota, near Ulen, he farmed one year, then he moved into Marine Mills, Minn., and followed his trade until his death. This worthy couple had six children, John H. being the youngest.

Obtaining his early education in the public schools of Marine Mills, Minn., John H. Simonson became a wage-earner at the age of thirteen, becoming a clerk in a general store; he was promoted to be bookkeeper and remained with the same firm until 1876. The fall of that year he came to Merced and accepted a position with the house of Simon, Jacobs & Company, and here he continued as bookkeeper two and one-half years. He was asked to become the nominee on the Republican ticket for county clerk, was elected and served from

March, 1880, until January, 1883, the term having been extended by legislative action. Mr. Simonson was reelected twice, serving until January, 1887, to the satisfaction of nearly everybody. He then engaged in the real estate and abstract business, compiling a complete set of abstract books. In 1890 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for county assessor and, being elected, served for four years, and was reelected for a second term, serving until January, 1899. He refused to again become a candidate and returned to his former business and as the senior partner in the firm of Simonson-Harrell Abstract Company carries on a thriving business in real estate and abstracting, handling both city and country properties. He is also a live-wire insurance agent and broker.

John H. Simonson was united in marriage in Merced, to Miss Jessie B. Stoddard, who was born in Calaveras County, a daughter of that early settler, E. M. Stoddard. They have a son, Stanley S. Simonson, who is in business with his father. There is one grandchild, Stanley S. Jr., to brighten the Simonson home circle.

Mr. Simonson is prominent in fraternal circles and is a member of the various Masonic bodies. He was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M. at Stillwater, Minn., and after being a member for fifty years, demitted to Yosemite Lodge No. 99; he demitted to Merced Chapter No. 12, R. A. M., in which he is a Past High Priest; he belongs to Fresno Commandery No. 29, K. T.; and to Islam Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. in San Francisco. He is a member and a Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias. He has always been a staunch Republican and has served on the county central committee for many years. As one of the best-known and among the most active citizens of the county John H. Simonson holds a recognized position here and throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

GEORGE A. KAHL

In the life history of George A. Kahl we find he is a worthy son of the late Adam Kahl and his good wife, whose sketch appears on another page of this history, and who are worthy of mention for the part they played in the early history of Merced County. George A. was born in the county in which he now lives, on September 26, 1866, and with the exception of a very few years, his life has been passed amidst the scenes of his birthplace. He attended the public schools and the Stockton Business College, spending five years in perfecting himself for the responsibilities of later years. He then spent a few months in San Luis Obispo County, and then returned to Merced County, where he settled down to the life of a rancher; and that he has more than made good is shown by his possessions today

and by the position he holds in the esteem of his fellow-citizens. With his brother, Ernest D. Kahl, he operated the home ranch with good results in raising grain and stock. He has always been in the front rank with those who help to make for progress and was one of the first men in the Plainsburg section to install a rural telephone, and with the march of progress he has been extensively interested in developing orchards and vineyards on his own ranch. With the advent of irrigation and intensive farming to fruit and vines Mr. Kahl has noted with the greatest of satisfaction that the prosperity of the citizens has been on the up-grade, and they have shown their public spirit by encouraging every worthy cause for advancement of community and county.

When George A. Kahl came to marry, on April 26, 1888, he was united with Miss Mabel B. Gardner, born in Tennessee, a daughter of William Gardner. Mr. and Mrs. Kahl have had five children: Georgia W., wife of H. H. Vasche of Napa; Evelina M., died at the age of eighteen months; Helena W., Mrs. R. C. Wakeman of Norwalk, Ct.; Guy, in Merced; Mabel L., married Richard Norris and is deceased. Fraternally, Mr. Kahl is a member of Merced Lodge No. 208, I.O.O.F.; Merced Encampment No. 46, I.O.O.F.; and Merced Lodge No. 1240, B.P.O.E. Politically, he casts his vote for the best men and measures. For fifteen years he served as justice of the peace (1891-1906). He is one of the dependable men of the county and has an ever-widening circle of friends.

JAMES G. RUDDLE

One of the most likable men in Merced County and one who has witnessed the gradual growth and development of the whole State since he was old enough to remember, is James G. Ruddle, born January 7, 1862, the oldest and only surviving child of the family of the late John Ruddle and his wife, who are mentioned at length on another page of this history. James G. attended the schools in Hopeton and in Merced and he has spent his entire life on the ranch. At an early age he began riding the range, the country then being in its virgin state when there were no fences to impede travel and with cattle roaming at will. During the late seventies he was engaged in sheep-raising and wool-growing and continued along those lines for more than ten years with varied success. He owns some 2000 acres of river bottom land upon which there is being carried on six dairies with about 1000 head of milch cows which are owned by the tenants. This industry was started with about 100 cows and with the passing of the years has grown to be a large and paying industry.

Mr. Ruddle devotes his time to viticulture and horticulture, beginning in 1921 to plant fruit on a commercial scale in order to keep up with the progress of the county along those lines of industry. Mr. Ruddle has set a section of his own land to peaches, 640 acres to Thompson seedless grapes and eighty acres to Malagas. Of this privately-owned tract, 800 acres are in the Merced Irrigation District and the balance is on a higher elevation, supplied with water from three deep wells, the smallest of which throws 1200 gallons per minute. Mr. Ruddle has men who have been in his employ for thirty-five years.

As the stock-raising and farming interests increased Mr. Ruddle kept abreast of the times and in time he conducted a mill, fitted with modern machinery and sanitary in every way to make flour; and the mill was run to capacity, which is 100 barrels of flour daily. He has come to own 3800 acres of land, all of which he has operated himself until he began leasing to dairy tenants. With James F. Peck, J. D. Bradley and others Mr. Ruddle installed the electric lighting plant in Merced Falls, it being the first water-power plant in this county, and he was one of the organizers of the Merced Falls Electric Light Company. He has been a hard worker, thoroughly honest and straightforward in all his dealings, and has won a high place in the esteem of his fellow-men.

Mr. Ruddle was united in marriage with Annette Stockard, born at Hills Ferry, Stanislaus County, a daughter of the late John Stockard, a California pioneer of 1852, and a niece of James J. Stevinson, who settled on the San Joaquin River in 1852. The children born of this union are: John Garland, who is associated with his father in business and is a favorite native son of Merced County, and Allan B., who resides in Merced. James G. Ruddle is a member of the Merced Lodge of Elks, having been one of the men who was instrumental in its organization; and he belongs to the Knights of Pythias in Merced. Politically he is independent and gives his co-operation to all progressive movements. The Ruddle home site is one of the most scenic in the county as it overlooks the fertile lands on the river below the town of Snelling, and here a broad and liberal Californian hospitality is dispensed to a large circle of friends.

FRED AMHERST ROBINSON

Prominent among the well-known and highly esteemed county officials of Merced County is Fred Amherst Robinson, who as county assessor has won friends among all classes of people by his genial manners and kindly courtesy. His training for public service began

in 1898 when he became deputy county assessor under A. G. Clough and covered a period of twenty years. Six years ago he was elected county assessor, and he has served with entire satisfaction to the public.

Fred Amherst Robinson was born in Providence, R. I., on January 19, 1864, a son of Augustus W. and Mary (Herrick) Robinson. When our subject was a young lad he had the misfortune to lose his mother. In 1876 he accompanied his father and an uncle to California and they located in San Francisco where they remained for two years. The father then engaged in mining at Hornitos, Mariposa County, which occupied him for three years, when he located in Merced and engaged in the life insurance business with Sam Bates. In 1888 he returned to San Francisco and there passed away.

Fred Amherst Robinson received his education in the grammar and high schools in San Francisco. His school days over, he engaged in mining for two years, then took up the study of dentistry and practiced this profession in Nevada County four years, meeting with fair success. Then he engaged in contracting and building until 1898 when he became deputy county assessor.

The marriage of Mr. Robinson united him with Miss Susan Jones, born at Quartzville, Mariposa County, Cal., and they are the parents of two children: Ella J. is now Mrs. Keefer; and Lloyd A. is deputy county assessor of Marin County, Cal.; there are five grandchildren. Mr. Robinson is a Republican in politics and is affiliated with the Elks of Merced. He finds his recreation in periodic trips to the mountains, where he enjoys hunting and fishing. Mr. Robinson is a liberal and enterprising citizen and holds a high place among the men who have aided materially in the development and upbuilding of this section of California.

CHARLES D. MARTIN

The fortunes of Charles D. Martin have been more or less intimately identified with the State of California since 1882. His life has been a varied and eventful one and its record is entitled to a place in the history of the State and more especially of Merced County, which has been the scene of his activity since 1884. Mr. Martin was born in Watertown, N. Y., on July 13, 1863, a son of James and Abigale (Pinney) Martin. James Martin was also born at Watertown and was a successful candy manufacturer during his life. Mrs. Martin was a native of Vermont and both are now deceased.

Charles D. Martin completed the grammar and high school courses in Watertown, after which he took private instruction in civil engineering. In 1882 he came West to San Francisco and entered the employ of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, remaining

for two years. He then came to Merced, in the interests of Charles Crocker, to assist in the construction of the canal location, which was known at one time as the Merced Irrigation Company, and still later as the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, and in June of that year he was given entire charge of the engineering department. Some years later he had full charge of the distribution of water. Mr. Martin had the supervision of the development work of this company for twenty-seven years. From 1886 to 1890 he was county surveyor of Merced County. In 1911 he entered private practice but was retained as consulting engineer for the Crocker-Huffman Company. Mr. Martin is now occupying the position of city engineer for Merced; in this position his more than ordinary ability and experience find an ample outlet, and this locality is indeed fortunate in securing such an able man.

The marriage of Mr. Martin united him with Miss Hallie Bost, born in California the daughter of John and Mary (Fitzhugh) Bost. Three children have blessed this union, viz: Beatrice is now Mrs. Allan B. Ruddle; Rosalind is the wife of Delwin Shumann; and Alan Bost, who entered the service of the United States and served during the World War, arriving at New York the day the armistice was signed. He married Isabelle Kerrick, of Stockton and they have one child, Kerrick Martin. Mr. Martin is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and belongs to the California Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Politically he is a Republican.

JOE CLEVELAND COCANOUR

A man of excellent business ability and thrift, Joe Cleveland Cocanour is a worthy representative of the successful business interests of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley and he is held in high esteem as a man and citizen throughout the entire community. A native of California, he was born in Merced, on July 30, 1883, the son of John Boyd and Mary E. (Mitchell) Cocanour. John Boyd Cocanour was born in Lancaster County, Pa., on April 15, 1813, and when he was eleven years old he went to New Orleans. In 1832 he located in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he worked at the trade of carpenter until 1850. In that memorable year he left for California via Panama and arrived in San Francisco on August 12. He went at once to the mines and after a short time spent in seeking for gold he turned his attention to raising cattle, realizing that a surer way to independence would be found in that line of work. He ranged his stock along the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers and met with good success, having as high as 8000 to 10,000 head of stock. He

used to hold his rodeo on Bear Creek near the present site of Merced. He took an active part in the political life of the country and served as supervisor of Mariposa County before Merced was organized, and when the latter county was formed he became a member of the supervisorial board here, serving in all fourteen years. He was one of the prime movers in establishing the Merced Woolen Mills and was a large stockholder in it. With the changing of conditions Mr. Cocanour disposed of his cattle in 1872 and thereafter devoted his time to agriculture. He was one of the builders of the Madera Flume and lost a fortune in its construction, as did the other promoters of the project. In 1877 he married Miss Mary Mitchell; and they had three children: Mary Alma, of Merced; John Roy, in the San Joaquin; and Joe Cleveland. For several years prior to his death John Boyd Cocanour was superintendent of the County Hospital. He passed away on November 26, 1893 at the age of eighty years. Mrs. Cocanour is still living in Merced.

Joe C. Cocanour attended the Merced public schools and when he was about twenty-five years old he entered the retail grocery business but during 1923 he changed to the wholesale grocery and produce business and is building up a wonderful trade. Besides shipping in carload lots he is also a wholesale distributor for Merced. During the busy season he employs 100 people and is the largest truck-shipper in this locality.

As early as 1915 Mr. Cocanour began packing and shipping tomatoes, first on a small scale and continuing until his business has grown from year to year until he now operates two packing houses and ships hundreds of cars of tomatoes to all parts of the United States every year. It was directly through his efforts that the Merced Tomato Products Co. is building a \$100,000 plant at Merced for canning tomatoes, specializing on tomato paste. Through extended tests it has been found that the Merced tomato is best adapted for that product. The 1925 acreage will total 2000 acres. Besides tomatoes, Mr. Cocanour has the largest single tract of land in sweet potatoes in California that has ever been planted.

Mr. Cocanour was united in marriage with Miss Della May Dean, a native daughter of Merced, and they have two children, Donald and Jane. Fraternally, Mr. Cocanour is identified with Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F.; Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; and Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W. In politics he supports the democratic candidate in national elections but in local affairs considers the man best fitted for the position. He is deeply interested in the growth and development of the county and State and supports liberally with his time and means those projects that have for their aims the upbuilding of the commonwealth.

H. KYLBERG, M. D.

It would be hard to find a man more thoroughly in accord with the times, or more keenly alive to the great work to be done in this generation to help forward world affairs and scientific construction work than Dr. Kylberg. Besides being eminent in his profession as a physician and surgeon, he has given much time and thought, and unlimited energy, to help with projects for his district which are unlimited in the scope of their effect on posterity; projects which required the aid of a man big enough to see their ultimate object, and to push forward to success over and through all obstacles. The bill which he introduced and put through the State legislature and which made possible the Merced Irrigation District, and was passed over great opposition, is just one instance of the true caliber of the man, who, though born in a far country, has been an important factor in California's growth.

A native of Kalmar, born October 16, 1865, on the Baltic Sea in Sweden, Dr. Kylberg was educated in Gothenberg, Sweden and began his medical education in London, England. After coming to this country he was graduated from the California Medical College, in San Francisco, in 1893, and took a post-graduate course in London hospitals. He practiced in San Francisco until 1899, and was professor of surgical anatomy in the California Medical College there for two years. He then was located in Calaveras and Mariposa Counties for a time, in the practice of his profession. Coming to Merced County in 1910, for five years Dr. Kylberg was surgeon for the Yosemite Lumber Company at Merced Falls. An expert in bone surgery, he performed bone grafting operations with great success, and became prominent in that line of work.

A deep student, the Doctor knows the value of keeping abreast of the times in scientific work, and he has taken post-graduate courses in Chicago and New York hospitals, and also with those internationally known surgeons, the Mayo Brothers, of Rochester, Minn., taking a post-graduate course with them in 1923. During his practice in California he has been county physician of Mariposa and Merced Counties, and city health officer of Merced City.

A member of the State legislature in 1917-18, representing Merced and Madera Counties, Dr. Kylberg introduced the bill in the Assembly for the Merced Irrigation District, and labored until it was passed. Great opposition developed, and it meant work early and late to put through what is now considered the most important project for future development work that has ever been instituted in Merced County, and with farreaching effect throughout the State. Other bills were introduced and passed with the aid of Dr. Kylberg, among them the bill for the County Tubercular Sanitarium. He is

known as a thoroughly public-spirited man, working for the benefit of his district at all times.

Dr. Kylberg married Miss Juanina Costa, a native of Honolulu. One son by a former marriage, Brother L. Kylberg, was a law student at Stanford University, graduate of Class of 1925. Prominent fraternally, the Doctor belongs to the Mariposa Lodge of Masons, and for ten years was inspector of the Masonic District comprising Mariposa, Merced and Stanislaus Counties; he belongs to Merced Chapter No. 12, R. A. M., and Modesto Commandery No. 57, K. T. He is a Past Exalted Ruler of Merced Lodge 1240, B. P. O. E. He is known throughout the Valley for his success as a physician and surgeon, and as a man of fine principle and attainment. For six years he acted as secretary of the Merced County Medical Association, and has proven his worth by giving always of his time and energy to help in the civic and welfare work of the county at large.

ANTONIO PADULA

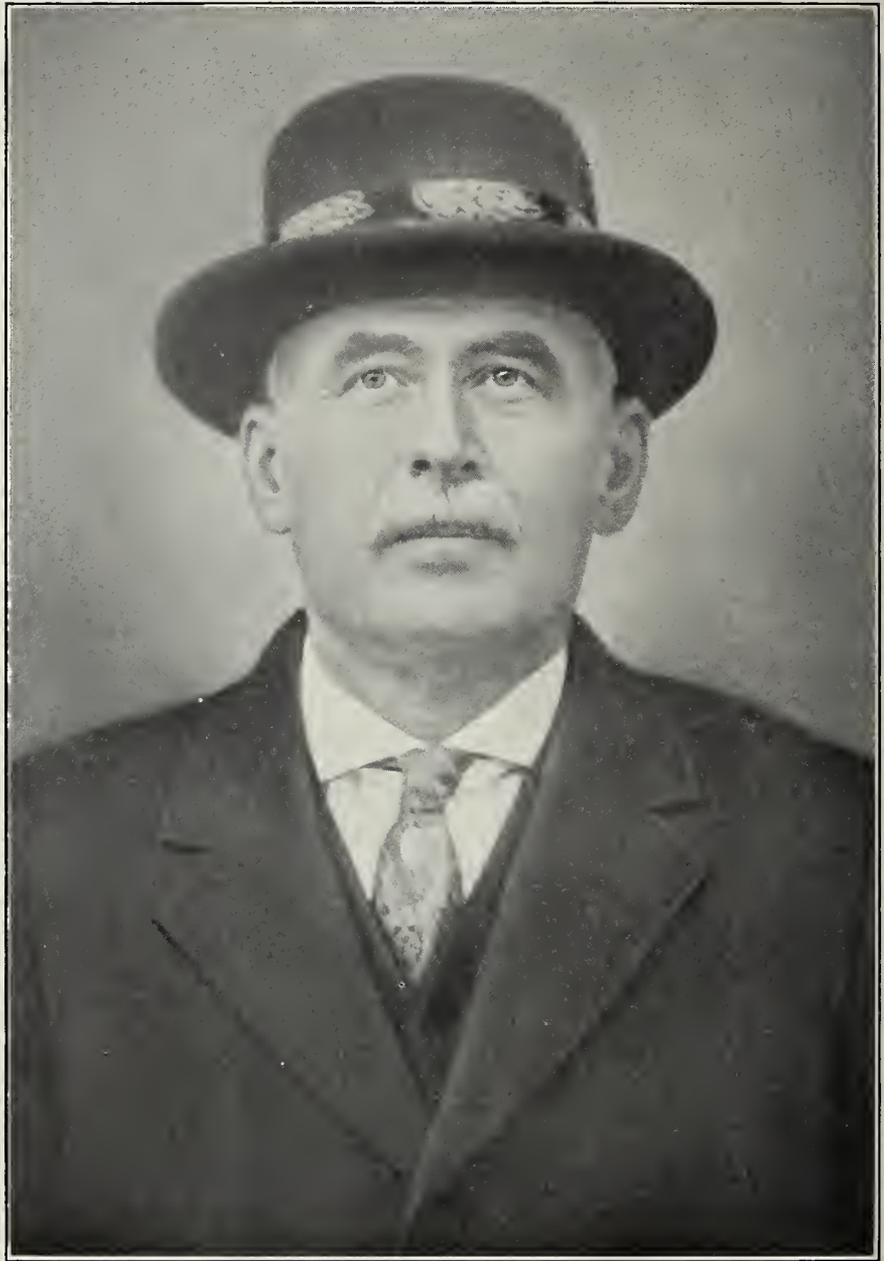
It is a trite saying that "A rolling stone gathers no moss," but Antonio Padula had done a great deal of traveling in his day before he finally settled down as a pioneer in Los Banos. He was born in lower Italy, on November 10, 1858, the son of Vingenzio and Rosa (Poppala) Padula, both born and reared in Italy and both now deceased, dying in Los Banos, the mother in 1918, and the father in 1922; they were brought to this country by Antonio in 1895, and he cared for them until they died. While a mere lad Antonio went to Montevideo, S. A., at the age of nine and there he learned the shoemaker's trade, working for a time in a shoe factory. At the age of eighteen he went back to Italy to visit, and eighteen months later returned to South America. He once more returned to his native land and while there was married, then he was in Panama and other Central American countries, but not to make a permanent home. Again returning to Italy he spent two years, and next set out for America and California, where he arrived in 1888 when Los Banos was but a small village, and he worked for a Mr. Davis, also for a Mr. Leonard. He left his wife and daughter in Italy and after he had secured a job with Miller and Lux as a harness maker his wife and daughter joined him in 1892. Finally he had saved money enough to go into business for himself as a shoemaker, harness repairer and general leather worker and carried on a good business in Los Banos for several years. In 1895 he made a trip back to Italy after his parents, who thereafter made their home with him here. He has been successful and owns a thirty-two acre alfalfa ranch; built and

owns the Buick garage and other business blocks on I Street besides a number of houses and lots in Los Banos, and property in Italy.

On May 26, 1884, Antonio Padula and Teresa Ciuffa were married in Italy, where his wife was born, and they have the following children: Rosie, wife of L. Emberlee and mother of Teresa and Antonio Emberlee; Camilla, wife of John Emberlee has two children, Rosa and Antonio; James L., of Dos Palos married and has a daughter, Maryln; Marie, the wife of L. Puccinelli, has two daughters, Eunice and Florina; Flora, married Antone Toscano and lives with her parents. In November, 1895, Mr. Padula became an American citizen and votes with the Republicans. He was one of the founders, in February, 1901, of the Foresters of America Lodge No. 178 and was the first Chief Ranger. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1898. He has always tried to do his share to help build up Los Banos and can be counted upon to advance the interests of the entire county when matters of importance come up. He is well-liked and highly respected by all who know him.

GUST E. JOHNSON

A pioneer of the Hilmar Colony of 1903 in California, Gust E. Johnson has been closely identified with the movements that have brought this favored section of Merced County to the front. He was born at Brattrud, Laxareby, Dalsland, Sweden, on January 23, 1862, the sixth son of Johannes and Maria Lovisa (Bergman) Andersson, and was educated in what was known as the "folk" school in Sweden. As he grew to young manhood he learned the trade of carpenter in Sweden, then went to Norway where he was employed for eighteen months in the nickel and copper mines. He returned to Sweden for a short visit and then sailed for America in the spring of 1882, coming direct to the State of Iowa, where he remained for some months and then went to Minneapolis, Minn., and for the following three years followed his trade of carpenter, principally in shop work. In the spring of 1885 Mr. Johnson traveled westward into British Columbia to work as a bridge carpenter on the Canadian Pacific Railway, remaining in the Canadian Northwest until the summer of 1886, when he returned to Minneapolis and again took up shop work until the spring of 1887. He then left for Eastern Colorado, where he took up a homestead in what was then Weld County, later being incorporated into Phillips County. While proving up on his land he worked at his trade in the city of Denver. However, not seeing his way clear to start farming in earnest he relinquished the homestead and remained in Denver.



Geo. B. Whitworth

While living in Denver, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage on March 20, 1889, with Miss Hilma S. Nelson, also born near Oskarshamn, Sweden. In 1891 they removed to Durango, Colo., where Mr. Johnson followed his trade and later engaged in the lumber business for four years, or until leaving for California in 1903, coming direct to Hilmar Colony, where they have since made their home. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had eight children, viz.: George W., who married Bertha L. Thyberg of Oakland, and died in 1924, survived by his widow and three children; Carl Oscar, who died in infancy; Gust Adolph, who married Signey Johnson, a native of Sweden; Ernest Theodore, who married Olive M. Lundell of the Hilmar Colony; Marie Louise, Harry David, Hazel Malvi and Irwin Benjamin are single. Mr. Johnson has always voted the Democratic ticket and he is a life member of Durango Lodge No. 46, A. F. & A. M. The Johnson family are well-known and highly respected citizens in this section of California.

GEO. H. WHITWORTH

After many years of faithful public service in Merced County, the late Geo. H. Whitworth passed to his reward on October 8, 1922. He had been elected and reelected to the responsible office of supervisor again and again, and his associates honored him with a term as chairman of the board. So long had been his identification with this county, and so intimate his association with local development, that, viewing the remarkable transformation wrought within his memory, he could well exclaim "All of which I saw, and part of which I was." Great as had been his activity in general, it was as supervisor that the people of his home county most appreciated Mr. Whitworth, who served them in that office more than twenty years, having been chosen by a good majority at each succeeding election. His heart and mind were engrossed in the well-being of the county, and such was his success in the solution of many difficult problems that his fellow-citizens more and more reposed their confidence in him.

Geo. H. Whitworth was born at Dutch Bar, on Woods Creek, Tuolumne County, March 10, 1856, the son of Henry and Ann (Hall) Whitworth, natives of Lincolnshire, England. His father left Liverpool for America on September 12, 1848, and pushed his way west to Chicago. On learning of the discovery of gold in California, he with others planned to reach the new Eldorado. They outfitted at St. Louis, Mo.; and with a train of wagons drawn by mules, there being fifty men in the party, he crossed the plains, coming by the southern route. During the trip, each night the train was

guarded with military precision, and particularly was this necessary while passing through the Apache Indian country. On reaching California they made their way up the coast to San Jose Mission, and from there they traveled south to cross the Coast Range at Pacheco Pass and, after crossing the San Joaquin River at Hill's Ferry, went into the Mariposa mines.

Later, Henry Whitworth came to Tuolumne County, where he hauled provisions with an eight-mule team from Stockton to the stores and miners at Chinese Camp and vicinity. Later he kept a provision store for Walkerly Brothers at Dutch Bar, where our subject first saw the light. Afterwards he was engaged in mining at Chinese Camp, and then, still later, near Crimea House on Keystone Flat, where our subject first went to school. Henry Whitworth acquired an interest in the old Eagle Quartz Mining Company at Blue Gulch, on Woods Creek, where they had a mill. He had so won the confidence of his associates that it was his task to divide the gold and weigh each one's share as it was handed to the different parties interested in the mine. Mr. Whitworth and Ann Hall had become engaged to be married back in England, and she made the trip to California early in 1855. She was met by Mr. Whitworth, and their marriage was immediately consummated; and he then took his bride back to the mines, where he continued until 1863. The family then moved, with teams and wagons, to Contra Costa County, taking three days for the journey. There he farmed until 1869. In 1868 he had homesteaded and preempted land on Quinto Creek, in Merced County, about twelve miles south of Newman, and in 1869 located on the place and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which he was very successful. In 1877 he was bereaved of his faithful wife, whom he survived for twenty years, passing away in 1897.

Of the three children born to this worthy pioneer couple, Geo. H. Whitworth was the oldest, and was the last one to pass away. As has been stated, he first went to school near the old Crimea House on Keystone Flat; and later for a short time he attended a preparatory school at Berkeley. Thereafter his education was obtained by his own efforts through reading and studying at night and through first-hand practical experience, until he came to be known as a well-informed man. In 1877 he started out for himself, embarking in grain-raising on Quinto Creek on a ranch of 600 acres. He really acquired for his enterprise 450 acres and then leased adjoining land. In 1882 he came to the present location and purchased 120 acres three miles south of Newman, under the San Joaquin River canal, and later added eighty acres to his holding. This land he leveled and checked and sowed to alfalfa. The soil is very rich and productive and yields large crops. The 200 acres have been divided into two ranches, each

leased to tenants and improved with a set of farm buildings, with sanitary barns for dairying, the two places carrying about 150 cows. He also owned eighty acres across the canal, which he planned to put out to alfalfa, but this has since been sold.

In December, 1892, Geo. H. Whitworth was married at Santa Cruz to Miss Agnes Mahoney, born in San Francisco, by whom three children were born. John Henry and George Hall are living; and the youngest was Carol, who died when she was six months old. Mrs. Whitworth passed away in 1903.

On May 27, 1905, Mr. Whitworth married the second time, being united with Miss Harriet Collier, born at Shaw's Flat near Sonora, Tuolumne County, a daughter of William G. and Ann Eliza (Jackson) Collier. On the maternal side she is related to Gen. Stonewall Jackson and to Gen. Robert E. Lee. Her parents moved to Merced County when she was but three years old, her father becoming a large stock-raiser, owning some 2500 head of cattle and a ranch of some 1500 acres of land on Merced River. He was born in Kentucky, had the advantages of a fine schooling, was a civil engineer and served as county surveyor of Merced County. He went to Missouri when young, and there his wife was born. In 1853 he started across the plains and upon his arrival in California settled in Tuolumne County, in the mountains, and was engaged in lumbering. Both parents passed away in Merced County after long and useful lives. Their daughter, Mrs. Whitworth, attended the grammar schools of her district and later graduated from the San Jose State Normal and became a teacher in the schools of Merced County, where she spent twenty years. She inherited 156 acres of the Collier estate on the Merced River, and later Mr. Whitworth bought 104 acres adjoining, all of which they improved with a pumping plant and devoted to alfalfa. This property was later sold at a good advantage.

In 1922 the Whitworths completed a thoroughly modern stucco residence of fine style of architecture, the inside being finished in ivory and mahogany, making it one of the finest residences in the San Joaquin Valley. Mrs. Whitworth is a woman of culture; and with her artistic tastes, the home is most beautifully furnished.

In 1900 Geo. H. Whitworth was nominated on the Democratic ticket for supervisor of the Fourth District in Merced County and was elected, and so well did he discharge the duties of his position and office that he was reelected five times by good majorities. In the primaries in August, 1920, through the apathy of his friends, who were away on vacations and who were confident of his nomination, his opponents won out by 124 votes. Then Mr. Whitworth and his friends instituted a write-in campaign, and his long and efficient ser-

vice was rewarded by his election by a safe majority; and he entered upon his duties of a sixth term. He served longer than any former incumbent in that office. During his years on the board many permanent improvements were accomplished all over the county; these included the new jail, new county hospital, many substantial bridges, and many miles of new roads, and the expenditure of a \$1,250,000 bond issue in constructing county highways.

Fraternally, Mr. Whitworth was a member of the Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, Neighbors of Woodcraft and the Degree of Honor at Newman. Politically he was a Democrat. All in all Geo. H. Whitworth, in his long years of residence on the West Side, had an enviable record, and his life was an open book; so much so that his honesty of purpose and integrity were never questioned, and in his unselfish way he tried to do all he could to help build up his community and enhance the facilities for the comfort and happiness of the people.

REV. LEWIS ROBERT BOND

Among the pioneer ministers of the eighties in California mention should be made of the late Rev. Lewis Robert Bond, who was one of the outstanding figures in the California Presbyterian Church and a man who spent his entire life doing good for his fellow man and rearing a family.

Rev. Lewis Robert Bond was born August 29, 1842, on his father's farm, not far from Nashville, Tenn. In 1861, he entered the Confederate Army and served in the cavalry until the end of the war, in 1865. Between this date and 1871, he worked on his father's farm, at the carpenter's trade, and also taught school. In 1871, while teaching school, he became a candidate for the ministry of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, before the McMinnville, Tenn., Presbytery; he was licensed in 1872, and ordained in 1873. While serving churches near Lebanon, Tenn., he was able to resume work in Cumberland University, which he had been compelled to relinquish on account of the financial depression of 1873. He was graduated from the Cumberland Theological Seminary in 1880, and was married the same year to Miss Christina Hoodenpyl, of McMinnville, Tenn., who was a graduate of, and later a teacher in, the Cumberland Female College at McMinnville, Tenn.

After a year and a half of service in the churches of Marion Junction and Pleasant Hill, in Alabama, he moved with his wife and infant son to California, and became pastor of the churches at Plainsburg and Mariposa Creek, in Merced County, near the present town of Le Grand. Thereafter he served churches at Lemoore, Bakers-

field, and Farmington. In 1893, he moved with his family to Pomeroy, Wash., and there he remained two years. Subsequently, he moved his family to the Willamette Valley in Oregon, where he served in succession churches at Coburg, Woodburn, Sodaville, and Florence. He was honorably retired from the ministry by the Willamette Presbytery of the reunited Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., in 1911, with thirty-one and a half years of active service in the ministry to his credit since his ordination.

One year before his retirement he moved with his family from Florence to Eugene, Ore., where he continued to reside until the year 1919, when he moved with his wife to Le Grand, Cal. At the latter place he passed peacefully to his final rest, December 18, 1922, at the age of eighty years, three months and nineteen days. He is survived by his widow, and all five of their children: Mrs. J. J. Baxter of Le Grand; Paul G., and Capt. Aubrey H. Bond of San Francisco, Lewis A. Bond of Berkeley; and Prof. Jesse H. Bond, of the University of North Dakota, at Grand Forks, N. D. Two of his sons, Aubrey H. and Lewis A., served as commissioned officers with the A. E. F. in France. His outstanding characteristics were honest faithfulness, strong common sense, and patience. Mrs. Bond resides with her daughter, Mrs. J. J. Baxter near Le Grand, and is now in her seventy-third year and hale and hearty.

JUDGE CHARLES T. DOOLEY

Prominent in the civic and business affairs of Le Grand, Judge Dooley is well-known throughout Merced County as a keen business man and an able jurist. He was born near Elgin, Kane County, Ill., on April 10, 1855, and when nineteen years old went to the Texas frontier, in the San Antonio country, where he worked as a cowboy on the range for three years. In 1877-78, he was a member of the famous Texas Rangers, and for eight years was a member of the County Frontier Battalion, Co. E, under Capt. John Sparks. Later he worked as an attendant at the State Insane Asylum at Austin.

In 1884, Judge Dooley came to California and his first work in the State was on grain ranches as machinist on repair work, and running the harvester. Then for five years he worked as a cooper at the Sierra Vista Vineyard, working in the winery and distillery. In 1891, Judge Dooley came to Le Grand, where he has represented the following firms: Baker-Hamilton & Holbrook; Merrill & Stetson Company of San Francisco for the past seventeen years; and for thirty-three years represented the Aermoter Company of Chicago, in installing windmills in Merced and adjoining counties. He also

represents the Home Insurance Company, and the Fidelity-Phoenix Insurance Company, both of New York. Judge Dooley is now serving his second term as justice of the peace of Le Grand and has made a record for the clean, judicious carrying-on of his office, with the full confidence of the people. In addition to his other work, the Judge has done some contracting work in Le Grand, erecting a number of houses. Among other business enterprises, he organized the Le Grand Rochdale Store (now the Le Grand Mercantile Company), on May 8, 1901, and has been president of that concern ever since.

The marriage of Judge Dooley, occurring at Austin, Texas, on April 13, 1881, united him with Sarah Loveday, a native of London, England, and one son was born to them, James L., whose death occurred January 8, 1921. Fraternally, the Judge and Mrs. Dooley both belong to the Fraternal Aid Union.

JOHN L. CANEVARO

One of the most substantial families of Merced County is ably represented by John L. Canevaro, manager of the Canevaro Estate at Snelling. This property embraces 219 acres on the Merced River and is devoted to stock-raising, being jointly owned by John and Giovanni Canevaro and their sister, Miss Tasia Canevaro, all of whom reside at Snelling, where the home has been for over fifty years. At Moccasin Creek, Tuolumne County, on October 5, 1862, John L. Canevaro was born to Antone and Angelina (Calori) Canevaro, and is the eldest of eight children, six of whom survive the parents, who were born in Genoa, Italy.

Antone Canevaro left Italy to escape military service and arrived in California in 1855, where he joined his father, Lorenzo Canevaro, who, after spending nearly twelve years in mining in the vicinity of Hetch Hetchy, returned to Italy, where he passed away. Angelina Calori came via Panama in 1856 to San Francisco, where she was married to Antone Canevaro, and went to Moccasin Creek as a bride. Mr. Canevaro mined for some years, but eventually engaged in the growing of fruits and vegetables, which supplied the camps at the Aurora Mine, in Esmeralda County, Nev., using burros for packing and Indians for guides. He also shipped his products by pack animal into the Walker River country, and it was necessary to use an Indian guide at first, until the trail was blazed across the mountains. In 1862 flood waters ruined his personal property, thus necessitating the reestablishment of his fortunes, so in 1869 the family moved to Snelling, then a thriving town. He opened a general store with a partner, A. Durio, who later sold out to Mr. Canevaro and moved

to Tulare, where he died. This business prospered for years, but Mr. Canevaro finally turned the establishment over to his sons, who disposed of it in 1895. He became an American citizen at Sonora in 1858, and subsequently allied himself with the Democratic party. He was a man of integrity and his death on November 12, 1894, at Snelling, was a loss to both family and community. His good wife passed away at San Francisco, December 27, 1895.

Six children survive the esteemed pioneer parents: John L., Giovanni, Tasia, Mrs. Rose Pierce, all of Snelling; Mrs. Nina Ringhouse, of Merced; and Mrs. Julia Anderson, of Santa Clara. The sons sold out the mercantile business in 1895, and thenceforth have devoted their energies to farming, and have operated successfully. A fire in 1910 destroyed the store buildings at Snelling, and at present John L. Canevaro owns the site.

Starting with the growing of grain and corn, John Canevaro and his brother Giovanni have gradually branched out in other lines of agricultural development. For the past three years they have been setting out and developing a tract of ten acres each year to vineyard and orchard. They also had success in raising livestock, principally hogs. On their ranch, which was formerly a portion of the Montgomery grant, is a grave, said to contain the remains of the first white man hanged in Merced County. A large oak tree stood nearby for many years, but has fallen. This spot is about one mile southwest of Snelling. To show that many varieties of trees do well in this favored section Mr. Canevaro set out an olive tree in 1903 at their home, and it has produced heavily for ten seasons, being a superior tasting olive, when cured green. Giovanni Canevaro has a patent process for curing the olives and the fruit thus prepared easily wins the favor of a most exacting epicurean.

HON. MIRABEAU DALLAS WOOD

A pioneer of 1868 in California and one of the early settlers and among the most representative men of Merced County is M. D. Wood, manager of the Security Savings Bank in Merced. He was born May 22, 1846, in Gadsden County, Fla., a son of Igdaliah and Eliza (Dixon) Wood, both born in South Carolina. The father was educated for the law, and after his admission to the bar practiced for a time in his native state. He later moved to Florida and purchased a plantation and there was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, at the age of seventy-two. He was of English ancestry, his paternal grandfather having been an early settler of South Carolina in colonial days. The maternal grandfather of our

subject, Abel Dixon, was of Scotch descent and served in the War of the Revolution, also in the War of 1812. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Igdaliah Wood there were thirteen children born, of whom twelve grew to years of maturity; four sons served in the Confederate army. The mother died in Florida.

M. D. Wood was the youngest of thirteen children. He grew up on the home plantation and was educated in private schools and Mount Pleasant Academy. In 1863 he enlisted in Company K, Sixth Florida Confederate Volunteer Infantry as a private, serving under General Bragg and participating in many engagements in Kentucky and Tennessee, covering the retreat of the soldiers out of Kentucky after the battle of Perryville, and being at the front at Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga. He took part in the Georgia campaign, was commissioned a second lieutenant, and at Kenesaw Mountain had charge of Company F, whose officers had nearly all been killed. July 22, at Peachtree, Lieutenant Wood was captured and sent as a prisoner to Johnson's Island, remaining until paroled the following spring, when he returned to his Florida home.

In 1866 Mr. Wood became superintendent of a sawmill, and two years later, in 1868, he was elected to the Florida State Senate. Resigning at the close of the session he started for California and arrived in Sonoma County, October 22, 1868, the day of the big earthquake. The same fall Mr. Wood embarked in ranching in Stanislaus County. Removing to Merced County the following spring he purchased 600 acres on Bear Creek, and for ten years successfully farmed, then returned to Sonoma County and at Santa Rosa completed the normal course and taught there for some time.

Returning to Merced in 1882, Mr. Wood served as deputy county assessor for a year, and that same fall he was nominated for county treasurer on the Democratic ticket, was elected and served two terms, from January, 1883 to January, 1887. He was elected county assessor in the fall of 1887 and filled that office until January, 1891. The next two years he was in the grocery business. In February, 1893, he was appointed by the board of supervisors, superintendent of the county hospital and gave his entire attention to that position until in February, 1897, when he engaged in the grain business. He was agent for Balfour, Guthrie Company in Merced and for several years had entire charge of their grain-buying, warehouses and lands in Merced County. He also carried on a successful insurance business. In 1907 he became first vice-president and manager of the Merced Security Savings Bank, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on March 9, 1925, giving a banquet the following Saturday evening.

In Merced County Mr. Wood married Annie Rucker, born in Missouri, the daughter of A. G. Rucker. She bore him three children:



Celestina Giannoni

Peter A. Giannoni

George Marvin, who died in Merced; Lou, who became the wife of Bert Crane of Turlock and died in April, 1925; and Jesse D., who was associated with his father in the insurance and grain business and is now the agent for Balfour, Guthrie & Co. Mrs. Wood died in Sonoma County. For his second wife Mr. Wood married in Sonoma County, Maron L. England, a native of Missouri but reared and educated in Sonoma County. Seven children blessed this union: Bessie, who became the wife of J. G. McKerty, of Merced; Dallas England who is part owner and editor of the Palo Alto Times; Marjorie, who married L. G. Mackie of Berkeley; Barton Dixon, who saw service in the World War and is now an architectural engineer in Detroit, Mich.; Kenneth Eugene, an assistant cashier of the Security Savings Bank; Carol V., who is at home; and Melville, who is connected with the San Joaquin Light and Power Co. at Merced. Mr. Wood has always been active in Democratic circles; he was a member and president of the first board of trustees of Merced, and for one term was a member of the county board of education. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and served for years as one of the trustees. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias for almost fifty years. He is a man of solid worth and his well-directed intelligence and worth-while abilities have met with due recognition from his fellow-men, by whom he is conceded to rank among the most prominent citizens of Merced County.

PETER J. GIOVANNONI

The success achieved by Peter J. Giovannoni shows what a man can accomplish by honorable industry and close application on the West Side of Merced County, a portion of the county which he, more than any other person, has helped to upbuild and bring to the front, and where he is an honored pioneer. He is called the "Father of the Dairy Industry" in this part of the State, has led a very useful and active life, and has reached an enviable position of affluence which gives him a place among the really successful men in the San Joaquin Valley.

Peter J. Giovannoni was born at Logo Magior in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on December 17, 1864, a son of Giacomo and Madeline (Nicora) Giovannoni, well-to-do farmer-folk, who were respectively of German-Swiss and Italian-Swiss extraction. They specialized in horticulture and viticulture, as well as dairy farming. Peter J. received, in the public schools of his native land, a very fair education, which was supplemented by a practical knowledge of the industries pursued by his father. He early learned budding and grafting, and

still has in his possession the first set of tools used in his horticultural work at school, as a boy in Switzerland. Being filled with an ambition to better his condition in the New World, he bade good-bye to home, father and mother, and sailed from the port of Havre, France, landed at New York City on July 5, 1883, and thence proceeded by rail to the place of his destination, Petaluma, Sonoma County, Cal., where he arrived on July 18. He worked out for three years, during two of which he was employed as butter-maker. In 1886 he went to Santa Clara County and entered the employ of Michael Callahan, pioneer, and took charge of Mr. Callahan's Evergreen Dairy, near San Jose.

About that time C. C. Crow and his father, the late Bradford J. Crow, pioneers and extensive land owners at Crow's Landing, wished to get into the dairy business, and through the favorable recommendations of Michael Callahan, the subject to this sketch and his brother Henry were employed by the Crows to come to Stanislaus County and build up a dairy on the Crow ranch. Dairying as a commercial venture was then unknown to this portion of the San Joaquin Valley and presented many perplexing problems, one of which arose from the fact that the native cows were not used to being milked without their calves at the opposite side from the human milker, that being the method followed by those early pioneers in procuring the milk needed for home consumption. With them, to milk a cow without her calf also sucking at the same time was as much of an innovation as to milk her on Sunday. Everything in the milk-products line was crude, both as to methods of production and as to marketing. Butter was sold in Modesto and Merced for eleven cents per pound, in rolls wrapped in white cloth. Soon another of our subject's brothers, Tranquil, joined Peter J. and Henry, and they all entered into a partnership under the name of Giovannoni and Crow, in 1890, and the dairy business was rapidly expanded and was made to yield a paying return. The Oristemba Cheese Factory was established on the Crow ranch in 1890, with only a few cows. Three dairy barns were built, and the business grew so fast that by 1893 they had a total of 312 cows. Peter J. Giovannoni had learned the art of making American cheese at Gilroy in 1889; and the Oristemba brand of American cheese, being of excellent quality, soon won popular favor, and the company was reaping a rich harvest.

In 1892 the Giovannoni Brothers came over to the Cottonwood district in Merced County and bought 160 acres, upon which they established a dairy of their own. Peter J. still owns and lives upon eighty acres of this place. Their success was not without its serious drawbacks, however. A fire destroyed the dairy barn and hay on the Cottonwood ranch on July 13, 1894, and on the 23rd of the same

month an even more disastrous conflagration swept away the three dairy barns, with 600 tons of hay, at Crow's Landing. Undaunted by these heavy losses, they set about and rebuilt with a stronger determination than ever to make a success of their venture. They built a stone house creamery and new barns in the center of their quarter section on the Cottonwood ranch, and installed the first cream separating machine ever brought into Stanislaus or Merced County. This building was built from chalk-stone, and was later used as a cheese factory; and although not now in actual use, it is still standing in a fair state of preservation, and represents an interesting incident in the progress of the dairy industry in Merced County.

Other unavoidable heavy losses were sustained by these pioneer promoters in the early days of the cheese industry on the West Side. Owing to the cows' eating certain poison grasses, two carloads of cheese had to be destroyed, incurring a very heavy financial loss. But on the whole their enterprise succeeded to such a degree that it attracted general attention. The Crows were in the habit of having their books inspected by accountants each year, and for that purpose employed the firm of Lathrop and Stuhr, realtors at Newman. The books as kept by Peter J. Giovannoni were found to be correct, and the profits exceeded their most sanguine expectations. It opened their eyes to the possibilities of the dairy industry, gave them a talking point, and led them to become ardent boosters for the West Side. An incident showing Mr. Giovannoni's thoroughness is the fact that in 1891, realizing the necessity of a better knowledge of business methods, he took a course in an Oakland business college and acquired a practical knowledge of double-entry bookkeeping as well as up-to-date usages in business. It should be mentioned in this connection that J. N. Stuhr is still living, and the subdivision of the Sturgeon ranch of 1880 acres in the Cottonwood district, with its seventeen prosperous dairy farms, is the result of his keen and ready insight. This successful venture was the means of the building and operation of the New Era Creamery. On May 18, 1899, a meeting was called in Plato Hall at Modesto to canvass the situation with a view to building a creamery in that city. Among those present were Judge O. W. Minor, O. McHenry, A. L. Cressey, Frank Cressey, Theo. Turner and other prominent men. Mr. Giovannoni was sent for, and he put forth such a clear and understandable argument that the resolution was adopted and Modesto got her first creamery.

Mr. Giovannoni has had absolute faith in this section of California from the very start, and has proved his faith by investing in property and buildings. In 1904 he built a cottage in Newman and invested in various other building sites. In 1910-1911 he erected the two-story brick Giovannoni store and office building adjoining the Bank of

Newman building. In 1914 he built the fireproof steel and concrete garage building, 70 by 150 feet, which is the Newman home of the Dodge motor car; and in 1922 he built the postoffice block, installing fixtures which alone cost \$6,000, and making it a credit to that city.

He has always evinced an active interest in the general progress of his community, especially as pertaining to irrigation. Realizing that an abundance of water for irrigation purposes means everything to the West Side, he has for years stood as the uncompromising champion for an enlarged district with ditches and laterals so constructed as to bring the cost of water within the reach of every farmer and business man. He has taken a broad and generous view, insisting on a square deal for everybody. He will be long remembered for the courageous stand he took, and the clear and forceful arguments he put forth, at a meeting at Newman on December 10, 1910, which was attended by 400 persons from Stanislaus, Merced and Fresno Counties, wherein he showed very clearly what a correct rate should be and how a large acreage in the outlying district could be brought under irrigation. He won the day. As a result the San Joaquin Water Storage District has recently been established at a cost of \$33,000,000, bringing in to the project 8400 acres in the Santa Nella, 5300 acres in the Quinto, and the Outside Extension section, 14,300 acres, and 415,300 acres additional, making a consolidated district with water-rates for all time to come established at figures that any good farmer or business man can well afford to pay.

At Modesto, on June 14, 1893, Mr. Giovannoni was united in marriage with Miss Celestina Ghiorzo, born in San Francisco, a daughter of Vincent and Angelina (Simons) Ghiorzo, California pioneers, her father being of Genoese Italian, and her mother of French ancestry. While yet a little girl her parents moved to Modesto, where she was reared. Two boy babies were born to this union, both of whom passed on during their infancy. Mrs. Giovannoni is a most estimable lady. During all the hard years of struggle incident to pioneer life, she has been a most loyal helpmeet and has shared all joys and sorrows in common with her husband. A hard worker and a most excellent housekeeper, she presides most graciously over the Giovannoni household and dispenses a broad and liberal hospitality. Their ranch home, with its beautiful lawns and shrubbery, is a picture of beauty and contentment, one of the truly excellent homes of Merced County. Mr. and Mrs. Giovannoni are known to a large circle of friends and are justly popular and most highly respected. In 1906 they made an extended tour of Europe, visiting most of the noted cities and places of interest. They are both members of the Rebekah Lodge of Newman, while Mr. Giovannoni is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Modesto.

WILLIAM MILTON PHILLIPS

Among those brave and hardy men who came to California in the early fifties mention is here made of William Milton Phillips, worthy pioneer and esteemed citizen of Merced County, who closed his eyes to things on earth in March, 1910. He was born in Newtown, Hamilton County, Ohio, July 30, 1829, and ten years later went with the family to Polk County, Iowa, where his father bought a farm near Des Moines. It was the paternal grandfather, James Phillips, who settled in Ohio when that was a frontier state. He had come from Germany and had served in the War of 1812, and he lived to the age of 110 years. His son, also James Phillips, father of W. M., was born in Ohio, eventually going to Montgomery County, Ind., and from there to Paulding County, Ohio, thence in 1839 to Iowa, where he spent his last days. He was fairly well-to-do and raised a family of seven children.

William Milton Phillips acquired a good education for his day and he had the training of the youth brought up to farming pursuits. The old log schoolhouse was fitted with slab benches, hewed flat on one side, and he wrote with a quill pen. Until he started out on his own responsibility he had an uneventful life. In 1851 he went to New Orleans and was employed on Mississippi River boats until the spring of 1852, when he was found a member of an emigrant train bound for the Golden State. He was a fine marksman and owned a fine horse, so he was chosen hunter for the train and he kept it supplied with fresh meat during the entire trip. In his journeyings away from the train he met many Indians with whom he was very friendly, having gleaned the knowledge of how to keep them on friendly terms through his contact with them both in Ohio and Iowa. He arrived in Hangtown in August, 1852. After mining in Eldorado County two years, Mr. Phillips went to a ranch in Contra Costa County, later locating in Lake County, and in 1872 he came to Merced County and took up the ranch that was to be his home for so many years. He raised grain and stock, maintained a dairy, and made every improvement to be seen on his place.

On September 30, 1869, he was united in marriage with Sarah Jane Phillips, born in Ray County, Mo., the daughter of a farmer, William P. Phillips, who crossed the plains in 1852, and engaged in farming and stock-raising in Oregon until removing to Antioch, Cal., in 1865. Later he went to Hollister and still later to Fresno, where he met a tragic death in 1889, when the Dexter stables were destroyed by fire. He had married Elizabeth Hartman, also a native of Missouri, and she died one week after their arrival in Oregon from mountain fever contracted en route to the West. Her daughter was a babe

of six months and she was reared and educated in California. She bore her husband seven children: Lenora E., wife of T. L. Baldwin; Florence, who became the wife of C. O. Freeman; Oscar Ephraim; Elmer; Ivy Eleanor, Mrs. Lockhart; William and Vivian, deceased. Mr. Phillips and his wife were consistent Christians, doing their part to assist in maintaining the standard of morals to a high degree. Politically he was a Republican.

WILLIAM MASON ROBERTS

A very well-known and successful man, one of the pioneers of the town of Los Banos and a rancher of the West Side, where he has been engaged in the blacksmithing business for many years, and also a man who has served in official capacity in both town and county, is William Mason Roberts, who was born in Smith County, Tenn., on April 10, 1866, the son of Oliver W. and Lucy A. (Whitley) Roberts, the former born in Virginia and taken to Tennessee when he was eight years old and there reared and lived his entire life as a planter. On the maternal side the forebears were of English descent. Grandfather Roberts came from Scotland and made settlement in Virginia. Oliver and Lucy Roberts had the following children: Elizabeth, deceased; Wiley, of Tennessee; Tempa, deceased; William Mason; and Donie, James, Melonee, and Robert S., all in Tennessee; and Inus, of Long Beach, Cal. William M. was educated in the grammar school of his native State, and in 1889, at the age of twenty-three, started out to work for himself, doing odd jobs, blacksmithing chiefly, until 1890, when he came to California and first stopped in Madera County, being employed in various places doing work on ranches, later worked for wages at blacksmithing and running a harvester each season for the large grain farmers in Merced and Madera Counties, continuing some ten or twelve years, finally settling in Los Banos, when the town was first started. He started in the draying business, but sold out after a short time; then, in company with H. C. M. Reuter, he opened a blacksmith shop. When the people were looking for a reliable man for constable of Township No. 3, they selected Mr. Roberts, who was already serving as a deputy sheriff of the county; he was elected and served for sixteen years, up to 1917. His partner carried on the blacksmithing while Mr. Roberts looked after official duties. As he began to be a man of substance he purchased fifteen acres just outside the city limits of Los Banos and lived there until 1923, then he purchased the old Charles Aker place of eighty acres five miles from Los Banos and moved there. This ranch is devoted to alfalfa and will come under the new canal.

William M. Roberts was married in Merced, on October 9, 1897, to Miss Drusilla Mills, born in Santa Cruz County, but reared on a ranch near Soledad, Monterey County, the daughter of John Boardman and Louisa Christina (Bickmore) Mills, natives of Maine, among the pioneers who braved the dangers of the water and overland routes to locate in the West. Mrs. Mills crossed the plains in 1849, and Mr. Mills came about the same time. Mrs. Roberts is a second cousin to the late D. O. Mills, pioneer banker of Sacramento, and she is one in a family of twelve children: William, deceased; Sylvina, of Gonzales; Rose, of Salinas; Oliver, deceased; Clara, of Chico; Drusilla, Mrs. Roberts; Emma, of Corvallis, Ore.; Edgar, deceased; Mary, of San Jose; George, of Oakland; Phoebe, Mrs. O. E. Phillips, of Los Banos; and Rachael, of Long Beach. Mrs. Roberts' father was a carpenter and farmer and died when he was fifty-eight; her mother died at the age of fifty-four. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have two sons, William Mason, Jr., and Marvin Mason. Politically Mr. Roberts is a Democrat. Fraternally, he is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M.; Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F., of which he is a Past Grand; and he belongs to the Woodmen of the World in Los Banos.

CHARLES SHEFFIELD ROGERS

The descendant of one of California's earliest pioneers, and himself born here when California history was in the making, Charles S. Rogers has had a most interesting and eventful career. Starting among pioneer surroundings, and continuing through life as a huntsman, he has viewed the beauties of nature in her most rugged form as few men have had the opportunity to do; from the Big Trees, and mountain heights, to the plains, he has traveled afoot, camping out by some wayside stream and enjoying life to the full, as only a nature-lover can. Born near Linden, in San Joaquin County, June 27, 1863, he is the youngest of two sons born to the late Nathaniel Sheffield and Jennie (Russum) Rogers, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Nathaniel S. Rogers came to California via Cape Horn in 1849, as a gold seeker, and worked that winter on Sullivan Bar, Tuolumne County. He was an expert marksman and spent considerable time as a hunter, bringing in game which he sold to the miners for their meat supply, and receiving in return one dollar per pound for venison. By profession he was a school teacher, and had taught some in the public schools of Michigan in the late forties. At Sonora, Cal., he established himself as a storekeeper, supplying the miners, and had splendid results from this business

venture for several years. Later, he sold out and moved to the San Joaquin Valley, where he entered the grain and stock business, farming on Mormon Slough, near Linden, and there he remained through the fifties and sixties, raising good crops, and selling wheat as high as five cents a pound.

In 1868 this fine old pioneer moved to Merced County and took up a homestead on Bear Creek, one and one-half miles from the present town of Merced, which at that time was not known. The old Rogers home was erected in 1868, just a mile and a half from where the Central Pacific Railway built their station in 1872, and founded Merced. A full and unique life was given to Nathaniel S. Rogers; and he often recalled his experiences in interesting reminiscence to his large circle of friends in his later years. He sent stock to the mountains in 1877 for feed on account of the worst drought in the history of that section and succeeded in saving his herds. Bear and other wild animals were numerous when he first settled on the plains, and his expert marksmanship often stood him in good stead! A well-educated man of fine caliber, he was active in political circles, and he was one of the most active and oldest members of the Odd Fellows, a Past Grand in Merced Lodge, No. 208. He remained quite active past his eightieth year, and his death occurred July 23, 1905, while the wife and mother passed on June 28, 1908, at the old family home, aged sixty-two.

Charles S. Rogers was brought up on the home ranch, and received his education in the McSwain district school, which his father organized and taught for the first two terms. He recalls the building operations and the construction and completion of the railway through Merced, and the locating of the station so near his home. He worked for his parents on the ranch, and at the early age of seven, showed remarkable ability for holding and handling firearms; wild animals and birds of all kinds were plentiful on the plains and along the creeks, and he hunted in his spare time until he was fifteen years old, becoming an expert marksman. His first firearm was a No. 8, muzzle-loading shot gun, which he used to carry and rest on a tripod; then he had an old Kentucky muzzle-loader. As the lighter arms were brought into use he became the proud owner of these, and entered the market hunting business, which he has followed each season for fifty years, shipping his game to the San Francisco hotels and markets, where he found a ready sale for all he could supply. Geese, ducks, rabbits and deer were among his game supplies, and his hunting expeditions have taken him over the rugged mountains on the east and west slopes of the Sierra Nevadas, in Nevada and California, from Modoc County, where he acquired many Indian relics, through the Golden State to Lake Tulare and the rich duck feeding grounds of the San Joaquin. His trips have occupied much of his life, and to



Franc H. Ferran,

be properly chronicled would mean the filling of many pages. A close student of nature, and the life of the unexplored corners of mountain and swamp regions not often traveled by man, he has a most unusual and very valuable collection of pioneer relics, hunting knives, firearms, ammunition, deer horns, stuffed birds and animals, Indian curios, arrowheads, baskets, beads, etc., which he has gathered and put on display in a specially built room at his home; it is perhaps the largest display of its kind in the West, and among the pieces he has entrusted to his care are the private hunting weapons of such hunters and well-known pioneers as Joe Heacox, George Kibby, Jack Kennedy, Dr. Joshua Griffith, Ben Jolley, and others, who have handed material, arms, etc., to the care of Mr. Rogers. Two relics of special interest are the old gold scales and old Kentucky rifle of H. Hultz, the former used in early days when gold was the medium of exchange. In addition to his hunting activities, Mr. Rogers is the owner of sixty acres of rich bottom land on Bear Creek, which he farms to grain, and where he makes his home.

His marriage, at the family homestead, united Mr. Rogers with Mary Ivers, born in Merced, the third of six children born to Richard A. Ivers, a venerable pioneer of Merced County, and prominent citizen during its early history. Like her husband, Mrs. Rogers was reared and educated in the McSwain District.

FRANK H. FARRAR

A native of Mississippi, Frank H. Farrar was born at New Prospect, Winston County, on May 27, 1848. His father, Rev. William H. Farrar, moved from Winston County to Jackson County in 1858, and assumed the editorship of the Mississippi Baptist, the official organ of the Baptist Church for the State of Mississippi, and continued to edit it until 1862, when he moved to Clinton, that State, where their son Frank entered Mississippi College. He prosecuted his studies in college until he had completed his freshman year, when, on account of General Grant's raid through Mississippi, the family moved back to Winston County. In the year 1866, Frank Farrar entered the office of the Macon Beacon, at Macon, Miss., and there learned the printer's trade. In 1869 he came to California and located in Merced County, and for three years was in partnership with M. D. Wood in ranching operations. Finding that ranching was not suited to his inclination, he went to Snelling and for a few months worked as a printer in the office of the San Joaquin Valley Argus, after which he was employed as a clerk in the leading hotel in Snelling. In the spring of 1872 he entered the law office of Hon. P. D. Wigginton, afterwards Congressman from the Sixth California Dis-

trict, as a law student and continued his studies for three years at Snelling and at Merced. In the latter place he was admitted to practice in 1874. Soon after being admitted to the bar, he purchased the Merced Tribune, changed the name of the paper to the Merced Express, and for two years edited and published it as a Democratic organ. He then sold out and entered into a co-partnership with Hon. P. D. Wigginton in the practice of law.

In 1879 Mr. Farrar was elected to the office of district attorney of Merced County, and was reelected in 1883. Four years later he was elected Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias for the State of California, and served for one year. As a lawyer, Mr. Farrar became one of the leaders of his profession in Central California. During his campaign for district attorney he promised that if elected he would have the books of the county officials examined, a thing which had never been done before; this he did, though the job took an expert accountant two years to complete. For a time Fred Ostrander, now a prominent attorney of the Bay Cities, was his law partner. A fluent public speaker and gifted orator, Frank H. Farrar was much in demand at public gatherings. When Grant made a visit to the Yosemite, he had charge of the arrangements, introduced the General at the banquet held at the El Capitan Hotel, and made the occasion a memorable one. A successful and honest man, he gave freely to charity and was a true friend to those in trouble; those who came to him for help did not ask in vain. His conscience was always his guide, and his many acts of kindness made him one of the best beloved figures in the public life of Merced County. He was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church. In fraternal circles he was a Knight of Pythias, having served as Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of the State for a year, giving his time to organization work in California, during which his eloquent voice was heard in every principal city in the State. His portrait graces the Grand Chancellor's Lodge, while the Yosemite Lodge, in which he held membership, promptly passed resolutions of condolence and respect at the time of his death, on March 22, 1922. During the World War, Judge Farrar served his country in the capacity of a member of the Legal Advisory Board No. 1, Merced County, his services being highly commended by E. H. Crowder, Provost Marshal General, and Governor W. D. Stephens.

Judge Farrar was a consistent advocate of temperance. He fought the evils of the saloon through his advocacy of high license in the early days, and staunchly supported war-time prohibition and the Eighteenth Amendment during the latter years of his life. He was very active in having the county seat removed from Snelling to Merced, and circulated the first petition for its removal.

Brilliant as was the public career of Judge Farrar, his home life was no less felicitous. At the home of the bride's parents near Le Grand, Merced County, he was united in marriage on May 27, 1873, to Miss Udola Peck, born in Mariposa County, a member of an historic pioneer family, being a daughter of Charles L. and Lucy Jane (Dickenson) Peck, and granddaughter of Gallant Duncan Dickenson, first alcalde of Stockton, Cal., who had outfitted at Independence, Mo., in the spring of 1846, for the trip across the plains to California. Mr. Dickenson had a number of wagons of his own and was chosen captain of the train, which at one time traveled with the train containing the Donner party. Upon reaching the divide in Utah, a disagreement arose as to the route to be taken. Captain Dickenson there promptly decided to take a different route, and with his ten wagons arrived safely in the San Joaquin Valley and thus escaped the fate of the Donners. Mrs. Farrar's mother, after the death of Mr. Peck, married N. B. Stoneroad and lived on a farm near Le Grand for nearly forty years. She was a woman of great beauty, force of character, and versatility. In the St. Louis Globe Democrat of July 12, 1914, is an article based upon an interview with Mrs. Stoneroad, from which we glean these facts of historic interest.

"I was born near Jackson, Mo.," she says. "My father, Gallant Duncan Dickenson, was a roamer. He was reared in Virginia, where he was left an orphan while in his teens, and as soon as he was able to shift for himself, returned to Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he was born; and there he married Isabella McCreary, also born in Murfreesboro. But he chafed under the confines of the South in those days, and was always looking towards the West in contemplation of the better opportunities to be found there. He persuaded my mother to journey to northwest Missouri, settled at Independence, but remained only a few years. It was the creative period of the West, and tales of the glorious country beyond the mountains influenced ambitious young men to seek their fortunes on the shores of the Pacific. He joined a great caravansary that made Independence its rendezvous. We set out on the morning of May 6, 1846, with more than forty wagons of immigrants and provisions. I recall the day so well; the tearful adieus of our friends and neighbors and the sad look that my mother cast behind. It was indeed like putting out to sea in an open boat without chart or compass.

"It was October 20 before we reached our promised land; and when we finally pulled up at Johnson's ranch at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, we had been three days without food, except what the gun brought down and what roots and food we found in the woods. The winter of 1846 we spent near what is now the city of Santa Clara. San Jose was already established, and it became our

headquarters. My father became connected with several cities in California. He built the first brick house in Monterey, which for a long time was a show place and is still standing. Moving to Stockton, my father erected the first hotel in that place with material shipped around the Horn. He also built and gave the Methodist congregation its first church building, and became the alcalde of Stockton. My sister was the second white girl to be married in Stockton. Her name was Margaret Elizabeth Dickenson, and she was married in 1849 to Amos Giles Lawry. My marriage to Charles S. Peck, in 1850, was the third in the immigrant population. My sister's daughter was born in 1850, and she claims the distinction of being the first child of Anglo-Saxon parents born there. She is now Mrs. Hill, of Salinas."

Charles S. Peck was born and educated in Virginia and came to California via Cape Horn in the early fifties. Mr. and Mrs. Peck became the parents of four children, Mrs. Farrar being the second in order of birth and a twin sister of Mrs. Tallula Harris of San Francisco. They were the first white twin girls born in the State. She was educated at Mills Seminary and is the mother of two living sons, George W. and William D., both holding honorable discharges from service in the World War. Mrs. Farrar is a much-loved person. She is still living at the Farrar residence at No. 451 Twenty-second Street, Merced, which as a bride she helped her husband to build in 1873, and has always made it a true home, a center of social activity and domestic felicity ever radiating a broad and wholesome hospitality.

CASPAR H. DETLEFSEN

A successful rancher and dairyman is found in the person of Caspar H. Detlefsen, a native son of California, born in the Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz County, January 8, 1872. His parents were Andrew and Sena Detlefsen, natives of Denmark, who sought the more prosperous country of America in which to succeed in the battle of life. Andrew Detlefsen came to California in the sixties and engaged in ranching in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. He died in 1921, aged seventy-seven years, nine months and nine days; his good wife died when she was sixty-nine. They had seven children: Nis; Annie, Mrs. W. H. Rhodes; Caspar H.; James; Andrew; Elsie, Mrs. Ben Cruse; and Lillie, Mrs. George Rohrback.

The third in order of birth in his parents family of children, Caspar was educated in the schools of Santa Cruz County and from boyhood was brought up to work on the home farm. In 1889 he came to the West Side in Merced County and was employed on the

Sturgeon ranch, after which he began for himself by purchasing twenty acres of the Crittenden place, raising alfalfa. The ranch was under the San Joaquin-Kings River ditch; he sold this place in 1923.

In 1907, in Oakland, Cal., Mr. Detlefsen was married to May L. Sparks, born on the old Sparks ranch near Newman, the daughter of J. S. Sparks, of whom mention is made on another page of this history. After their marriage the young folks rented one section of the Sparks ranch and farmed to grain. In 1917 Mr. Detlefsen purchased 280 acres, part of the Eachus ranch, and farmed successfully. He now leases 200 acres of his land and on the balance conducts a dairy of about thirty head of cows. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and both himself and wife belong to the Pythian Sisters at Newman. Politically he is a Democrat. In all that he has undertaken, Mr. Detlefsen has been fairly successful and he takes a helpful interest in all matters of public import.

DANIEL HALTERMAN

The oldest permanent settler in point of residence in the Atwater district between Merced and the Merced River and between the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads is Daniel Halterman, residing on his ranch on the Atwater-Winton highway between the two towns. The sixth child in a family of twelve children, he was born a Native Son in Pope Valley, Napa County, on October 30, 1859. His father, Joseph Halterman, was a native of Ohio, in which state he was united in marriage with Abigail Barnett, likewise born in the Buckeye State. They came across the plains to California with ox-teams in 1852 and settled in Pope Valley, Napa County, where Mr. Halterman followed ranching. In 1873 the family moved to Merced County and for a year lived on the G. H. Fancher ranch, after which they located on the Hamlin ranch near Snelling. Besides carrying on farming pursuits, Joseph Halterman did teaming, hauling goods and produce to the mountain towns. It was while engaged in the latter occupation that he was killed when his team ran away and he died on November 22, 1877, at the Frank Lewis ranch. In 1878 Mrs. Halterman and her family moved to Hopeton and she managed the ranching affairs for the next three years; at that time the older sons assumed the care of the family and the mother thereafter made her home with her children. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. L. Short, in Napa County, when she was eighty-three years old.

Daniel Halterman attended the public schools in the Plainsburg and Eden districts in Merced County. Having been reared on a ranch it was but natural that he should continue that as his life work and

he assisted on the home place until 1880. From 1882 to 1884 he leased the Toal farm; from 1886 to 1888 he was farming part of the George H. Fancher ranch at Tuttle to grain. In 1891 he came to the Reynolds ranch, a part of the J. W. Mitchell holdings, and with J. M. Bell leased 2200 acres and farmed to grain. In 1904 he bought fifteen acres in the Gertrude Colony and soon established his home here. In the meantime he started a vineyard and orchard, and while these were maturing he did considerable contract team work during the building of the Yosemite Valley Railway to a point nine miles from El Portal, since which time he has given his time to the conduct of his place and has brought it to a high state of productiveness. He has been active in the community life of Atwater.

On December 27, 1886, occurred the marriage of Daniel Halterman and Miss Ellen Weston, born in Mariposa County, the daughter of the late Louis Weston, a pioneer miner and a well-known and honored citizen of this part of the San Joaquin Valley. There were five children born of this union: Mary E., Mrs. J. E. Stanfield, now living in Atwater and the mother of a son, Eugene; Verl L., a machinist at Snelling; Florence, Mrs. H. K. Potter, of Sacramento and the mother of two children, Harry J. R. and Bernice; Donald Joseph, of Atwater is the fourth; and Helen I., a pupil in the local school. Mr. Halterman is a Republican in his political belief and he is a firm believer in co-operative marketing and is a member of the Atwater Fruit Exchange, the Merced-Stanislaus Sweet Potato Association and the Milk Producers' Association of Central California.

WILLIAM E. BUNKER

The Bunker family, represented in Merced County by William E. Bunker, extensive agriculturist, were citizens of New England for many years. The father of our subject, Nathaniel Emmons Bunker, left Massachusetts to seek a new location and settled in Minnesota where he took up government land, on which he farmed. After a few years he came farther west to Nevada and became a pioneer of that State and for several years served as a member of the State legislature. He married Miss Elizabeth B. Dunning, also of New England birth, and by this union six children were born, namely: Minnie E., deceased; Charles E., lives in San Francisco; William E., the subject of this review; Fred E.; Sadie, the wife of J. St. Clair; and David T. In 1868 the parents came to the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley settling in the Cottonwood district; from time to time land was purchased until they farmed 3000 acres of deeded and

rented land besides range lands. Here large bands of sheep, hundreds of cattle and great quantities of grain were raised. A few years prior to his death the father moved to Oakland, and there he passed away at the age of seventy-six years; the mother passed away at Modesto, in December 1924, at the age of seventy-seven.

William E. Bunker was born on October 14, 1873, in the Cottonwood district of Merced County and at the district school adjacent to his father's ranch he first attended school; later when the family removed to Oakland he also attended school there. In young manhood he became associated with his father in farming and after his father's death the estate was divided among the heirs and Mr. Bunker farms his share consisting of about 500 acres, a portion of which lies in the Cottonwood district. Of recent years he has leased a part of his ranch for dairy purposes, retaining an interest in the business, his share of the dairy herd being about 120 head. His herd sire came from the Bridgeford Holstein Farm at Patterson and Mr. Bunker is gradually bringing his stock to a registered herd. Mr. Bunker has a walnut orchard of five acres on the home place, and walnut trees have been contracted for to set out 100 acres more; he has an orchard of fifty acres of black Mission figs and fifteen acres in walnuts on a ranch at the south edge of the Cottonwood district.

September 2, 1903, in the Cottonwood district of Merced County, Mr. Bunker was married to Miss Rose T. Pfitzer, born at San Felipe, Cal., daughter of Anthony and Theresa (Mayr), both natives of Germany. They were pioneers of California and came to the San Luis district of Merced County in 1868 where he owned extensive range lands and engaged extensively in the sheep business. There are nine children in this family: Frank; Joseph; Mary, Mrs. Domenigine; Julia, Mrs. McCabe; Anthony; Rose T., the wife of our subject; William; Clarice; and Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Bunker have three children, Edwin, Jack, and Elizabeth. Upon the death of Geo. H. Whitworth, Mr. Bunker was appointed by Governor Richardson to fill the unexpired term of two years as supervisor of the Fourth District of Merced County. During the World War, Mr. Bunker leased his ranch and removed to Merced and for two years served on the exemption board. He is a member of the Walnut Growers' Association and a director in the Bank of Gustine. Since 1913 Mr. Bunker has served as clerk of the Gustine High School board and is also a trustee of the Gustine Grammar School; since 1919 he has been the president of the Chamber of Commerce. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bunker are Republicans. Fraternally, Mr. Bunker is a member of Hills Ferry Lodge, No. 236, F. & A. M., at Newman; Modesto Chapter No. 49, R. A. M.; Modesto Commandery No. 57, K. T., and Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., at Oakland.

JOHN S. CARDOZA

One of the leading Portuguese-American citizens of the West Side of Merced County is John S. Cardoza, born at St. George, in the Azores, on October 12, 1859, the second child born to Antone and Anna (Silvieira) Cardoza. The father followed farming all his life in his native land. The mother died in 1869, when her son was a lad of ten years, and it was after the death of this parent that our subject began to be self-supporting. He was given work to do on the farm that would have been enough for a man, but he was strong and willing and in a way accomplished what he was set to do. He had but little opportunity to go to school for his days were given over to monotonous work and, as he grew older, he could see but little promise for the years that were to come; so he decided he would come to America where there was more opportunity for a man of persistency and purpose.

In 1873, when fourteen years of age, J. S. Cardoza landed in New York, with but little money and among strangers. He secured work on a farm in Rhode Island, but the wages were small and after eighteen months he had saved barely enough to pay his passage to California, where he arrived on January 1, 1875, having but a "two-bit" piece in his pocket. He was ambitious to get ahead and he worked his way to the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley where there were many of his countrymen with whom he easily found work on a ranch. He saved his money and by 1881 was able to embark in ranching for himself on 1000 acres of leased land upon which he began raising grain, each year adding to his leasehold until he had under cultivation some 2500 acres. He was so successful in disposing of his grain that in 1885 he and Charles Nye purchased 160 acres of the Page tract, which they put into alfalfa and sold at a good profit. Mr. Cardoza then bought his present home place, first only eighty acres, then adding seventy, all of which he improved with a good set of farm buildings, with barns suitable for dairying, and here he has been successfully engaged in that industry ever since. He was one of the pioneers in the dairy business in this locality and with the passing of the years he has won the respect and good will of his neighbors and has an ever-widening circle of friends. Upon the organization of the Bank of Newman Mr. Cardoza was invited to become a stockholder and later was made a director and after some years sold his stock. In fact nearly every project for advancement of this section has had his hearty cooperation and support.

The marriage of John S. Cardoza at Centerville, Cal., united him with Miss Mary Munyan, who was born there, a daughter of Frank Munyan, who crossed the plains in 1849 and had the usual experiences of the pioneers in that long and hazardous journey. He mined for



DR. WM. ROBINSON

a time, abandoning that to undertake ranching near Centerville, in which occupation he was very successful. Of this marriage there were born the following children: Charles; Lena, married Frank Dias, has two children, Frances and John, and lives in Merced; Geneva, wife of Tracy Barrett, lives in Berkeley; Carrie, married Ralph Reed and resides in Stockton; Lunas; and Stuart, all of whom have had the advantages of the best schools to prepare them for the battle of life. Mr. Cardoza is a Republican in politics of national import, but in local affairs he believes in the best men for the office regardless of party lines. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Degree of Honor, and United Portuguese Union. In the review of the life of this worthy citizen we find that his success, and the position of honor in which he is held, are the result of prudence, perseverance and push, the three P's of success, all combined with good citizenship.

DR. WILLIAM ROBINSON

The subject of this interesting review, Dr. William Robinson, was born in Athens County, Ohio, September 12, 1828, a son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Robinson. The father died at Zanesville, Ohio, in 1833. At the age of fourteen years, William Robinson assumed the responsibility of providing for himself, and until he was sixteen years old worked for four dollars a month. In December, 1844, he went to Des Moines, Iowa, and there took up a government claim, on which he built a cabin. In a short time he went to Schuyler County, Ill., and there engaged in the trade of broom-making. In 1847 he enlisted in the service of his country in the war against Mexico, being a member of Company C, commanded by Capt. N. C. Cunningham. He arrived at the front too late to participate in the actual fighting, but did patrol duty until he was honorably discharged on July 7, 1848. During his service in the war with Mexico he mastered the Spanish language, becoming very proficient. On September 1, 1848 he went to Independence, Mo., where he was in the employ of a railroad company, for a time, and then returned to Schuyler County, Ill., and worked at the cooper's trade until 1850.

In 1850 William Robinson was married to Miss Susanna Woodruff, and they removed to Henderson County, Ill., where he devoted his energies to agriculture until 1854. His next abiding place was Oskaloosa, Iowa, and there he farmed and worked at the cooper's trade until 1863. Then came a call for additional troops to defend the old flag, and he volunteered in Captain Sherry's 3rd Iowa Cavalry, serving in the quartermaster's department at Davenport for

nine months, when he was discharged on account of the death of his wife, who left five children: William H.; Joshua A.; Annie Jane, who married Joseph Brady of Kansas City, Mo.; George Edward; and Addie Leona, who married Peter S. Skelly. He then worked at the carpenters' trade for a while. In September, 1869, Dr. Robinson was married a second time, this union joining him to Miss Melissa Yonker. After their marriage they removed to Missouri, where he farmed from 1869 to 1874. Then followed the journey to California, where Mr. Robinson became the owner of one of the productive farms in Merced County. Of this second marriage the following children were born: James B.; Nellie M., who married Joseph Harrigan of San Francisco; Benjamin B., a rancher near Snelling; Frank D., in Merced; Flora B., wife of John Wolfesen of Merced County; Sheldon, who died aged twenty years; and Alice, who died in childhood.

Dr. Robinson's career was marked with many changes, and he experienced many different phases of life, but the attractions of the Golden State were sufficient to hold him for the balance of his life. He passed away in Merced in 1905, aged seventy-seven years. Mrs. Robinson passed on in 1911. Dr. Robinson was an exemplary citizen. He was strictly temperate in his habits, a profound student of the Bible, and in every way a man whom it was an honor to know; and he was recognized as one of the most esteemed citizens of Merced County.

DAVID L. ELLIS

The life story of this "born and reared" Californian is full of interest to all students of history, including as it does the experiences of pioneer parents, and his own life as a youth, during the early days in the settling up of the valley regions of the State. Born in Plainsburg, Merced County, August 29, 1869, of Scotch-English extraction, David L. Ellis is the eldest of eleven children born to his parents, all of whom survive, but none of the family, with the exception of David L., now reside in Merced County. Thomas H., the father, born August 18, 1826, in Humphrey County, Tenn., was a Forty-niner, and worked his way to California with a party of emigrants who left Tennessee in 1848 and arrived at the Southern Mines in 1849, and followed mining until his marriage. After his marriage, which united him with Maggie Harris, her family at that time living near Plainsburg, he settled in Merced County, at Sandy Mush, and devoted his life to stock-raising and ranching. He was well and favorably known on the range from Stockton to Tulare Lake, and from Mariposa to

Hollister. Active as a Democrat, he was always much interested in California progress, and did worthy work toward that end. He later sold out his Merced County interests to spend his declining years in Selma, and there his death occurred, July 10, 1899. Maggie Harris Ellis was the daughter of the late Isaac Harris, a Texas ranger who came to California in 1853; she was a native of the Golden State, and her death occurred November 23, 1900, at Selma, Cal.

David L. attended the Lone Tree school, with some sixty-five other pupils, having for a teacher Judge Connolly, now of Madera. He was practically reared in the saddle, working on the range with his father, and recalls many interesting experiences, one of them indelibly printed on his memory. It occurred during the exceedingly dry year of 1877, when he accompanied his father, driving a band of cattle from Sandy Mush to the North Fork of the San Joaquin River. The sad sight of the dead stock on the plains due to the drought, made an impression on his youthful mind and heart which he has never forgotten.

When Mr. Ellis started out to work on his own account, he entered the employ of Henry Miller, and remained steadily in his employ until 1890, in charge of cattle camps on the Santa Rita, New Columbia and Hoglan ranches; a faithful and trusted employee of the former "Cattle King" of California, he became well-known throughout the valley as a man to be depended upon. The next nine years were occupied at Sandy Mush homesteading 160 acres, and working on the outside on the Chowchilla ranch and also for Chamberlain & Company. In the meantime he invested in the Landram Colony at Buhach buying twenty-six acres and starting development work there. He is now the owner of this ranch, having brought it to a splendid condition of development, and also owns city lots in Atwater.

The marriage of Mr. Ellis, July 9, 1889, at the Moran Hotel, Merced, united him with Leila Robison, born April 26, 1873, at Mariposa, the daughter of Neil and Tabitha Ann (Elam) Robison, both natives of Tennessee, the father born February 14, 1840, and died October 16, 1889, at Plainsburg, Merced County; while his good wife was born July 3, 1849, and died February 2, 1882. Six children were born to them, Mrs. Ellis being third in order of birth. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis: Neil L., an ex-service man who served in the World War as a Second Lieutenant, now resides in Fresno; Mae L., wife of H. A. Dodson, also of Fresno; and Lee R., at home. There is one grandchild, Neil L., Jr. Fraternally, Mr. Ellis has been a member of the Modern Woodman of America for twenty years. He is keenly interested in the further growth and development of his section of the State, and does all in his power to aid in movements which have that end in view.

OSCAR EUGENE SMITH

One of the "old-timers" of the West Side in Merced County is Oscar Eugene Smith, living retired at the western city limits of Los Banos. He was born in Fayette County, Iowa, on May 5, 1861, soon after the first gun of the Civil War had been fired, and was the son of Samuel A. and Nancy (Dollarhide) Smith, born in Illinois and Indiana, respectively. The father was a school teacher and farmer and thirteen months after their first child, Oscar Eugene, was born, in 1862, they set out for California, across the plains behind horse-teams, coming via the Platte River and Salt Lake routes. Arriving in California, the family lived in Yolo County one year, then settled in Solano County on the present site of Dixon, where Mr. Smith did a general farming until 1868, then came down to Merced County and settled on the West Side near what is now the town of Los Banos. Here he preempted 160 acres and bought 160 more, and began making improvements and raised grain and stock. He had to guard his fields from the depredations of the cattle belonging to Miller and Lux, he standing guard during the night and his son during the day, as there were no fences at that time. While the irrigation canal was being built Mrs. Smith boarded the engineers and foremen in charge. This couple had ten children, six now living. Mrs. Smith died in 1879, and Mr. Smith died on January 5, 1923, aged eighty-four years. A more detailed sketch of the family is given on another page in this history.

Oscar Eugene Smith grew up on the home ranch and attended the public school in Los Banos. When he was seventeen he was driving a six-horse team over the mountains through Pacheco Pass, teaming from Gilroy to the San Joaquin Valley, continuing this business until he was twenty-one. Then he married and located on a ranch he had preempted, made all improvements, and after considerable litigation over the title, which was claimed by Miller and Lux, he received his patent from the government to 160 acres and here he has lived and prospered for forty years, doing general farming and dairying. He sold eighty acres of the original quarter section; also five acres to the Associated Creameries for their plant site.

On May 31, 1883, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Amy Hunt, born in Mankato, Minn., the daughter of William Harry and Rebecca (Frizzell) Hunt, natives of New York State and London, England, respectively. Upon coming to California the Hunts settled in Ione, Amador County in 1875, where Mr. Hunt had charge of a mine. Later they moved to Stockton, and still later, about 1880, to the West Side of Merced County, where they lived until moving to Turlock, where Mr. Hunt spent the balance of his days, dying at

the age of seventy-five. Mrs. Smith is the only survivor of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hunt and she finished her schooling in the Central Point district school. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had ten children, viz: Clarence E., of San Jose, married Ella Johnson and they have two children, Dorothy and Harold; Letha B., Mrs. David Allen, of Newman; Oscar Noble, deceased; Harvey S., deceased; Myrtle Ruth, married Fred Carroll of Corcoran and they have three boys, Frederic, Ruxton and William Allen; Jesse M., of Merced, served as a mechanic during the World War and was the first man to enlist from Los Banos. He trained at Kelley Field in San Antonio, Texas, then went to New York and from there to Dover and was commissioned a lieutenant. He is married and has one son, Jesse M., Jr. Wesley Leland is the pioneer mail aviator pilot in the United States service, now flying between a point in New Jersey to Bellefontaine, Ohio. He served in the World War, entering the University of California, then going to Camp Lewis, trained at Rockwell Field and received a commission as lieutenant. He is a fine baritone singer. David H., principal of the Weber school in Stockton, has two children, David H., Jr., and Randolph; Blythe A., married Thomas Hancock of Los Banos and has two children, Thomas and Betty; and Lyle H., of Salinas. Politically Mr. Smith is a Democrat. He is a member of the Fraternal Aid of Los Banos.

JAMES CAMPBELL BAXTER

Among the pioneers who helped make history after 1868 in California, and at the same time build up for posterity a heritage of a good name and a competence to start them out in the world, was the late James Campbell Baxter. He was born in Nova Scotia on March 19, 1841, the son of David and Helen (Waugh) Baxter, both born in Scotland, the former on March 30, 1799, and the latter on June 25, 1800. They were married on January 13, 1824, and raised their family on a farm. James C. attended the schools in his native province and farmed there until 1862, when he was united in marriage with Agnes Miller, who was born in Nova Scotia in 1842. He had decided he would come to California, where a brother, Robert Baxter, had already settled, and in 1868 he left his family in Nova Scotia and came via Panama, arriving in that year in San Joaquin County. He farmed near the present site of Tracy with ordinary results; also he and Lee Fancher worked together in the construction of the Central Pacific Railway when it was built into Stockton. In 1871 Mr. Baxter came into Merced County and settled about twelve miles from Plainsburg, hauling the lumber for his first house

from Dover, a point then reached by the steamers plying the San Joaquin River. He began to make headway and developed a ranch, equal to the best in the county.

In 1874 Mr. Baxter was joined by his wife and their two children, George W. and Margaret Ellen, who later became the wife of Ernest Kahl. In time the following children were added to the family circle: James Robert, David Andrew, Mary Agnes, Mabel Agnes, now in Oakland, John Jerdine and Harrison. Their oldest child, named David, had died in Canada. Mrs. Baxter passed to her reward in 1891. Mr. Baxter continued to be a successful farmer and stockman in Merced County until 1900, when he retired to Oakland and there he passed away on December 17, 1924. He left to his heirs 3400 acres of as fine land as there is to be found in Merced County. Mr. Baxter was a Christian gentleman and endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

CHARLES W. KAHL, M.D.

A native son of Merced County who is now a well-known professional man in his home community, Dr. Kahl was born in the Plainsburg District on Mariposa Creek, on December 24, 1868, the son of Adam and Lydia Ann (Spangenberg) Kahl, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York State, both now deceased. The father reached seventy-eight years, and the mother eighty-five, dying in September, 1924. After receiving his preliminary education in the district schools, Charles W. Kahl attended Bainbridge Business College, at Stockton, and then returned to his father's ranch, remaining there until 1891. In 1896, he was graduated from the Missouri Valley College, at Marshall, Mo., with the degree of A. B., and in 1899, he was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, with his degree of M. D.

Dr. Kahl then passed one year in Nome, Alaska, and was later surgeon on the John S. Kimball steamship line, between San Francisco, Seattle and Honolulu, putting in two years in that service. He next practiced medicine in San Francisco, at Sixteenth and Mission Streets, and was burned out by the big earthquake and fire of 1906, losing all his effects, and gave his services to help the suffering population of the metropolis during that trying time. On account of ill health, he returned to Merced County, locating at Le Grand, and in 1914 opened his office in Merced, and has since that time maintained his practice here, in home surroundings and with a patronage upheld by the confidence of the people who have known him since childhood, and to whom he has demonstrated his ability, both as a

man and a physician. To his practical experience he adds constant study of the new discoveries science is bringing to the world, and his conscientious application has won him many friends in the community.

Dr. Kahl has been twice married, the first union being with Isabel Allen, at San Francisco, in 1897; she was a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, and bore him two sons: Charles W., who saw service with the U. S. Navy after the war, with the Atlantic Fleet, and is now a mechanical engineer; and LeRoy, who also served in the Navy after the World War, and is now employed in the San Mateo postoffice.

Dr. Kahl's second marriage, in 1916, united him with Mrs. Eugene Reid, a native of San Francisco. Mrs. Kahl is a Past President of Veritas Parlor of the Native Daughters, and Past Noble Grand of the Rebekahs. Fraternally, Dr. Kahl is a Past President of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., of Merced; is a member of Mariposa Lodge No. 24, F. & A. M.; Pyramid No. 14, Sciots, of Merced; Past Grand of Unity Lodge No. 131, I. O. O. F., San Francisco; and belongs to the Rebekahs, the Redmen, and the Women of Woodcraft.

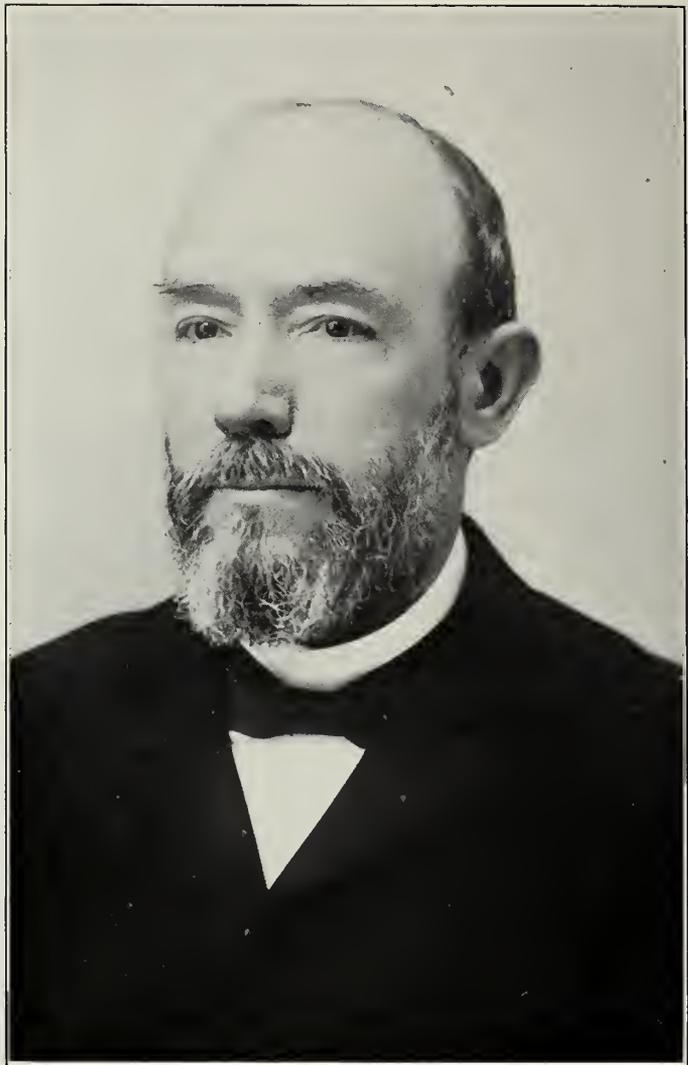
MRS. LUCY DRUMMOND-HOLLINGSWORTH

Among the pioneer women of Merced County, none is held in greater respect than Mrs. Lucy Drummond-Hollingsworth, who has been an eye-witness to the wonderful growth and development of Merced County, where she has borne her part as a substantial citizen. She was born near Ashton, Ill., a daughter of John Quincy and Eliza Jane (Rosecrans) Drummond, both natives of Ohio. Her father was born June 20, 1827, a son of Andrew Drummond, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania and became an early settler of Ohio, where for a number of years he was engaged in farming in Licking County. Removing to Illinois in 1838, he took up land in Ogle County, and there pursued his chosen vocation until his death. He married Elizabeth Lutzenhizer, who was born in Pennsylvania, and died in Illinois, at the age of sixty years. She bore him eleven children, five of them being boys.

John Q. Drummond acquired his education in the little log cabin, with its customary puncheon floor, shake-covered roof, and slab benches. Settling in Ashton, Lee County, Ill., when a young man, he was engaged for a time as a merchant and grain dealer. In 1850 he came to California with the gold seekers, crossing the plains with ox-teams, and being six months en route. Locating in Eldorado County, he worked in the Georgetown mines for nine years, meeting with average success. Then, after making a visit in Illinois, he located in Sacramento, and for three years was engaged in freight-

ing to the Washoe mines, in Nevada, and while thus employed hauled the first battery for crushing ore used in Virginia City, an undertaking that took six months, being snowed in on the way. Losing his horses by drowning in 1862, Mr. Drummond entered the employ of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and assisted in grading the road bed from San Jose to Gilroy, from San Quentin Point to San Rafael, and other parts of the road, and also helped in the building of the road through the Livermore Mountains. Coming to San Joaquin Valley in 1871, Mr. Drummond took a prominent part in the construction of the Kings River canal, beginning work as foreman of a gang of men, becoming superintendent of construction, and later was general manager of the work, his services in all covering a period of eighteen years. Turning his attention then to agricultural pursuits, Mr. Drummond bought three-fourths of a section of land near Ingomar and later added to this holding until he owned 600 acres irrigated by water from the ditch, 160 acres in the mountains, and 320 acres in the Panoche district. As a stockraiser and dairyman he carried on a large and lucrative business, and was also financially interested in the Ingomar warehouse. In 1852, Mr. Drummond was married in Illinois to Miss Eliza Jane Rosecrans, a native of Ohio and cousin of Gen. William S. Rosecrans, who acquired fame in the Civil War. She died, in Sacramento, Cal., in 1866, aged thirty years. There were four children in this family; Lucy, the subject of this review; Walter, deceased; Arthur, residing at Gustine; and May, deceased. Mr. Drummond lived within six weeks of having reached the age of ninety-four years. He was a Republican in politics, and for one term served as county supervisor. Fraternally he belonged to Los Banos Lodge, F. & A. M.

Lucy Drummond received a common school education in Lee County, Ill., and at Sacramento on December 4, 1878, she was married to James Edwin Hollingsworth, born at Granville, Mo., May 30, 1850, who came to California a few years before his marriage to Miss Drummond. The young couple located on twenty acres which they purchased just across the canal from the old Drummond homestead. When the town of Gustine was started, Mr. Hollingsworth purchased two acres within the city limits and here the home was built. Three children were born of this union. Ruby is now the wife of A. D. Davenport, a native of Massachusetts, who owns a magnesite mine in the hills of Merced County; they have four children, Dorothy, Austin, Arthur and John Drummond. John resides in Oakland. Leslie is the wife of Henry P. Green. Mr. Hollingsworth passed away December 4, 1915, at the family home in Gustine. He was a Democrat in politics, and for a number of years served as a deputy county assessor of Merced County.



W. L. A. Goddy

NELSON LOWELL ADAMS CODY

The Cody family is an ancient and honorable one, harking back to France, where the ancestral name was spelled "Codex." As soldiers under William the Conqueror, they helped to conquer England, and were duly rewarded for their fealty and became prominently identified with leading events in English history. During the centuries, this family has maintained its position and intermarried with the best strains in England, Wales, and Scotland, with the English-Scotch blood predominating. A recently published genealogy of the Cody family gives much interesting information along this line.

Nelson Lowell Adams Cody was born in Waukegan, Ill., March 22, 1848, the son of Nelson T. and Susan C. (Adams) Cody. His life history is one of unusual interest, for in a career which is now drawing close to four score years, he has been a witness to many wonderful changes in this land and throughout the world; and as a second cousin of the famous "Buffalo Bill," he has come in close contact with many notable characters. His father, a druggist and dentist, was born on a farm in Cicero, N. Y. His mother was a daughter of Dr. L. Adams, of Providence, R. I., and died when he was only two years old. His father married again, and then crossed the plains to California in 1851, his family coming to the State via the Horn by steamer one year later, which makes our subject a resident of the Golden State since 1852.

The senior Cody went first to Hangtown, and engaged in mining. After his family joined him in California, they lived in Gilroy, Santa Clara County, for a short time, and later went to Horseshoe Bend and opened a general store. Wherever he settled in those early days, the miners had such confidence in him that they deposited their gold dust in his safe, for his was a character which inspired confidence and trust; and he never betrayed the confidence reposed in him. His second wife died in 1855, and he removed to Stent, then called Poverty Hill, and thence to Chinese Camp, where he practiced dentistry and also bought a stock of drugs. In April, 1856, he went to Big Oak Flat, where he was burned out on November 12, 1862. He then went to Coulterville, Mariposa County, and was in the drug business there until 1880, when he sold out and went to Seattle Wash., and was in the drug business there for a year. He had married again, and engaged in the drug business in Ventura, Cal., and also had the Wells Fargo Express agency, which he served in different places for thirty years. The death of this honest and active pioneer occurred at Ventura on December 1, 1906, at the age of seventy-six.

On the maternal side Mr. Cody is descended from Duke Leslie of Scotland, at one time Provost of Edinburgh. A silver cup en-

graved with the Leslie coat of arms (a dragon encircled by a wreath) is still in Mr. Cody's possession. On the Cody side there is a consanguinity with Lady Godiva, extending through William the Conqueror as common ancestor. His mother's full maiden name was Susan Chamberlain Adams. Mr. Cody's paternal grandmother, whose maiden name was Leslie, received the first pianoforte ever brought into Onondaga County, N. Y.; it was imported from England, and was manufactured by one Aster.

Young Nelson Cody went to school in Chinese Camp in 1854-1855, and also pursued his studies at Big Oak Flat and Coulterville. His youth, spent in these early mining camps, gave him a good idea of Californian life during the fifties. In 1867, he came to San Francisco and was in the wholesale stationery store of George B. Hitchcock for a short time, and later did some stenographic work for George O. Dougherty, and also for Andrew J. Marsh. He then got a position as clerk in a drug store in San Francisco, and later went to Virginia City, Nev. Coming back to San Francisco, he went from there to Suisun, where he was with M. D. Stockman for a year. Returning to San Francisco, he was with Bancroft, the historian, in a subscription agency, and canvassed Mariposa, Tuolumne and Merced Counties. He there met Mark Twain's partner, William Gillis, and helped sell the books of the famous writer and humorist.

The marriage of Mr. Cody, occurring in 1870, united him with Miss Collins, daughter of John Collins, a pioneer of Mariposa County. In 1871 he engaged in the drug business in Snelling, Merced County, his father having divided stock with him, and he was appointed postmaster there in November of that year. His wife passed away in that town, and he married Miss Olive St. John, daughter of Charles St. John, an attorney formerly of Big Oak Flat, but who had gone back to Connecticut. Mr. Cody then went to Oakland, and there also engaged in the drug business, and from there to Vallejo, in the same pursuit. Returning to San Francisco, he again engaged in the drug business until the fall of 1888. It was in that city, in 1879, that he met General Grant. In 1884 he went East on an extended visit, and four years later he made a trip to Europe, sailing from New York on July 17, 1889, and spending a year in the principal cities, particularly enjoying his travels in Germany and France.

On his return he visited his father in Ventura, Cal., then went to San Francisco for a short time, and then came to Merced and visited his friend, W. H. Turner, who urged him to locate here. This he decided to do, and in March, 1891, purchased the one of George Knox's two drug stores which was located at the corner of Seventeenth and Canal Streets, and there he carried on the drug business for twenty-eight years. He also built the Cody block in Le Grand

in 1914, and also conducted a drug store there until he sold out in February, 1920, trading this store for a ranch of 394 acres, six miles from Crow's Landing. There, in partnership with his brothers-in-law, Charles Newton, Christian and Matthew Nelson, he maintains a herd of Holstein cattle and also raises hogs, having built adequate farm buildings at a cost of \$4500. Fire destroyed the dwelling house in 1924, which has since been rebuilt.

On May 18, 1899, in San Francisco, Mr. Cody was united in marriage with Miss Anna Marie Nelson, daughter of pioneer parents of Virginia City, Mont., the ceremony being performed by Reverend Bours, formerly of Merced. Mrs. Cody's father, Christian Nelson, born in England of Norwegian parents, was educated in England. Her mother, Mary (Sätre) Nelson, as an infant was miraculously rescued from a wreck off the coast of Norway. From the coat of arms on all of her richly embroidered apparel it appeared that the child came from some distinguished family. As a child, Mrs. Cody showed a great fondness for music; she became a pianist and studied the violin, no doubt having inherited her musical gifts from her mother, who was likewise a musician. While in her teens she became organist in the Episcopal Church in Virginia City, in which church she was reared. Devoted to her art, Mrs. Cody is one of the founders of the Merced Musical Club, and has never relinquished her interest in it, often rendering selections on the piano and violin. Her address, "Women Composers," recently delivered before the club, showed careful research and thorough preparation, and was much appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Cody reside at Coda Villa, modern apartments built by them at 857 Eighteenth Street, Merced, where their many friends are always welcome. They are active in both the social and business life of the city, and were among the first to start the public library. Three Merced ladies, Mrs. Lillian Brouse, Mrs. O. A. Baker, and Mrs. Cody, collected \$1.50 from each member who wished to enjoy the privileges of a circulating library, and with the money bought books, which were given shelving room donated by Mr. Cody in the balcony of "Cody's Corner Drug Store," for three years, until the available room in the store could not accommodate the growing needs of the library, with its 600 books. The ladies thereupon gave the books as a nucleus to the Merced County Free Library, which is now in a flourishing condition. Through years of business and social contact, Mr. and Mrs. Cody have endeared themselves to the growing population of their home city, and their friends are innumerable. She is a Democrat in politics, while he is a staunch Republican.

Among the many interesting reminiscences related by Mr. Cody, one is of the driving of the famous golden spike in connecting the two ends of the great transcontinental railway, on May 10, 1869. His mind is stored with recollections, and he tells interesting stories of the pioneer days of gambling, shooting, wild horses, etc., reminiscent of California in early days; for from perusing his life history it will be seen that his travels and experiences were many from very earliest childhood. These all have gone into the making of a broad-minded and public-spirited man, who has always stood willing to do his full share in building up the commonwealth.

WILLIAM A. DUNNING

The same spirit of adventure and a desire to get on in the world, which characterized most of the California pioneers, no doubt prompted William A. Dunning to come from his far off home in Maine and cast in his lot with the Pacific Coast country. He was born in Washington County, Me., on August 10, 1856, the son of Albion and Mary (Foster) Dunning, who had six children, viz: Fred H., in Maine; Mrs. Nellie M. Getchell, a widow residing in Oakland; William A., our subject; Waldo F., in Oakland; Mrs. Linnie McRavey, in Maine; and Carrie S., deceased. The father died in Maine after a life of usefulness to his family and community.

William A. came from Maine and landed in a lumber camp in Snohomish County, Wash., where he remained for a year; then he worked for an uncle in Nevada for two years, after which he came to San Francisco and spent a year. Coming to the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley he stopped at Hill's Ferry a short time and in 1880 settled in the Cottonwood district and worked on the Ewing ranch for M. E. Bunker.

Mr. Dunning was married on the Ewing Ranch, on August 22, 1883, to Miss Laura A. Ewing, born in the Tassajara Valley, Contra Costa County, August 25, 1865, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Dailey) Ewing. Andrew Ewing came to California from Iowa crossing the plains with an ox-team in 1852 and locating in Stockton, where he remained a year; then he went to Chinese Camp, Tuolumne County, and mined. His next move was to Contra Costa County and it was there his daughter, Laura A., was born. There were the following children in the Ewing family: Samuel, deceased; Charles and Edgar are deceased; Rebecca, died in Iowa; and Laura A., Mrs. Dunning, the only survivor. Andrew Ewing came to Merced County in 1868 and settled in the Cottonwood district and here took up a

homestead and farmed to grain. He developed his ranch home and lived there until his death at the age of seventy-seven years. In the seventies he served in the State legislature. His wife died in 1907 at the age of eighty-five years. In 1880 Mr. Ewing had purchased eighty acres of land under the San Joaquin-Kings River canal about four and one-half miles from what is now Gustine, where Mr. Dunning now lives. The son, Samuel Ewing, married Letitia Tinnin, a native of California and daughter of an old pioneer family from Missouri. He died in 1886.

Mrs. Dunning was educated in the Clay district school and after their marriage Mr. Dunning leased the old Ewing ranch, also other lands from time to time, and carried on grain farming on a large scale. He bought forty acres of the eighty on the canal and erected their home and made other improvements and he and his wife live on this place. He also owns 160 acres under irrigation in the Cottonwood district. Mrs. Dunning owns the old Ewing ranch of 160 acres and the forty which joins their home place. Mr. and Mrs. Dunning have two children: Mary Ray, Mrs. F. M. Lamb, of Stockton, the mother of two children, Francis Dunning, born in 1915, and Jean Elizabeth, born in 1918; and Gladys, a student in the University of Southern California, Class of 1925. In politics Mr. Dunning is a Republican, while Mrs. Dunning is a Democrat. He belongs to Hills Ferry Lodge No. 236, F. & A. M. of Newman; Modesto Chapter No. 49, R. A. M.; Stockton Commandery No. 8, K. T.; and Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Oakland. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dunning are charter members of Orestimba Chapter of the O. E. S.

CHARLES W. SMITH

Now living retired after a life of usefulness, during which time he has seen the wonderful development of the Badger Flat section of Merced County, Charles W. Smith first saw the light in Marion County, Ill., on August 7, 1846. He is a son of Martin M. and Martha E. (James) Smith, both of whom were born in Tennessee. The elder Smith was a farmer and spent most of his active years in Illinois, but came to California and died here at the age of seventy-nine years. This worthy couple had eleven children, several of whom died in infancy.

Charles W. Smith attended the public schools of Illinois and in 1866 came to California via Panama and settled in Napa County, where he worked for wages until 1870. He then came to Stanislaus County and farmed at Hills Ferry for eight years. In 1878 he bought a ranch near Los Banos on Badger Flat, consisting of seventy-eight

acres and here he carried on general farming and dairying with success. He still retains forty-one acres of his original purchase and this is under the Kings River ditch.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage on September 30, 1874, at Napa, Cal., with Miss Dorinda G. Robison, born in Napa, a daughter of M. F. and Margaret (Kirk) Robison, who came to California from Iowa, although they were both born in Ohio. They were of that great number that crossed the plains in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three daughters: Flora May is Mrs. McBride of Gustine; Mrs. Martha Mabel Baker lives in Los Angeles; and Lela G. is Mrs. James Negra. Mr. Smith served as justice of the peace of Third Township for six years and was honored by being elected a member of the board of supervisors representing the Fifth District in Merced County and served one term. Politically he is a Democrat and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Merced.

WILLIAM E. MOORE

The changing vicissitudes of life brought Mr. Moore into many localities and various occupations before he finally located in Dos Palos and became the manager of the Lucerne Cream & Butter Co. Walla Walla, Wash., was the place where he first saw the light, on May 15, 1864. His father, Joseph Moore, was a native of Indiana, but reared in Ohio; his mother, Elizabeth (Morris) Moore, was born in Tennessee. In 1852, Joseph Moore came to California, via the Isthmus, was shipwrecked off the coast of Acapulco, but finally arrived on the Feather River in California, where he engaged in mining for a time. At one time in the early days, he owned 160 acres of land where the city of Alameda now stands. He remained four or five years in California and then went to Washington, and to Oregon, where he conducted a tavern at Meacham, in the Blue Mountains. In 1871 he returned to Yolo County, Cal., and then went to Lakeport, where he was in the blacksmithing business about sixteen years, returning to the Capay Valley, Yolo County. He continued his blacksmith business for six years. His next move was to Klamath County, Oregon, where he farmed for a number of years. On returning to California he lived in various places and finally died at Richmond, Cal., and was buried in the Sunset View Cemetery.

William Moore was the fifth in order of birth of six children born to his parents, namely: J. M., Lydia Anna, Martha F., James B. (who was killed at Corning, Tehama County, Cal.), William E., and Alice (Mrs. W. W. Norton of Richmond). William started out for himself when he became of age, and for a few years followed

farming in Klamath County, Oregon. He then obtained a position as salesman for the Mitchell-Lewis-Staver Company of Portland, Ore., and for two years sold farming implements in Klamath County. For the next six years he was engaged in the livery stable business in Klamath Falls, and during that time he was appointed and served as the first town marshal of that town. Leaving Klamath Falls, Mr. Moore came to California and for a year was a resident of Madera. In 1904 he came to Dos Palos and since April 20, 1905, has been buying cream, first for the Golden State Creamery, then for thirteen years for the Western Creameries Company, and since then for the Lucerne Cream and Butter Company, of Hanford.

Mr. Moore was married in Klamath Falls, Ore., on October 14, 1892, to Alice Dixon, born in New Zealand, the daughter of Samuel and Susan (Perrin) Dixon, and they have four children; Perrin E., express agent at South Dos Palos; Etta, Mrs. A. B. Bowden of Fresno; William E. Jr., employed with the Owl Drug Company in Fresno; and Alice Frances, Mrs. A. W. Bennett of Dos Palos, who is the mother of a son, William Howard Bennett. Mr. Moore owns a comfortable home in Dos Palos, is a Democrat in politics, and was a charter member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Klamath Falls, but demitted to Santa Rita Lodge No. 124 in Dos Palos, in which he is a Past Grand. He has always shown his public spirit by helping to promote all interests for the building-up of city, county and State.

THOMAS JORDAN

An outstanding character in the progressive element of his district, a worker for the cause of education, and the forward movement for improving the general welfare, Thomas Jordan has done as much as any individual in Merced County to forward the progress of this part of the State. A native of England, his birth took place August 6, 1863, at Southampton, the youngest of twelve children born to his parents, and the only one to leave England. His people were of moderate circumstances, and he obtained his education in the public schools near Southampton.

In 1884, Mr. Jordan left home to come to the United States; his first two years in the new country were spent in the timber region of Sturgeon, Mich., on the Great Lakes, and of this period two seasons were put in as an edger in one of the large sawmills, at \$1.25 a day. In 1886, he came to California and located in Merced County, working in the grain fields for the Ostrander Ranch Company; then after six years at Atwater and Plainsburg, and a two-year period spent on the Leeker ranch in Merced and Mariposa Counties, he in-

vested his savings in land, and a home near Plainsburg. He later purchased 440 acres in the Appling District, which remained the family home for fifteen years, and in the meantime he added another ranch to his holdings, the Hamlett place, a 280-acre grain ranch, which he still owns, and eighty-one acres in Dixieland Colony, forty acres near Le Grand, and recently ten acres and his residence on the edge of that town. He sold his 440 acres in the Appling District about 1913. Coming to California with practically no assets, he has by his own unaided efforts made what he owns and holds, made possible through the cooperation of his helpmate, his wife, faithful and devoted.

The marriage of Mr. Jordan, at New Forest, England, on December 24, 1887, united him with Miss Alice Vince, a native of Alden, England, and eight children have blessed their union; Gertrude, Mrs. Otto Hake, in Madera County; Viola A., died an infant; Edward, a farmer at Athlone; Margaret, wife of Neal Watts; Fred, in Alameda; LeRoy; Vince; and Ruth. There are six grandchildren in the family.

Mr. Jordan received his United States citizenship papers at Merced, on July 26, 1896, and he takes a keen interest in civic, State, and national affairs, voting on all issues and picking his men with the same foresight which has made his success in life. He is director of the Merced County Farm Bureau, five years in office, and is prominent in irrigation movements, with great faith in the future of Merced County, and to his faith he adds works. He is a stockholder in the Le Grand Bank and one of its organizers. Fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges, and is a charter member of the Redmen, a past officer and delegate for six years. Mr. Jordan has been absent from Merced County on but two occasions since his first arrival here; six weeks in 1912, on a business trip to his old home in England; and six months in 1921, when, with his wife, he made an extended visit there.

SANSOM B. DISMUKES

One of the most prominent and substantial citizens of Los Banos, who is actively interested in the welfare of his adopted community and willingly gives of his time and means to advance every worthy project brought before its people, is Sansom B. Dismukes, dealer in furniture and carpets and insurance agent. A native of Georgia, he was born at Weston, Webster County, in February, 1862, and educated in the schools of his district, where he grew to young manhood. Ten years prior to his coming to California he made his home in Athens, Ga., and came to San Jose, Cal., in May, 1896, remaining

there until 1902. That fall he returned to Georgia on account of the death of his father, but came back to California in December, and in March, 1903, located in Los Banos, then a growing town, and entered upon the career of furniture dealer and insurance agent, representing the Home Insurance Company since March, 1903, and also handling insurance in other solid companies. Since he has written insurance for the Home Company, there have been but very few losses that company has had to pay, because of the extreme care Mr. Dismukes takes in examining the risks before writing the policies.

Since locating in Los Banos Mr. Dismukes has entered into the spirit of the growing West and served as city treasurer when the town was first incorporated. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees twice and was then elected to the position; and so favorably have his efforts impressed the citizens that they have re-elected him to the position three different times. During his terms in office nearly all of the important movements have been pushed through to completion, the new sewer system installed, the streets paved, and the water system purchased from the Miller & Lux interests, greatly extended and improved. When the sewer bond issue of \$30,000 was passed, his name was written 4800 times on the bonds.

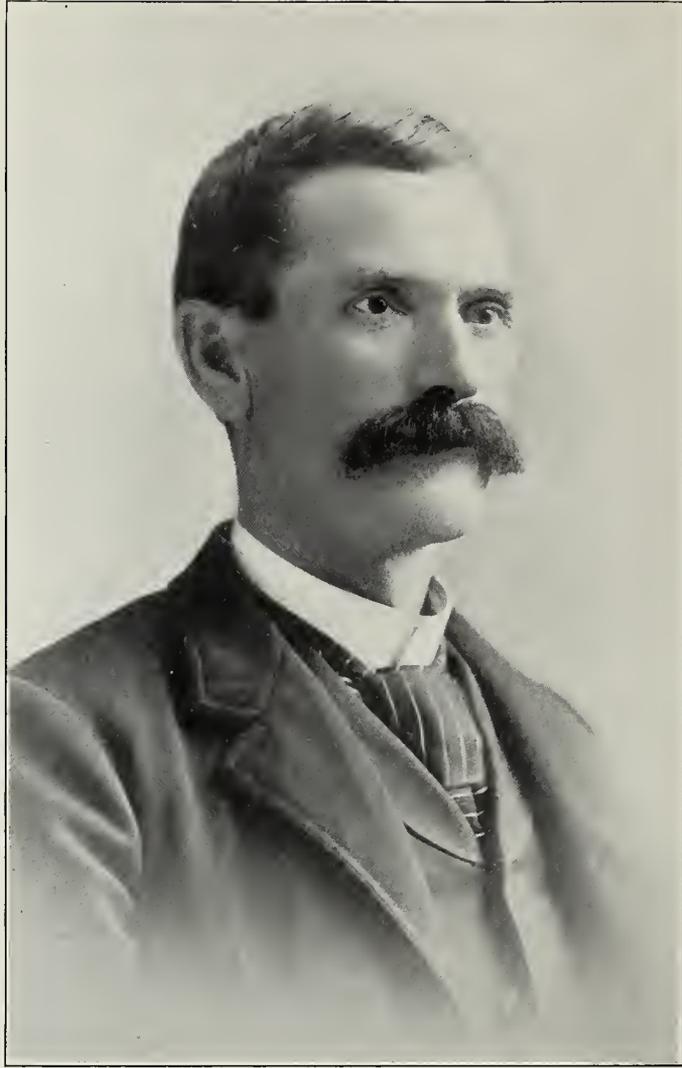
Mr. Dismukes was married in Athens, Ga., in 1894, to Miss Susie Mae Patman. There was one daughter born to them, now Mrs. Agnes Ethleen Sneed, of Stockton, Cal. Mr. Dismukes is a prominent Odd Fellow, holding membership in Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F., in Los Banos, and is also a member of Newman Encampment, Modesto Canton, and Los Olivas Rebekah Lodge No. 214, of Los Banos. He was the prime mover in organizing the I. O. O. F. Hall Association, and was selected for its first president in 1917. He was the moving spirit in raising the money to build the first unit of their fine hall in 1917, erected on lots purchased by the Odd Fellows some years previously; and in 1921 he negotiated the loan from the Bank of Italy to erect the second unit of their building and make a home for the postoffice, which occupies the building under a ten-year lease. When the office was moved from the shack it had been occupying for about two years to the new location that year, he mailed the first letter posted in the new office in December. The financial arrangements of the Odd Fellows building have been such that the debt is being fast reduced and there will be a surplus on hand to meet necessary repairs and purchase equipment for the lodge when the debt shall have been lifted. Mr. Dismukes has served as clerk of the Los Banos High School board for nine years. He is treasurer of the board of stewards of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, served as superintendent of the Sunday school for fifteen years, and assisted in financ-

ing the erection of the new church edifice in Los Banos. In fact, his standing as a responsible business man has had much to do with his selection by his fellow citizens to assist in almost every movement for bettering conditions in general; and his friends are legion.

WALTER B. COOPER

A citizen of much worth, Walter B. Cooper is highly esteemed by all who know him. Since coming to Gustine in 1907 his influence has been felt in the upbuilding of the best interests of the town and he has won a position of prominence among the representative men of the community. He was born in Berlin, Wis., on March 11, 1861, a son of George and Lucy M. (Frankish) Cooper. George Cooper was born in Derbyshire, but reared in Nottinghamshire, England, was a wagon-maker by trade and came to the United States in 1848, landing in Buffalo, N. Y. He removed to Rochester, Wis., where he followed wagon making. Still later he went to Berlin, Wis., and engaged in the wagon and carriage making trade; he built 3000 wagons in Berlin, and he was the inventor of the hub machine used in turning out wooden hubs for wagons and which was very generally adopted and used by wagon manufacturers throughout the United States. In connection with his trade he built a sawmill, at that time the largest in the State, at Winneconne, Wis., operating it successfully. His wife came from Lincolnshire, England. The Cooper family left Wisconsin and settled in Mantorville, Minn., where the father continued his wagon and carriage manufacturing. One year later he lost his factory by fire, and in 1865 the family settled in Kasson, Minn., where Mr. Cooper operated a manufactory. Sixteen children were born to this worthy couple, of whom but four survive, namely: Frank M.; Tryphena, now the wife of William Hall; Minnie, now Mrs. Anderson; and Walter B., our subject. In 1884 the father retired from active business cares and in July of the same year passed away at the age of seventy-one, the mother lived to be seventy-five years old, passing away in 1894.

Walter B. Cooper received a grammar and high school education in the schools of Kasson, Minn., and while growing up learned the wagon and carriage-making trades. After his father's death he took charge of his eighty-acre farm in Minnesota, which he conducted for one year. After leaving the farm he opened up a paint shop in the building formerly occupied by his father. In 1904 he came to California and first located at Fresno, where he followed the painter's trade three years. Then he located in Gustine and that year built the first section of his paint shop and as his business expanded, the fol-



Dr. H. Applegate

lowing year he built another section; he has since followed painting contracting and enjoys a good business in his line. He is an inventor of note, having five valuable inventions to his credit. He is now working on a new electric sign and four other inventions.

At Kasson, Minn., April 28, 1900, Mr. Cooper was married to Miss Lydia G. Johnson, native of Sweden, daughter of Peter and Caroline (Hallstrom) Johnson, farmer folk in their native land of Sweden. There were ten children in this family: Emma C.; Maria W., deceased; Albert; Alfred; Johannes; Lydia G., wife of our subject; Trofit; Axel, deceased; Leonard, deceased; and Hjalmar, deceased. Both parents are now deceased. Mrs. Cooper received her education in the public schools of Sweden. Upon her arrival in the United States she located in Nebraska, then resided in Cheyenne, Wyo., and later in Big Timber, Mont. In 1899 she returned to Sweden for a visit, remaining for one year, when she came to Kasson, Minn., and the same year was married to Mr. Cooper. Mr. Cooper is a Republican in politics, and fraternally is affiliated with Romero Lodge No. 413, I. O. O. F. of Gustine. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Rebekah Lodge of Gustine.

LEWIS HAMER APPLGATE

A retired rancher and banker of Merced County, who had a prominent part in the development of ranch land and farming in the county, Lewis Hamer Applegate is a native of Ohio, born December 21, 1844, the son of Perrine and Susan (Frybarger) Applegate, natives of New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, respectively, who became the parents of sixteen children. Lewis H. was reared on his father's ranch and attended the common schools of the district, and the Goshen Seminary, after which he taught school until he came to California, in 1870. His first year after arriving in this State he spent in and about Stockton. In 1872, he came to Merced County, but stayed only a short time and later farmed near Turlock, Stanislaus County, until 1875. That year he returned to Merced County to stay, and rented land six miles east of Merced. In partnership with David Toal, he next leased the George Fancher ranch of 1160 acres on Bear Creek, and raised grain. This was nine miles east of Merced, and was his home and the center of his operations for thirty years. Mr. Applegate became a large landowner, having 1340 acres at one time. He owned a section of land one mile from Atwater, a forty-acre alfalfa ranch in Fresno County, and a twenty-acre ranch in Yosemite Colony. His present holdings are the Muller and the Kerry places, 600 acres, and a forty-acre ranch on Bear Creek. He made many improvements on the above ranches, erecting ranch build-

ings and adding to the conveniences of the houses. His ranch property is now rented and he lives retired from active business cares, though still acting as a director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Merced.

Always active in the upbuilding of his section, Mr. Applegate was prominent in the Grange, serving as Master for three years, and is a Past Master and Overseer. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a man to be relied upon at all times to help in the general advancement of his community. Two brothers and a sister of Mr. Applegate were residents of Merced County. William Applegate, now deceased, farmed a part of his brother's land, and was prominent in politics, being at one time a candidate for sheriff of Merced County. John P. Applegate, another brother, now deceased, also farmed a part of Mr. Applegate's land. One sister, Miss Addie Applegate, now residing in the East, was prominent in church work, being a deaconess of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over twenty years.

It is men like Lewis H. Applegate who are the bulwarks of our nation, and in their lives and labors are found the real reason why we have advanced to such a leading part in world affairs in the past half century; for the work of each individual of his caliber goes to make up the whole of a prosperous country, and nothing is impossible of accomplishment with such shoulders to the wheel.

LEWIS B. WILSON

A prominent rancher and stockman of Merced County, and the descendant of a pioneer of '49, Lewis B. Wilson was born in Stockton, Cal., April 10, 1883, the only child of L. P. and Martha A. (Field) Wilson. A résumé of their lives will be gained from the following extracts, copied from newspaper items, printed in memoriam of the late L. P. Wilson at the time of his death, in 1907, and showing the high esteem in which this venerable pioneer of the San Joaquin was held:—

"Pioneer of '49 Joins Silent Majority on the Other Shore

"L. P. Wilson, known among his friends all over the county as 'Hookey' Wilson, died this morning at his home on the Bouquet ranch, ten miles north of Snelling. Mr. Wilson had been quite sick for some time, and as he was eighty years old, his passing was not unexpected.

"The deceased was born in New York, but came to California with the gold-seekers in 1849, across the plains. He first settled on the San Joaquin River, but after a short time moved to Merced Falls,

where he ran the ferry. Later he moved to Snelling and engaged in the hotel business, and a few years afterward located on the Bouquet ranch, between Snelling and La Grange, which was his until the time of his death.

"Mr. Wilson cast his first vote at Snelling in 1850. He was an Odd Fellow for forty-four years, and was a man highly esteemed and respected by all who knew him. He leaves a widow and one son, L. B. Wilson. A more extended account of his life will appear in the Sun in a few days. The funeral will be held in Snelling tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 10 o'clock."

The following is an account of a visit made by Mr. Wilson to Stockton, in 1906:—"L. P. Wilson of Merced, the man who built the first schooner to sail the upper San Joaquin River, is in Stockton on a visit to his brother-in-law, A. D. March, and to old friends. Mr. Wilson is 79 years of age and is familiarly known to old-timers as 'Hookey' Wilson. He came to Stockton before there were any houses here and when the only residents of the place were camping in tents along the levee. He is an old-time friend of Andrew Wolf, and the two pioneers spent last evening in driving about the city, Mr. Wolf pointing out the many improvements to Mr. Wilson. Mr. March's wife is the sister of Mr. Wilson's wife.

"Messrs. Wilson and March visited the Record office last evening and the pioneer recounted many interesting experiences here.

"Mr. Wilson, then but a boy, came to Monterey on the United States man-of-war Ohio in 1848. With some of the other jackies, who had caught the gold fever, he deserted, and they made their way on foot toward San Jose and then through the Livermore pass to this valley. The others went on to the mines, but Mr. Wilson remained on the San Joaquin River, where now the steel bridge is at what, up to the time the bridge was built, was known as Shepherd's ferry. Three men—Doak, Bonsal, and Scott—were then operating a ferry-boat across the river at that point, and Mr. Wilson hired out to them to operate their ferry-boat. They charged \$1 each for ferrying men, mules, or packs over the river. For six weeks Mr. Wilson operated the ferry and took in \$600 a day during all of that time, including Sundays.

"Then he and Mr. Scott cut down oak trees growing on the river bank there and whipsawed the logs into lumber and built a trim little oak schooner, which they christened 'San Joaquin.' In their schooner they sailed down the river, which in those days was a broad, deep stream, to San Francisco, where they sold the craft for \$3000 in gold dust, and with the gold on their backs started to walk back. They arrived with their gold safely after many hardships and adventures,

during which Mr. Wilson lost one boot and was forced to walk with one foot bare.

“About that time a lumber vessel sailed up the San Joaquin to the mouth of Marsh Creek on the West Side near Byron, and Mr. Wilson went there and bought a part of the cargo. He lashed the lumber into a raft and floated it up to Stockton on the tides, eight days being consumed in the trip. He had 110,000 feet of lumber in his raft, and he sold it for a good price in this city, which was then but a camp. It was the first lumber brought here, and from it the St. Charles Hotel, the first hostelry in Stockton, was built. It stood where the C. N. & I. Co.’s steamer landing now is.”

In the spring of 1850 Mr. Wilson moved from Stockton to Merced County, where he resided until his death. He took the first threshing outfit to that county, having purchased the machine in Stockton, and he also established the oldest ferry in the county, at Merced Falls. Later he moved to Snelling and engaged in the hotel business, and a few years afterward located on the Bouquet ranch, which remained his home and still is the family home. On December 13, 1874, occurred the marriage of L. P. Wilson and Martha A. Field, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson resided in Snelling until 1878, when they moved to the Bouquet ranch. Mr. Wilson cast his first vote in Snelling in 1850; in 1865 he became a member of Willow Lodge, No. 121, I. O. O. F., of Snelling, and continued as a member of high standing in the order until his death, which occurred in his eightieth year, leaving a widow and one son, Lewis B. Wilson.

Lewis B. Wilson was brought to Merced County as a boy, and attended the Anderson district school. Brought up on the home ranch, he early learned the rudiments of ranching, and has brought the property to a high state of cultivation; it comprises 320 acres, a portion of the old Bouquet Rancho, and is now owned by his mother, who has a life interest in the estate.

Like his esteemed father, Mr. Wilson has been prominent in Odd Fellowship, having joined in 1904, and he is a Past Grand of Willow Lodge No. 121, and has served as a delegate to Grand Lodge conventions many times. He is a Past District Deputy, serving in 1909-10 in District No. 56 under Grove L. Johnson. Deeply and actively interested in the advancement of his home town and county, he votes on all questions which come up before the public, and gives his support to those measures he thinks best calculated to further develop its resources and advance its general welfare. He has one daughter, Miss Grace Wilson, now attending the Modesto schools.

JOHN WESLEY GIBBONS

A worthy pioneer whose record for public service will long be remembered was John Wesley Gibbons, owner of one hundred acres

of choice land near the edge of Merced Falls, where he resided and engaged in stock and poultry raising. He was born in Mississippi, on October 27, 1858, the fourth of seven children, and the eldest son of Walter Seth and Martha (Appling) Gibbons. Walter Seth Gibbons was a planter, slave-holder and a veteran of Lee's army, having lost his left eye in battle. He served throughout the war, and then married Martha Appling, whose three brothers, R., Edwin and John, were Forty-niners in California. Edwin Appling returned to Mississippi at the close of the war and in 1868 removed to California with this family and relatives, the party being twenty-eight in number. They came via Panama and on the Pacific side were passengers on the steamship San Diego. This proved to be her last successful voyage, for on the next trip she went down when well out of San Francisco, many lives being lost. The party came direct to Stockton, then proceeded overland through the San Joaquin Valley to the Appling ranch near Chowchilla. The sociability of the pioneer life of that period was made agreeably conspicuous by the liberal hospitality of the Appling Brothers, who were prominent and well-to-do.

After securing a public school education in Mississippi and California John Wesley Gibbons began his participation in business affairs by peddling fruit and produce from his wagon throughout the mines and to Yosemite Valley. He had been reared on the valley and mountain ranch of his parents, and he decided to move to Mariposa County, where he engaged in teaming and freighting. Incidentally, he took up the study of horse and cattle diseases, for in 1870 there was a terrible epidemic in the valley and thousands of heads of stock died. He purchased standard works on veterinary science, mastered them and soon became an authority on the diseases of live stock. By self application and study he advanced his knowledge to a point where, in a few years, he became the leading veterinarian at Merced Falls, being active in this profession for thirty-five years. In the meantime, he invested in one hundred acres of land near Merced Falls, where he built and conducted a livery stable and hospital for animals, and he resided there from 1876 to the time of his death. He trained horses for the stockmen and cattlemen of the seventies, eighties and nineties, being well-known as an authority on horses; his best work in this line was in horse dentistry.

At the Cosmopolitan Hotel, in Merced, on April 4, 1881, Mr. Gibbons and Miss Helen L. Turner were united in marriage. The bride was born at St. Johns, New Brunswick, a daughter of Captain Turner, a fur dealer, who lost his life at sea. She came west with her mother to the home of their uncle William Nelson, a millman of Merced Falls, in 1867. Her mother's relatives, the Nelson family, were the pioneers of Merced Falls, and made early history in the

milling business, being owners of the Nelson Flour Mill, which they conducted many years; they also owned the townsite, built the first mill dam and iron foundry, and owned stock in the woolen mill. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons had seven children: Warren, who lives in Oakland; Mrs. Ava Platt, of Merced Falls; Jesse, who died at the age of eighteen; Norman, of Stockton, is an ex-service man and was a member of the A. E. F., having been a mechanic in the aviation corps of the United States Army; Paul and Arline live in Merced; and Mrs. Ruth Orton, who resides in Kings County.

The reminiscences of Mr. Gibbons tell the history of the section in which his services were rendered. He recalled the Merced Falls of the seventies as a place of much activity, with a woolen mill and flour mill, two Chinatowns with over 200 Chinese and their usual gambling-houses, the store owned by Simon-Jacobs and Co., Hotel Murray, the row of adobe houses and one tailor shop owned by Abe Rosenthal. Church was held every three weeks, although a Sunday School was conducted in private homes every Sunday. The venerable pioneer woman, Mrs. Nelson, was the active leader. Mr. Gibbons was also an eye-witness of the rise and fall of Merced Falls as a town, its life and growth from a center of thirty inhabitants to a lively mining and freighting point of hundreds of people, its sudden decline to practically nothing, and the subsequent revival of community spirit to its present state of prosperity.

As a public servant Mr. Gibbons served as school trustee of Merced Falls for many years, and of later years he served on the election boards. His vote was counted on the side which chooses the best man for the place, regardless of party lines. He died at Dameron's in Stockton on June 20, 1924.

STEPHEN M. PATE

Himself a pioneer of California, and the descendant of one of the earliest settlers in this part of the State, Stephen M. Pate was born on the old Pate ranch, in Mariposa County, on February 19, 1859, the youngest child born to his parents, Francis Marion and Lorinda (Cornett) Pate. Francis Marion Pate was a native of Alabama, the son of a planter; he entered the U. S. Army under Taylor, in the Mexican War, and after the war continued on to California, reaching Los Angeles in 1848, with his horse, saddle, and a few personal effects as his only resources. On hearing the news of the gold discovery, he came to this part of the State, and went into the Southern Mines. He later joined the military company which



Lattie Wilson Pate
Stephen M Pate

was responsible for the quelling of the Yosemite Indian troubles, being stationed at Fort Miller. His marriage, in 1852, at Agua Fria, Mariposa County, united him with Lorinda Cornett, née Binge, who was born in Kentucky and married in Missouri. Her first husband died in 1850, and she, with her two sons and a daughter, accompanied a party of immigrants across the plains, in 1850, settling in Mariposa.

With his new family, the hardy pioneer settled on 160 acres of land in Mariposa County; this land was not then surveyed, but it proved to be the home place of the Pate family where Stephen M. was born. His father built with rude tools the first home, a cabin on the land they had chosen as a heritage; titles to land were questionable, but he stayed, and won the right to his acreage. They had many bad years, and making a livelihood was very hard and strenuous for the pioneers of that early day; stock sold as high as twenty dollars per steer to the butcher; they made butter and sold eggs, and this brought the only medium of exchange for many years. Mr. Pate, Sr. made journeys to Stockton for supplies before the railway was put in and these trips took seven days of hard traveling. He engaged in livestock, sheep and wool growing, and in the fifties, started with grain raising, and single-handed and by unremitting toil, strict integrity, and keen foresight, he added to his holdings by subsequent purchases until he owned 3000 acres at the time of his death. He was a staunch Republican, though born in the South, and was an active participant in the building up of his community in the days when each man had to stand on his own feet, or fail.

Stephen M. Pate received much of his schooling in private school, kept usually in the home, and attended for a time the Cathey Valley district school. Large for his age, much of his early life was spent in the saddle on the stock range, and as soon as he became old enough he followed the teaming and freighting business from Merced to Hornitos and the mines for six years; he at one time owned five ten-animal teams all closely matched which were the pride of the young man; none on the road at that time had better stock and his teams were conspicuous on the highways, fine large mules, and large white draft horses. He conducted a stable, and owned his own blacksmith shop at Mt. Bullion, and before he reached his majority he was employing at times as high as twenty men. Mr. Pate later entered the stock and ranching business on his father's ranch. Finally buying the home place, he engaged in the cattle and hog-raising business. Cholera at one time struck down 500 head of his hogs in a season. He branched into extensive business, but never over-reached in his dealings, and was always known to be honest and straightforward, all of which no doubt contributed largely to his success. By subsequent purchases, he added lands until he owned 5000 acres, of which 2000 acres

were farming lands. He raised mules and horses for his own use, as well as for the market, and he engaged for six years in the sheep and wool business, as a breeder of Merino sheep.

In 1918, Mr. Pate moved to Le Grand, Merced County, after selling the old Pate ranch in 1917, and here he owns a fine home, constructed on the old Mission style of architecture, the property embracing eighty acres on the edge of town. In the meantime he has invested in other properties in Merced County, and his success has been remarkable. He built up the well-known Lone Tree Dairy, which sold nine years ago for \$64,000. He owns 443 acres in the Merced Irrigation District, nine miles southwest of Merced, which is being farmed by his son, Harvey, who lives there with his wife and two daughters. Of late years Mr. Pate has become an extensive feeder of livestock for market, and rents range lands in Mariposa and Merced counties. One of the very rarest incidents in his life occurred in 1917, when for a period of twenty-four hours he was entirely out of business; had no employees, etc., and it was the only like period in his entire business career of over forty-six years. Many of the men whom he employed during this long stretch of time have become successful, like himself, and this is one of his greatest sources of gratification: to see others prosper, too, and in building up their success, aid in the upbuilding of the district.

The first marriage of Mr. Pate, which occurred in the Cathey Valley, united him with Martha Andrews, a native of Illinois; her death occurred in June, 1906, survived by six children: Louis F., of Le Grand; Mrs. Olive L. Latour, of Merced; Samuel M., of Visalia; Mrs. Edna Hurd, of Oakland; Harvey W., of Merced; and Leota, now deceased.

On June 3, 1907, Mr. Pate's second marriage occurred, uniting him with Lottie Wilson, born in Stockton, the seventh of eight children born to Samuel and Malinda (Key) Wilson, natives of Kentucky who crossed the plains in 1853, and settled near Stockton and engaged in ranching. They moved to Merced in 1896, where both their deaths occurred. Their property was a valuable ranch on the edge of Merced, the present group of Merced High School buildings being now on a part of the property, it having been acquired from the heirs of the estate a few years ago. A staunch Democrat, Mr. Pate has never aspired to public office, except as pertains to his business interests. He is a charter member and president of the California Cattle Men's Association, and attends the meetings regularly, giving much of his time to the study of cooperative problems. Fraternally he is a Past Grand of the Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F.

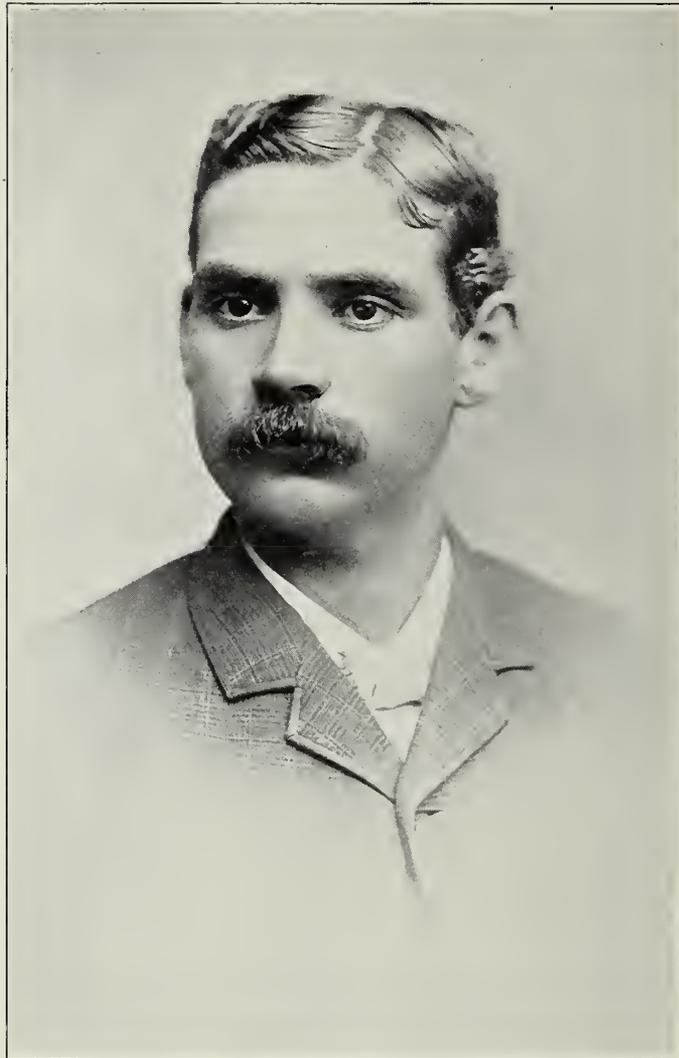
JOHN R. GRAHAM

Few if any families have been more intimately associated with the development of Merced County, and especially with the progress of Merced, than the one which is represented by John R. Graham, who is in every respect worthy of the name he bears, and of the esteem of the entire community. Coming to Merced County in 1892, he has since made this county his home and has been actively identified with numerous activities toward its local progress and the development of its material resources. In San Francisco, Cal., John R. Graham was born on January 1, 1869, a son of John and Elizabeth (Gardner) Graham. The father was born in Pennsylvania and came via Panama to California in 1851. In 1855 Miss Elizabeth Gardner crossed the plains with her parents; later she was united in marriage with John Graham. The father taught school in Tuolumne County and became superintendent of schools of that county in the late fifties. Later the family moved to San Francisco and there he engaged in the grocery and butcher business; then for a time he was in the dairy business. In 1890 he removed to Merced County, where he homesteaded a tract of land, but it was not until 1892 that he established a permanent residence in the county. While on a visit to his old home in Pennsylvania he passed away; the mother is also deceased.

John R. Graham attended the public schools in San Francisco and his first money was earned in the employ of the American Tract Society, beginning when he was thirteen years old. From that company he went into the Bank of British Columbia and was with them for three years; then for two and a half years he was employed by the Los Gatos Ice Company of San Francisco. In 1888 he began working for the National Ice Company in San Francisco and three years later he got his chance, when the company sent him on a two-weeks trip through the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and told him to choose the town he thought had a future where an agency could be successfully established. "I found irrigation in Merced," says Mr. Graham today; "and the town looked good to me, it still looks good to me." In 1892 Mr. Graham opened an agency in this bustling town, having a small ice house from which natural ice from Truckee was dispensed, with the aid of one helper. The sale of fuel was added in 1894, and in 1910 the present ice manufacturing plant was erected through Mr. Graham's effort in convincing the ice company of the strategic position of Merced in relation to a large agricultural area and to the Yosemite Valley. The company has never regretted the investment here, which is in the neighborhood of \$75,000. This large business employs from twenty to twenty-five persons in summer and fourteen in winter. The average payroll is \$3000 monthly. The production of ice is twenty-five tons

every twenty-four hours, the storage capacity being 2000 tons; the surplus ice is stored away early in the year, until about July, when the storeroom is full and the demand reaches a point when more than the daily capacity is taken out. From this peakpoint on until the end of the season the surplus ice is gradually removed from the storage room. At the present Mr. Graham also handles crude oil, road oil, and fuel oil, gasoline, kerosene and distillate and is the representative of the Grant Rock & Gravel Company, and the Old Mission Portland Cement Company of San Juan.

The marriage of Mr. Graham united him with Miss Mable Farnell, born in Merced and a daughter of a pioneer family. Two sons have been born of this union, John R., Jr., and Donald R.; and there are two grandchildren, Robertson Bruce and Elaine. John R., Jr., enlisted in May, 1917, in the signal corps, went over seas with the 28th Aerial Squadron and served fourteen months. The record of Captain Graham, as he is familiarly known, is one of unselfish public service. In May, 1893, when Company H, 6th Infantry, N. G. C., was organized by him in Merced, his popularity was attested to by his being elected company commander and he served as such for six years. Later he was attached to Colonel W. R. Johnson's regimental staff, then to the Third Brigade staff of General M. W. Muller of California. Company H served actively under Captain Graham for thirty-one days during the railroad strike of 1894. Mr. Graham was a supervisor of Merced County during 1921, having been appointed a member of the board by Governor Stephens to fill the unexpired term of T. H. Scandrett. For twenty years Mr. Graham was an active member of the El Capitan Hose Company, and for two years was president of the Yosemite-to-the-Sea Good Roads Association which was organized in 1911 for the purpose of securing an all-the-year-round road from Yosemite Valley to the sea. This road costing \$11,000,000 will be completed in 1925. Fraternally, Mr. Graham is a member of La Grange, now Yosemite, Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M.; Fresno Consistory of the Scottish Rite; Merced Chapter No. 12 R. A. M.; and Islam Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. of San Francisco. He belongs to Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks and Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., and is a member of the Rotary Club of Merced. He has been a member and a director of the Merced Chamber of Commerce for many years, and a director in the California State Automobile Association since 1914. He was one of the organizers who formed the Merced Irrigation District. During the World War Mr. Graham served as chief of the Merced County section of the American Protective League, this being a secret-service body under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice; he was the local secretary of the Merced Y. M. C. A., and directed its activities dur-



J. A. Turner

ing the war; was also a member of the Merced County Council of Defense under the direction of the National Council of Defense; and was district chairman of the Highways Transport Committee, Council of National Defense, of Division Three, comprising thirteen counties in Central California. Mr. and Mrs. Graham conducted a canteen for the benefit of the aviation section of the United States that was training at Mather Field, and took a very active part in Red Cross work. Mr. Graham served on every committee in each of the bond drives, giving his entire time to the national defense during the war.

JOHN ARCHIBALD TURNER

Among the representative men in Merced County who are ably carrying on the traditions of their pioneer fathers who laid the foundation for our present-day civilization, is John A. Turner, familiarly known as "Archie" Turner, and named in honor of Col. Archibald Stevinson. Archibald Stevinson, John Mitchell and William C. Turner, the father of our subject, were the earliest settlers and principal early landowners on the Merced River.

Archie Turner was born on January 20, 1865, and has spent his whole life in his native county, where he attended the Jefferson school in pursuit of his education. He now owns 200 acres in the Irwin Precinct and 861 acres on the San Joaquin River, all of which is devoted to stock-raising and farming. Turner Avenue was named in honor of our subject for the part he has taken in advancing the interests of his community and county. A sketch of his father appears on another page of this history, and for him the Turner voting precinct was named.

Archie Turner was married in 1887, in Merced County, to Miss Kate Hicks, daughter of James Hicks, who served as county clerk. Of this union was born one child, a son Archie James, who is married and with his family of two sons, Clifford and William, resides on his 160-acre ranch on the San Joaquin River. Some time after the death of his first wife, Mr. Turner married a second time, this marriage uniting him with Blanche Olive McCarty, who was born in California, the daughter of William McCarty, of Merced County. By her there are five children: Elizabeth, a graduate of Armstrong's School in Berkeley, and now employed in a law office in Merced; Moneta and Clinton, who are students in the high school; Dorothy, a pupil in the grammar school; and Kenneth, who died aged four years.

Politically Mr. Turner is a Democrat of the liberal-minded class. He is an extensive stock-raiser, and having been raised in the saddle, he knows all the details of that business. He has bought and sold

thousands of head of cattle. Mr. Turner is a stockholder in the First Bank of Livingston. He is a liberal contributor to all movements for the upbuilding of the county, and believes in and supports church organizations and schools, well knowing that the children of today will be the active men and women of tomorrow. In all his dealings with the people, he has been a strict observer of the golden rule, which has been his guide throughout his life.

RUDOLPH HENRY BAMBAUER

Numbered among the successful farmers of Merced County is Rudolph Henry Bambauer, who located on his present home place of fifty-seven acres in 1896. This farm he developed to alfalfa, fruit and walnuts, also improved it with a comfortable residence and other necessary farm buildings, and for many years he has conducted a dairy with increasing profits each year. He was born in Columbia, Tuolumne County, Cal., December 16, 1859, a son of Charles and Adaline Bambauer, the former a native of Baden and the latter of Bavaria, Germany. Charles Bambauer came around the Horn to California in 1849 and engaged in mining in Tuolumne County; he married into a family who were pioneers of the Golden State and by this union there were eight children; Carrie, now the wife of C. A. Mills, of Berkeley; Rudolph Henry, the subject of this sketch; George S., deceased; Charles D., of Santa Clara County; Louise, Frank, and Edward are deceased; and Louis of Pacific Grove. The father spent a few years in teaming from Stockton to the mountains; then removed to Paradise district of Stanislaus County, where he farmed. He next removed to Calaveras County and again engaged in freighting, and in 1871 the family came to Merced County, where the father took up a quarter-section of land in the Charleston district on the West Side south of Los Banos. The father removed to the Cottonwood district of the county, where he passed away at the age of sixty-three years; the mother lived to be seventy-seven years old.

Rudolph Henry Bambauer attended the Altaville district school in Tuolumne County, walking four miles to school each day during the school term; at the age of eleven years he began working on farms earning his own living. In San Francisco he learned the butcher trade, which he followed for a year and a half with Miller & Lux. He then came to Merced and learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed for about eight years. He settled on the West Side and dry farmed for about twelve years, having 2280 acres in grain each season. He also worked on the first canal in 1877.

On October 18, 1896, Mr. Bambauer was married to Miss Ella Stahlman, a native of Indiana, and by this union five children have been born; Fred, deceased; Fulton R., associated with his father; Marvel E.; Adaline E.; and R. H. Jr. Mr. Bambauer generally prefers the principles of the Democratic party. He has served as an officer in Orestimba Lodge of Odd Fellows, but transferred to Romero Lodge at Gustine. He is also a member of the Encampment and with his wife belongs to the Rebekahs of Gustine. For about fourteen years Mr. Bambauer has served as deputy registration clerk in Merced County.

WILLIAM CARL JENSEN

A citizen of much worth and character, who is widely esteemed by all who know him, is William Carl Jensen whose residence in Merced County really dates from 1897. He has made his influence felt for the best interests of the county and has won a position of prominence among the successful stock-raisers in the vicinity of Gustine. He was born on the Island of Foehr, in the province of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on October 29, 1881, a son of William H. and Caroline Julia (Paulsen) Jensen. The father was first mate on a sailing vessel and spent his entire lifetime as a seaman. There were six children in this family; Oluf W. was also a seafaring man and was reported lost at sea off the coast of South America; Catherine M., still lives at Foehr; Meta C., now Mrs. Hinrichsen lives at Foehr; John D., resides at Gustine, Cal.; Nahmen, deceased; and William Carl, the subject of this review. The father lived to a ripe old age; the mother passed away in 1922. William Carl Jensen attended school in his native province until 1897, when he came to the United States and direct to Newman, Cal., and worked for Peter Miller on a ranch in Stanislaus County in the hills west of what is now the townsite of Gustine. Mr. Jensen attended school in the Cleveland district school in Stanislaus County and worked on Mr. Miller's ranch for several years. He then made a trip back to Germany and spent about six months visiting his home folks.

On August 29, 1905, at Newman, Cal., Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Gertie J. Miller, a native of Germany, who was brought to California when an infant by John H. and Johanna (Maas) Miller, her parents. Her father was a brother of Peter Miller, who settled seven miles southwest of Newman and acquired a section of land there. Mrs. Jensen was the only child born to her parents. The father passed away at the age of forty-two years and the mother was forty-five years old when she died. After his marriage Mr. Jensen leased the J. H. Miller ranch until Mrs. Miller died, when Mrs. Jensen fell heir

to the property. They lived there until 1913; he still runs this section of land and leases besides 260 acres, making a total of 900 acres of hill land where he conducts an extensive stock business. In 1911 Mr. Jensen purchased fifty acres at the northwest corner of Gustine where he conducts a dairy varying from twenty to forty head of stock, and has about 1000 laying hens, and also about fifty head of Poland China hogs. Ever since 1914 Mr. Jensen has tested his cows for production, at first by a private company, but for several years the testing has been carried on under the auspices of the Merced County Farm Bureau, Mr. Jensen being a member of the Cottonwood Center of that body.

When the Cleveland school, of which Mr. Jensen served as a trustee, was discontinued, he purchased the school house and remodeled it into a comfortable farm house. He has been a member of the Newman Lutheran Church since coming to California and is now secretary-treasurer of the congregation. Politically, he is a Republican. Six children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jensen; Caroline Julia, John H., William H., Alma M., Oluf N., and May Catherine.

HANS HANSEN

Noteworthy among the successful agriculturists of Merced County, was Hans Hansen, who passed away December 14, 1924, at Gustine. Born and reared on the farther side of the broad Atlantic, he became master of the various branches of agriculture when young, and after coming to this country followed the occupation to which he was reared. Energetic and ambitious, he was never satisfied with anything less than the highest possible results in his agricultural labors, and having added substantial improvements to his valuable farm, he carried on a most successful business in general farming, raising large crops of hay and grain, and some stock. He was born December 19, 1861, in Denmark, a son of Peter and Anna Christina (Johnsen) Hansen. His father and mother spent their entire lives in Denmark as farmers.

Brought up on the home farm, and obtaining his education in the common schools, Hans Hansen remained at home until eighteen years of age. Seeing but little opportunity to accumulate much wealth in his native land he immigrated to the United States in 1879, coming directly to Alameda County, Cal., where he secured work on a ranch. Going from there to Benicia, he was in the employ of Baker & Hamilton, manufacturers of implements, for two years. Resuming work as a ranchman, he lived at Crow's Landing for a while, and then settled in Merced County, where, from 1890 until 1892, he was employed in farming near what later became his home farm. Prudent

and thrifty, Mr. Hansen accumulated considerable money during these years, and in 1892 bought the farm where he made his home for many years, consisting of 640 acres. Embarking in general agriculture, he met with success in his labors, his homestead property becoming one of the finest and most valuable in the vicinity, being well supplied with all the necessary buildings and appliances for carrying on his work after the most approved modern methods.

In San Francisco on October 1, 1890, Mr. Hansen married Christina Schmidt, a native of Denmark, and into their household six children were born, namely: Peter, Hans, Christina, Lillie, Mabel and Chester. A loyal and trusted citizen of his adopted country, Mr. Hansen was a supporter of the Democratic party, and a valued member of the Lutheran Church, toward the support of which he contributed generously.

JOHN FRANK SNYDER

A pioneer of California of the early eighties, John Frank Snyder was born in Trenton, Canada, on February 24, 1861, the son of Bliss and Phoebe (Smith) Snyder, farmers, who located at Syracuse, N. Y., where the father died at the age of forty; the mother lived to reach her seventy-second year. Their children living are: Mary, Caroline, Elizabeth and J. F. The fourth in a family of seven children, John Frank Snyder was thrown upon his resources at the age of fifteen, having attended the public schools up to that time. For the first two years he worked on farms near Syracuse, then went to Detroit, Mich., where he was employed until he became of age. In 1881 the urge was too great and he came to California and took up government land in the foothills back of Crow's Landing, proved up on it, working around on ranches in the meantime, and then sold. In 1888 he leased the Ben Crow ranch of 640 acres and raised grain until 1897. Mr. Snyder helped build the first dairy barn used for a commercial dairy business on the West Side, that of Giovannoni and Crow. In 1897 he came into Merced County and, eight miles west of Ingomar, bought a section of land, to which he added another parcel at a later date; here he has engaged in raising grain and stock and has set out fifteen acres of walnuts. He now owns 640 acres of land where he resides.

On April 14, 1888, J. F. Snyder was united in marriage at Crow's Landing, with Miss Jean Niddrie, born at that place, the daughter of George and Ellen Niddrie, natives of Scotland and Ireland, respectively, who came to Crow's Landing in 1869 and settled in the hills west of that place. Her father was a farmer and stock raiser and lived to be seventy-five years of age; her mother died at

the age of forty-five. Mrs. Snyder's half-brother, Joseph, is also deceased. She attended the schools at Crow's Landing and here her marriage occurred. There have been nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Snyder: George died at the age of ten years; Harry married Aileen Heacox and they have a son, Joseph Franklin; Ruby, became the wife of E. H. Osburn of Newman and has two children, Emerson Page and Robert Niddrie; Hazel, married Robert Butts of Gustine and has two children, George Edmund and James Robert; Helen M., married John Butts of Cloverdale and has one daughter, Dorothy Jean; Helena May, a twin of Helen M., died in childhood; Nellie, Mrs. Robert Osburn of Newman, has a son Donald Cress; Howard F.; and Genevieve Louise. Mr. Snyder is a Democrat. Fraternally he belongs to Hills Ferry Lodge No. 236, F. & A. M. at Newman. For twenty-five years he has served as a trustee of the Occidental school and for ten years of the Gustine Union High School.

GEORGE STEELE

The possession of a six-acre ranch within the city limits of Gustine has brought George Steele a realization of his desire for an ideal existence and a competence. The modern improvements which add to the value of his property are entirely of his own making, for when he settled in Gustine in 1897, the land was an undisturbed prairie, and at present it is devoted to general farming and raising chickens. Mr. Steele was born in Lancashire, England, April 1, 1876, a son of James and Anna (McCarthy) Steele, both natives of England, but the latter of Irish descent. The father was a foreman in a steel plant in Barrow-in-Furness, England, and spent the remainder of his life there.

The education of George Steele was limited to the common schools of his native country and at twelve years of age he went to work on a farm. In 1892 he came to the United States and for two years worked in Woonsocket, R. I.; then going to Milford, Mass., he worked for five years and then came to California, going direct to the flag station then called Gustine. He found work on the Page ranch and by economy and industry was able to purchase forty acres of it in 1904; later he sold this ranch and invested the proceeds in his present home place of six acres within the city limits. For ten years Mr. Steele was road overseer for District No. 4 and is still serving in that capacity.

At San Francisco, Cal., on September 13, 1913, Mr. Steele was married to Miss Edith May Simpson, born at Kendal, England, daughter of Richard and Sarah (Meyer) Simpson, both natives of the

same country. Mr. and Mrs. Steele are the parents of two daughters and they adopted a girl when she was two and a half years old. The children's names are Elizabeth Meyers, Mary Ellen, and Gertrude Rhodes. Mr. Steele is a Republican in politics, and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Newman. He serves as a trustee of Gustine, and also as school trustee for the Gustine Union High School and the Gustine Grammar School.

HON. CURTIS H. CASTLE, A. M., M. D.

During the pioneer history of Illinois Henry Castle brought his family to that State from West Virginia and settled in Knox County in 1833, being among the early inhabitants of that locality, where he made his home until his death. He had a son Reuben, who was born in West Virginia and devoted all of his active life to farming in Knox County, where he died in 1894. Reuben Castle married Miss Mary A. Long, born in Pennsylvania, whence she accompanied her father, George Long, to Zanesville, Ohio, and from there, in 1835, to Knox County, Ill., where she married Mr. Castle. They had four children. Rufus served as a member of Company E, Eighty-third Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, and afterwards settled near Healdsburg, Cal., where he died. George H. was a lieutenant in the Fifty-ninth Illinois Infantry, from the beginning to the close of the war, being severely wounded before Atlanta. In later years he was an attorney in Shenandoah, Iowa. The only daughter, Mrs. Griffith, made her home in Omaha, Nebr., and it was at her home that the mother died in 1904.

Curtis H., the youngest son, was born near Galesburg, Ill., on October 4, 1848. He received an excellent schooling, attending Knox College until the close of his sophomore year, after which he became a student in the Northwestern University, from which he was graduated in 1872, with the degree of A. B.; later the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by the same institution. After graduation he served as principal of the schools of Washington, Texas, for four years, during which time he spent all of his spare time in the study of medicine, which he supplemented with a course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa. Graduating in 1878, he took up professional work in Fulton County, Ill., but soon removed to Wayland, Henry County, Iowa, and in 1882 came to California. He stopped in Los Angeles, then with a population of some 10,000 souls, at the beginning of the boom in that part of the State. The town was literally overrun with doctors and our subject decided he would seek some other location and accordingly went to Point Arena in Men-

docino County. At that time it was a wild and undeveloped region and many times he rode thirty miles to see a patient, over trails on horseback through dense timber. He bought a dairy ranch of 120 acres, but this he sold when he came to Merced County in the winter of 1887.

Upon locating in Merced Dr. Castle built up a good medical practice. Merced was then a town of some 2000 people, had five doctors and the outlook was not promising until the following February, when the irrigation canals from Lake Yosemite were opened up. Dr. Castle was far-sighted and decided he would remain and take his chances, and although he has made several pilgrimages away from this county, he has always maintained it as his home. His first office was located on Front Street, later he moved to larger quarters on Main Street. It was during a temporary absence that he lost all of his equipment and a fine library in the fire of 1894, but he became reestablished in the Puritan Block, and later took as a partner, Dr. W. N. Sherman, and together they built up and maintained one of the leading practices in the county. He had established his residence on Nineteenth Street, then built a home on Twenty-first Street, selling that to take up the family home on Bear Creek, where he lived until moving to Bakersfield in January, 1925. His home was a model of convenience for a country estate.

While living in Illinois Dr. Castle was united in marriage with Miss Alma Tabor, born in Rhode Island and died in Illinois, leaving two children: Grace Imogene Schlieff of Calistoga, who has four children; and Curtis H., of Merced, who has a daughter. His second marriage was solemnized in Merced and united him with Miss Virginia Wills, born in Mariposa County, by whom he has three children: Chandos Barrett, a graduate of the University of Oregon, an ensign in U. S. N. radio station at Pensacola, Fla., who has a wife and two children; Mary Mercedes Mahon, who has a son; and Genevieve Wills, class of 1924, San Jose Teachers' College. The Doctor is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and served on the local school board and as a member of the county board of education.

Until 1892 Dr. Castle was a Republican, but in that year he voted for the Populist candidate, and ever since he has been active in that party. He was a member of the Populist National Committee being chosen a delegate in 1896 and in 1904, but each time pressure of business made it impossible for him to attend. He was nominated for Congress at the convention of the Populist party held in Sacramento in 1896; later there was a fusion with the Democrats and he was the nominee on the joint ticket, and was elected by a majority of 240 votes, took his seat in March, 1897, and served through the extra session and through the regular session, until March 4, 1899. He was



E. W. Pictor

a member of the Committee on Pensions and did much to pass the pension bill for private pensions. The old Seventh Congressional district then included Stanislaus, San Benito, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Tulare, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and San Diego Counties. At the end of his first term he was once more nominated by the Democratic and the regular Populist conventions, but was defeated by Needham by 125 votes. His service in the interest of the people had been one of fidelity. He carefully looked after the interest of his constituents and he retired to private life with an enviable record.

ELBRIDGE NELSON RECTOR

A man who stands high in the esteem of his associates as a leader in the profession of the law in the San Joaquin Valley, Elbridge Nelson Rector has the distinction of being a native son, born at Snelling, Merced County, January 6, 1865, the son of the late Elbridge Gerry Rector, whose biography appears on another page of this history. Elbridge Nelson Rector attended the local district school and then entered the Pacific Methodist College at Santa Rosa, and was graduated in 1889 with the A. B. degree. He was fitting himself for the law and next entered Hastings College of Law, a branch of the University of California, where he spent one year. He then began teaching school at Atwater, continuing for two years, to enable him to complete his law course, which in due time he did, graduating from Hastings College of Law in 1895 with the degree of LL.B. After his graduation he entered upon the practice of his profession in San Francisco, and the following year returned to his home county and began his professional work in Merced, a work which was to lead to high honors with the passing of the years. In 1900 he was elected, at a special election, to fill the high position of superior judge, which had been vacated by J. K. Law. He had been nominated and elected under the banner of the Democratic party; but in 1902 there was no Republican nominee for the post, and Judge Rector succeeded himself and is still the incumbent in that high office. His high qualities of mind and his clear understanding of the law have made his years in office very satisfactory to the citizens of Merced County.

The marriage of Elbridge Nelson Rector united him with Miss Lillian Mae Nicholls, a native daughter of California, born in Placerville, and they have three children: Elbridge S., a high-school student; and Geraldine and Carolyn, pupils in the Merced Grammar School. Judge Rector is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in which he has been a trustee for many years. He is a member of the State Bar Association, the Chamber of Com-

merce, Lions' Club, Union League Club, and the Commonwealth Club of California, and a life member of the Luther Burbank Society. Fraternally, he is a member of the Moose and Native Sons. He takes a live interest in all clean sports, having been a sprinter in his college days, and is fond of out-of-door life. He is counted one of the most public spirited men of Merced County. The Judge has written several very creditable descriptive articles on famous California scenery, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite and the High Sierras.

GEORGE A. SCHWINN

The descendant of one of the early settlers of the San Joaquin Valley and Merced County, George A. Schwinn is ably carrying on family traditions, and doing his share toward developing the resources of this section of California. Born on the old Johnson ranch, twenty-four miles southeast of Merced, in Merced County, July 19, 1884, he is the eldest of three sons born to Adam and Mary (Carey) Schwinn. Adam, a native of Reihnbon, Germany, born February 29, 1844, was a soldier in the German troops, but took leave in 1872, and with his brother, Fritz, came to New York. They drifted about for a time, and then came west, first locating in Stockton, where they worked for wages on ranches. Adam finally entered the employ of Robert Baxter, at Old Ellis, and with them came to Merced County, in 1874, where three years later he invested in the present home place, known as the old Johnson ranch. Here he engaged in sheep and wool growing, but sold out his stock, and in 1880 entered the cereal grain growing as joint owner with his brother, George, who two years later sold out his interest to Adam and the latter continued in business until the time of his death, adding to his holdings by subsequent purchase until he owned 960 acres.

In addition to his agricultural pursuits, Adam Schwinn was one of the founders of the Rochdale Store, at Le Grand, and was one of the stockholders in the concern. After a full life, the death of this able man occurred September 14, 1904, at the present home of his son, George A. Schwinn, survived by his widow and two sons. Mary (Carey) Schwinn was born in Ireland, and came to New York as a girl of fifteen, in a party of five cousins. She arrived alone in Merced, September 30, 1880, having spent some ten years in the East, and on July 24, 1883, Mary Carey and Adam Schwinn were married.

George A. Schwinn received his education in the Appling school, and from a mere lad was closely associated with his father in the running of the home ranch, and took up full responsibilities twelve

months before the latter's death, due to the confining illness of the father. With his brother, W. R. Schwinn, who was born on the ranch, May 13, 1888, and also reared and educated in the Appling District, he has been active in further developing the home property, and they have done very well indeed in the handling of the property, and perpetuating of their father's name for industry and strict integrity. They had added to the extent of the family property, and it now embraces 1430 acres, of which 880 acres is choice grain land, and the balance devoted to pasture. The ranch is well drained, and has four good wells, while out on reserve are three springs. Live-stock and cereal grain are the chief sources of income, and both brothers are members of the California Cattlemen's Association, active in its affairs and regular attendants at meetings. They are also members of the Le Grand Farm Bureau. George A. is vice-president and director of the Le Grand Mercantile Co., successors to the Rochdale Store which their father founded and which on being reorganized took its present firm name and is owned by a group of local business men.

Fraternally, George A. Schwinn is a member of the Fraternal Aid Union; and W. R. is a charter member and Past Chief of Mariposita Lodge of Redmen, of Le Grand. Both are men of progressive ideas, with a full knowledge of the resources of Merced County, its climatic and soil conditions, and the possibilities the future holds forth for even greater development in this section of a wonderful State.

WARREN A. BRADLEY

Occupying a position of prominence among the progressive and prosperous agriculturists of Merced County is Warren A. Bradley, who recalls the days of privation and hardships and the progress of the years which have led to the prosperity of the present time. He is one of California's native sons, born at Martinez, November 13, 1868, a son of John D. and Sarah A. (Harmon) Bradley, natives of Tennessee and Indiana, respectively. In 1850, John D. Bradley came across the plains to Oregon, then on to California where he settled at Martinez; here he remained until 1867 when he located in Merced County, near where now stands the town of Gustine; in 1868 his family joined him and the home was established on a half section of land. He became a prosperous farmer and continued in this occupation for the balance of his active life. Five children were born in this family; William T. now makes his home at Riverdale; Adelia, deceased; Ada J. became Mrs. B. J. Bither, and passed away in 1920; Hattie, deceased; and Warren A., our subject. The father passed

away at Gustine on August 30, 1923, lacking but a few weeks of being ninety years old; the mother passed away on December 24, 1924, aged eighty-seven.

Warren A. Bradley attended school in the Occidental district of Merced County; then attended the Chestnutwood Business College in Santa Cruz. Early in life he began his practical training in agriculture, and when sixteen he worked in the harvest field, now the site of Gustine, and hauled grain to Hills Ferry, the nearest shipping point. In 1892 he became associated with his father in ranching and this occupied him until 1900, when he started out for himself on a ranch leased from Whitworth and Howard Company, raising grain on 1000 acres until 1906 when he established a dairy on 32½ acres, which he purchased and developed, and ran that for seven years, when he leased his ranch and dairy and moved to Gustine. He entered the employ of Miller & Lux and remained with them for one year. On March 10, 1914, he was appointed postmaster of Gustine, in which capacity he has since acted. Mr. Bradley sold his ranch of thirty-two and a half acres and with the proceeds purchased fifteen acres near the city limits of Gustine, two acres of which lie within the city limits near the high school property.

On September 20, 1893, at Chico, Cal., Mr. Bradley was married to Miss Ada E. Swearingen, born, reared and educated in the schools of Chico, completing her education at the Chico State Normal School. Mrs. Bradley is the daughter of John B. and Elizabeth (Thomason) Swearingen. Her father came across the plains in 1850, and the mother about 1852, and they were married in Chico. John B. Swearingen was a successful farmer in Butte County and became a close associate and friend of General Bidwell. There are four children in this family; Frank; Ada E., wife of Mr. Bradley; Emma J.; and Georgia B., Mrs. J. J. Rhea of Newman. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley have three children: Orelia W., now Mrs. William R. Woods, of Gustine, and the mother of four children, William R. Jr., Winnifred R., Warren A., and Howard Wilbur; Howard S., employed by the Standard Oil Company at Patterson; and Wilbur K., employed by Manlove & Peters in Gustine. Politically, Mr. Bradley is a Democrat. Fraternally, he belongs to the Merced Lodge of Elks.

WILLIAM GRANT GILBERT

A native son of California and a highly respected citizen of the West Side in Merced County, William Grant Gilbert was born in Sonoma County, on January 22, 1868, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David W. Gilbert. Mrs. Gilbert was in maidenhood Nancy

Katherine Freshour and was born in Missouri; the father had come from Ohio to California and here was married. In his later years David W. Gilbert was a minister of the gospel and held charges in Fall River, Big Valley, Galt and in Sacramento. His last seven years were spent in Shasta County and he died at the age of fifty-eight.

William Grant Gilbert grew up in San Luis Obispo County and attended the public schools there and in Shasta County. In 1892 he came to the West Side in Stanislaus County and found employment on ranches for three years, then he took up a homestead in the hills west of Patterson, proved up on it and after five years sold out and bought forty acres of bare land four miles west of Ingomar in the Cottonwood district. This land he fenced, erected his home and barns suitable for his needs and follows dairying and growing alfalfa, and has met with fair success.

On December 17, 1890, Mr. Gilbert was married in Fall River Valley, Shasta County, to Miss Elvira Ray, born in Jackson County, Mo., the daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Copple) Ray, natives of Ohio and Missouri, respectively. When their daughter was a babe of four months, in 1876 the family moved to California and for two years lived in Marysville, then moved to Shasta County where the father carried on a sawmilling business until he met an accidental death when he was sixty-five years old. His widow died on September 18, 1924, at Stockton. There were six children in the Ray family: Rebecca Jane, Andrew, Elvira (Mrs. Gilbert), Edward Thomas, William and Ernest. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have three children: William Leslie, who married Lula Spikes of Gustine; Ella Irene, married M. J. O'Keefe of Groveland; and Vivian Ray. In politics Mr. Gilbert is a Republican; fraternally, he belongs to Acorn Camp No. 502, W. O. W., of Newman. He has served as school trustee in the Clay district three years. In 1905 the Gilbert family located on their present home place near the Clay schoolhouse.

ANDRES S. RAYNOR

Owner of 1700 acres and more in Merced County, besides large property interests in adjoining counties, upon which are carried on large ranching and stock raising interests, Andres S. Raynor has fully demonstrated his ability as a manager and has won a competence through his persistent efforts. Mr. Raynor was born on Long Island, N. Y., January 14, 1865, one of three children in the family of William M. and Jennie (Carmen) Raynor, the former an early pioneer of California. He was born at Hempstead, N. Y., in 1831, a son of Micajah and Ruth (Baldwin) Raynor, and he spent his youth on the

farm, but when seventeen he went to Richmond County to learn the baker's trade. It was while he was learning that business that he felt the lure of California and accordingly embarked on a steamer for Panama. Reaching Aspinwall, Mr. Raynor was five days traveling up the Chagres River, after which he took the steamer McKino for San Francisco. Bad weather delayed the vessel and both the coal and provisions ran out and after waiting several months he was at last obliged to take another boat, upon which he reached his destination after a voyage of five months.

Going to Jamestown, Tuolumne County, Mr. Raynor followed mining for several years, then returned to New York, where, in 1861, he married Jennie Carmen, the only child of Joseph Carmen, who lived to reach his eighty-fifth year, dying December 26, 1904. Mrs. Jennie Raynor died in San Jose, Cal., December 21, that same year, aged fifty-nine. In 1868 William Raynor and his family made the trip to California via Panama, and in Tuolumne County he engaged in raising sheep until 1871. The next year he was in the same business in Mariposa County. In 1872 he located on what came to be known as the Raynor ranch in that county, and here he was engaged in the sheep business on an extensive scale. He settled in San Jose in 1881, but died in Fresno in 1893, aged sixty-two years. His children are Mrs. Addie Daulton, Andres S., and William N.

Andres S. Raynor received a good education in the common schools which was supplemented by a course in the Garden City Business College, after which he devoted his time to ranching. He was assisted by his brother William N., who married Sadie Cleek, a native of Merced County. Our subject was married in San Jose to Miss Nellie McKee, born in San Jose, and they have three children: Howard; Ruth; and Joseph, who married Miss Anna Jones and is employed by the M. I. D. in the engineering department. Mr. Raynor is a staunch Republican and is very public spirited in all things. The family home is called "Rockhurst" and is situated nine miles east of Le Grand at the base of the foothills and is an ideal home site.

An incident worthy of mention in connection with the history of the Raynor family is here given: On April 21, 1880, on the same ranch where is now the A. Raynor home, a cloudburst occurred during sheep-shearing time. There were a number of men employed in shearing sheep and two were in a cabin in the path of the flood of water that came rushing down the creek bed; as it struck the cabin it collapsed and killed Joe Thomas, a Portuguese, and Charles J. Smith, a partner of the elder Raynor in the sheep business. When the bodies were recovered they were taken over almost impassable muddy roads to Athlone for shipment. The same cloudburst also did some damage to the old Raynor Ranch situated five miles farther up the creek.

Mr. Raynor was fond of a garden and had a nicely cultivated one at the home, with a picket fence around it to keep out the stock. There were loose weeds on the ground and when the water began coming through the fence Mr. Raynor thought to stop it and began to pile the weeds against the fence, but before he had made much headway the water was running over the top of the fence and through the house as deep as an ordinary chair bottom, carrying silt with it that made it difficult to clean up later on. Needless to say the garden was ruined. He later had a stone fence built on the creek side, part of which is still standing.

FRANCIS GILBERT

An unusually eventful life has been the portion of Francis Gilbert, and although he has traveled to many parts of the world in making his life journey, he settled in California and made and maintained his home here, for he recognized the possibilities of the Golden State, and desired to take advantage of them. Born August 8, 1866, in Devonshire, England, he is the fifth son, and seventh of thirteen children born to his worthy parents, Jonathan G. and Jane (Patch) Gilbert. Jonathan G. Gilbert was a native of Cornwall, a direct descendant of the family from which sprang Sir Humphrey Gilbert; after his marriage to Jane Patch, who was born in Devonshire, he resided there, and there his large family was born and reared, within three miles of the birthplace of Sir Francis Drake. He was a tin miner by trade, but enlisted and served in the National Guards, being one of the survivors of the 600 Battalion of Death, immortalized by Tennyson in his poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." He received wounds in battle, scars of which he carried to the grave, his death occurring at the good age of seventy-seven years. His seven sons all distinguished themselves in service under the Union Jack, and all of them became well-known mine managers in South Africa, with the exception of Francis, who followed the sea.

But little opportunity for education was given Francis Gilbert, for he had to go to work to help support the growing family. He worked in the tin mines as tool carrier, for which work he received nine pence a day; later he became a miner, but, in 1880, he enlisted in the British Navy, on board the training ship H. M. S. Lyon; he made one trip around the world and was a seaman on H. M. S. Implacable at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, and became second C. P. O. on Old Triumph. Coming to the conclusion that following the sea would never get him anywhere, with three comrades he deserted ship at San Diego, August 10, 1885, and with five cents in his pocket, struck out to face the world. Four days and nights were spent

on Coronado Peninsula, then only a patch of sagebrush, without a mouthful of food or water, except salt, to eat or drink. He swam the bay to San Diego, under cover of night, rigged up a raft and rescued his three companions by rowing them to the main land, when they struck out to find food and a job, willing to take anything that was offered them.

Young Gilbert entered the employ of Rancher Tibbetts, at Tia-Juana, at ten dollars per month "and found." In the seasons of 1886-1887, the valley was flooded, prices went high, and hay sold up to sixty dollars per ton, other produce being in proportion. For the next two seasons, Mr. Gilbert conducted a retail fruit and vegetable route on half shares with Mr. Tibbetts, becoming fairly well acquainted with the southern country. He also worked as longshoreman for a period of eight months. In 1887, on July 4, he won the gold medal and twenty-five dollars and the Pacific Coast long distance swimming championship.

In 1889, Mr. Gilbert came to Merced County to farm the Collins-Twitchell tract, and this work he followed successfully for seven years, also engaged in working on contract harvesting machines. In 1902, he made a return journey to England, accompanied by his family, and was absent for fourteen months, after which his wife and three children returned to California and he went to the mines of South Africa. Three years later, he reached California with a "stake" of \$5000, remaining in Santa Cruz during 1906, where he was swimming instructor at the Casino; during 1906 and 1907 he was a member of the life-saving crew as well, rescuing many from drowning—three on one certain Sunday afternoon. On September 6, 1908, at Santa Cruz, he won the "Undaunted" gold medal, being the fire and water prize, for swimming across the plunge carrying a four-inch hose and putting out a fire before the arrival of the contesting fire brigade. Mr. Gilbert came back to Merced County and invested in land and now owns 257 acres of choice farm lands, specializing in livestock and grain raising, and is a breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs. He attributes his success to a strict policy of economy and the help of his devoted wife, who reared a family and had the hardest part of the work, but always helped in the management of business.

The marriage of Mr. Gilbert, occurring August 26, 1888, in St. Joseph Church, San Diego, united him with Miss Kathryn Collins, a native of Sandy Mush, Merced County, and daughter of the late William Collins, pioneer rancher; her death occurred January 16, 1915, survived by three children: Frances, now Mrs. Harden, of Merced (her twin, Charles F., died in infancy); William Arthur, who served on the Mexican border for two years; and John Fran-

cis, a Merced rancher, who served as corporal in the 12th United States Infantry during the World War, accompanying a physical trainer in teaching boxing. Seven grandchildren are in the family: Kathryn F., Gertrude, Gilbert, and Louise Harden; and Albert E., Dorothy M., and Marion E. Gilbert.

The second marriage of Mr. Gilbert, July 4, 1916, at St. Francis Church, San Francisco, united him with Miss Anna F. Farrell, who was born in Boston, Mass., the fourth of six children born to her parents; her brother, George, is a captain of police in Boston, and she has a sister in California, Mrs. Jane Shade of San Francisco, wife of Lieutenant Shade of the San Francisco fire department. Before her marriage she was employed at the San Francisco Exposition as inspector of women's dressing rooms. Mr. Gilbert received his citizenship papers in Merced, and has always endeavored to aid in the welfare of his adopted country, for he realizes that his success in life was made possible by his decision to locate in the newer land, and this decision he has never had occasion to regret. Fraternally, he belongs to the local lodge of Foresters, of which organization he holds the office of Sub-chief Ranger, and he is a Knight of Columbus. A born optimist, he has reached his present firm position through hard work and good management, and his favorite verse, a memory of his brave mother, follows:

"Whene'er a task is set to you,
Don't idly sit and view it,
Nor be content to wish it done;
Begin at once and do it."

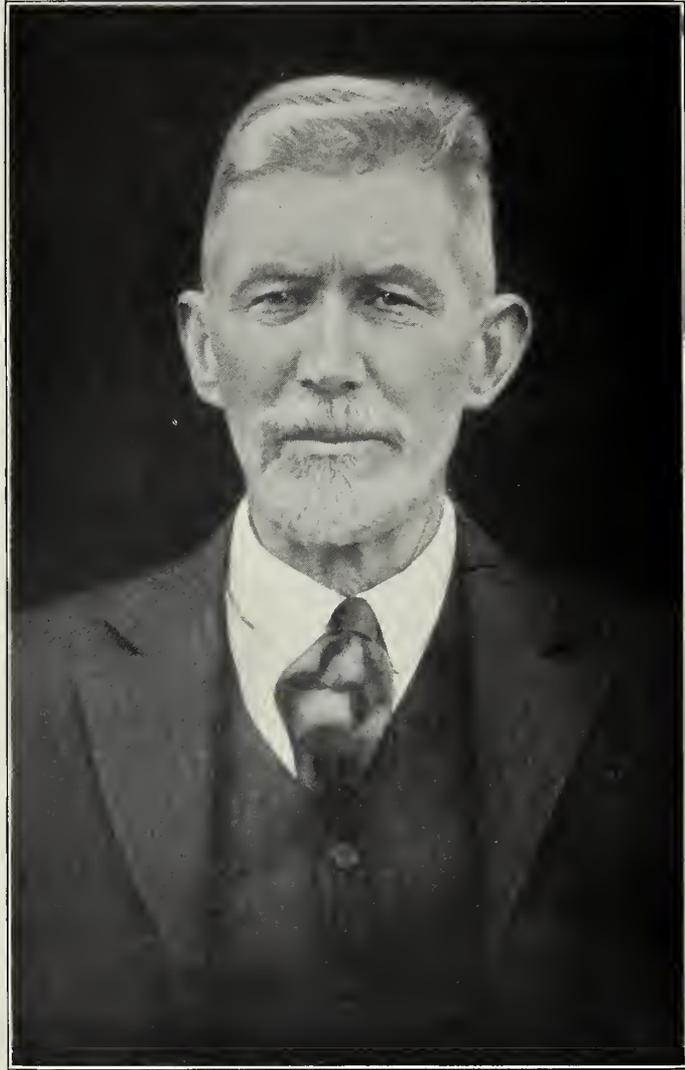
GEORGE S. BLOSS, Sr.

One of the first settlers in Atwater, Merced County, who is still living to recount the events of earlier days of the struggle of the little city to attain to its present prominence in the county, is George S. Bloss, Sr., pioneer banker and well-known financier of the San Joaquin Valley. He was born in Bethlehem, Ct., November 26, 1847, and is the only survivor of the immediate family of George T. and Emily (Brown) Bloss, both born in Bethlehem, the former of French and the latter of Scotch parentage. The paternal ancestors settled in Killingly, Ct., when they arrived from France, and it was in that state George T. Bloss followed farming until he died at the age of forty-one, in 1848; the good wife lived to enjoy life until 1866.

George S. Bloss, Sr., spent his boyhood on the home farm and attended the local schools. In manhood he engaged in farming and

lived in his native state until 1884, when he decided he would come West. He brought his family with him and upon arrival he bought some land near Atwater and at once embarked in raising grain and stock. In time he became so successful that he kept adding to his holdings until he owned two sections of land. He made his home in a house that stood on the corner where now is located the Bloss Block in Atwater. He has continually kept up with the advancement of this district and has erected several residences and business blocks, among which is the Atwater Hotel building; and with his son, he is interested in other properties. In 1897 Mr. Bloss and H. F. Geer as executors of the Mitchell estate subdivided 480 acres into twenty-acre tracts, giving the name of the Atwater Colony to the location. This was sold at \$40.00 per acre to settlers, and although times were hard and the promoters had a difficult task before them, they put the place on the map and today those settlers who were carried by the promoters of the project have repaid their indebtedness and have become well-to-do and many are now independent landowners. The first subdivision was followed later by others, all of them successful and satisfactory to all parties concerned, due largely to the careful supervision of every detail looking for the comfort and interests of the purchasers by Mr. Bloss and his associates. The company was known as the Fin-de-Siecle Investment Company, of which Mr. Bloss was president, and it remained intact until 1904, when it was divided into thirds and sold; one portion to the Bloss Land and Cattle Company; one to Crane Brothers Company; and the other to the Geer-Dallas Investment Company.

In 1898 Mr. Bloss leveled a small tract of land south of his home and put in alfalfa, the tract bordering on the railroad. This spot of greenery was a great attraction in the vast stretch of sandy, desert-looking land through which the railroad ran, being about the only green spot from Tracy to Fresno. This attempt in a small way showed what the future of this section might attain to, and well has the judgment of Mr. Bloss been justified, for today this is one of the richest sections in the whole of the San Joaquin Valley. As early as 1892 Mr. Bloss became a director in the Merced Security Savings Bank, serving as its president for nine consecutive years; much of the success of this institution is due to the cooperative efforts of Mr. Bloss and Mr. Carlson, the cashier, who was formerly an employe of the Southern Pacific and was well-known in Merced. In 1911 Mr. Bloss was instrumental in having a branch of the Merced Security Savings Bank established at Atwater, and with the growth of the community the bank has also prospered. Mr. Bloss is a fine judge of land values and this has stood the bank in good stead when it has made loans, as well as those making investments outside of the



Wm. J. McCorry

banks. One of the first official duties taken on by Mr. Bloss was as administrator of the Mitchell Estate, which he served for eleven years.

Mr. Bloss has been twice married, his first union having taken place in 1873, when he was united with Ella Stone, formerly of Woodbury, Ct., and niece of the late John W. Mitchell. She died in 1893, leaving two children, Edna, who became the wife of Julian Thorne and lives in San Francisco; and George Stone Bloss, Jr., prominent stockman of Atwater, also having served as a director of the Merced Security Savings Bank and one of the leading men of the younger generation in the county. On February 2, 1904, Mr. Bloss was again married, this time being united with Mrs. Edna (Thompson) Hull, whom he had known in boyhood, she being born in Bethlehem, Ct. A Californian hospitality is dispensed from the Bloss home, which is the center of social happenings in Atwater. Mr. Bloss has never let his interest in the upbuilding of Merced County diminish, but is always found in the van helping all meritorious enterprises.

WILLIAM J. McCORRY

A descendant of an ancient and honored Irish family, and a pioneer grain rancher of Merced County, William J. McCorry is the owner of a ranch comprising 1,258 acres, five miles northeast of Planada, which represents a lifetime of honest and hard work; for he came to this country a poor boy, and with his own way to make in the world. Born in County Antrim, Ireland, on March 17, 1853, he is the only surviving member of the family born to his parents, Patrick and Marie (Crossey) McCorry. The McCorry family have records showing their occupancy of the same home in Ireland for 420 years, up to the time William J. left home, in 1872.

Reared and educated in his native land, at the age of eighteen his youthful ambition led him to seek to better his condition by coming to the new world. He was nine days en route to New York on the S. S. City of Paris; and from there he made his way to Buffalo, and then on up the lakes to Marquette, Mich., where he worked two and one-half years in the iron foundries, at \$2.25 a day for ten hours' work. In 1875 he came west to California, first locating in Knoxville, Napa County, working as a wage-earner in the quicksilver mines.

Twelve months later, in 1876, Mr. McCorry arrived at the Huffman ranch, in Merced County, and worked the first season in haying and harvesting. He preferred the rural life, and put in the dry seasons of 1877-1879 at Stony Creek, Colusa County, in the Sacramento Valley, and also spent a short time in Butte County. As

an example of the obstacles to be overcome in those days, Mr. McCorry planted grain in 1877, but the weather continued so dry that the grain did not come up until the winter of 1878-1879. With the exception of these seasons, he has resided in Merced County ever since his first arrival here. From 1876 until 1881, he continued to work out on the farms southeast of Merced. The following year, in company with Dan Reilly, he started grain-farming, and for four seasons had splendid success. In 1885 he bought 200 acres of the Reilly lands, and by a number of subsequent purchases increased his acreage up to 1,280 acres. In 1919 he donated to the county a portion of the north edge of his ranch, for the Yosemite Boulevard, but retains 1,258 acres of it still.

As a pioneer Mr. McCorry introduced modern ways and methods of ranching and thus set an example which has been followed by others; and as a man, he set an example for honesty and integrity which has been a strong factor for good in his community. By all who know him he is called one of the finest and squarest of men. His reminiscences of early days are most interesting and show the sturdy character of the man. He says, "I sold barley for four bits a hundred, and wheat at seventy-nine cents, but in some way managed to pay my debts at those prices, though it took some figuring!" He states that "usually the ranchers lived well, having plenty on the table, and as a general thing enjoyed life." This is particularly true of Mr. McCorry, for his family have staid on the home place to a large extent, carrying on the work so well started by their sire. His sons are enterprising men and have loyally taken up the operation of the ranch, cultivating 2,000 acres to grain.

The marriage of Mr. McCorry, which occurred on February 5, 1884, united him with Mary O'Dea, a native of County Claire, Ireland, who came to California about 1881. They were blessed with eleven children, nine of whom have grown to maturity: John J., of Planada; Marie, at home; Hugh; William F.; Margaret, of San Francisco; Elizabeth, now Mrs. W. J. Angelich of Fresno; James, of Planada; Anne, of Fresno; and Daniel, with the Central National Bank of Oakland; and a son of Mrs. McCorry's twin sister, Frank, has been reared from babyhood at their own son.

Mr. McCorry is a stockholder in the Merced Security Savings Bank. For twenty years he has served as a trustee for the Cunningham school district; and he has also served many times on election boards. He has always taken an active interest in furthering the best interests of the county, and in all his development work has had that end in view. Fraternally, he is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E., as are also his sons John J. and William F.

WILLIAM WILLIS ABBOTT

Among the successful and energetic business men of Livingston is William Willis Abbott, senior member of the firm of Abbott & Sons Garage; he has spent the greater part of his life in Merced County, for he was only ten years old when his parents located in the county. His birth occurred near Knights Ferry, on December 2, 1872, a son of George W. and Mary (Smith) Abbott, the former born in Belfast, Maine, and the latter born in Trinity County, Cal. The maternal grandfather drove an ox-team across the plains to California in 1852 from St. Louis, Mo. Settling at Placerville in the spring of that year, he went into the cattle and sheep business, but later engaged in teaming and freighting in Tuolumne County. The father, George W. Abbott, came to California via the Isthmus of Panama in 1861 and engaged in farming and stock-raising in Stanislaus County, near Knights Ferry. The paternal grandfather was a stone mason and built the first piers for the first permanent bridge across the Stanislaus River, at Burns Ferry; he also built the stone wall on the hill at Knights Ferry. When William Abbott was four years old his parents moved to Stockton, where the father found employment in the lumber yard now known as the Stockton Lumber Company. There were two children in the family: Dora is now the wife of W. P. McConnell, a farmer at Livingston; and William Willis, our subject.

William Willis Abbott received his first schooling at the old Jefferson School at Stockton; when he was ten years old the family removed to Merced County and settled on Merced River bottom land, where the father farmed about 2000 acres of what is now known as the Collier ranch. Not being particularly drawn to agricultural pursuits, Mr. Abbott left his father's ranch in 1885 and went to Oakland where he began firing for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company; he remained with this company for five years when he went to San Francisco and found employment in the boiler-making department of the Union Iron Works. This was during the Spanish-American War. He then went to work for the San Joaquin Valley Railroad as a machinist. When this road was absorbed by the Santa Fe Railroad Company, the machine shops were removed to Point Richmond and Mr. Abbott continued in the capacity of machinist until 1909. He then returned to Merced County and farmed in partnership with his father.

In 1896, at Atwater, Mr. Abbott was married to Miss Elizabeth Ritchie, a daughter of the late pioneer, William Calhoun Ritchie, who came across the plains from Missouri in 1852, first settling in Sutter County, later removing to Amador County and in 1883 locating in

Merced County where he became an extensive grain farmer. He retired in 1908 and passed away at the age of eighty-three years. Mr. Abbott sold the Merced River ranch and removed to western Yolo County, where he farmed for five years on a half section of land; when this was sold he returned to Merced County and followed contracting and building at Turlock until 1914. In 1915 he bought out the Pioneer Garage at Livingston; and when his lease expired in 1918 he established the Abbott Garage on First Street. Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are the parents of two children: Mildred is the wife of Edward Schultz, a member of the firm of Abbott & Sons Garage; and George W. married Miss Pearl Leitzky, of Turlock, and he is also a member of the firm of Abbott & Sons Garage. The Abbott & Sons Garage is a first-class machine shop, modernly equipped to do all kinds of repair work on automobiles and farm tractors. Mr. Abbott served as constable for four years, and also was a deputy sheriff under Mr. Warfield. He helped to organize the Boosters' Club at Livingston and is now serving as the chairman of the Merchants Association, which was organized in 1921. It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Abbott that a tract of six acres was acquired for a park, now known as Hammatt Park. Mr. Abbott is a progressive Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a Past Master of Turlock Lodge No. 395, F. & A. M., and is district inspector, having supervision over all the lodges in the 55th district; he also belongs to the Merced Chapter No. 12, R. A. M. In 1919 Mr. Abbott bought a two-acre tract of land in the southern part of Livingston where he and his family reside.

JOHN V. AZEVEDO

A successful merchant, John V. Azevedo commands the respect and esteem of all who have witnessed his steady progress up the ladder of success since he located in Gustine in 1907. He had located in the State twenty years earlier, having emigrated from St. George, in the Azores Islands, where he was born on March 14, 1868, settling first in Monterey. He is the son of Viresimo Jose and Anna (Canada) Azevedo, both natives of St. George, where the father spent his entire life as a farm laborer. There were eight children in this family, namely: Manuel; a second child, died in infancy; John V., our subject; Mary, deceased; Jose V., deceased; Jose V., resides in Patterson, Cal.; Rose, deceased; and Antone. The father passed away at St. George at the age of seventy years, the mother now makes her home with John V. at Gustine, aged eighty-three years.

John V. Azevedo had little chance of obtaining an education. He left home at the age of nineteen and came to the United States, land-

ing in Boston, Mass., and came direct to California and stopped at Monterey, where he soon found work on a dairy ranch in that vicinity and continued for four years; then he rented a farm of 400 acres and, with his brother Manuel, conducted a dairy of fifty cows for the next five years at San Juan. When the brothers divided the herd our subject came to Crow's Landing in the San Joaquin Valley, and with his brother Joseph and a cousin, John Borba, conducted a dairy for two years. He came to Merced County in 1901 and bought a farm of 155 acres where he ran a dairy six years, being one of the pioneer Portuguese settlers in this section. When Gustine was laid out as a town he purchased two lots on which he erected the West Side Store and he carries a full line of groceries, dry goods, shoes, hardware, grain and mill feed, some farm machinery and household furniture. Since then he has bought considerable real estate in Gustine.

At Salinas, on February 11, 1898, Mr. Azevedo was married to Miss Ida Victorina Azevedo, born at Sausalito, daughter of Manuel V. and Mary (Cunha) Azevedo, both natives of St. George, Azores Islands. Her father, Manuel V. Azevedo, came to California at the age of fourteen years on a whaling vessel. He was married in Sausalito, where he engaged in the dairy business and also followed the carpenter's trade; both parents are now living in Newman. There were nine children in this family; Angeline, Manuel, Mary, Ida (the wife of our subject), Ellen, Anna and Marianna (twins), Rosa, and the ninth child (died in infancy). Mr. and Mrs. Azevedo have had four children: Manuel; Mamie, now Mrs. Antone S. Balthazer; Anna, deceased; and John. The son Manuel married Miss Leonora Cardoza and they had one son, Adolph, who died; the daughter, Mamie, Mrs. Balthazer, has one daughter, Geraldine. Mr. Azevedo votes the Republican ticket. Fraternally, he is a member of the U. P. E. C., of Gustine, and Past President of the I. D. E. S. Lodge of Gustine, having been elected president when the lodge was organized.

DAN McCOY

Among the substantial and respected residents of Merced County is Dan McCoy, a successful rancher residing on his twenty-acre farm one mile west and three-quarters of a mile south of Livingston. He was born at Bloomfield, Iowa, on April 13, 1843, a son of Joseph and Nancy (Pelly) McCoy, both natives of Virginia. Joseph McCoy went to Iowa in the early days and became the owner of 1000 acres of land in Davis County, which he farmed successfully. In 1858, with his family, he joined a train of emigrants and started across the plains to California. There were sixty persons in the company, bring-

ing 2000 head of loose stock. They lost 1000 head in the first Indian encounter. Eight persons were killed by the Indians during six hard fights; one woman and three little girls were taken prisoners and were never heard of again. The last fight occurred on the Colorado River at the California-Arizona line. The company was forced to return to Santa Fe, N. M., where they remained until the following year when they came through to California, but not without suffering indescribable hardships, many of the company dying of starvation. Of the remaining 1000 head of stock, very few got through to California. Joseph McCoy settled near Visalia and became a rancher and teamster.

Dan McCoy was a young lad when he went to work earning his own living; he first herded sheep for a year and a half; then began driving a ten-horse team for his father from Visalia to the mines in the mountains east of this place. In 1862 he removed to Santa Clara County and settled at Los Gatos, where he engaged in hauling lumber from the Santa Cruz mountains until 1913, when he came to Merced County and settled on his present ranch home.

On November 12, 1871, Mr. McCoy was married to Miss Sarah Crews, who was born in Harrison County, Mo., on March 31, 1853. To them have been born ten children, viz.: Burton, of San Jose; George, deceased; Oscar, at Cressey; Mrs. Adah Grove, in San Francisco; Mrs. May Love, of Livingston; Perley, deceased; Stella, Mrs. Watson, of Santa Barbara; Elsie, deceased; Mattie, married Alfred Baker and lives in Altadena; and Philip L., who is at home and assists his father with the ranch work. Mr. McCoy has now reached the age of eighty-two years and still takes a great pride in raising fine horses, which he learned to love when a young man and which he still drives with the greatest ease and pleasure.

E. S. WILLET

One of the earliest settlers in the Atwater District, Mr. Willett is one of the few who went through every vicissitude of this pioneer region, and has made good in the face of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles. And in this work he has helped greatly in the development of the country surrounding, showing by concrete example what can be done, if the doer brings to the task the right spirit of industry and integrity of purpose. A native of Manchester, Ohio, Mr. Willett was born September 14, 1866, the second of four sons born to W. M. and Mary Malisse (Brownfield) Willett, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Ohio. In 1870 the family moved out to Kansas, settling near Elmdale, Chase County, and crossing the Santa Fe trail ahead of the track-layer crew on the construction of the A.

T. & S. F. Railway. They went through the grasshopper raids and all the hardships incident to the early settling of Kansas during the early seventies. In 1876 they went back to Ohio, where the wife and mother died in 1877, aged thirty-three years. The father married again, in Ohio. Thus it will be seen that the family experienced life on the frontier and this fact has been indelibly stamped on the mind of our subject.

Educated in the public schools of Ohio and Kansas, E. S. Willett supplemented his early schooling by attending Hazeldell Academy at Newton, Iowa, but due to eye trouble he had to leave the academy and go into the country and he grew up on the farm in the intervals. He left home at the age of nineteen and worked for wages, receiving eighteen dollars a month driving a creamery wagon. He later moved to Lake Charles, La., where he homesteaded 160 acres in 1890, and this property he owns today, situated in the heart of the rice-growing region; recent developments indicate that it may become an oil field.

For seven years Mr. Willett taught school in Louisiana, receiving forty dollars per month, the greater portion of the population of the region being descendants of the exiles of Arcadia, immortalized by Longfellow in his poem, "Evangeline." His next move was to Mena, Ark., where he became agent for the Walter Pearce Oil Company, and from there he moved to Fresno, Cal., and May 4, 1909, came with his family to Atwater, in July of that year purchasing twenty-four acres at Yam Station on the Santa Fe Railway. At the time of his arrival this region was sparsely settled, used mostly by holding companies as grain fields and stock pasture, there being less than a half dozen settlers at that time, where now reside in the same section some forty families; and it may be even now said to be just beginning to grow, for the tide has turned toward the rapid settling up of all California lands which can show the soil and water conditions of Atwater and surrounding country. But fifteen or more years ago things were not so easy, and the settler then had to be both a hustler and a rustler to make good. Mr. Willett's first efforts in planting and caring for such fruits as peaches and grapes were put to the test, but he "stuck," and has proven both the fertility of the district and his own indomitable spirit, for which much credit is due him. He is one of the charter members of the Atwater Fruit Exchange, and his early efforts included the selling of fruits from Merced Falls to Los Banos. He now is the owner of a twenty-four-acre ranch, devoted to a highly developed orchard and vineyard, this constituting his home place; and he also owns eleven acres of open land two and one-half miles north of there. Mr. Willett established the R. F. D. route out of Winton in the earlier days of the district's development, conducting it himself for two months during the earlier part of the year 1913.

The marriage of Mr. Willett united him with Miss Anna R. Wright, born in Texas, a daughter of the late Dr. Wright and his wife, who has since become Mrs. W. R. Davis. Four children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Willett: Ezra J., a student in the Armstrong School of Foreign Trade; Maudine, a student at the University of California, Class of 1927; Cleone Monett, attending Merced Union High School, Class 1925; and Nona M., attending Arundel School. The family attend the Winton Presbyterian Church. Mr. Willett was formerly active in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Mena, Ark. Active fraternally, he joined Anchor Lodge, I. O. O. F., in Lake Charles, and the Rebekah Lodge at Mena, Ark., being a Past Grand of the Lake Charles Lodge, and Past District Deputy. He is a Republican in politics, and a worker for all civic betterment. He is a member of the Winton Farm Bureau and was secretary for the organization for two years. He is now a director of the Merced County Farm Bureau and is a member of the California Peach & Fig Growers Association.

ELISHA HALES

Prominent among the early settlers of Gustine, Merced County is Elisha Hales, one of its most respected and valued citizens. Coming to Gustine many years ago he bought forty acres of land just outside the town limits, where he established a dairy and in connection raised alfalfa. When the town of Gustine was laid out he was one of the first to build a residence and he has been an active and influential force in the advancement of this section ever since. He was born April 12, 1867, at Soulsbyville, Tuolumne County, a son of Jack and May (Trengrrove) Hales, both natives of Cornwall, England. His father came to California during the gold excitement of 1849 and engaged in mining in Tuolumne County. There were eight children in the family: Mary Jane, wife of Alex Davis of Soulsbyville; William John, deceased; Richard; Bessie, deceased; Thomas; Elisha, our subject; Emily and Jose, both deceased. Both parents passed away at the age of fifty years in Tuolumne County.

Elisha Hales was educated in the Tuolumne County schools and in young manhood tried mining; later he teamed between Sonora and Oakdale for about six years; then for a number of years he worked in quartz mines. He removed to Boulder Creek and engaged in teaming in the Santa Cruz mountains for eight years, when he located in Merced County in 1907, bought lots in the Townsite of Gustine and ran the first grocery store. Selling out in 1909, he then bought the ranch where he now lives.

At Santa Cruz, November 26, 1892, Mr. Hales was married to Miss Edith Maddocks, native of San Mateo County, daughter of the pioneers Frank and Sarah (Rodgers) Maddocks; her father was a timberman. There were five children in this family: Roy; Edith, wife of our subject; Austin, deceased; Worth; and Ethel. Mr. and Mrs. Hales are the parents of two children: Dalton E. and Irma. Mr. Hales still owns ten acres of the original forty acres which lies on the west of the city of Gustine. Since 1919 he has served as deputy assessor of Merced County of the 4th Supervisorial district. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of Romero Lodge No. 413 I. O. O. F. of Gustine. Mrs. Hales belongs to the Pride of Romero Rebekahs of Gustine.

RICHARD F. KERR

An enterprising dairy farmer of Merced County and a director of the Bank of Gustine, Richard F. Kerr has the distinction of being a native son of the Golden State, born near Danville, Contra Costa County, on February 17, 1872, the son of Thomas F. and Miss Susan C. (Chrisman) Kerr, natives of Missouri and California, respectively. Thomas F. Kerr was born on March 27, 1849, in Jasper County, attended the public schools there and in 1864 came to California and settled in Contra Costa County and engaged in farming. Soon after he went to Kern County and was engaged in raising sheep, and in 1877 came to Merced County, remaining until 1890, when he removed to Santa Clara County. Mrs. Kerr was born in Contra Costa County, daughter of J. P. Chrisman, a California pioneer of Forty-nine, who came from Missouri and settled at Danville, Cal. Into the home of Thomas F. and Susan Kerr seven children have been born, four living, viz: Stuart; Mrs. Susie B. Fancher, of Pacific Grove; G. L. of Gustine; and Richard F., of this review. Those who have passed away are John M., May C., and Jessie I. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are residing in Pacific Grove, aged seventy-six and seventy-two respectively.

Richard F. Kerr attended the grammar school in Merced County and the high school and business college in San Jose. After leaving school he conducted a resort at Highland Springs, Lake County, for twelve years. In 1906 he settled at Gustine, where he purchased a farm of 300 acres two miles from town on which he has since engaged in the dairy business with increasing success; he now has a herd of about 225 head of dairy stock, milking on an average of 120 head. He disposes of his products through the creameries.

On Christmas Eve, 1895 at Lakeport, Cal., Mr. Kerr was united in marriage with Miss Harriet L. Manlove, a native of Lake County,

daughter of W. H. and Sarah (Thompson) Manlove. Her father came around the Horn in 1849 from Virginia and located in Lake County, where he became a very prominent citizen; he was the first sheriff of Lake County and helped to organize that county, in which he was a farmer all his active career. He passed away at the age of eighty-three years; his wife died in 1922. Mr. Kerr is one of the directors in the Bank of Gustine. He is treasurer of the San Joaquin River Water Storage District, which takes in parts of Stanislaus, Merced, Madera and Fresno Counties, one of the most important projects in this part of the State. He is Democratic in politics, and fraternally, belongs to Romero Lodge No. 413 I.O.O.F., in Gustine.

MARTIN ERRECA

The Province of Basque, in the south of France, has given us a number of our most substantial citizens. One of the most prominent in wealth and influence at Los Banos is Martin Erreca, farmer and banker. Born May 31, 1880, he was eighteen years old when he left for the United States in 1898. In his native land he had been by occupation a sheep-herder, and he naturally followed the same business in this country, beginning in Arizona, at thirty dollars per month. But it was hard and trying times which he had in the Williams and Ashfork districts; at one time in the mountains, he was obliged to cut boughs and vines from the trees for eight days and nights to keep the sheep from starving.

In 1902 Mr. Erreca came to Los Banos and with his two brothers herded sheep on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Later he went into partnership with his brother, J. B. Erreca, and engaged in the sheep business on a large scale. At one time they had 6000 head. Later he went into sheep-raising on his own account. Then he sold out and turned his attention to grain farming, being one of the largest grain farmers on the West Side. He had from 2700 to 3000 acres in wheat and barley south of Dos Palos on Panoche Creek, and was quite successful.

Mr. Erreca married Miss Marie Louise Laxague, a native of France, and they have three children, John, Peter and Norine. Mr. Erreca became a citizen of the United States in Merced in 1923. He is a director in the Bank of Los Banos, and formerly was a director in the Portuguese-American Bank. He bought his first automobile in 1917 and now is the owner of a Cadillac, his second car. Mr. Erreca is a loyal and enterprising citizen and believes in progress along all lines.



Martin Erreca



Marie Louise Erreca.

THOMAS D. CALKINS

The development of the Great Golden State is due to the energy and patience of the pioneers who left their comfortable homes in the East and came to the West and helped in the task to establish a State. One of these families was the Calkins', who trace their ancestry, by well preserved records, not only back to the Eastern States, but to the nobility in England. M. D. Calkins, father of our subject, was a native of Ohio and in 1852 came to Nevada City, Cal. He had married in the East, Elizabeth A. Sayles, also born in Ohio, who joined him in California in 1853, and their first child was born here. Later the family returned east and established the family home in Chicago, where Mr. Calkins became established as a journalist. He made numerous trips to California to look after his mining interests here, until in 1878, when he returned with his family. Both he and his wife died in San Francisco.

Thomas D. Calkins was born in Elyria, Ohio, on April 13, 1858, the second of seven sons, of whom three are still living. He attended the public schools in Illinois, also an academy in Chicago. In 1879 he came to California and established a newspaper in Forest City, called the Sierra County Tribune, which he moved to Downieville two years later, and conducted it for ten years. He then sold out and moved to Sutter Creek and was proprietor of the Amador County Record for another ten years. We next find him in San Francisco, where, with his two brothers, he established the Pacific Coast Miner, a mining and engineering journal, which was sold three years later to the Mining and Engineering Journal of New York. T. D. Calkins was one of the organizers of the Calkins Syndicate and in San Francisco he established the Orchard and Farm publication. After the fire and earthquake of 1906, when his material fortune was swept away, he sold his interest in the syndicate and spent four years as editor and owner of the Haywards Review, at Haywards; then he was four years in Monterey as owner of the Daily Cypress. In 1917 he came to Atwater and purchased the Atwater Signal, established in that town in 1911 by L. F. Atwater, since which time he has built up a good circulation and also does a good job printing business.

Thomas D. Calkins was united in marriage on October 1, 1884, with Mary M. Farley, daughter of Judge M. Farley of Alabama, who brought his family to California in 1869. He served in the State legislature from Monterey County in the sessions of 1882-1883. Mary Farley was born in Fairfield, Texas, and was a sister of Henry Farley, at one time sheriff of Monterey County and who was killed in 1899 by the bullet of a bandit. He was once postmaster at Gonzales and prominent in the Native Sons of the Golden West. Three children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Calkins, viz.:

Malcolm, connected with the Merced Sun; Donald Reid, proprietor and editor of the Ceres Courier; and Lucile, wife of R. T. Hughes, of Napa. Mr. Calkins has a record for having put in nearly forty-five years active work in the newspaper business. He has always been closely identified with the life of the State and has helped make its history.

JOSE F. FREITAS

A prosperous rancher of Merced County, who has become independent through his own unaided effort, Jose F. Freitas is now an influential part of community life in his district of the county. Born April 11, 1862, at Faja Grande, Flores, the Azores, he is the son of Francisco J. and Violante (Freitas) Freitas, both of the Azores Islands. His father was a veterinary surgeon in Don Pedro's army from 1832 to 1833, and received three major wounds in campaigns in Spain and Portugal. He died a farmer, which occupation he took up in later life, in Flores, and there his wife died, also, after reaching the venerable age of seventy-seven years; she was a remarkable woman in many ways, and passed on these characteristics to her descendants.

Jose F. received his schooling in the public schools of his native land. He was reared on a farm, but was never satisfied with the outlook for advancement at home, and his correspondence carried on with two older brothers, A. J. and John, who had preceded him to California, in 1864 and in 1867, respectively, and had done well in the mines near Folsom, decided Jose F. to come to the new country himself and there find the opportunities lacking in the home land. At the age of nineteen he boarded the barque Sarah, crossed the Atlantic to Boston, taking twenty-eight days for the voyage and arriving June 17, 1882. He concluded his long journey by settling in Mariposa County, Cal., meeting his brothers there, and he immediately started to work as sheep herder in the mountains. In the following years he bought an interest in the business, in 1886, and followed sheep and wool growing until 1893, living at Indian Gulch and making his summer camp at Tuolumne. That year he sold out his interest, and reinvested in land in Merced County, moving to Buhach Colony in 1898, and there he engaged in sweet potato growing. He sold his ranch in 1915, having in the meantime, in 1913, invested in Ash Tract, where he now owns forty acres, a well developed ranch devoted to general farming.

The marriage of Mr. Freitas, which occurred in May, 1901, at Merced, united him with Mrs. Lucinda Z. (Souza) Bispo, then a widow with two sons. Four children have been born to them: Violet, Joseph, Mary, and Frank. Mr. Freitas is prominent among his

countrymen as Past President of the U. P. E. C.; and he has for the past twenty-two years belonged to the Woodmen of the World of Merced. December 28, 1888, he received his U. S. citizenship papers, from Judge Corcoran, at Mariposa, and he is a Republican in politics, with a real interest in all civic and national affairs. A progressive minded man, he is a great reader and takes more than a passing interest in world events. His interest in local matters is shown by the fact that he was instrumental in organizing the Buhach District school, and served as school trustee for eight years. Mrs. Freitas is a member of the S. P. R. I. S. I., and both give liberally to charities and all good causes. In 1910 Mr. Freitas donated an acre of land to the Buhach Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Association. His success has come to him through years not unmixed with adversity, and he is ready and willing to help others in their struggle for a place in life.

L. F. ARNOLD

Whoever labors to secure the development of his country, striving to bring out its latent resources and devoted to the general welfare of the people, he it is that earns a place as a public benefactor and is entitled to mention in the pages of history. Of such may be chronicled the name of L. F. Arnold, who owns, cultivates and lives on his fruit ranch of thirty acres two and three-quarters miles southwest of Winton. He was born at Pittsburgh, Pa., on September 12, 1877, a son of Laurence A. and Margaret (Mertz) Arnold. His father was born in Germany and came to Pennsylvania, where he married Margaret Mertz and became a truck farmer. They reared a family of ten children, and both died aged seventy-two years.

L. F. Arnold was the third of his father's family of ten children. He grew up and attended the public schools and worked on his father's farm at Beaver Falls, Pa. He took a commercial course in a business college and was bookkeeper in a Pittsburgh grocery house. Mr. Arnold came to California in 1903, and to Fruitland precinct in 1909, after six years spent in San Francisco. He moved out to his present ranch in 1910. It is an excellent fruit ranch with a comfortable country house and was once a portion of the Crocker-Huffman holdings.

In 1907 L. F. Arnold was married to Miss Clara Steiner, one of the three daughters of John and Phoebe (Grismore) Steiner. She was born and grew up at Bluffton, Ohio, where her father was a carpenter and builder. He died eighteen years ago. Her mother is still living at Merced. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have five children, as follows: Paul I., in the high school; May P., in the grammar school;

and Frank S., Howard C., and Ruth E. Mr. Arnold and his good wife take an active interest in public affairs. He has served as election judge, on the school board and on the Fruitland Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau and is now president of the latter bureau. For many years he served as president of the Arena branch of the National Farm Loan Association. He is a director of the Atwater Fruit Exchange.

HARRY A. LOGUE

Among the foremost citizens of Winton, Merced County, Cal., is Harry A. Logue, the resident agent for the Cooperative Land & Trust Company. A man of energy, resolution and persistency he is justly recognized as one of the most progressive citizens of the Winton section. Mr. Logue helped to lay out, sell and settle up the Parr Colony in the Fruitland section of Merced County; he also helped to lay out the town of Yam, and through his efforts a postoffice was established and he became the first postmaster. Recognizing the advantages of the Winton section he turned his attention to this part of the county and has been the most active spirit in the advancement of this locality ever since.

The birth of Harry A. Logue occurred at St. Louis, Mo., on October 2, 1856, and he is a son of William O. and Martha Ann (Beadle) Logue, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. William O. Logue started across the plains in 1860, his destination being Colorado. At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered the Navy and rose to chief engineer and served throughout the war in this capacity; after the close of the war he located at Trenton, Ill., but the West called too strongly and with a company of friends he started again across the plains for the gold fields of Colorado. The company encountered hostile Indians and for several days they had a running fight with them and a number of their company were killed. The father located at Black Hawk, Colo., where he engaged in mining.

Harry A. Logue attended public school in Colorado and as he grew to young manhood he became interested in mining pursuits and was interested in this line of work in a number of states and territories. When he located in Merced County in 1906, his development instinct took the form of establishing town sites and this kind of work has proven most interesting and lucrative.

At Tombstone, Ariz., on June 16, 1889, Mr. Logue was married to Mrs. Jennie Clark, widow of Robert E. Clark, and a daughter of George and Sophia Burns. Mrs. Logue was born in Pennsylvania, of Scotch and English ancestors; by her first husband she has one son, Robert E. Clark, now known as Robert E. Logue, a traveling sales-

man for the Holt Manufacturing Company, his territory being in Alaska. Mr. and Mrs. Logue are the parents of four children: Sophia is the wife of G. W. Wilhoit and they have four sons. Martha is the wife of A. E. Smith, postmaster at Winton; they have two children. Harry A. Jr., married Grace Gibbons, and they have two boys. He manufactures electric water heaters. Virginia is the wife of Kenneth Brown, a salesman, and they reside in Los Angeles. Mr. Logue is of an inventive turn of mind and has obtained United States patents for an automatic headlight for automobiles, and an automatic block which may be attached to the rear wheels of any automobile. He is also interested in horticulture and owns a five-acre almond orchard at Winton, and in addition owns his residence in town.

AUGUST C. M. TETZLAFF

One of the pioneer ranchers of Merced County, and a man who aided materially in its development, August C. M. Tetzlaff came to this country when a youth of eighteen years, and by the steady application of industry and honesty, he built up a name for himself as one of the prominent agriculturists of the San Joaquin Valley, and a man to be relied upon at all times by his fellow-men. Born October 14, 1853, in Germany, he was the son of William A. Tetzlaff, a native of that country and a tailor by trade, who, with his son Frank, emigrated to the United States, and after a short time spent in Baltimore, they both came to California, in 1870, and in 1871 August and two sisters came to America, one sister remaining in Philadelphia; the other and August joined them in California. His mother had died in Germany, and when August arrived in Merced County he entered ranch life as a wage earner on the Applegate Ranch.

The second season in the new country, the two brothers, August and Frank Tetzlaff, entered agriculture on their own account, as joint partners, rented land and engaged in grain growing in the vicinity of the Eugene Morley property. They soon invested in land on Mariposa Creek, formerly the Healy property, purchasing it thirty-five years ago, and continued their ranching activities on an extensive scale, by subsequent purchases adding to their holdings until they owned 2440 acres, and erecting all the ranch buildings, prospering accordingly. They owned 100 head of cattle, and with sixty head of mules, raised and shipped large quantities of wheat and barley from Lingard and Merced, becoming well-known figures in financial circles in the Valley. Both were steady, quiet men, highly respected and esteemed by their many friends in the community. August C. M.

Tetzlaff died in April, 1910, in San Francisco, and Frank passed away in 1912.

The first marriage of August C. M. Tetzlaff united him with Sarah Lauder, who died in 1889, survived by three children: Mrs. Sarah M. McMaster, of Merced; Godfrey M., now deceased, survived by a widow and two children; and Mrs. Dorothy E. Roduner, of Merced.

On June 20, 1899, occurred the second marriage of Mr. Tetzlaff uniting him with Kate Patterson, the fourth of five children born in Mariposa County to the late David and Mary O. (McKenzie) Patterson, both natives of Scotland, who came to California during the gold excitement, and settled in Mt. Buckingham, Mariposa County. It was in the Patterson home at Mt. Buckingham that the marriage occurred, and Mrs. Tetzlaff's brother, Daniel P., is now residing there. Her parents died when she was a child, and she was reared by an aunt, Mrs. Daniel Gonigal, a sister of her father. Four children blessed their marriage: Herman D., the efficient manager of the home ranch in Merced County, who married Georgia Conway of Merced; Archie C.; William A.; and Emma C.

Mr. Tetzlaff was a man of high honor and principle; he believed in forwarding the progress of his community, and his ranch was, and still is, conducted successfully, a symbol of the man who built it up. He built the fine residence, which he lived to enjoy less than two years. Today the Tetzlaff ranch is conducted on an extensive scale, modern methods being used throughout by the sons, who manage the business jointly with their mother. Mrs. Tetzlaff is prominent in social and fraternal circles in her home community, and is a member of the Pythian Sisters, and the Women of Woodcraft. The family attend the Presbyterian Church.

PETER RAHILLY

A well-known grain and stock man of the San Joaquin, Peter Rahilly is a native son of Merced County, born on January 18, 1879, the fifth of nine children born to Michael and Ellen (Walsh) Rahilly, who were then living on a ranch four miles south of Merced. Michael Rahilly was a native of Kerry County, Ireland, and his wife, Ellen, of Tipperary, that country; he came out to Napa County, Cal., in 1866, and she followed in 1868, and their marriage occurred in Napa County. There he worked for wages for five years, driving a plow-team at fifteen dollars a month in order to get a start in the new country. He had served in the United States Union Army during the Civil War, and came west at the close of the conflict, to seek his fortune.

In 1877, with the Dugans, Sullivans, Grogans, Thorntons, Sheehys, Bairds, O'Donnells, and others to the number of thirty-six, he moved to Merced County from Napa, and he invested his savings of \$1300 in a 160-acre ranch and started farming on his own account. In the meantime, on account of three dry years and one year when the wild cattle ate his crops, he worked out on the harvesters and headers, and with his yearly savings added more land to his holdings, until he finally owned 5600 acres and was identified as one of Merced County's extensive grain and stock men. The community where he settled had in the beginning but three neighbors, in 1877, August Smith, Charles Healy, and E. T. Givens; and the miles were many between ranch homes. By the practice of strict economy, this sturdy pioneer made rapid strides in the farming business, and he remained active through his eightieth year, his death occurring at the age of eighty-one. The wife and mother passed on when fifty-seven years old, from an attack of pneumonia.

Peter Rahilly received his education at the Russell district school, and with his parents became closely identified with the agricultural progress of his district, which line of work he has followed all his life, and he is now the owner of 800 acres of ranch property, and a newly constructed residence with all modern improvements, both in his home and ranch equipment. He specializes in grain and stock raising, and his firsthand knowledge, gained while growing to maturity on the home ranch, has made success assured. His stock, 160 head of cattle, and thirty-five mules and horses, is in the best condition, and he is known throughout the district as a pioneer's son, who works for the good of the community, as well as for his own interest. He served as clerk of the Russell school board for eight years, and is a member of the U. P. E. C. of Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Rahilly, in August, 1908, united him with Miss Mary Furtado, born at El Nido, Merced County, a daughter of the late John F. and Mary (Silva) Furtado. She was reared and educated in the Russell school district. Five children have blessed their union: Peter Jr., Ellen, Michael, Margaret, and Jack. Mrs. Rahilly is clerk of the Russell school board.

John F. Furtado, deceased pioneer, was a prosperous rancher of the El Nido District. He was born at Flores, the Azores, and was preceded to California by a brother, Antone, who was a successful rancher at Suisun, in the sixties. John worked on his brother's ranch for three years at fifteen dollars per month. He had no knowledge of English, but was a good worker, and knew how to save the money so hardly earned. At the end of that time, coming to Merced County, he entered the employ of August Smith, at twenty-five dollars per month, and at the end of seven years was made a partner with Smith

in the sheep and wool business and bought land, 160 acres at ten dollars per acre. This was in 1876, and from that time on he prospered, and by subsequent purchases added to his land to the extent of 4000 acres. Great credit is due his foresight and integrity, without which he could not have made the success which was his, and which placed him among the highest ranks of Merced County's ranchers at the time of his death. Besides becoming a citizen, he was active in the Republican party, and was a member of the Merced County Central Committee. His death occurred at the early age of fifty-eight years, while his good wife passed on aged fifty-two. She was also a native of Flores, and eight children blessed their union: John, William, Mary (Mrs. Rahilly), Margaret, Lena, Minnie, Antone, and Ella.

J. WALTON HUFFMAN

One of the most prominent figures in the development of the East Side of Merced County was the late C. H. Huffman, whose son, J. Walton Huffman, the subject of this review, is one of the young business men of Merced. A sailor before the mast, C. H. Huffman came round the Horn in 1848 and settled in Stockton in early days where he was successfully carrying on the business of hauling freight into the southern mines. He first visited Merced County in 1868 and later became right-of-way agent for the Central Pacific Railway. Acting in this capacity, he purchased the Merced townsite. The father later established his residence here, beginning the acquirement of farm and grazing lands, and became agent of Isaac Friedlander for the purchase of grain in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1882 C. H. Huffman joined Colonel Crocker in the development of the present irrigation system, later incorporated as the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company. Mr. Huffman was resident manager until his resignation in 1892, and for many years he occupied, with his family, the company's residence on Bear Creek at the end of M Street, which old timers call to this day the "Huffman mansion." Mr. Huffman superintended the building of the canal system, which was under the engineering direction of C. D. Martin. Mr. Huffman relinquished his connection with the canal company early in the nineties and sold his interest in the canal system and the lands of the company to the Crockers, removing his residence to San Francisco, where he died.

J. Walton Huffman is a native son of Merced, Cal., born May 18, 1890, a son of C. H. and Laura (Kirkland) Huffman. The latter, a native of Missouri, crossed the plains in early days with her parents. J. W. received his education in the schools of San Francisco and in young manhood removed to Modoc County, where he spent fifteen



John Halverson
Mrs Sarah J Halverson

years raising cattle and horses. He then returned to his native county and established his present business, that of sand and gravel contractor; his business has steadily increased in volume during the passing of the years.

The marriage of Mr. Huffman united him with Miss Pearl Jones, of Los Angeles, Cal., and they are the parents of one daughter Lois Evelyn. Mr. Huffman is independent in his political views. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Native Sons, and he belongs to the Rotarians.

JOHN HALVERSON

The science of husbandry could find no representative more worthy than John Halverson, retired rancher of Snelling, who has met with success in the growing of grain. His history, as well as that of his forebears, is one telling of perseverance and struggle, coupled with honesty and resulting in prosperity. He was born at Boney Prairie, Wisconsin, March 30, 1858, the eldest of the five children of Oliver and Christine (Johnson) Sorenson, both natives of Norway. The grandparents were among the earliest Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin, and they brought with them their respective families. John Halverson's maternal grandparents and his own parents were among a number of Wisconsin people who came to California in 1861 in a train of 100 wagons, and they were en route nine months. His grandparents had two five-yoke teams of fine oxen. During the early part of the journey Grandfather Johnson became ill and it was thought he could not survive the trip. His wife drove the other five-yoke team the entire way from Wisconsin. His death occurred at Stockton, Cal., soon after they arrived. John Halverson's mother, Christine Sorenson, divorced her husband and married Ole Halverson, a native of Norway, who proved to be a generous, kind-hearted stepfather and husband. He had a son by a former marriage, and thus their family was increased to six children, all of whom were reared to maturity in California. John took his step-father's name, as did all of the children. During the flood of 1861 the family lived in Stockton and were forced to vacate their home, which was made of adobe, and seek higher ground. Mr. Halverson owned and operated a claim and silver mine near Silver City during 1862 and 1863.

John Halverson received a good education at Stockton, Adamsville and Paradise City, in Stanislaus County. In 1867 the family moved to Stanislaus County, where the parents died in their home at Adamsville in 1869. The countryside was open and unfenced, and only a very few years before their arrival the plains were thickly

inhabited by elk and antelope. The native fiber grass was cut and harvested by the settlers for hay for several seasons, and this region was known as "the pocket country." After the death of his parents John Halverson went to live in the home of a friend of his parents at Paradise City, where for five years he was subjected to a life of torment and treacherous handling, with no privileges and the hardest kind of labor. He then entered the employ of a rancher in 1874, and drew his first wages at Adamsville; and by continuing steadily until 1881, he was able to take the responsibility of leasing land on his own account, on which he put in a crop, and with fair results during the ensuing years made his start. In 1886 he moved to Merced County, and since that year his residence has been within a four-mile circle of Snelling. He was always engaged in the growing of cereal grains and at times has operated 3500 acres, raising large crops of wheat and barley. In addition, he raised all the work stock he used, and always had some to sell each year. In 1899 he purchased 418 acres three miles northwest of Snelling, where he built his home. In 1921 he sold all but eighty acres of his ranch, but later bought back forty acres. His first investment had been in 1893, when he bought and sold forty acres, south of Merced. On his present ranch of 120 acres he has erected a group of buildings, including a fine modern residence, and here he lives with his wife, renting out a portion of his land.

The ability of Mr. Halverson as a horseman may best be told by mentioning the work accomplished by him in various places. His teams were used in hauling pile timbers from Merced in the construction of the Yosemite Valley Railroad, for which he received three dollars per ton, the contract running over a period of three months; and he did his share in building the railroad from Merced Falls to Merced, which was finished in 1906. At one time he owned ninety-five head of work stock. In his operations on the West Side, in the fall of 1906, his teams were used with others by the Associated Oil Pipe Line Company, from Mendota to the Coalinga fields, and he was three months on this job. In 1896 he drove a team of eighteen animals into Hornitos, drawing three wagons loaded with machinery for the mines. Besides the regular ranch routine work, every season after harvest, until 1906, his teams were to be seen on the county roads in transporting grain to Nelson's mill at Merced Falls, or to Turlock. His brother owned and operated one of the earliest harvesters ever used in Merced County, and Mr. Halverson worked on it several seasons, later owning one of his own. His uncle, widely known as "Bale Rope" Johnson, was a pioneer teamster and, being a world-wide traveler, wrote the interesting book "Journey Around the World"; he passed away at his home in San Jose, Cal. The Modesto Herald frequently published interesting articles prepared by him.

In Adamsville, on June 17, 1883, John Halverson married Miss Sarah Jane Grayston, born in Pennsylvania in 1866, the twelfth in order of birth of fourteen children born to Robert and Ellen Burt Grayston, natives of England and Scotland, respectively. This family came to California about 1868, being preceded by the father two years. Mr. Grayston was a farmer in the Adamsville and Westport districts and died aged sixty-three. His widow was accidentally killed when she was seventy-four. Mrs. Halverson received a good education at the Westport school, and prefers the great open spaces, having been reared and having always lived on ranches. Mr. and Mrs. Halverson have seven children, six of whom are living. Henry lives in Merced; Oliver died in 1919 at Snelling, being survived by his widow and twin sons; LeRoy B., of Modesto, is a partner with his brother Charles, the firm being known as Halverson Brothers, building contractors; Mae Harder, of Modesto, has two daughters; Clara Hannos resides in Merced; Charles, of Modesto, is a building contractor; and Bessie Geary, of Snelling, has one daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Halverson have twelve grandchildren, the eldest of whom is a student in the Merced Union High School. Mr. Halverson is a public-spirited citizen and a good mixer. He served as a school trustee from 1887 to 1899 in the Snelling district; and he holds membership in Willow Lodge, I. O. O. F., having belonged to this lodge for the past thirty-two years, and is also a member and Past Chief Patriarch of the Encampment. Both Mr. and Mrs. Halverson are active in the Rebekah Lodge, and have been delegates to the Grand Lodge. Mr. Halverson was District Deputy in 1923, and he holds the office of treasurer of the Rebekah and Odd Fellows Lodges, and is a member of the Veteran Odd Fellows at Fresno.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON SHAW

The son of an honored pioneer and himself a native son, William Henry Harrison Shaw is one of the progressive and substantial citizens of Snelling, where he has resided since 1895. He was born at West Point, Calaveras County, on April 26, 1868, being the second in order of birth of the thirteen children of W. S. and Henrietta (Stipe) Shaw. The father was born of Scotch-English parentage in Missouri, on February 11, 1835, and coming West in 1861, located near Sacramento, where he worked in the mines on the Calaveras River. He had been accompanied across the plains by Mr. Callameans, there being about one hundred wagons in the train. Henrietta Stipe was born in Virginia, August 13, 1850, of German parents, and she came with her parents from Iowa, landing near Stockton. At Jenny Lind she was married to Mr. Shaw and they started out

together on the old Griffith ranch on the Merced River, ten miles below Snelling, in 1873. In the fall of 1874 they moved to Hopeton, where Mr. Shaw was employed on the Ruddle ranch, and in 1880 they went to Washington Territory, but came back to Merced County in the fall of 1891, where they were occupied in extensive grain farming for eleven years. Mr. Shaw was a Democrat, a man highly respected among his fellow-citizens, and was greatly mourned when his passing occurred at Hopeton, on February 23, 1893. Mrs. Shaw died in 1917, likewise missed by her friends and family. In 1923, those who survived the parents were: Sam H. H. Shaw, of Snelling; W. H. H. Shaw of this review; Mrs. E. H. Halstead, of Snelling; Mrs. Dora A. Bloed, of Snelling; Thomas P., also of Snelling; Rachel Poor, of Brewster, Wash.; and R. W. Shaw, a rancher near Snelling.

About forty pupils, with but one teacher in attendance, comprised the student body and faculty of the Hopeton School where Mr. Shaw gained his elementary education. Being reared as a farmer's son, he worked out on ranches as a plow boy, and later on the Bill Grade ranch, driving eight- to ten-animal teams. Upon removing to Snelling in 1895, he ran a freight team from Merced to Snelling and Merced Falls, continuing in this business for seven years. Upon the completion of the Yosemite Valley Railroad he was appointed by the American Railway Express as agent at Snelling, and he served from May 21, 1906 until January, 1921.

A fine three-and-one-half-acre plot in Snelling, upon which a residence has been erected, comprises the home place of Mr. Shaw. He has developed his ranch into a splendid income property, it being devoted to berries and fruit, which are shipped to the Yosemite Valley in the open season, and also sold at Merced Falls. He receives good prices, and has little trouble in disposing of his produce. He has harnessed the water in the old Montgomery ditch, which runs through his place, using water-wheel power to lift the irrigation water to a tank seventeen feet above the ditch. This contrivance he made with his own hands. An eight-foot wheel runs the force pump with a ten-inch stroke, affording ample water for fire protection on the ranch.

Mrs. Shaw was formerly Jessie Alice Kauffman, a daughter of the late D. J. and Sarah Kauffman, and was born in Virginia. They came to Washington Territory in 1879 and to Fresno, Cal., in 1891, where they were prosperous farmers. In Fresno, on June 20, 1896, she was united in marriage to Mr. Shaw and their union has been blessed with the birth of two children: Nina, who resides with her parents, and Floris, who is stenographer with the Sperry Flour Company in Fresno. Mr. Shaw is a Democrat in national affairs but he stands for broad community development. He contributes gener-

ously to all worthy church organizations, and is a Past Grand and Past District Deputy of Willow Lodge, No. 121, I. O. O. F., having belonged since January 28, 1893; and is also a member and Past Chief Patriarch of Snelling Encampment, No. 83, I. O. O. F. He has belonged to the Woodmen of the World at Merced for over twenty years.

WILLIAM NEWTON BAKER

One of the most highly developed fruit ranches and vineyards located on the State highway in Merced County and situated at the crossing of Cressey Way was improved to its present state by William Newton Baker, who is now residing on the property and superintends its cultivation for his son, Dr. W. A. Baker, of Tuscon, Ariz., to whom he recently sold it. Mr. Baker was born in Boone County, Mo., March 18, 1853, the son of Ambrose Dudley and Hannah (Baker) Baker, both natives of Kentucky, but who were married in Missouri, where the father was a farmer and a stock-raiser. They both died in California, the father at Modesto, at the age of sixty-eight, and the mother at the home of our subject in 1913, aged eighty-three. They came to California in 1864, with their five children, across the plains and arrived at Tuolumne City on July 20, of that year, where an uncle, C. C. Baker, was already located. The children of the family were: Columbus Baker, who died in Santa Ana in 1920; Martha Margaret Hamilton, who died in Orange County in 1918; William Newton, of this review; Pauline, widow of I. C. Grimes of Modesto; and Queen Elizabeth, Mrs. J. E. Clarey of Fruitland precinct, Merced County.

William Newton was a lad of eleven when his parents crossed the plains and he drove the loose stock brought by his father, riding horseback all the way. He attended school in Missouri, and in Stanislaus and Merced Counties, the school in the latter county being taught by Frank Fowler, a well-known teacher at Snelling, when that was the county seat. He grew up in Stanislaus County until 1869, when the family removed to Merced County and located at Snelling. His first business experience was in the sheep business, going out on the old Spence ranch above Merced Falls, where he ranged his band of sheep, which in time increased until he had 3000 head and owned 720 acres of land on the Merced River, having a frontage of one and one-half miles on that stream. This ranch is still known as the Baker ranch. From the sheep business Mr. Baker engaged in merchandising at Snelling and Merced Falls, but as the population was decreasing he left there and went to Modesto where he bought wool for San Francisco firms for several years. His next move was to Delano,

Kern County, where he operated a store for about five years, removing at that time to Orange County and engaging in the real estate and insurance business, and in buying wool, for fourteen years. We then find him back in Merced engaged in the real estate business for three years. He had bought ninety acres on the highway and rented it, but the renters did not carry on as he wished and he moved onto the place and since then has been looking after its cultivation. He set out all the trees and vines and erected the buildings suitable for his needs. Now there are seventy-five acres in Malagas, Emperors and Tokays, and seven acres in peaches, also an acre of family orchard. He sold it all to his son, Dr. W. A. Baker, but manages the property for him. While living in Modesto Mr. Baker served as justice of the peace for two years.

Mr. Baker was married in 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Willis, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Willis, ranchers near Sonora, Tuolumne County, where the wedding was celebrated. They had five children born to them: Walter E., a rancher in Fruitland precinct; E. N. Baker, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Merced; Edna Elizabeth (twin of E. N.), now the wife of R. C. Balaam of Merced; W. A. Baker, a prominent dentist in Tuscon, Ariz.; and Maud B., who became the wife of B. C. Keister of Merced. The wife and mother died in 1882, at the age of thirty-three. The second marriage of Mr. Baker was in 1883, when he married Mrs. Clara A. Clark, widow of C. A. Clark, by whom she had a daughter, Grace, now Mrs. G. T. Parr, of Berkeley. Mrs. Clara A. Baker was a daughter of A. H. Hall, a lumberman of Truckee many years ago. She was born in Maine and died in Berkeley on June 18, 1923, aged seventy-two. Mr. Baker has always been interested in the development of Merced County and has done what he could to help every worthy project that would be of benefit to the people or make the county a better place in which to live and prosper. He holds the respect of all who know him and his friends are legion.

ERNEST D. KAHL

A representative of an old pioneer family in Merced County, Ernest D. Kahl well represents the name left by his father, in the ranks of the agricultural and horticultural developers. He is a native of the State, born in Monterey County, March 27, 1860, a son of the late Adam Kahl and his good wife, whose sketch appears in another part of this volume. Our subject was educated in the schools of Merced County and alternated his attendance with working on the ranch with his father, from whom he received a practical training in

all branches of farm labor so that he has been enabled to make a success of his work in later years. He has been actively engaged in ranching in Merced County for many years and has been so successful that he has been able to turn the ranch over to his sons, who continue its operation in partnership with the father.

When Ernest D. Kahl married he chose for his wife Margaret Baxter, who was born in Nova Scotia the daughter of J. C. Baxter, a prominent rancher of this county wherein she was reared and educated. There were two sons born of this fortunate marriage, Leslie A. and James A., who are now conducting the ranches controlled by their father. Mr. Kahl is a strict prohibitionist and fraternally is a member of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Encampment of that order. He takes an interest in promoting every good cause for the welfare of the county and its citizens and he and his wife have an ever-widening circle of friends.

ANTHONY WARFIELD MEANY

A native son of the Golden State and an educator of prominence and influence in Merced is Anthony Warfield Meany, the principal of Merced High School and supervising principal of the Livingston High School. Mr. Meany is blessed by nature with a healthy mental and moral outlook on life and early in his career manifested a desire to enter upon a professional career; this desire was gratified largely through his own efforts. A son of the late Anthony J. Meany, he was born on March 24, 1882, in Merced. A. J. Meany was a prominent citizen of the San Joaquin Valley and was born in Ireland on March 1, 1842, was taken to Canada when a babe in arms and there grew to boyhood. At about the age of eleven he left home and went to Pennsylvania, where he served an apprenticeship, under an older brother, to learn the trade of carpenter and cabinet-maker. In early manhood he worked on an Ohio River steamboat for a time, then drifted into St. Louis, where he remained and made his start for California via Panama about 1863. Upon arriving in California he at once located in Mariposa County and followed his trade and became a very well-known and successful contractor and builder. In time he located in Snelling, Merced County and worked at his trade and while living there was elected sheriff of the county in 1872, serving in that office for twelve years. When the county seat was removed to Merced he located in that city and ever afterwards made it his home. After his term in office expired he resumed the building business and continued active until his death, passing away in November, 1891, at the family home in Merced. He was twice

married. His first wife was Emma Ruddle, niece of the late John Ruddle, and one daughter is now living, Daisy Meany the wife of J. F. King, an Oakland dentist. His second marriage, in 1881, united him with Miss May Tackett, who was born in Tuolumne County in 1858. Her parents crossed the plains in 1856 and settled near Sonora, where her father was engaged in the building business. By this second marriage a son, Anthony Warfield Meany, was born. A. J. Meany had served two terms in the California State senate.

Anthony Warfield Meany was reared in Merced and attended the public schools for his preliminary education, graduating from the high school in 1900. His father dying when he was a lad of nine, he has but little recollection of him. Determined to get a good education he next entered the University of California at Berkeley, meanwhile working in warehouses during vacations to pay his own way. He was active in the student body at college and was on the track team for three years, was on the Blue and Gold staff and Rally committee and was a member of the Skull and Keys, and the Golden Bear, honor societies, and still holds his membership in the Kappa Alpha fraternity. He was graduated with honors in 1905 with the A. B. degree. He took a position in a warehouse for a time, then spent three years as an employe of the Yosemite Valley Railroad during its construction. His next position was as book-keeper for John R. Graham, where he remained until he began teaching in the Merced school in 1908; six years later he was appointed principal of the high school when there were eight teachers and a student body of 150. This has been increased to twenty-seven teachers and a student body of 450 in Merced, and when the Livingston branch was added the faculty was increased to thirty-five and the student body to 600. The new buildings have been erected since Mr. Meany has been in charge.

The marriage of A. W. Meany with Miss Kathryn Stradley, of New York, took place on July 6, 1914, and they have a daughter, Kathryn Christine. In politics Mr. Meany is a Democrat and served as chairman of the County Central Committee. He is an exempt fireman, having served as a volunteer of the Merced department for six years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masons, the Elks and the Native Sons; and he is a member of the Rotary Club, the California State Teachers' Association and the California High School Principals' Association. During the war he was County Food Administrator under Ralph Merritt, and served on the County Defense Committee and various Bond and Speaking Committees. As a citizen he is progressive and a champion of all measures for the benefit of his town, county and State. All in all he is a man of whom his city may be justly proud.



J. J. Mc Master
Fannie Mc Master

JOHN JAMES McMASTER

A resident of Merced County for the last thirty-five years, and until the last few years an extensive grain rancher of the San Joaquin, J. J. McMaster has been prominent in the developing of this part of the Golden West; and during his residence here he has built up a reputation for honesty of purpose, and as an advocate of the creed of right living has had a very helpful and wholesome influence among his friends and associates in his adopted country. A native of Ontario, Canada, he was born on November 3, 1856, the fourth of eight children, and second of four sons, born to his worthy parents, Robert and Minerva (McGleason) McMaster, both natives of Ontario and now deceased. They were farmers in the Dominion, and young John J. grew up on the home farm, attending the public school and between study periods learning the duties of a farmer's son in the sixties, when soil cultivation was a quite different matter from what it is today, with all the modern machinery and farm appliances. When nine years old, he earned his first dollar, paid him by a wealthy stockman for the return of a strayed animal; and in those days a dollar looked mighty big to the lad. On reaching thirteen years, he started to work as a plow boy, working for a widow, Mrs. White, who paid him nine dollars a month and supplied him with an ox-team and plow; and so he started life in Canada, amid pioneer surroundings, working out on neighboring farms but remaining at the home fireside until he reached the age of twenty-four. That year he married and took on the responsibilities of a man of family, starting in the ranch business in Brighton Township, at a time when general prices were lower than at any previous time. Locating nine miles from Trenton, he made three trips to market weekly to dispose of his produce; and by the hardest kind of work, and early and late application, made a comfortable living for his growing family.

In 1890, Mr. McMaster and his family arrived in Merced, Cal., with his entire reserve capital amounting to \$312. A brother, C. W. McMaster, had preceded him to California and was located in Hornitos, owning and conducting a goat farm. The brothers started a joint business in general ranching, three miles from Hornitos, and also farmed the Chamberlain place in Merced County, two years, after which J. J. McMaster sold out his interests to his brother. In 1893 he started ranching on his own account as a grain-raiser on the Al Sylvester place near Hornitos, and five years later went to Cathey Valley and for five seasons farmed there, doing well each year. He then enlarged his equipment and stock, and entered grain-raising on an extensive scale, farming the Garibaldi ranch of 1800 acres for a period of five years; and while he had seasons when losses occurred, he always made up for it the next, and come out very successfully in

the long run. He put in grain on the Wolfsen ranch, in Merced County, one year with excellent results, and rented the Earle ranch nine years steadily, making good, but only as a result of hard work and good management, the secret of all agricultural success.

In the meantime Mr. McMaster had made investments in an alfalfa and dairy ranch at Le Grand, his present home place, fifteen acres on the edge of town. He continued in the grain business until after the World War, and sold out in 1919, after realizing on two of the fullest crops in his experience; he was at that time farming on a large scale near Valley Home, Stanislaus County.

Mr. McMaster is a stockholder in the Le Grand Bank, a shareholder in the Le Grand Mercantile Company. With the exception of two occasions, when he has been absent from California on visits to Ontario, he has remained in the Golden State since his first arrival on January 19, 1890.

The marriage of Mr. McMaster, on December 24, 1880, at Smithfield, Brighton Township, Ontario, united him with Miss Fannie Bray, a native of Huron Township, that country, and daughter of a well-established family of Canadian farmers. Seven children have been born to them, as follows: Mrs. Martha Pate, of Le Grand, mother of seven children; Robert, of Merced, who has four children; Charles, deceased; Roy, of Merced, who has two children; Mrs. Stella Clendennin, of Le Grand, who has five children; Harry, of Plainsburg, ex-service man of the Ninety-first, A.E.F., serving overseas for nine months and in the United States for ten months; and Lily (a twin of Harry), living at home.

Mr. McMaster received his United States citizenship papers in Merced, March 20, 1895, and he has always been active in local affairs. He is a Democrat in politics, and a worker for the cause of right in all matters. He has done jury service, and held the office of school trustee, among other public duties. As he says, his favorite hobby is right living; for he firmly believes that obedience to law and truth is a power for good in one's success, helping to bring out character, while at the same time requiring character, and that "stick-to-itiveness" is the greatest item in success.

YOSEMITE VALLEY RAILROAD

The Yosemite Valley Railroad is a standard gauge, steam railroad, extending from Merced to El Portal, Cal., the boundary of Yosemite National Park, a distance of approximately eighty miles. The first twenty-five miles traverse the fertile San Joaquin Valley, entering the Merced River Canyon at Merced Falls, and follows this

beautiful canyon to its eastern terminal at El Portal. By virtue of its operation, Merced is in reality the Gateway to the Yosemite National Park.

The road was built by a group of San Francisco capitalists headed by Frank G. Drum, with a view of affording rail access to the wonderful Yosemite National Park. Construction work was begun in 1905, and the road was open for operation in 1907. The road is exceptionally well built for mountain construction, being located on a maximum grade of two per cent and maximum curvature of eighteen degrees, the main line being laid with new seventy-pound Bessemer rails. At the present time, the road owns eight oil-burning locomotives, 245 freight train cars of various kinds and eight passenger train cars.

The company has its general offices and its shops and roundhouse in Merced, employing approximately 200 men and having a monthly payroll averaging about \$25,000, the official personnel being as follows: President, F. T. Elsey; General Manager, W. L. White; Superintendent of Motive Power, F. L. Higgins; Chief Engineer, G. H. Nickerson; Auditor, J. W. Swords; General Agent, P. F. Harding; Trainmaster, S. B. Castle.

While the primary object of the construction of the road was for the transportation of tourists to the Yosemite National Park, a considerable freight tonnage has been developed in the past ten or fifteen years, consisting principally of lumber and other forest products. The Yosemite Lumber Company deliver logs to the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company at El Portal. They are transported to Merced Falls, at which point are located sawmill and box factories. The logs are there manufactured into lumber and box shooks and the products are then shipped from Merced Falls to all points both State and interstate. During the year 1924, a total of 9204 carloads of logs, representing approximately 60,000,000 feet of lumber, were transported, and a total of 2253 carloads of lumber and box shooks was shipped from the mills at Merced Falls. In addition to the lumber traffic, the company handled a total of 2000 carloads of other commodities and 17,500 tons of less than carload freight during the year 1924.

The passenger travel by rail to Yosemite National Park shows a gradual increase each year. During the calendar year of 1924 a total of 23,000 passengers were handled from Merced to Yosemite National Park as compared with a total of 13,000 in 1916.

The Yosemite National Park is open and easily accessible from Merced every day in the year by way of the Yosemite Valley Railroad. The trip from Merced by rail is one of great scenic beauty, the railroad traversing the Merced River Canyon, crossing and re-

crossing the Merced River with fine engineering skill, and the river is rarely out of sight and hearing.

One is reminded of the past historic days when the pioneers of 1849 were panning and sluicing the river in search of gold. Ruins of the first bank and mint in the State of California are to be seen on this trip, and it is an interesting monument of an epic period:

"The Days of Old,
The Days of Gold,
The Days of '49."

Upon arrival at El Portal, a short and enjoyable stage ride of fifteen miles brings one to the heart of Yosemite, the glories of which have passed into literature. Yet all the pens that have essayed to describe it can have conveyed but little of its charm unless you have visited the wonderful spot. Giant cliffs, wonderful waterfalls, and the magnificent big trees, the oldest living things in the world, are included among its wonders. It is idle to enumerate. No single feature wins admiration. It is the harmonious whole, blending majesty with color, form and action, that woos all the sense with siren touch. It is this sense of the supremely beautiful incarnated which makes Yosemite the desire of all travelers.

GEORGE K. SIMPSON

Well known as a successful farmer and vineyardist, George K. Simpson is counted among the energetic agriculturists of the Livingston section of Merced County. A native son of Merced County, he has witnessed its almost marvelous development and progress, and has well performed his part in those transformation scenes that have changed the wild and uncultivated tracts of land into waving fields of grain, productive vineyards and fruitful orchards. A son of Thomas Jefferson Simpson, he was born on December 7, 1871, in Merced County, within one mile of the town of Livingston.

A native of Tennessee, Thomas Jefferson Simpson located in Texas while still a young man and was there married to Miss Rebecca Hardy, a native of Virginia, but reared in Texas. During the Mexican War, when only sixteen, he volunteered his services, but the war was over before he reached the front. Then he helped an uncle who had a contract to furnish horses to the United States government; this was a hazardous undertaking, fraught with hardships and dangers, but was accomplished without serious mishap. He came to California via Panama in 1852, and engaged in mining for a time; returning to Texas he was married, and in 1858, with his wife and eldest

son, returned to California via the Isthmus of Panama. He again engaged in mining, then conducted a store at Don Pedro, Tuolumne County; later he removed with his family to Snelling and engaged in ranching. He next purchased 214 acres near Livingston, on the Merced River, where the Central Pacific Railroad built a bridge across that stream. It is related that Thomas Jefferson Simpson was the only farmer in this vicinity who ever received money from the railroad company for a right-of-way; but it was accomplished by force, even resorting to carrying a shotgun and forcing from the company's agents and employees, pay for the right-of-way. Five children blessed this union: Ben, the eldest, born in Texas, is now an employe of the Sugar Pine Lumber Company at Sugar Pine, Cal.; Otis, a rancher, lives across the road from our subject; Virginia, married John Gardner and is deceased; Thomas Jefferson, Jr., deceased; and George K. is the subject of this sketch. The mother of our subject passed away when he was only fourteen years old; the father lived to be fifty-eight years old.

George K. Simpson attended the district school near his father's farm and at an early age went to work for Hammatt and Crowell on their ranch near Livingston. In 1920 he located on his present home place, which consists of forty acres owned jointly by himself and William T. White. When Mr. Simpson located on this place it was wholly unimproved. In the spring of 1920 he made his first plantings of Thompson seedless grapes; this was before there was any irrigation project and he pumped the water and watered his newly planted vineyard by hand. This section is ideal for raisin culture and now the land is irrigated by the Merced Irrigation District and soon the vineyard will be in full bearing.

In 1914 Mr. Simpson was married to Miss Alice De Neves, a daughter of M. J. De Neves, a prominent rancher and fruit grower of Atwater, Cal., who died April 1, 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are the parents of three children: George K. Jr., Virginia Alice, and Hauleymay Elizabeth. Mr. Simpson is a consistent Democrat and pays due attention to principles and qualifications of candidates.

MODESTO V. BALEME

One of the well-known ranchers of Merced County, Modesto V. Baleme has been identified with agriculture here in the San Joaquin Valley for over forty years, and it has been a long journey from the poor boy, who landed in a new country without funds, or even a working knowledge of the new language, to the successful man who is now an integral part of the country's citizenry. Born June 15,

1852, in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, he is the son of Andrew J. and Mary (Bary) Baleme, both natives of that country, and farmers by occupation. Educated in the public schools of Switzerland, he came to the United States when a lad of sixteen, arriving in 1868, and with no knowledge of English, started to look for work to earn a living.

The young adventurer worked his way to California, and here took a job on the De Martini dairy ranch, near Petaluma. There he worked steadily for two years, and then, for the next twelve months, worked for Charles Love, on the coast of Marin County. He saved his money, and was soon able to send home his fare, which had been advanced him. His good mother died in 1871. In the evenings, when his day's work was finished—and it was a full day's work, in those days—he learned the English language, being helped by the tutoring of Mrs. Love, for he was fortunate in having unusually kind employers. After the three years spent in ranch work, Mr. Baleme went to San Francisco, and for the following three years was employed as a stevedore in the metropolis. From there he went to Stockton, and there worked for Meyer Brothers for three years on their grain ranch. He then came further north again, and took a position as foreman on the K. Fly ranch, in Napa Valley.

In 1883, he came to the San Joaquin to stay, first locating in Turlock, where he entered the employ of the late J. B. Osborn, and finally went into the employ of the late J. W. Mitchell, extensive stockman and rancher, as a teamster and warehouseman. He remained in his employ as foreman at Central Camp, and later established another camp, named Modesto Camp, and here he made a wonderful success as a buttermaker; the M. B. brand was known throughout the valley, and was the most popular butter carried in the Merced stores. Mr. Baleme made weekly trips to Merced with produce, and had no trouble in disposing of his output, for it was the best seller on the market. In the meantime, he made an investment in land on his own account, purchasing forty acres, six miles west of town, later adding ten acres to his holdings, and engaged in grain-raising; as his sons matured, he took them on as partners, at the same time conducting a more extensive business on leased lands, marketing his wheat, which was the principal crop, at Garibaldi Mills, Merced. In 1920, he sold out his mules to the Heinz Company, and bought a 75-h. p. C. L. Best tractor, and invested in his present ten-acre home place, one mile from Merced, where he enjoys the comforts of a newly-built, strictly modern home. He has set out his acreage to peach trees, which will soon be in bearing, making his place one of the show places of this section. He also owns residence property in Merced, and other desirable securities, and can surely be said to have reached success through his own unaided efforts, adding value to the

section he chose for a home, and doing his share in its development.

The marriage of Mr. Baleme, in Modesto, in 1886, united him with Louise Hamilton, who was born in San Jose, the eldest of seven children in the family of Alex Hamilton, whose father was a Forty-niner, and he himself came to California in 1858. He married Mary Ferrett, a native of New Orleans, and his death occurred at the age of sixty-three; in 1870, the family moved to Paradise City. They were also farmer folk. Thirteen children blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Baleme: John A., of Cressey; James E.; Loretta Berry; Albert V.; Louise M. Furtado; Helen Ellis; George F.; Josephine Tetzlaff; Fred M.; Walter W.; Mary E.; Irene Lorraine; and Emma N. Adams. There are nineteen grandchildren in the family. A Republican in politics, Mr. Baleme received his citizenship papers in Merced. Fraternally, he has been a Knight of Pythias since 1884, when he joined the Turlock lodge.

STILLMAN ROBERT SWAN

Another pioneer resident of Merced County may be found in the person of Stillman Robert Swan, who for more than a third of a century has been identified with the agricultural interests of this section of the State. It was in Oxford County, forty-seven miles from Portland, Maine, that Mr. Swan was born, on October 3, 1854, the son of Joseph Greeley Swan, who owned and farmed 200 acres in Oxford County, and who married Miss Temperance Allen, born at Wales, Maine. The Swans are of Welsh extraction; the paternal grandmother, Betsy Howe, was a descendant of General Putnam, of Revolutionary War fame, and the paternal grandfather, William Swan, a millwright by trade, was a drum major in the war of 1812. Stillman Robert Swan is the youngest of three children, the others being Sarah, who became the wife of John Swan and passed away in Merced, and Sylvia Howe, who became the wife of Albert L. Cressey, of Modesto, both now deceased.

Stillman Robert Swan received a common school education in his native State; he walked four miles to attend a high school, which was located at Denmark Corners. At Brownfield, Maine, on Christmas Day, 1876, Mr. Swan was married to Miss Addie A. Harnden, born in East Fryeburg Township, Oxford County, Maine, a daughter of Elbridge Harnden, Jr., a farmer and freeholder in Oxford County, who passed away at the age of forty-two years, leaving his widow and two children: Addie Augusta, the wife of our subject, and Ina M., who became the wife of Elmer Dayton Jones, and died in February, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Swan farmed the old home place in Oxford

County, Maine, for eleven years; then they decided to come to Merced County, California, where Mr. Swan's two sisters were residing. Mr. Swan rented land from his brother-in-law, Albert L. Cressey, and farmed to wheat, rye and barley for twenty-one years on 1700 acres of land two and a half miles south of Livingston. Prosperity attended his untiring industry and perseverance, and he bought twenty acres which he developed to fruit, and later sold and is now living in Livingston, retired from active business cares. Mr. Swan was painfully injured in an automobile accident in 1922 which incapacitated him for over a year. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Swan: Grace H., a partner with her brother, S. H., in the Steam Laundry in Livingston; Stillman Herbert, married Minnie A. Condon and is head of the Steam Laundry in Livingston; Claude Elbridge, a State traffic officer, living at Merced. During the World War he served in the machine gun corps and at the close of the war was discharged with the rank of corporal. Claude married Lucy Baker and they have one daughter, Geneva Louise. S. R. Swan has been active for the betterment of his locality and has been a member of the board of trustees of the city of Livingston since its incorporation. In politics he is a consistent Republican. He was among the first to subscribe to the capital stock of the First Bank of Livingston, and is a director. Although retired from active duties, Mr. Swan retains an interest in the Livingston Steam Laundry.

REV. GEORGE D. DOYLE

People familiar with the advancement of the Catholic faith on the Pacific Coast within the last third of a century unhesitatingly attribute a share of its growth to the untiring efforts of Rev. Father George D. Doyle, who since 1922 has been pastor of Our Lady of Mercy at Merced. George D. Doyle was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on October 18, 1868, the son of Thomas E. and Margaret (McKee) Doyle. Thomas E. Doyle was an artist of considerable ability and was particularly adept on interior decorating. Both parents are now deceased.

George D. Doyle acquired a liberal education. He attended grammar and high school in his native city, then pursued the classical course in the University of Pennsylvania, studied philosophy at the St. Charles Seminary at Overbrook and gained his theological training at St. Paul's Seminary at St. Paul, Minn. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Ireland, June 8, 1895. Following his ordination he taught in the seminary at St. Paul for six years; then he came to the Coast as a missionary under Bishop Conaty, who had charge of the Indian reservation in San Diego. Father Doyle remained on the reserva-

tion for thirteen years, and during this time he restored the Pala Mission, which was later, in 1916, destroyed by the flood of the San Luis Rey River, but was rebuilt by father Doyle. When the Indian school at Banning was built, Father Doyle was put in charge; he organized the Indians and built chapels. In 1906 the Banning Indian school was destroyed by fire and Father Doyle was instrumental in its restoration at a cost of \$75,000. Father Doyle was then transferred to Needles, Cal., and while there the church was destroyed also by fire. Father Doyle took charge of rebuilding a new church and remained there for two years when he went to Madera, remaining there until he took up the work at Our Lady of Mercy in Merced.

In a local newspaper in Merced of May 30, 1914, is the following historical review of the diocese where the church of Our Lady of Mercy is located. "Situated at the extreme southeasterly limits of the archdiocese of San Francisco, stands St. Patrick's Church, an edifice perhaps not of a very commanding appearance, being, in fact, built of wood, but around whose sacred precincts have foregathered many of the old pioneers of California, and within the sacred doors of which the same venerable priest whose name is intimately associated with its structure, still performs his solemn duties. Father McNamara, hale and hearty despite his advanced age, celebrates the sacrifice of the mass and performs the varied duties connected with his calling. He is known to everyone, not alone in Merced, but almost throughout the entire section of the territory, as his labors in the State have extended over a period of forty-three years. The church edifice and parochial residence are reminders of what might aptly be called the early pioneer life and buildings of California, for certainly in appearance they are woefully unlike many of the substantial and ornate churches gracing other cities. However, the parishioners are content, devout in their duties, and relatively speaking, the congregation is a large one. Father McNamara, of the old school, ripe in years and a close student of books, is a beloved priest on whom the shadows of age linger as if loath to show their hand, but willing rather to reveal the fount of a long and active life."

The first settlers were of Catholic persuasion, consisting of a number of hardy men who were in the section. The fall of 1868 saw their coming, and being fairly satisfied, these pioneers lacked only the spiritual comforts afforded in Catholic teachings to make their lives complete. They besought the aid of Archbishop Alemany, who referred the matter of a visiting priest to the parish of Mariposa. Two parishioners, Patrick Carroll and Michael Dougan, under the instruction of the Archbishop, induced Rev. T. Fitzpatrick to visit Merced, where he celebrated holy mass and conferred the sacraments, the ceremonies being necessarily performed in the private dwelling

of a parishioner. Father Fitzpatrick continued his service at odd intervals, the distance being great and the roads hard to travel. He was succeeded by Rev. Michael McNaboe, who labored along the line of his predecessor.

In the year 1871, Father Michael McNamara succeeded Father McNaboe as pastor of Mariposa parish, and in the year 1872 the Catholics in Merced set about the task of building a church of their own. A parochial residence was also built at that time, and with its completion and consecration, by Archbishop Alemany, came the appointment of Father McNamara who remained the pastor of St. Patrick's Church. The duties of Father McNamara up to and including the years 1887 called for many exactions, the parish being wide and scattered, embracing all of Mariposa and Merced Counties.

In 1916, after forty-three years of faithful service, Father McNamara was called to his reward. His body now lies in the splendid edifice since erected.

A few months after the passing of Father McNamara the Most Rev. Archbishop Hanna appointed Rev. T. J. Brennan pastor, who, recognizing the fact that, due to the increase in population, the time was now ripe for a modern structure, proceeded immediately to raise funds for the splendid edifice which stands today a monument to his zeal. Father Brennan was succeeded by Rev. Edward M. Looney in 1918, who in turn was succeeded in 1920 by Rev. T. J. Kennedy. Upon the erection of the diocese of Monterey and Fresno Father Kennedy was withdrawn to San Francisco and Rev. George D. Doyle of the Los Angeles diocese was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Mercy.

When the diocese of Monterey-Fresno was established in 1922 the diocese of Sacramento contributed Mariposa County and the archdiocese of San Francisco assigned Merced County to the new jurisdiction. Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Merced, was the only English-speaking parish in the two counties having a decent church.

The change of the name from St. Patrick's to Our Lady of Mercy took place when the new church was finished under Father Brennan by permission of the Archbishop. The humble parish house was replaced by a modern parochial residence.

The parish embraces all of Mariposa County, and Merced County as far north as Buhach, and west as far as Los Banos. The large attendance at St. Patrick's gives evidence that the faith of its parishioners is still as strong as that of its earlier members, who received only the visiting ministrations of a district priest.

Father Doyle prefers to stand by the principles of the Republican party, but is liberal-minded in selecting the candidate best suited to fill the office for which he has been chosen. Fraternally he is

identified with the Elks and the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Merced. He takes a good citizen's part in all civic affairs that aid in the prosperity and advancement of his community.

FRANK F. SOUZA

A prosperous and well-known rancher of the San Joaquin, Frank F. Souza has been active in development work in Merced County since November, 1888, and during that interval of time has built up a reputation as a sweet potato grower and shipper. Starting among the very earliest in sweet potato culture, he is now one of the largest shippers of that product in the valley, and his trademark on a shipment, "Frank Souza," carries weight to the trade wherever found, as to quality and evenness of product. A native of Caveira, Flores, Azores Islands, he was born September 21, 1869, the only son in a family of nine children born to his parents, Juan F. and Catherina (Souza) Mendoza, who lived and died in their native land, the mother in 1922, aged eighty years, and the father in September, 1925, aged eighty-three years. They were farmers, successful and well-to-do, and highly thought of by their many friends.

Frank F. received his education in the schools of his native isles; reared on the home farm, he saw but few opportunities ahead and decided to start for the New World, boarding the vessel Sarah, a three-master. After a voyage of twenty-one days, he reached Boston on May 22, 1886, with seven dollars and a half in his pocket, and took a job at New London, Conn., on ships and fishing smacks, at twenty dollars per month, working two seasons on the water. The inspiration received when he first saw Old Glory floating in the breeze on the Massachusetts shore, never left the immigrant lad, and his one object was to work and save, so that he could take advantage of the opportunities he felt sure awaited him in his adopted land. To this end he spent one and one-half years in New London, saving what he could of his wages, and also sending some home to the dear ones left behind; he was ambitious to succeed, and knew the only path for him lay through hard work and self-denial.

Late in 1888, with funds enough to make a start up the ladder, he came west to California, and on reaching here, went to work on the Chowchilla; later becoming foreman on a ranch for Joe King of Merced. After reaching this State he found so many named Mendoza that it was difficult to receive any mail; so he took the name of Souza from his mother's family, and has ever since been known as Frank F. Souza. For the next five years he worked and saved, and

in the meantime made several small investments which proved good, and he was soon able to start in business for himself, on twenty acres in the Buhach Colony. Over twenty-four years ago he made his first shipment, 240 sacks of sweet potatoes, to J. D. Martinez, a San Francisco broker, which brought him \$105. He has steadily carried on the business since, and in 1923 was the heaviest of any shipper in the district, as shown by the books of December of that year. He does most of his loading at Keyes and Fergus, dealing in fruits and sweet potatoes in the territory from Turlock to Merced, his brand finding a ready market, and known as dependable all over the State. In 1915, at the P. P. I. E. in San Francisco, he received the gold medal for sweet potatoes of the San Joaquin Valley.

The marriage of Mr. Souza, occurring at Martinez, Contra Costa County, on June 1, 1896, united him with Mary Frietas, born at Alamo, that county, and daughter of the late Joseph Frietas, a Forty-niner and gold miner in early days in California. Six children have blessed their union: Catherine, deceased; Rosa, Mrs. Arthur Brill, who has one son; John; Frank; Joseph; and Antone, deceased. Mr. Souza is the owner of 130 acres of choice farming land in the Merced-Atwater district. Besides his profitable shipping business he is interested in real estate in Atwater. A progressive man in every respect, he received his citizenship papers in Merced, from Judge Fred Ostrander, and has always been a true patriot to the land which has proved so kind to him, doing all in his power to bring even greater advancement to his section of the country. He is a stockholder in the Merced Security Savings Bank. Fraternally, he is a member of the Odd Fellows, both Lodge and Encampment, and is Past President of both the U. P. E. C. and the I. D. E. S. Societies. For over twelve years he served as school trustee in the Buhach district, helping to further the cause of education; and he is a member of the Buhach Catholic Church, and donated one-half acre of land to the Immaculate Conception Church.

ALBERT OSCAR JOHNSTON

There is something commanding respect and honor in the personal appearance of a man, and if to that is added a character of sterling worth we have a gentleman of whom any community is proud and does well to place in the foremost ranks of representative citizens. That is what we have in Oscar A. Johnston, dealer in hardware in Irwin, Cal. A man of powerful frame, large and generous-hearted, he has made his way to the top by an integrity of character, skill and native genius that have been the admiration of all who know him.

Mr. Johnston was the fourth of six children namely: Amanda, Mrs. Bjork, Sweden; Edward, who died single in Denver, Colo., 1910; Carl, who died single in Calexico, Cal.; Albert Oscar, our subject; Leonard F., a rancher in Irwin; Theodore, still in Sweden.

The son of Johanas and Anna Charlotte Johnson, he was born in Jan Kjoping, Sweden, April 24, 1871. His early education was obtained largely in the shop of his father, who was a blacksmith; it was there he got the principles of iron-working which made him an expert machinist. He was brought up and instructed in the faith of the Swedish Lutheran Church and passed his confirmation. Then, like all aspiring youths of red blood he began to think of what he was going to do in the world. His eyes were turned to the New World beyond the sea; accordingly on March 27, 1888, he embarked at Gottenberg on the Cunard line for England and after eight days in Liverpool he set out again for America and arrived in New York in April, 1888. His seventeenth birthday was passed on the train on the way from Chicago to Waverly, Nebr., where he found employment with his uncle, for whom he worked five years. With his earnings he was able to buy a threshing outfit, which he ran with unprecedented success. Being a natural machinist, he was able, not only to repair machinery of all kinds, but to make the tools to do it with, and he ran a whole season without losing more than an hour on account of a breakdown. For eight years he carried on this business threshing thousands of bushels of wheat, and he had a corn-sheller with a capacity of a thousand bushels an hour.

In May, 1902, he came out to the Hilmar Colony in California and bought 160 acres of land for himself and brother, who is living on that land. On December 1, 1906, he came to Turlock and engaged in farming and blacksmithing. He also had a blacksmith shop in connection with his farm for some years in Irwin. When he came to Irwin he sold part of his 160 acres to his brother and improved the rest of the farm with buildings. In 1918 he entered the hardware business in Irwin and built the A. O. Johnston brick block, 50x75 feet and further improved his sixty-acre farm; later he built a frame addition of the same dimensions, making a fine business block.

On February 6, 1915, he was married to Miss Hulda B. Anderson, a native of Minnesota and daughter of A. T. Anderson, now living in Irwin. There are two children of this union, Freda Olivia and Veda Evelyn, pupils in the Hilmar School. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are both members of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church. The name was originally Johnson but was changed to Johnston on account of confusion of names in the postoffice.

Mrs. Johnston's parents, A. T. Anderson and Hannah (Nelson) Anderson, were married in Minnesota and were farmers at Eagle

Bend, Minn. They came to California in 1912. They had two children, Hulda Beatta, now Mrs. Johnston, and Nels T., who served in France, was wounded and honorably discharged. The Andersons own a farm of twenty acres near Irwin. Mrs. A. T. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1867 and came to America when she was eleven years old.

JOHN PEARSON

When the Fin de Siecle Company launched the Hilmar Colony the first twenty-acre plot was bought by John Pearson, who still holds the title deed dated July, 1902 signed by the president, G. B. Bloss, and the secretary, Horace Crane. He and his good wife hold a high place in the affections of the people of the colony for their generous hospitality, their activity in the church and their intelligent efforts to promote the general welfare.

Mr. Pearson was born in Christianstadslan, Sweden, April 12, 1864, the youngest of five children, four boys and one girl, born to Per and Bertha (Oakesdatter) Soneson. John grew up in Sweden, worked on his father's farm, attended the public schools and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. The father was a carpenter and wagon-maker as well as a farmer; thus it came about that John learned the carpenter trade under his father, which afterwards was of great service to him. He served two years in the military camps and worked on farms when he was grown up. At one time he was employed on the farm of Rudolph Stjernsward, who was secretary to Queen Sophia of Sweden. Sone Pearson, John's elder brother, was the superintendent of that farm for eleven years. Niels Person Norberg, another brother, was already in Omaha, Nebr., and the favorable accounts which he wrote home induced John to bid goodbye to his native land and in the latter part of April, 1891, he embarked at Malmo, Sweden, for Hull, England; and passing through England to Liverpool, he sailed again on the "Teutonic" of the White Star Line and arrived at Old Castle Garden, N. Y., May 1, 1891. He proceeded at once to East Orange, New Jersey and got a position as gardener and coachman with E. B. Brooks, a manufacturer of government and railway supplies and held it eleven years. He united with the Swedish Mission Church in East Orange and helped raise the money for the new Mission Church which was built there in 1894.

It was in East Orange that he met Clara Wilhelmina Anderson, a native of Opland, Sweden, the daughter of Anders and Karen Person, farmers in her native country. She came to America when she was twenty years old and worked in East Orange, where she met Mr. Pearson. She came to California in 1902, worked for a while in Los

Angeles but soon went to San Francisco, when she accepted a position in the household of General Hughes at Fort Mason. Thence she came to Hilmar to marry Mr. Pearson, and was one of the first, if not the first bride in the Hilmar Colony, the nuptials being performed on April 25, 1903. They united with the Mission Church in Hilmar. Mr. Pearson brought with him letters of the highest recommendation from his employer in East Orange.

The land on which the Mission Church in Hilmar was located was donated by the Fin de Siecle Company. When the first church built by Rev. N. O. Hultberg became too small the present magnificent new church edifice was built in 1921-1922, Mr. Pearson being a donor. His knowledge of carpentry enabled him to build his own house and other buildings on his place, which is devoted to raising alfalfa, dairying, hogs and poultry. He has helped along the irrigation schemes of Merced County. He was a stockholder in the Rochdale store in Turlock. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have two children; Ethel Margaret is a student in the University of California studying to become a high school teacher; Arthur is in the Hilmar high school and helps on the home farm. Mr. Pearson is a Republican in politics but at all times aims to vote for correct principles and the man who may be relied upon to carry them out.

THOMAS A. WASSUM

It is a frequent occurrence that the entire family of Mr. Wassum gather around the festive board at his home in Atwater to enjoy all the good things to eat and to recount the good old times the pioneers of California enjoyed. There are six living children, sixteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren to be accounted for in this family. Though aged eighty-six T. A. Wassum is hale and hearty and enjoys the gatherings of his large and interesting family. He is now living in quiet retirement at his Atwater home, which he purchased from Charles Shaffer in 1919.

Thomas A. Wassum was born in Missouri on May 2, 1839, the eldest of five children, three of whom are still living, of Jacob and Jane (Alexander) Wassum, natives of South Carolina and Tennessee, respectively. As the son of a planter, when he grew up, Jacob Wassum was called "Squire Wassum." In 1846 he went down into Texas with a band of stock but the venture proved very unprofitable and he returned to his home in the spring of 1847. In 1852 he fitted out an expedition for crossing the plains to California, his outfit consisting of two yoke of oxen, one yoke of cows, fifteen head of cattle and a blind horse, which was ridden by one of the party in driving the loose stock. He joined a party of seventeen wagons

under James Fryer and Steve McReynolds, a Forty-niner, who headed the train. On account of making a late start they laid over in Salt Lake until it was safe to travel the following spring, when the party arrived safely in Eldorado County and settled at Mud Springs. Our subject worked at teaming, hauling supplies to the mines, with the ox-team, as his father was in poor health. His partners in the enterprise were Ed. Schlossi and a French boy. During the winter seasons they did prospecting for about ten years. In those early days Mud Springs was a considerable town and there was a camp of about 1500 Chinese there also. In 1922 Mr. Wassum made a trip by automobile through that section of the country and he was unable to locate any landmark that told of his early days in the section. During the time he was teaming he made a trip into the Napa valley and worked in the harvest fields. He located in the Berryessa Valley in 1870 and undertook to start a dairy business but the locality was not suitable for that industry and he turned to dealing in stock which he sold in the larger markets. He also raised grain.

The advent of the California pioneer into Merced County dates back to 1904, when he began renting large tracts of land in the Cressey and Livingston districts, also some in the Tully tract in Stanislaus County, and over in the Planada section. He raised large crops of grain and prospered exceedingly and when he sold his last standing grain crop in 1919 he decided he would retire.

On October 18, 1858, Mr. Wassum was united in marriage with Amanda Stice, born in Missouri on August 24, 1842. She was reared in the home of an uncle, Moses Stice, and crossed the plains with his family in 1857. Moses Stice became a well-known figure in the Sacramento Valley as a raiser of blooded stock and harness horses, but he suffered heavy losses in the flood of 1861-1862. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wassum the following children were born: Charles, a resident of Napa County, is married and has a family of six children; John, also residing in Napa County, is married and has a family of four children; Sarah lives at home and cares for her aged father; Clara married W. H. Johnston and died leaving four children, three now living. Her son, Finis E., was killed on the battlefield in France. Thomas now resides on the home ranch at Atwater, is married and has one daughter; Jennie, widow of F. A. Doane, resides at Atwater; and Jacob, a rancher in Stanislaus and Merced Counties, is married and has a daughter and son. Mrs. Wassum died on February 19, 1917, on the ranch near Atwater. Mr. Wassum has always been public-spirited and a believer in the great future of the Golden State. Now in the evening of his days he is surrounded by those he loves and is living in the enjoyment of the competence he won by his own exertions and sound judgment.



W. Adams

ELBERT GARNETTE ADAMS

Although not a native Californian, the earliest recollections of Elbert Garnette Adams are associated with the scenes of his adopted State, in which all but the first three years of his life have been spent. The family is of English ancestry, for many generations residents of New England; the first emigrant was supposed to have settled in New Hampshire. The paternal grandfather, Charles W. Adams, was born in New Hampshire and was directly descended from John and John Quincy Adams, who later became Presidents of the United States. Charles W. Adams settled in central Illinois in 1840, and ten years later crossed the plains via the Oregon trail and settled in Sacramento, Cal., where he established a shop on Front Street and engaged in business as a carpenter and cabinet-maker. He married Maria Henry, who is related to the Northern branch of the Patrick Henry family, and is a direct descendant of General Putnam, of Revolutionary fame. Charles W. Adams helped to build the first railroad in California from Sacramento to Placerville. Then he was employed on the Central Pacific Railroad, and still later he became a car-finisher for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. He died as a result of a fall in 1918, aged ninety years. His widow is still living at Berkeley, and has reached the advanced age of ninety-two years.

Charles Henry Adams, the father of our subject, was born at Springfield, Ill., and was four years old when his parents came to California. His preliminary education was obtained in the common schools of Sacramento; and while still a young man he went to New York City and there studied law and shorthand. He then returned West, and at Denver, Colo., was married to Miss Mertie Dratt, born at Canton, Ohio, the daughter of David Dratt, a Civil War veteran. David Dratt lived to be seventy years old, and was one of the last survivors of the battle of Lookout Mountain, which was fought above the clouds. Charles Henry Adams and his wife removed to Cripple Creek, Colo., where he was the first justice of the peace. Later, when they removed to San Francisco in 1892, he became a practicing lawyer and court reporter. He followed this profession at Santa Rosa, Auburn and Sacramento, being court reporter for the third appellate district court. Four children were born in the family: Benita, now the wife of H. N. Herrick, an engineer for the Standard Oil Co., residing at Berkeley, Cal.; Kenneth Clyde, who married Bernice Marshall and is a newspaper man residing in San Francisco; Elbert Garnette, our subject; and David Arden, assistant city editor of the Sacramento Bee, who married Phyllis Kramer and resides in Sacramento. The father passed away in Sacramento in 1921, aged sixty-two years.

Elbert Garnette Adams was born at Elizabeth, Colo., August 11, 1889, and lived there until he was three years old, when he was brought by his parents to California. He grew up and attended school in Santa Rosa and Auburn. During his junior year in the Auburn High School he left school and went to Sacramento, where he found employment as a reporter on the Sacramento Star, remaining in that position for three years. Then he went to San Francisco and became pony telegraph editor for the United Press at that place. From 1910 to 1912 he was a reporter on the Fresno Herald. In 1912 he became a citizen of Merced County and worked for three years on the Merced Sun. In 1915 he purchased the Livingston Chronicle, a weekly newspaper of eight pages devoted to the news of this section of Merced County. Mr. Adams has succeeded in putting the Chronicle on a paying basis, and has given to the Livingston section a necessary adjunct to its future prosperity and development. This newspaper was established in 1909 by the late P. H. Higgins, who passed away in 1912. When Mr. Adams purchased it in 1915, everything was in a run-down condition; he equipped the plant with new machinery, thus enabling him to turn out any job of printing that may be demanded.

On October 25, 1911, Mr. Adams was married to Miss Mayme Hamlett, of Le Grand, Cal., daughter of E. W. Hamlett, an old settler and rancher who still lives at Le Grand. Her father married Lillie Turner, daughter of Marion F. Turner, familiarly known as "Rupe" Turner. He crossed the plains from Missouri in 1851 with his father, Nicholas Turner, and the family settled on Mariposa Creek near where Le Grand now stands. In 1855, when Merced County was formed from a part of Mariposa County, the first session of the district court of Merced County was held at the home of Nicholas Turner on Mariposa Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Adams are the parents of two children, Vernon and Udell.

Perhaps no citizen has been more active in the development of Livingston than Mr. Adams. He made the first motion, as director of the Merced County Farm Bureau, which later resulted in the organization of the Merced Irrigation District; he became the secretary of the organization committee, bonds were voted, and the district was established. Mr. Adams never for a moment relaxed his zeal in this undertaking, and appeared several times before the California legislature in its behalf. He is local registrar of vital statistics at Livingston, holding this office by appointment of the State Board of Health, since 1918, when the law creating it was passed. Mr. Adams is a director in the Livingston branch of the California Home Improvement Association, with headquarters at Oakland. The most outstanding community enterprise in which Mr. Adams was the prime mover is the Community Fund, which has given to this section the reputation

of an exceptionally progressive community. Mr. Adams conceived the idea of the Community Fund, which is subscribed to in January of each year, practically every business house and other interest contributing a given sum monthly. The fund makes possible the maintenance of a thirty-piece community band, which renders weekly concerts from May to October each year; a winning baseball club; and an active booster club; and pays for all community enterprises, such as the community Christmas tree and a Raisin Day entry, and any other special undertaking. The Merchants' Association of Livingston is the director of this fund and designates how it shall be disbursed. Mr. Adams is the secretary of the Boosters' Club, successor to the old Board of Trade.

Becoming the candidate, in 1924, of the Democratic party for the forty-ninth California legislative district, comprising Merced and Madera Counties, Mr. Adams won out by the largest majority ever obtained by any candidate for the legislature in said district and that, too, in a Republican landslide year in a strongly Republican district. He has ably championed the interests of the producers of the State, having introduced and successfully passed Bill No. 225, known as the Commission Men's Regulation Bill. He has introduced several other bills and has especially sought to further the interests of the farm bureaus of the State. Four of his bills aimed at relief for the Delhi Land Settlement, one of which was introduced as a concurrent resolution calling for the appointment of a legislative investigating committee for the purpose of looking into the conditions at Delhi and resulted in giving substantial relief to the colonists. His influence is ever cast for the good of the people, according to true Jeffersonian doctrine. Both Mr. and Mrs. Adams are members of the St. Mark's Mission in Livingston. Fraternally, he is a member of the Fresno Camp, W. O. W.

A. W. STOTHERS

It was on August 28, 1874, that A. W. Stothers was born, a son of William and Caroline (Duff) Stothers, in Pratt County, Mo. Six weeks later the parents brought their son with them to California and here he grew up and attended school in the Russell district in Merced County. When he was twenty he started out for himself and leased 1260 acres of the Ivett property, south of Planada, and began operations as a grain farmer. He continued thus occupied for twelve years, sometimes having as many as 2500 acres in grain, principally wheat. In carrying on his operations he employed from three to forty men, as occasion required, and he had a combined harvester drawn by mules and horses, but as more modern methods came into vogue, Mr.

Stothers kept up with the period and was one of the first in this section to use a caterpillar tractor and combined harvester and thresher. In 1919 he gave up grain farming, and by 1923 he had set ninety acres to figs and twelve acres to almonds on his own property, which comprises some 414 acres in all; and on this ranch he has made every one of the improvements seen today, he having owned the land for the past twenty-five years.

On January 29, 1896, Mr. Stothers was united in marriage with Miss Violet A. Brady, born in San Diego County. Her parents having died when she was twelve years old, she came to Kings County to make her home with relatives and there she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Stothers have had five children: Eva, a stenographer in San Francisco; William Earl, still at home; Alma, a resident nurse at Lane Hospital in San Francisco; Eileen, also a stenographer in San Francisco; and Shannon Elmo, attending the Merced Union High School. Mr. Stothers is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Merced. In politics he votes the Republican ticket.

JOHN JERDINE BAXTER

It is getting more and more uncommon in this day to find a man who has remained on the home ranch, faithful to the responsibilities he took up as a boy, and carrying on the work of his pioneer parents, who undertook to develop barren land into acres of fruition for future posterity. And when we do find such men, we know that their outstanding characteristics are reliability and a steadfast "hewing to the line." J. J. Baxter was born on the ranch where he now makes his home, January 28, 1883, the youngest child now living in the family of James Campbell Baxter, pioneer rancher of Merced County. He received a good education, attended the Oakland High School, and later was graduated from the Oakland Polytechnic Business College in 1905.

Mr. Baxter resided in Oakland until 1906, which year he returned to the home ranch and worked for his brothers, D. A. and J. R. Baxter, and learned the fundamentals of ranch life from practical experience. He started ranching on his own responsibility in 1911 and has made a success of his chosen work in life, and he feels that Merced County has much to offer the settler who chooses this part of California in which to carry on development work. His ranch property now consists of 700 acres, and embraces the old Baxter home, in the Appling District, Merced County.

The marriage of Mr. Baxter, which occurred September 25, 1907, at Florence, Ore., united him with Miss Roberta Bond, born

at Plainsburg, Merced County, September 25, 1885, the only daughter of the late Rev. Lewis Robert Bond. She is a graduate student of music under Prof. Z. M. Parvin. One child has blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, Christine Margaret, born in Oakland, Cal., and a student in the Le Grand High School, class 1925. Fraternally, Mr. Baxter is a member of Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F., having joined that order in 1911; he also belongs to the Fraternal Aid Union of Le Grand, and in line with his ideas on cooperation, he is a member of the Le Grand Farm Bureau. In religious belief the family are members of the Presbyterian church.

LUTHER BATTEN

Coming from a long line of New England ancestors, Luther Batten was born August 28, 1848, on the Eau Claire River, in Wisconsin, a son of John Batten, Jr. His grandfather, John Batten, Sr., a native of Massachusetts, moved to Vermont when young and there spent the rest of his life, dying at the age of seventy-three. His wife, in maidenhood Hannah Banfield, spent her sixty years of life in the Green Mountain State.

John Batten, Jr., was born in Orange County, Vt., September 8, 1805. He served a seven-year apprenticeship as a carriage-maker in Springfield, then followed the trade in various parts of the country, finally going to Maryland, where he was connected with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as an employe. He subsequently assisted in building a canal along the Potomac River as far as Hagerstown. He then located in Philadelphia and was engaged in transporting coal from Mauch Chunk to that city. Resuming his trade he went to New York City and Buffalo, thence to Canada, where he embarked in the lumber business at Port Kent. His next move was to Michigan, settling at Monroe, then a straggling hamlet. In 1839, three years after his marriage, he moved to Galena, Ill., and from there to Grand Rapids, Wis., where as a pioneer dealer and operator he ran the first sawmill. He later went to Stevens Point, remaining there until 1870, when he went to Gar Creek, Lincoln County, Nebr., where he took up a tract of raw land and improved a farm. In 1879 he sold out and bought a tract in Lancaster County, where he lived until his death in 1891.

John Batten, Jr., was married in 1836, in Monroe, Mich., to Sophia Allen, a native of New York State. She died in Wisconsin at the age of eighty-six. Her father, Samuel Allen, was a cousin of Col. Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame. She bore her husband seven children, one of whom, Hannah, born in Galena, Ill., died in

childhood. The others grew to maturity: Mrs. Mary Chapin died in Nebraska in 1903; William lived in Wisconsin; Clarissa died in Wisconsin; Luther; John, of Waupaca; and Mrs. Adaline Dunbar, also of Wisconsin.

Luther Batten attended the schools of Wisconsin, then went with the family to Nebraska in 1870. In 1872 he homesteaded eighty acres on Gar Creek, and when he sold out he bought 160 acres in Oak Precinct, Lancaster County, where he settled with his family. He became owner of 290 acres, which he broke and improved into a very productive farm and where he carried on farming for many years, also raising stock and operating a threshing machine for about a quarter of a century, first using horse-power, but later using steam power. He was prominent and popular both as a citizen and a farmer and wielded a wide influence. In 1894 he came to California with his family and bought twenty-four acres near Dos Palos, where he started an orchard and developed eighteen acres to apples, pears, peaches, apricots, walnuts, figs, etc. He had thirty different kinds of trees on one acre for experimental purposes. He owned sixty acres in all and had an interest in the local telephone company and was manager of the G. A. R. park of ten acres.

On April 19, 1874, in Lancaster County, Luther Batten was married to Helen Hermance, born in Scio, New York, a daughter of J. L. Hermance. Her grandfather, John S. Hermance, born in 1806, died in Cuba, N. Y., in 1885. His wife was Marion Bristol, daughter of a clergyman. J. L. Hermance was born in 1832 in Rensselaer County, N. Y., and was a farmer. He served in Company C, Sixty-seventh N. Y. Volunteer Infantry, and was on detached duty at the Douglas Hospital, Washington, until July, 1862, when he was discharged on account of ill health. When he had recovered he reenlisted in Company A, 188th N. Y. Infantry, in which he served as color bearer for the Fifth Army Corps. He was mustered out after the Grand Review at Washington and returned home to take up civil life. In 1872 he went to Nebraska and took up a homestead north of Lincoln and improved a farm. He served as superintendent of the poor farm for six years. He later set out a fine orchard and improved a good farm five miles north of Lincoln, and eventually became a wealthy man. He was married March 28, 1852, to Esther Hawkins, also a native of New York. They had two children who grew up: Ernest Hermance and Mrs. Batten. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Batten was blessed with eight children: Ernest LeRoy died December 8, 1904; Carrie Addie died in 1901; Winnie died in 1903; and Elmer died in 1906, all dying or being buried on their twenty-first birthdays. Three other children died in infancy. Fay is the only survivor. Mr. Batten was a Republican

and fraternally belonged to the Maccabees. Mrs. Batten was a member of the Methodist Church, South. Mr. Batten died on August 29, 1911, and Mrs. Batten passed away on October 28, 1922.

WALTER W. THOMPSON

Among the varied industries for which California is noted is bee culture, and a man who has made a record for himself in that industry is Walter W. Thompson, of Dos Palos, inspector of apiaries for Merced County. The son of Ephraim and Martha J. (Cook) Thompson, he was born in St. Charles County, Mo., on May 21, 1873. His father was born in Wythe County, Va., on October 26, 1842, the son of Bryant and Barbara (Buchanan) Thompson, of old Virginia families and prosperous farmers and stockmen, Bryant Thompson owning a farm of 640 acres. Ephraim's education was interrupted by the breaking out of the Civil War and on April 6, 1861, he enlisted in a company of cavalry under Captain McDonald of General Stuart's division in the Army of the Potomac. He entered as a private, served through the war, was wounded three times, was captured and spent thirteen months in the prison at Camp Morton, in Indianapolis, and came out of the service a sergeant. After the war he went to Missouri and bought seventy acres of land, leased some more and farmed for twenty years. He was married at Crab Orchard, Va., on November 5, 1866, to Miss Martha J. Cook, born in Virginia, a daughter of Frank and Mattie Cook, farmer folk of the South. In 1890 the Thompson family came to Dos Palos, Cal., where the father bought thirty acres northwest of Dos Palos, and here he has farmed and raised chickens ever since. There were four sons in the family who grew up. Walter is the oldest of those living; the others are John T. and R. C.

Walter W. attended the public schools of St. Charles and O'Fallon, Mo., and when he was twenty-two he struck out for himself, going to El Dorado County where he mined; also following mining in Oregon and Idaho. In 1900 he came back to Dos Palos and improved a five-acre ranch he had purchased, and he also owns twenty acres in Fresno County and 480 acres in San Bernardino County.

On June 12, 1905, Walter W. Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Susan E. White, daughter of Henry Jackson and Sally White. Her mother was twice married and by her first husband she had a son, George Appleton. By the second marriage she had the following children: Rebecca, Mrs. Alvord of Merced; Eva, Mrs. Smith, also in Merced; Susan E.; Emma and Anna. Mrs. Thompson was born at Raymond, Fresno County and was educated in the

high school in Merced. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have two children: Virginia, wife of Orlo Cruisenberry of Los Banos, and Edward, a high school student, Class of 1926. Politically, Mr. Thompson is a Democrat. Fraternally he belongs to Santa Rita Lodge No. 124, I. O. O. F., in which he is a Past Grand; and he belongs to the Rebekahs and to the Modern Woodmen of America in Dos Palos. Mrs. Thompson is a member and Past Noble Grand of Rebekah Lodge No. 333, of Dos Palos. Mr. Thompson has been raising bees in Merced County since 1905 and has had as many as 600 stands at one time. He is an authority on bee culture and has served as deputy inspector and inspector of apiaries of Merced County since 1911.

FREDRICK HADLEY

When the discovery of gold in California was drawing thousands from all parts of the world, among the hardy and adventurous argonauts who crossed the plains in 1849 was Mark Hadley, who was born in Pottsville, England, and came here with his wife, Jane (Woodhouse) Hadley to Wisconsin. Leaving his family there, he came to California with a party, by the Platte River, Salt Lake and Ogden route. After a few years spent in mining he returned to Wisconsin and took up an eighty acre claim of government land at \$1.25 an acre and remained there until his death, in 1890, at the age of eighty. His wife was eighty-eight years old when she died in 1905. Fredrick Hadley, son of Mark Hadley, was born in Grant County, Wis., on July 6, 1848, and was one of thirteen children. Educated in the common schools and reared on his father's farm, he started out to work for himself when he was twenty-one.

On February 20, 1869, Mr. Hadley was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Brown, born in New York, near Binghamton, the daughter of Pulaski and Electa (Hugaboom) Brown, both natives of New York State. The Browns subsequently moved to Clayton, Iowa, where they farmed, later moved to Grant County, Wis., and after a time returned to Iowa and settled in Buena Vista County, and here the mother died, at the age of sixty-six. After her death, Mr. Brown went to Pennsylvania and there he died, when he was eighty-four years old. Mrs. Hadley is one of five children and the oldest living of the family and received her education in Grant County, Wisconsin. After her marriage with Mr. Hadley they farmed in Grant County for ten years, then moved to near Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, Iowa, and for seventeen years farmed there. Then they decided they would come to California, which they did, and located in Dos Palos Colony in 1895, being among

the first settlers. He bought forty-two acres over in Fresno County and ran a dairy. About 1906 they purchased property in Dos Palos and erected their home. Mr. Hadley owns several parcels of real estate in the town and has property in Madera and ten acres of his Fresno County ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Hadley have had four children. Laura E. married F. H. Grieme and had two children, Mrs. Eva Redfern and Mrs. Opal Malm. The latter has a daughter, Betty Marie. Mrs. Grieme died on September 22, 1923. Lucius S. lives in Fresno. He married Miss Bessie F. Gable and they have a son, Glen M. Edith May is the wife of E. P. Gable and resides at Long Beach and they have a daughter, Mrs. Madeline Hickok. Lela P. married B. F. King. She met an accidental death in an automobile accident in Modesto on March 20, 1925. Mr. Hadley served as a constable while living in Grant County, Wis. He is a Republican and is a member of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Hadley is a social member of the Maccabees.

CHARLES BIZZINI

The name of Charles Bizzini was well-known among the successful agriculturists of the Gustine section of Merced County for many years, where he located the year prior to the laying out of the town of Gustine. His birth occurred in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, November 4, 1855, a son of Rafael and Madaline Bizzini, also natives of that country. Charles Bizzini received a common school education in Switzerland and when twenty years old came to California and settled at Cayucos in San Luis Obispo County, where he worked as a ranch laborer; later he removed to Monterey County where he leased land and farmed.

At San Luis Obispo, on September 16, 1885, Mr. Bizzini was married to Miss Delfina Dalidio, also born in Switzerland, daughter of Jacimo Pietro and Mariana (Filippini) Dalidio. Her father had married in Switzerland and during the gold excitement in California came West leaving his family in the old country. He mined for twelve years, then returned to his home and there passed away at the age of fifty years. Mrs. Bizzini's mother lived to be seventy-one years old. There were four children in this family: Angelina, died in Switzerland; Delfina, the wife of our subject; Amelia, still makes her home in Switzerland; Theresa, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bizzini lived in Cayucos for three years. In 1906 they removed to Merced County and purchased seventy acres in alfalfa just south of where Gustine now stands; here a residence was built. Later he purchased a nine-acre ranch on which he built a house and this was used as the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Bizzini became the parents of ten child-

ren, namely: Elvira and Esther, twins. Elvira is now Mrs. Calanchini, and Esther is Mrs. Zanini, and has four children, Alma, Louis, Henry, and Walter; Dora is now Mrs. Bonta and she has four children, Floyd, George, Mary and Chester. Edward G.; Louis Ralph; Clara is now Mrs. McFaul; Amelia is Mrs. De Martin; Albert Charles; Rosalie is Mrs. Louis P. Taglio; and Nellie D., a graduate of the University of California, taught two years in the Gustine Grammar School and is now a teacher in the Gustine High School. Mr. Bizzini passed away at the family home July 2, 1917. He was an honored member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Gustine and a good citizen in every sense of the word.

ANTONE A. SOUZA

The career of Antone A. Souza, who has risen to be one of the largest dairy farmers in Merced County, is of unusual interest. Though of foreign parentage, he was born in Watsonville, Cal., on March 13, 1882, a son of Antone L. and Mary (Day) Souza, both natives of the Azores, the former of St. George and the latter of Flores. The father came to California in the early seventies and worked on ranches, was foreman on the Logan ranch, and also owned fifty acres five miles from Watsonville. He died at the age of sixty-eight; the mother is still living. There were five children in the family, namely: Antone, who died in infancy; Antone A.; Mary, Mrs. Amarante of Gustine; Joseph, deceased; Joseph, at Watsonville. The son Antone A. was educated in the grammar school and the business college in Watsonville, and when he became of age he started out to work for himself as a ranch hand. In 1904 he came to Los Banos, where he was married on September 6, 1904, to Miss Helen Mellow, born in Watsonville, the daughter of Frank and Lucy Mellow both born in the Azores, the father at St. Miguel, where he was a dairyman. They were pioneers of Monterey County, and are now deceased. There were nine children in their family, as follows: Mary, Frank, Lucy, Helen, Antone, Manuel, Joseph, Anna and John. Mrs. Souza was educated in the public schools in Pajaro Valley.

Upon coming to the West Side, Mr. Souza rented James Sweeney's ranch near Los Banos and had a dairy of fifty cows for one year. He then went to Watsonville and worked one season on a hay press, returning to the Cottonwood district where he purchased a quarter interest in a dairy of 100 cows; but four months later he sold it and worked for wages for a year. Then he engaged in a dairy business at Los Banos for a year and a half, when he sold out, and ran a dairy on the Noble Marsh place four months, and one

near Dos Palos for nine months. When he sold the latter he bought forty acres of land in the Cottonwood district, but disposed of this and went to Colusa County and with John Westfall ran a dairy on a percentage basis for a year and half. Mr. Souza then moved to a point seven miles below Knight's Landing in Yolo County on the Sacramento River and rented 2000 acres in the region now embraced in the Yolo County By Pass, but on account of the opening of this pass he had to quit this ranch and went to raising hogs and cattle, having about 400 head of each, continuing on one ranch four years. He then came to Cottonwood again and leased 648 acres on which he moved 375 head of cattle and thirty head of horses from Yolo County. The Cottonwood ranch is on the canal about six miles below Gustine. He leases several other ranches among which are the Jameson alfalfa ranch of 166 acres; the McCabe ranch of 320 acres, 200 acres of which are devoted to alfalfa; the Johnson ranch of 160 acres, 100 acres of which are in alfalfa; the Maude Wood's place of 345 acres, 150 acres of which is in alfalfa. He pays out \$21,000.00 a year for land he has leased, but he sub-leases some of these ranches to other tenants for dairies. He now has a herd of 450 dairy cattle and has purchased the J. D. McCarthy ranch of 160 acres. He does some dry farming and has 300 acres in grain about four miles out from Los Banos.

Mr. and Mrs. Souza have no children of their own but have reared the following children taken from the Watsonville orphanage, namely: Robert Pompey, Clifford Jones, Martin Heath, Antone Espinosa, Clifford Marshall, Louis Jensen and Victor Lawrence. In politics Mr. Souza is a Republican. Fraternally he is a member of the U. P. E. C., and of the Eagles of Los Banos.

JACK BANCHIO

Born in Brisbane, Australia, of Italian parentage, Jack Banchio is typical of the hardy mountaineers of northern Italy, as will readily be seen from an incident here related, which took place in his childhood days, and truly shows that "the boy is father to the man." His parents went from Piemonte, northern Italy, to Australia, settling in Brisbane, and there Jack was born and reared, and his schooling obtained in the public school. He had his own ideas on the subject of education, however, and when eight years old he decided to start out in life for himself, and ran away from home, starting afoot to the interior of Australia. The school and truant officers undertook to return him to his parents, and overtook him quite a distance from home; after capturing him they made him ride on a horse

with one of the officers, and while en route the officers, tired from their chase, stopped to get some refreshments, leaving young Jack on the horse; he turned a handspring off the animal, and was again soon lost in the brush. He this time headed across country, as the officers had threatened to whip him and put him in jail for being a bad boy, and he headed for Ipswich, where he arrived safely. The officers were soon in pursuit, but, being a strong, husky lad, used to the wilds, he succeeded in outwitting them and did not go home until he was about twelve years of age.

Not a long time following this occurrence, his parents left Brisbane for New Zealand, and after remaining there a short time they went to Sidney, Australia, and then decided to return to northern Italy via the Indian Ocean to the Isle of Ceylon, through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, then down the Mediterranean to Italy; so before their son Jack was much older he had become quite a traveled youngster and knew how to find his way about. On reaching young manhood he came to California, and finally landed in Merced County in 1910, where today he is one of the influential men of that district, one of the city trustees of Gustine, and proprietor of the Gustine Hotel, and Gustine Hotel Grounds. A man of originality and strong character, his influence is always for progress and the further advancement of his home section, and he has proven himself a real citizen of his adopted country. He has in his possession citizenship papers of England, Italy and the United States.

MICHAEL DE GREGORI

The sketch of the life of Michael De Gregori shows his wide experience in America and in foreign lands. He was born in Naples, Italy, on September 29, 1841, the youngest of three children born to Antonio and Laura De Gregori. As a lad he followed the sea and during his travels landed in New York; from there he came to California via Cape Horn and found employment on a ranch after his arrival. He later went to Stockton and raised vegetables in San Joaquin County, which he sold in the city. He was married in Stockton on May 19, 1877, to Miss Adeline Alegretti, born in the province of Genoa, Chiavari, Italy. Her father was a sculptor and an artist and died when his daughter was only seven years old.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. De Gregori lived in Stockton, where their first two children were born. Then they moved to the Stevinson Colony in Merced County, leased ten acres of land and raised vegetables. In 1887 they moved to the West Side and bought 320 acres of land about four miles southeast of what is now

the town of Gustine and improved the land and made it their home for several years. This ranch is still owned by Mrs. De Gregori and is devoted to all kinds of farm produce. Their next move was to buy eighty acres one mile from the New Era Creamery and run a dairy. They leased this property and moved into Gustine, where they bought a home, and here Mr. De Gregori passed away on November 20, 1915. Mrs. De Gregori resides in this home.

This worthy couple had eleven children: Sylvia, Mrs. Rimola, died leaving one son, Paul; Joseph, of Los Banos has five children, Walter, Ernest, Oliver, David and Annie; Artelia, deceased; Frank, of Gustine has a son, Michael; Louis, of Los Banos has two children, Blanche and Elmer; Antonio, of Newman; Mary, widow of J. O. Souza has two sons, Clinton and Vernon; Annie, Mrs. D. J. Canale, of Santa Cruz has one daughter, Virginia; Laura and Louise, twins, the former deceased; and George.

JAMES T. RAGSDALE

The owner of the Ragsdale subdivision and addition to Merced, James T. Ragsdale, has a national reputation as a dealer in horses, mules and blooded stock. It was a business that came naturally to him from his father. He was born on a farm in Missouri on October 25, 1869, the fourth of nine children born to Thomas and Betty (Smith) Ragsdale, both natives of Missouri. The elder Ragsdale was a farmer, who owned vast tracts of land in Missouri before the first railroad bridged the Mississippi; he was also a well-known buyer of mules and horses, taking large droves of them to St. Louis. He devoted his life to that work and was a most successful business man; he died at the age of sixty-nine, and his wife at the age of sixty-eight.

James T. Ragsdale was brought up on the farm and attended the Washington district school. At the age of eighteen he began an interest in his father's business, taking charge of 160 acres, five miles south of Shelbina, and was there located until 1902, in the meantime engaging more and more in the breeding of shorthorn cattle, buying and selling mules and horses and handling as high as 2000 head of horses and mules in a season, shipping them to Texas and into the South. As a buyer he represented Brown and Price and Clay Robinson, of Chicago. During those days he never failed to show at the county and state fairs of Missouri for thirty years. At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, he and his father took many premiums; he was the only one of his brothers who followed in the footsteps of their father in the stock business.

In 1893 James T. Ragsdale was married in Missouri to Miss Nannie Whaley, a native of Missouri, and they have a son, Marcus, who is married and has three children. Mr. Ragsdale and his family came to Merced County in 1902. The county was a great wheat belt and he began farming on a ranch two and one half miles out of Merced on the Oakdale road. Six months later he invested in Merced town property, and buying out the Merced Livery Stables changed the name to Yosemite Stables. From time to time he added other stables until he had three of the largest livery stables in Merced County with a string of seventy-five horses. During this time Mr. Ragsdale brought to Merced the first five-gaited horses. He owned the celebrated Monroe McDonald, a \$1000 three-year-old; in 1914 he was the gold medal grand champion winner at the Sacramento State Fair. He also owned the champion stallion, Orfeld Prince who was bought, in 1910, by Miller & Lux.

In 1914 Mr. Ragsdale sold out his entire livery stable business owing to the coming of the motor vehicles and has since devoted a great deal of attention to the buying and selling of mules and horses throughout the valley. He represented T. H. Gilroy, of Kansas City, as agent of the U. S. Government in purchasing and shipping animals in 1917-1918, handling 150 a week throughout the valley from Sacramento to Bakersfield. He also shipped to Guyton and Harrington Mule Company at Kansas City, Mo. He was made the initial horse and mule inspector for California. Soon after the call came from the U. S. Government for horses and mules for war purposes, in association with Godfrey Priest of Long Island, he transported mules to French soil, and conducted the first inspection of war stock for the French government held in California, which took place in Merced when 250 horses were inspected. Since the war he has dealt with Rominger & Co., of Fort Worth, Texas, supplying work stock for southern cotton planters. He has shipped to Lambert and Langley in Salt River Valley and Phoenix, Ariz., also to Honolulu and other foreign ports. In 1920 he quit the stock business and entered the real estate field and bought the Bradley Tract embracing fifty-two acres, on Bear Creek at the eastern boundary of Merced, and placed the Ragsdale Addition on the market and found a ready response, for its value is unequalled in the State.

He has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America thirty years; the Court of Honor twenty years; an Odd Fellow and a Rebekah in Merced for seventeen years. Mr. Ragsdale served as city trustee, 1918 to 1921, resigning the latter year when he removed from the city into the Ragsdale Addition of Merced. He has made two trips East since 1902, and has returned each time with a higher appreciation of California.

FRANK P. BALDWIN

The eldest in a family of five children, Frank Baldwin was associated with his father, Perry Baldwin, until his death. Perry Baldwin was a farmer of the frontier who came with his wife, who was in maidenhood Miss Lavancha Woodard, to Hamilton County, Iowa, where their eldest son was born. Other children of the family were Blanch, Mrs. Clarence Worthy of Berkeley; Etta, Mrs. Hugh Doyle of the Dos Palos Colony; Carl and William, both deceased. Frank Baldwin was educated in the common schools of Iowa and went with the family in 1895 to California, and located in the Dos Palos Colony. The father bought forty acres there and later added forty more. Frank worked with his father and helped develop the land. His father died March 28, 1921, aged seventy-six. His mother lived to the age of eighty and died April 20, 1919.

In August, 1921, Mr. Baldwin was married to Miss Rosalie Baldwin, who was born in Iowa, the daughter of Andrew Baldwin, and they reside on the old Baldwin homestead.

Hugh Doyle, a brother-in-law of Frank Baldwin, is a native of Coles County, Ill., born at Lerna, on June 16, 1876, a son of James and Elizabeth (Lynn) Doyle, natives of Ireland, who had five children as follows: Charles, deceased; Edna, of Corning, Cal.; Hugh; James and Elizabeth, both of Dinuba, Cal. Hugh attended the grammar schools of Illinois and started out for himself doing odd jobs at the early age of twelve. Drifting from place to place over the west he rode the range in Wyoming and Montana, and came from Denver, Colo., to Dos Palos, Cal. He worked two years for Miller & Lux.

Hugh Doyle married Etta Baldwin on January 3, 1904. Since then he has successfully engaged in farming in the north end of the Dos Palos Colony.

JASPER PARNELL

A native of California, Jasper Parnell is a highly esteemed citizen of Merced County. He was born in Calaveras County, November 14, 1853, a son of John Parnell, who was a native of England and came to America in 1840, settling at Galena, Ill. He was a steamboat engineer, subsequently becoming a resident of Wisconsin. In 1850 he crossed the plains with horse teams and mined in Calaveras County until 1867, when he located on the West Side in Stanislaus County, near Grayson. He took up 160 acres of government land and improved a fine ranch, meeting with good success and increasing his holdings until he owned 1000 acres. When he retired

he went to Stockton and bought a home and lived there; he also had a summer home at Pacific Grove, where he died July 28, 1902. He had married Julia Stevens, who was born at Cornwall, England and died at Stockton, Cal., January 2, 1903. They had four children, three sons and one daughter.

Jasper Parnell was the oldest son and second child. He attended the schools in Calaveras County and went with his parents to Stanislaus County, where he assisted his father to improve the home ranch and where he became familiar with the various branches of ranch work. In 1887 he bought a ranch of his own, consisting of 480 acres in Merced County, near Ingomar; he also owns another ranch of 320 acres near Grayson.

In Stockton, Jasper Parnell was united in marriage with Cassie Barney, a native of Pennsylvania, and they have had three children: Stella, Harold and Cora. Mr. and Mrs. Parnell spend most of their time on the home place, but enjoy their home at Pacific Grove during the summer. Mr. Parnell is a Democrat. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World.

MELVIN NEIGHBOR

The seventh child in a family of eight children born to his parents, Melvin Neighbor was born at Snelling, October 20, 1891, a son of Gilbert B. and Matilda (Smith) Neighbor, early pioneers, a sketch of whose lives is given on another page of this history. He received a good education in the public schools. He grew to manhood and assisted his father in the store, later formed a partnership with him, and they continued to carry on a general merchandise business until 1920, when they sold out and closed their building. On March 27, 1919, Melvin Neighbor was appointed postmaster of Snelling and has efficiently served the people of his locality. On February 1, 1921 he became the agent for the American Railway Express, and about the same time became agent for the Yosemite Valley Railroad, serving with the efficiency inculcated by his father, who was faithful to every trust reposed in him.

Melvin Neighbor was united in marriage with Miss Mable J. East, the ceremony being performed at Merced. She is a daughter of J. W. East, formerly of Watsonville, but now of Snelling. They have two children; Esther and Ruth. Mr. Neighbor has done much to keep alive the community spirit of Snelling and when the postoffice was to be taken away by default he offered his services and the use of his building free. He handles the duties of the office efficiently and is counted one of the progressive men of his locality.

POMPILIO STEFANI

Men of the type of Pompilio Stefani, who have come here from the farms and vineyards of their native countries, and have brought their first-hand knowledge of all forms of agriculture to a new land, helping in its development and upbuilding, are very real factors in our present-day prosperity, and deserve to be mentioned in its personal history. Born February 2, 1871, at Marla, Province Lucca, Italy, Mr. Stefani was the seventh of ten children born to Constantino and Maria (Lorencetti) Stefani, both natives of Italy, where the father was a farmer and vineyardist. He attended the public schools of Marla, and was reared on the home farm, learning in his boyhood the unceasing effort necessary when reaping a harvest from the soil.

Mr. Stefani served twenty-three months in the 8th Regular Infantry of the Italian National Army, and at the end of that period decided to seek his opportunity in America. Leaving Italy on July 4, 1894, he went to Havre, France, and there boarded the steamship Fulda, and ten days later reached New York. He had been preceded to California by a brother, Carlo, who came in 1892, and he himself came direct to San Francisco from New York.

September 12, 1894, Mr. Stefani came to Merced County, and at once entered the employ of Thomas Wood, then superintendent of the Santa Rita ranch; his wages were twenty dollars per month, working in the dairy and alfalfa, and he spent three years in their employ. He worked in the Italian Colony in Madera County, and remained there six months during the harvest season of 1896. Returning to Merced as foreman of the ranch workers' gang on the grain ranch of the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, he was thus occupied steadily for the next six years. In the meantime, in 1903, he invested in twenty-nine acres of land in Ash Colony and his property today is known as Franklin Corners, three miles north of Merced on the State Highway. Here he set out a vineyard of black grapes and a fruit orchard, and now has a highly developed property, with class A buildings and residence. He added seventeen acres by subsequent purchase, and set out more vineyards, and in 1923 he erected a fireproof garage building, 40' by 80' on the Franklin Corners, and has leased the corner to a garage and service station company. In all this development work, Mr. Stefani has added to his own resources, and at the same time has added to property values in the county. A man who believes in the judicious investing of his savings for permanent improvements, he has been an upbuilder to the community where he settled and makes his home.

The marriage of Mr. Stefani, at Marla, Italy, when he returned home for a nine months' visit, in 1908, united him with Teresa

Marchini, a native of Lucca, and third of six children born to her parents, Joseph and Anna Marchini, farmers of that place. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stefani: Annie, Constantino, and William. Mr. Stefani received his citizenship papers in Merced in 1897, and is a Republican. Fraternally, he has been a member of the Merced Lodge of Druids for eleven years.

ALBERT G. TRACY

Known throughout Merced County as an expert on fig growing and developing, Albert G. Tracy has been one of the most important factors in that branch of horticulture in this section of California, for he not only has brought his own acreage to the highest state of cultivation and valuation, but he has been of very material aid in helping others to do the same. He is known to all as a genuine man, ready to help those in difficulty, among whom he is known as the "Fig expert," gaining the title through actual experience with problems of his own in the industry.

Mr. Tracy is a native of Ohio, born in Toledo, August 12, 1874, and he is the only survivor of a family of four children born to George A. and Sarah (MacElroy) Tracy, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of New York State. George A. Tracy, who at the venerable age of eighty-four years is making his home with his son, of this review, has an enviable record as a building contractor. Coming to Los Angeles at the tail end of the boom of 1886, he remained there six years, and then moved to Fresno, in 1892, and he has been a leader in the trade for over forty years of building in the State. His wife passed to her reward on October 22, 1922.

Albert G. received his education in the schools of Los Angeles and Fresno; and in 1896 with a party of thirteen Fresno men, he went north to the west coast of Alaska, and was absent for four and one-half years. On his return to California he entered the service of Uncle Sam, and with the United States Regulars, went with a pack-train into the Boxer region of China during that uprising, occupying the territory for twelve months. He was afterwards with the troops under Major Case in the Philippines, and with Engineer Andre in road construction and helped put in the first American roadbeds on the islands. He was elected sheriff of Sourgé, and filled that office for three years.

When he returned to California and civilian life, Mr. Tracy located in Fresno, and took up horticultural work in 1905. Starting on

forty acres in the McKinley district, and with limited means at the start, he has made several remarkable achievements in his chosen field as a fruit man. Raisin grapes and peach-growing were his first endeavors, and for seven years he tussled with each as a problem, both from the standpoint of grower and also the marketing side of the industry, which in the days before cooperation was a very serious problem for the grower. Mr. Tracy was instrumental in organizing, and is a charter member of the California Peach and Fig Growers Association. He developed a fine ranch, and acquired other valuable holdings in Fresno, which he disposed of, on his removal to Merced County.

His latest success has been in the Black Mission and Adriatic fig industry, and he is conceded by those who know to be an expert authority on fig growing in California; his counsel and advice is sought from near and far. In 1912 he sought a new field in which to develop the fig, then in its infancy as an industry and unknown to the large majority of valley ranchers as a producer, and a profitable one. He looked up and down the State, and after careful consideration chose the Merced district for his development work. Purchasing a tract of land five miles east of Merced, on Childs Avenue, up to the present writing he has developed into fine fig groves some 300 acres of land, having in the meantime engaged in the real estate business, with an office in Merced until a short time ago, when he discontinued his town office and now transacts all his business at his home, situated on the site of his first location in the county, and surrounded by eleven acres of figs in a highly developed state. Mr. Tracy named some of the avenues in his district, and he was one of the pioneers in an industry which has been of far-reaching effect in placing Merced County near the head of California's fruit districts, the value of which will be shown more and more plainly as the years pass.

November 15, 1905, occurred the marriage of Albert G. Tracy to Miss Maude L. Beck, a native of Kansas City, and daughter of a pioneer Fresno family, where her parents now reside. Mr. Tracy is a member of the Masons and Odd Fellows, both of Merced.

DAVID CASARETTO

It was a piece of very good fortune that M. Caton, of Atwater, was able to get such a capable and efficient manager as David Casaretto for his meat market in the Martha Washington Stores, Inc. at Atwater. Having a most thorough knowledge of the butchering, meat-packing and curing industry gained by long years of experience,

he is able to handle the customers in such a way as to make the best of friends of every one with whom he has dealings and has proved a most valuable help to his employer. He was born in Indian Gulch, Mariposa County on June 24, 1856, the second of four children. His father, Giuseppe Casaretto, is mentioned in another place in this book. He attended the Merced Falls school and was reared at Indian Gulch. He began the wool-growing business in company with his brothers and continued in it until 1884 when he took up the butcher trade, which he followed in Arizona and Colorado as a journeyman for forty years. Six years ago he came to Atwater and became manager of the Sanitary Meat Market, where he remained until 1924. About January 1, 1925, he assumed his present position. He owns his residence in Atwater. He does not tie to any political party but votes for the best men and measures at all elections.

Mr. Casaretto was married in Colorado Springs, Colo. in 1888, to Miss Ella McElroy, a native of Missouri, who came to California with her parents. There are four children of the union, viz.: Verne W., of Atwater; Ruth, wife of Charles Wirow, in San Diego County; Hazel, wife of Arthur Davis of Los Angeles; and Herbert, who died at one year of age. There are also six grandchildren.

MATTHEW JENSEN

The son of a baker by trade, Matthew Jensen was born in Schleswig, Denmark, on March 4, 1867, and there he attended the common school. To the same school went Margaret Lindberg, who came from a neighboring farm; they met daily and played together. Matthew Jensen was the fourth in a family of seven children: Doretta, Mary, Harvey, Matthew, John, James and Anna, deceased.

Matthew, at the early age of fifteen, started out to make his own living and came to America and California. A stranger in a strange land, ignorant of the customs and the language, and with no means or influential friends, it was a tough proposition which faced the lad. But he got a job on a ranch near Watsonville and for eight years worked around on different ranches. Then he went to San Louis Obispo and worked two years. By saving his money he had accumulated funds enough to go into the dairy business on his own account, and with a partner carried on dairying seven years on rented land. The profits were not so good but that an engagement with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company seemed to be a little better and for many years he was in their employ, first as a section hand, three years as inspector of tracks, and seven years as section fore-



Hellie Agnes Taglio P. L. Taglio

man of the Tracy Division. But before this he bought a ranch two miles south of Los Banos and built a home and farm buildings.

The girl he used to go to school with in his native land had come to America five years before, and they were married in Watsonville on November 12, 1892. In 1910 he resigned from the railroad business to devote his time to the little home ranch where he resides in comfort today. There were eight children born to this union, viz.: Anna, Mrs. C. C. Anderson of La Center, Wash.; Antone E.; Eva, Mrs. Joseph Ellis of Los Banos; Mark L.; James, deceased; Margaret E. (Rita Beth), Mrs. M. J. Lane of Livermore; James H.; and John Norman. Mrs. Jensen passed away on December 30, 1924, aged fifty-four years, six months and one day, mourned by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Jensen is a Democrat in politics and fraternally is a member of the Woodmen of the World.

MRS. NELLIE A. TAGLIO

The name which heads this review is representative of one of the oldest families of Monterey County, Cal., where Mrs. Taglio was born, a daughter of John B. and Juanita (Artellen) Leoni, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Monterey, Cal. The mother of our subject is one of the oldest native daughters in the State born of white parents, her father having been Peter Artellen, a native of France and among the first white settlers in Monterey. His wife was born in Monterey, of Spanish parents, who had immigrated from Spain. The parents of our subject were married in Monterey and engaged in farming in that section until the father's death in 1914, at the age of seventy-one. The mother has reached the age of seventy-four years, and makes her home in Watsonville.

Nellie A. Leoni attended public school and the Catholic convent in Salinas. On April 14, 1892, Miss Leoni was married to Peter L. Taglio, a native of Switzerland, son of Louis Peter and Dominica Taglio, who never left their native country. Peter L. Taglio was educated in the schools of Switzerland. In 1886 he came to California and first settled in Sonoma County, where he worked as a dairy hand. He attended night school while working and became proficient in the English language. He removed from Sonoma County to San Benito County, and there established a dairy of his own, continuing until he sold this business and removed to Salinas, where he engaged in the dairy business with 100 cows for the following eight years. He sold this business at a good profit and engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping cattle and hogs to the San Francisco markets. Following this, Mr. Taglio engaged in farming at Gonzales, Monterey

County, for four years. Fourteen years ago he located at Gustine. Here he purchased the old Sturgeon ranch, consisting of 163 acres in the Cottonwood district, and conducted a dairy until 1919, when he turned the management of it over to his three sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Taglio removed to Gustine, where he bought four acres within the city limits. He lived retired in his new home until his death at the age of fifty-eight years, and here Mrs. Taglio still makes her home. They were the parents of seven children: Louis Peter, Romeo, Peter, Phillip, Nellie, Theodore, and Raymond. The son Romeo served as a corporal in Company M, 364th Infantry, 91st Division, and saw service in France. Mr. Taglio was active in all Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives during the World War; he was a member of the Gustine Chamber of Commerce and was exceedingly public-spirited, taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the progress and development of his locality. Fraternally he was a member of the Druids and had passed through all the chairs of that order. He was a Democrat in politics, and was a faithful member of the Catholic Church, of which Mrs. Taglio is a liberal and consistent communicant.

HUGH L. NEWSOM

A well-known and successful dairyman and rancher, Hugh L. Newsom was born in Oakland, Cal., on January 10, 1877, the son of Alexander and Corine (Jones) Newsom, the former a native of Toronto, Canada, and the latter born in San Jose, Cal. Grandfather Hugh Jones was one of the early pioneers of California, where he became a cattleman and settled in the Santa Clara Valley. Hugh's father died when Hugh was very young and his mother married W. W. Wright, who is now residing in the hills near Los Banos. His mother died at the age of thirty-eight. Hugh had two step-brothers, William and Walter, and two step-sisters, Nell and Bell. Mr. Wright was a stockman and moved to Merced County in 1883 and settled in the Romero District, where Hugh attended school. At the age of thirteen he started out to work for wages; he milked cows and drove a milk wagon in Los Banos. Later he went to the mountains west of Los Banos and worked for his board and attended school in the Alvarado district. Afterwards he went to the mines at Angel's Camp in Calaveras County and worked with the compressed air drill in the mines of the "Mother Lode" four years. He went to Oakland and took a business course in Aydrott's Business College after which he was employed with W. P. Fuller and Co. in San Francisco as interior decorator; he then took up the work of artistic designing and painting for the company and continued in the business

with the Fuller Company up to the time when the Tozer Company purchased the wall paper and decoration departments, Mr. Newsom continuing with the new firm, putting in altogether eleven years. He was next employed in the same work by Edgar De Wolf of San Francisco. In 1905 he formed a partnership in the dairy business with Manuel A. Marshall.

Hugh L. Newsom was married on November 23, 1904 at Ross, Cal., to Lucia A. Marshall, born in Ross Valley, and a sister of his partner, Manuel A. Marshall. Mr. Newsom is a Republican in politics; fraternally, is a member of Golden West Parlor No. 50 N. S. G. W., of Oakland. He is also a member of the Building Trades Council of San Francisco.

FAY W. BATTEN

Though comparatively a young man, Fay W. Batten has achieved very satisfactory results both in business and in farming, which have won for him the respect and confidence of the community where he has attained to positions of honor and trust. The son of Luther and Helen (Hermance) Batten, he is now the only living member of the family. A sketch of his father is given on another page in this history. Fay was born at Raymond, Nebr., on July 16, 1894 and when a babe in arms was brought to Dos Palos, Cal., and he attended the Reynolds Avenue school, then had two years in high school and one year at the College of the Pacific in San Jose. He was always associated with his father in business matters and some time before his father died he was managing the ranch. The father owned 160 acres, and this property is now owned by our subject and is devoted to alfalfa, dairying and gardening. From 1919 to 1922, Mr. Batten and Frank Allen were partners in a grocery in Dos Palos.

Mr. Batten has been twice married. His first wife was Mabel E. Birkhead, born in Troy, Mo., on September 4, 1889, the daughter of Shapely and Mollie Birkhead, who brought their family to California in 1895 and settled in Tulare County. Their marriage was celebrated on June 18, 1913. They had three children born to them, only one now living, Fay Elizabeth. Mary Helen died in infancy and Luther Batten died on May 17, 1922, aged five years. The wife and mother passed away on December 21, 1918 and her loss was keenly felt by all who knew her.

The second marriage of Mr. Batten, uniting him with Eleanore Sargent, took place on September 1, 1923. She is the daughter of John Emery and Elizabeth (Pitts) Sargent, natives of Ohio and California, respectively. Grandfather Pitts was an early settler in

California, coming soon after the end of the Civil War. J. E. Sargent is a lumberman and has a yard at Upland, Cal., where he and his wife make their home. One sister, Mrs. Katherine Matthews, lives in San Francisco. Mrs. Batten was educated in Pomona College and taught school in Dos Palos prior to her marriage. Besides looking after his ranch interests, Mr. Batten is acting as agent for the Ford and Lincoln automobiles and the Fordson tractor. In 1922 he was elected a member of the Dos Palos Grammar School board and served as clerk. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and is non-partisan in his politics. For several years he did considerable work with the Boys' Agricultural Club and was active in the Farm Bureau. Mrs. Batten belongs to the Dos Palos Women's Improvement Club.

SERAFINO BORSINI

The path to fortune is not strewn with flowers even under the most favorable conditions. In the life of Serafino Borsini there were many obstacles to be overcome which would have discouraged many young men, hence the success to which he has attained is worthy of mention. He was born in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on April 25, 1855, the son of Sebastian and Josephine (Berta) Borsini, farmer folk in Switzerland who spent their entire lives there, the father dying at the age of fifty and the mother at seventy years. The sixth of eight children, Serafino received his schooling at the local school and when he was nineteen he came to America, arriving in Nevada in 1874, where he found employment in the mines and in the woods near Virginia City for a year. He then came to Plumas County, Cal., worked as a milker at twenty dollars a month and found for the first four months, on a dairy in the Sierra Valley. Even with this small wage he was soon able to buy cows and go into the dairy business for himself. In 1905 he came to Merced County, purchased forty acres of alfalfa land north of Cottonwood school house and here he has carried on a prosperous dairy business ever since. Mr. Borsini became an American citizen in 1883 and votes the Republican ticket at all times.

On October 30, 1883, Mr. Borsini was united in marriage with Miss Celia Mead, daughter of Allen and Mary (Price) Mead, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Grandfather Price crossed the plains with oxen and a prairie schooner in the pioneer days and settled in Plumas County. Allen Mead was a teamster; both he and his wife have passed on. Mr. and Mrs. Borsini have had nine children, viz.: Carrie Edna, Mrs. F. B. Sleeper of Oakdale; Mary Josephine,

widow of Al Terzich, of San Francisco; Katherine Alberta, Mrs. Robert Cassity, has six children, Frances Lucille, Fay Roberta, Robert Hulen, Aloha May, Vernon Claire and Helen Grace; Frankie Rae, Mrs. George Gilligan of San Francisco, is the mother of Ernest, Melba, Dorothy, Juanita, Frank, Mary, Jack and Jeanette Gilligan; William S., who died when seven years old; Celia Rebecca, married Herbert Graham of Vancouver, Wash., and has a son, Bruce; Albert Sebastian and Allen Carlton, twins; Brenda Avis, Mrs. Laurence Sterling, of Gustine. Mr. and Mrs. Borsini are public spirited and hospitable people and assist in doing good wherever they can.

HOWARD M. AND RUSSELL B. HUNT

Located four miles south from Gustine is the fertile alfalfa ranch comprising 340 acres that is owned by Howard M. and Russell B. Hunt and was inherited by them from their father, the late Martin Luther Hunt. He came from Quebec, Canada, where he was born in 1858 and was a pioneer of 1884 in the Golden State. He was engaged in the retail milk business in San Francisco for seven years after his arrival here, and it was in this State that he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Green, a native of Vermont. After a successful business career in the bay metropolis Mr. Hunt came to the Quinto ranch, located in the hills on the West Side in Merced County, and for the ensuing eighteen years held the position of superintendent, supervising the details of the operation of this large tract of land very successfully. In the meantime he invested in the 340 acres now owned by our subjects and here he made the improvements that today make the ranch what it is. In point of years he did not live long to enjoy his splendid possessions, for he died in 1921 aged sixty-three. The mother made her home on the ranch, enjoying the competence accumulated by her husband and surrounded by the loving ministrations of her sons, until her death on December 20, 1924.

Howard M. Hunt was born on the Quinto ranch on July 14, 1890, attended the Cottonwood school and grew up to assist his father with the work on the ranch, at the same time learning from his worthy sire the details of successful ranch operation. He married Miss Helen Deto, a native of Fresno and a daughter of Louis Deto of Berkeley, on February 24, 1925.

Russell B. Hunt was born on the Quinto ranch on January 1, 1892, and he went to the Cottonwood school and did his share of work on the home place as he was growing to manhood. On May 20, 1918, he enlisted in the United States Army for service during

the World War, was stationed at Camp Kearney with the Twenty-first Infantry, Fortieth Division and remained in camp until he was honorably discharged eight months later, at the Presidio in San Francisco on January 20, 1919. He is a Mason, belonging to the Newman lodge.

The Hunt Brothers jointly own three 100-acre ranches, two of them in alfalfa and leased to dairy farmers; the third ranch is being leveled and checked preparatory to putting in alfalfa. The brothers have worked in harmony on the ranch left by their father and have shown the same public spirit he demonstrated by supporting every worthy cause for the advancement of their locality. They have spent their entire lives in this section and are counted among the successful young ranchers of the West Side. They have been a part of the growth of the county and have been interested participants in the events that have brought about the transformation from barren land to rich and productive ranches peopled by contented families.

JOAQUIN VIERRA, SR.

The life of Joaquin Vierra which began on the island of Terceira, of the Azores group, on March 14, 1856, sustained one of the greatest afflictions that can befall a young child, for his mother died when he was only fourteen months old. His father, also named Joaquin, was a farmer and lived to the age of seventy-two. His mother's maiden name was Josephine Gomez. The son grew up on his father's farm and went to the common school until he was sixteen years old. Then he started out for himself, came to America and directly to California, and eventually arrived at Haywards, Alameda County, where he spent the winter. He then came to the West Side and worked for Mr. Bunker in the Cottonwood district of Merced County, on the ranch now owned by John Jeffers. Young Vierra worked on this ranch six years and then made a trip back to his native land for a visit. Returning to California he worked another year for Mr. Bunker and then started out for himself and began raising stock on a small scale on the Donahue ranch for a number of years. He later sold this place of forty acres and purchased ten acres in another location and carried on a small dairy for six years. In 1910 he had so prospered that he was able to buy sixty-five acres under the ditch and is now making that his home, living practically retired, having turned the dairy over to his boys, who also run the McCabe ranch of 160 acres, of which 100 acres are in alfalfa.

While living on his first ranch Mr. Vierra sent back to his native island where his intended wife, Angeline Menzes, lived and she came to California and they were married in San Francisco on September 18, 1891. Her parents were Gariot and Margaret (Martinez) Menzes, and of this union there have been five children, viz.: Margaret, Mrs. Rocha of Volta; Joaquin, Jr., who manages the ranching interests; and Joseph, Frank and Estella. There are fifteen grandchildren in the Vierra home circle to brighten his fireside. He belongs to the I. D. E. S., and the U. P. E. C., of Los Banos and is an ex-officer of both lodges. He has served for years as trustee of the Santa Nella school district of Merced County.

EDWARD FOLETTA

Though fairly successful Edward Foletta has met with many discouragements and has been bereaved of his parents, Jasper and Filomina (Pedrazzi) Foletta, who died in Switzerland, the former at the age of sixty-three and the latter sixty-five. Of their fourteen children eight are living: Edward, our subject; Josephine, in Switzerland; Mary, in Italy; John, at King City; Mrs. Joseph Vosti, of Modesto; Harry, in Modesto; Constantine and Rosalinda, both in Switzerland.

Edward Foletta was born in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on October 12, 1865, and his education, begun in the common schools, was completed by a military course until he was twenty-one years old. The year 1889 found him in America and he landed eventually in Pescadero, San Mateo County, where he got a job on a dairy ranch as milker at twenty-five dollars a month for two years. He learned the trade of cheese-making and then earned forty dollars a month, continuing for seven years, when he had accumulated enough funds to go into the dairy business on his own account with 130 head of cattle on a 1200-acre ranch, at Pigeon Point; he also carried on a cheese factory for nine years, taking in milk from neighboring ranches; then for nine years he was at Point New Years, near Pigeon Point, on 600 acres. In October, 1909, he bought an eighty-two-acre ranch three miles south of Los Banos, and added twenty acres to it in 1921, now devoted to alfalfa; and he has a dairy of sixty cows. In 1922 he bought fifty-five acres three miles east of the home place which he runs in connection with the home place alternately.

On February 21, 1898, Edward Foletta was married to Ernestina Cicardini, a native of Canton Ticino, Switzerland, born November 28, 1876, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Goi) Cicardini. Her father was a native of Piedmonte, Italy, and her mother was of

Swiss descent. He was a stone mason and lived and died in Switzerland. She was one of eight children, namely: Basilio, Theresa, Encelmo, John, Modesto, Angelina, Lena, and Ernestina. Mrs. Foletta was educated in the elementary schools of Switzerland and arrived in Santa Cruz, Cal., on April 13, 1893, where her sister Theresa was already located. She worked five years as a servant girl before she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Foletta have seven children: Mary, Mrs. Albert Bizzini, of Volta; Lena, of Los Banos; Emma, Mrs. Hugo Debene, of Los Banos; Edward, Emil, William and Josephine. Mr. Foletta belongs to the Sunset Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau and has served as a trustee of the Central school district for nine years.

MANUEL M. SILVA

From the time of establishing mercantile interests in the town of Gustine, Merced County, up to the present, Manuel M. Silva has been a leading factor in the commercial life of the place, a contributor to movements for its substantial and permanent progress. No influence has entered into the growth of the town more important than that exerted by him in his capacity of general merchant. Since 1910 he has been at the head of a general merchandise store which has grown with each succeeding year to its present proportions. He is one of California's native sons, having been born on his father's ranch three miles from Watsonville, Monterey County, near the county line, December 22, 1883, a son of Manuel and Mary (Smith) Silva. The father, also named Manuel Silva, was a native of St. George, of the Azores, and he came to California when a young man and engaged in the sheep business. He was married to Miss Mary Smith, a native of Santa Cruz, who was one of the first white children born at this place. The father herded his band of sheep in the San Joaquin Valley every season taking them to the Sierra Nevada Mountains for pasture. Later he went out of the sheep business and with the money he had accumulated, established a dairy business which occupied him until his death, when something over fifty years old. There were nine children born in this family, namely: Manuel M.; Mary, deceased; George; Eugenia; Margaret; Jack; Frank; Louis; and Walter.

Manuel M. Silva obtained his education in the Watsonville Grammar School and the business college at that place. When about eighteen years old he began clerking in a grocery store in Watsonville; he later drifted to Newman and for two years worked in the general store of Antone Souza. This brought him to the time when he located in Gustine in 1910 and that year he built a store building and



D. Parmenter

opened his general merchandise business, which has since occupied his attention.

On November 26, 1906, Mr. Silva was married to Miss Ella Johnson, born at Santa Cruz, this State, a daughter of Hans and Marie (Scheuter) Johnson, both natives of Denmark; her father is a farmer in the vicinity of Santa Cruz. There were two daughters in this family, Mrs. Silva and Anna, who died single. Mr. and Mrs. Silva are the parents of two children: Mildred and Anna. Mr. Silva has been a member of the board of trustees of the town of Gustine and in politics is a staunch supporter of the Republican party; he is identified fraternally with Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks of Merced; the Foresters of America; and the U. P. E. C. Lodge No. 99 of Gustine and for some time has served as its treasurer.

DANTE POMETTA

One of the really progressive men who helped to lay the foundation for the present-day prosperity that is being enjoyed by the citizens of the West Side in Merced County, was the late Dante Pometta, a prosperous and efficient dairyman and rancher living five miles south of Gustine. He was born in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on March 3, 1873, and received his education in the schools of his locality. When he was sixteen he made up his mind he could better his condition in America; and hence he embarked for the land of opportunity, coming direct to California. He found employment as a milker on a dairy in Marin County for two years, and then for another two years he was in San Luis Obispo County. He saved his money and was fast picking up the English language, and when he was twenty years old he bought a dairy of fifty cows in Solano County, near Bird's Landing, which he ran for five years. In the meantime he had married. In 1898 he sold out his dairy herd, and with his wife and two children he visited Switzerland for a year; but the call of the Golden State was too strong, and they returned to engage in the dairy business in San Benito County near Hollister, where he had about 100 cows. He worked hard and prospered accordingly, and in 1904 he moved to Crow's Landing in Stanislaus County, where he carried on his business five years.

The year 1909 marked the time when Mr. Pometta became a landowner; for he moved into Merced County and bought 110 acres in the Cottonwood district, about a mile north of the Cottonwood schoolhouse. This land was a bare field, and he began to make improvements by building fences, a house, and barns, and sinking wells. The land was planted to alfalfa. This is now known as the Pometta Home

Place, and here he lived until 1912, when he bought the Beck ranch of forty acres a little north of his home place and moved on to it, leasing his 110 acres and doing business on a smaller scale, to gain needed rest. In 1920 he bought another 100 acres, known as the Sturgeon place, adjoining his first purchase. He farmed this property until his death, since which time his sons have carried on the business on their entire possessions. They are meeting with good success, having learned the business from their father. Mr. Pometta became a citizen of the United States in 1900, and was a Republican.

The marriage of Dante Pometta and Miss Ida Brughelli, who was born in Canton Ticino and who had come to America a few years before, occurred on November 30, 1894. They became the parents of six children: Emma married Louis Luchessa and lives in Modesto; they have a son, Alvin. Adaline became the wife of Ulisse Alessi, has a daughter Hilda, and lives in Gustine. Edward W., Secondo W., and Guido K. operate the Pometta ranches, having about 200 cows in their dairy. They are all energetic young men and members of the Woodmen of the World at Modesto; and Secondo and Guido belong to the Knights of Columbus in Modesto. Esther attends the Cottonwood school.

Mr. Pometta died on January 7, 1922, leaving a void in the family circle, who cherish his memory for the good he did during his life. He was a public-spirited man, always ready to help every project that he thought would help develop his adopted county. An item of historical interest is the fact that, located on the corner of one of his ranches, stood the old Sturgeon corner postoffice in early days, when ranches were many miles apart and when Hill's Ferry was the nearest commercial center for shipment of produce.

ALVIN A. ESHELMAN

The position as a member of the board of trustees of the Livingston grammar schools shows the high esteem in which Alvin A. Eshelman is held in his home community by his fellow citizens. He was born in Mt. Morris, Ill., on October 3, 1872, the fifth of seven children in the family of M. M. Eshelman, who was born in Pennsylvania and reared on a farm there. After his preliminary education was finished he began teaching school to pave the way for his future work. Leaving the school room he became the editor of the Brethren at Work, a religious paper printed under the auspices of the Dunkard denomination, at Lanark, Ill.; when it was moved to Mt. Morris he continued as editor until 1882, when he went to Jewell County, Kans., and lived about five years, then removed to Republic

County, that State, where he was instrumental in founding a Dunkard college. He next came to Lordsburg, Cal., and became immigration agent for the Santa Fe Railway and was the means of bringing many families into California, especially the southern section. He died in Los Angeles County at the age of seventy-six years, after completing a life full of work and promise. He was the father of seven children, viz.: Olive M., married J. W. Keefer and lives at Covina, Cal.; Vinnie, wife of O. W. Lehmer, residing at Alhambra, Cal.; Harvey H., a rancher at Sawtelle, Cal.; Clara I., widow of J. E. Kindig, lives in Los Angeles, Cal.; Alvin A., the subject of this sketch; Amy A., wife of C. C. Langfeld of Brookings, Ore.; and Herbert N., of Spokane, Wash.

A. A. Eshelman's early life was spent in Illinois and he attended the schools in Lanark and Mt. Morris, and the high school in McPherson, Kans. At an early age he found employment on farms, and he came to Southern California with the family in 1890. He was asked to come to Merced County by his brother-in-law, O. W. Lehmer, who was the general manager for the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company, to improve some land he owned near Livingston in the Number Two subdivision of the Livingston Land Colony. This colony had been settled by many railroad men and our subject began to improve and plant orchards and vineyards for them, finally becoming the owner of the property where he now lives and has a comfortable home and valuable ranch land.

Mr. Eshelman was married on March 23, 1903, in San Joaquin County, Cal., to Miss Minnie E. Isbell, born at Lathrop, the daughter of C. E. Isbell. He was born in Stockton when the old Eagle Hotel and two other buildings were the only wooden structures in that city. He married Florence Hunsucker, who was born in a tent where French Camp now stands, at that time nothing more than a range. Her father, Adolphus Hunsucker, and her mother, were born in the South, crossed the plains in 1851 and were among the pioneers of San Joaquin County, where they were farmers. Grandfather Isbell and his wife were natives of the South and were Forty-niners in California. C. E. Isbell and his wife had three children: Minnie E., Mrs. Eshelman; James L., a rancher near Tracy; and Lloyd, who died at sixteen. Mrs. Eshelman attended the Lathrop school and had one year in Doane's Business College in Stockton. She then worked two years as a stenographer for Rev. H. R. Holsinger in the preparation of his history of the Brethren Church, taking in the German Baptists and the two branches of the Dunkard churches. Four children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Eshelman, viz.: Vinnie M., wife of C. W. Nobbe, a rancher of the Livingston district. Mr. Nobbe served as a stenographer at the Base Hospital at Newport News,

Va., and was honorably discharged after fifteen months of service during the World War. They have one son, Harold C. Alvin M. graduated from the Merced High school, class of 1923, and assists his father with the home ranch; Mildred B., a junior in the Livingston Union High school; and Wilbur, a grammar school pupil. Mr. Eshelman is a member of the board of trustees of the Livingston Grammar School and evinces a live interest in the cause of education. He belongs to the Livingston Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau. He was reared in the Dunkard faith, but there being no church of that denomination in Livingston he affiliates with the Methodist Church. Mrs. Eshelman was reared in that church and is active in the work of the church. They are both highly esteemed in their circle of friends.

CHARLES E. STAGNER, M. D.

A man of superior attainments and culture, well fitted by study and experience for a professional career, Charles E. Stagner is the leading physician and surgeon of Gustine, where he has built up an extensive and lucrative practice in this part of Merced County. He is a native son of California, born at Wheatland, October 30, 1883, a son of A. C. and Louise (Greitman) Stagner. There are three children in this family: Hattie, the wife of Professor Ganthier, the principal of the Lompoc High School; Leora; and Charles E., the subject of this review.

Charles E. Stagner began his education in the Wheatland Grammar school; then he entered the Marysville High school, from which he was graduated in 1903; then for three years he attended Stanford University; and in 1912 he was graduated from the Cooper Medical School, receiving his degree of M. D. from that institution, after which he served an internship in the Sacramento and San Joaquin County hospitals. In 1916 he located at Gustine, where he engaged in the practice of his profession and succeeded in building up a good practice and in endearing himself to the people of the community. In 1919, Dr. Stagner founded the hospital at Los Banos, taking as his partner in the enterprise, Dr. Bush; this hospital will accommodate about twelve patients; and as the demand increases, no doubt the hospital will be enlarged to meet the growing population of this section. Dr. Stagner served as health officer for Gustine and also deputy county health officer of Merced County. He is now Medical Superintendent to the San Joaquin County hospital, where he is now living in French Camp.

At Modesto, Cal., July 18, 1916, Dr. Stagner was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Schit, born at Harrison, Nebr., daughter of

Charles Edward and Mary (Schyler) Schit. Her father was a farmer by occupation and came with his family to California in 1901, locating in the Bowles district of Fresno County, where he spent the balance of his life, passing away at the age of fifty-two years; his wife still makes her home in that section. Dr. and Mrs. Stagner are the parents of one son, Alan Charles. Dr. Stagner, in partnership with W. H. Gilbert, is the owner of fifty acres at Wheatland, ten acres of which is in bearing peaches and walnuts; and the balance has been set to young trees. This ranch is irrigated by a private pumping plant. Dr. Stagner is a Democrat in politics, and fraternally, belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Gustine and the Elks of Merced.

ALBERT COURT

Well-known among the industrious, respected and prosperous business men of Livingston is Albert Court, proprietor of the Court Theater and the Court Confectionery Store. He was born in the County of Surry, England, on May 23, 1862, a son of Albert and Elizabeth (Stanley) Court. The father, who was a carpenter and joiner, made two visits to America and for a time followed his trade in Philadelphia. The paternal grandfather, George Court, was an Englishman and his wife was a native of Wales. He also was a carpenter and builder; his family, consisting of his wife and seven children lived in County Surry, England, where he and his wife passed their last days.

Albert Court attended school in England and at the age of twenty-one was married to Miss Marion Leeding, native of County Surry, and daughter of Edwin and Charlotte (Thompson) Leeding. In 1892 Mr. Court removed to Saskatchewan, Canada, where he worked as a carpenter, building many of the substantial buildings of that place. In 1907 the family moved to San Francisco, where he followed his trade for two years. In the fall of 1909 Mr. Court located in Livingston, purchased ten acres near town and in partnership with Finch Wilcox, built the first real estate office south of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks; his firm, known as Court and Wilcox, built the Crowell block, the grammar school building, and many business houses and residences in the town. In 1917 Mr. Court erected the Court Theater building and since that time has added to it and remodeled and enlarged it until it will now comfortably seat 250 people. Mr. and Mrs. Court are the parents of nine children: May Stanley is the wife of Herbert Holley, Southern Pacific freight agent at Livingston; they own a twelve-and-a-half-acre vineyard within the city limits. Arthur Stanley served four years over seas with the

Canadian Army during the World War and received a medal from King George; he married Emily Kimmerle and is a carpenter and builder residing in Livingston. Gilbert Stanley married Hazel McConnell and is in the ice and fuel business in Livingston; Harold E. Stanley died at the age of twenty years; Eleanor Stanley is the wife of Richard Allen, a railroad brakeman, and they reside at San Jose; Edwin Stanley married Sarah Mary Smith and he is a farmer in Saskatchewan, Canada. Albert Stanley married Naomi Herndon and is in partnership with his father; he served in the United States Navy during the World War. Dorothy Stanley is the wife of William Choisser, a barber in the Court building; and Vincent Stanley is assistant cashier in the First Bank of Livingston. There are thirteen grandchildren in the families. Mr. Court votes the Republican ticket. In 1921 he became a member of the first board of trustees of the city of Livingston and is still serving in that capacity. Mr. and Mrs. Court are members of the Episcopal Church at Livingston, of which Mrs. Court is organist; she has been a teacher of piano for many years, but is now retired. The daughter Dorothy Stanley and the son Albert Stanley are both musicians; they play the organ in the Court Theater and are in demand at local functions.

OSCAR A. WICKSTROM

A citizen of the strictest integrity, honorable and upright in all his dealings with his fellow-citizens and a pioneer of the Hilmar Colony in Merced County, Oscar A. Wickstrom was born July 17, 1851, at Jonkjobing, Sweden, a son of Peter Anderson and Maria Larson, who were well-to-do farmers in Sweden, owning 160 acres of land. They had three children. One son, Johan, is still farming in Sweden. Oscar A. went to the thorough Swedish schools and was brought up and baptized in the Lutheran Church. He remained in Sweden until May 3, 1871, when he took passage on the old Anchor Line, passed through Scotland and reembarked at Glasgow for America, landing in June. He went to Jamestown, N. Y., where he was employed at various kinds of work, principally as a laborer. He was married in Jamestown, N. Y., March 12, 1876, to Miss Caroline Johnson, like himself of Swedish birth, and who had come to this country in 1869, when she was eighteen.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wickstrom farmed at Fowler, Benton County, Ind., on rented land; later they went to Iowa for two years, thence to Beresford, Dakota Territory. In 1886 they went into Colorado and from there to Knox County, Nebr. It had been the aim of Mr. Wickstrom to come to California and this he did in

1902, and settled here with his family in February, 1903. He was the seventh man to buy property in the Hilmar Colony and here he has forty acres of land, well improved and in a flourishing condition, all through his own efforts. His wife has proven a true helpmate and they have made a host of friends since settling in the San Joaquin Valley. He bought land in this colony for seven of his friends and was true to his trust and assisted them in every way to get ahead. He supports the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church, although not a member. He does jury duty and serves on the election board of Irwin Precinct, also on the school board.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickstrom have had six children: Arthur O.; Mrs. C. A. Mord; Florence, widow of Elmer Ahl and the mother of a daughter, Evelyn; Minnie; Roy, electrician in Los Angeles; Elmer is on the home ranch. All have been given the best of educational advantages consistent with the means of their parents.

ANDREW ANDERSEN

Notwithstanding hardships and discouragements, of which he has experienced not a few, Andrew Andersen, by persistency of purpose and perserving industry, has risen to a position of influence among the business men of Gustine, where for the past twelve years he has been the agent of the Buick automobile and in connection therewith operates a modern garage with a good stock of accessories. He was born at Marstal, Denmark, January 28, 1885, a son of Hans R. and Agnes (Christensen) Andersen, both natives of the same country. The father, Hans R. Andersen, is a blacksmith by trade and with his wife is still living in Denmark.

Andrew Andersen received his education in the public schools of Denmark and learned the blacksmith's trade with his father. At the age of nineteen he left home and came to California, locating at Newman, Stanislaus County, where he worked on ranches for Simon Newman & Company for two and a half years; he then worked for about six months in the blacksmith shop owned by Mr. Jefferson in Newman. Following this he engaged in the blacksmith business for himself in Gustine, where he had bought a lot and built a shop on it. In 1912 he sold a half interest in the business to Peter E. Petersen. Mr. Andersen then made an extended trip to his home in Denmark and upon his return to California in 1914, built a modern garage building and became the distributor for the Buick automobiles, the firm being Andersen and Petersen. In 1919, Gilbert Kerr bought Mr. Petersen's interest in the garage and the firm is now Andersen and Kerr. In 1923 Mr. Andersen sold the blacksmith business to

Mr. Petersen. In 1924 he made another trip back to his old home, taking his wife and children, to attend the golden wedding anniversary of his parents' marriage.

At Fresno, Cal., on October 6, 1914, Mr. Andersen was married to Miss Volberg C. Petersen, also born in Denmark, daughter of Rasmus Petersen. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen are the parents of three children: Jane, Richard, and Virginia. In 1910 Mr. Andersen received his United States citizenship papers and since that time has voted the Democratic ticket; he has served as deputy constable of Gustine and also as trustee of the city. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Dania Lodge and Romero Lodge No. 413, I. O. O. F., of Gustine.

C. R. DAVIS

The name of C. R. Davis is well-known throughout Merced County, where he has been identified with the business, political and social life for several years, and he holds a place of especial prominence among the citizens of Livingston. He was born in Steubenville, Ohio, on January 12, 1880, a son of Edmund and Laura (Kettlewood) Davis, natives of Wales and Pennsylvania, respectively. Edmund Davis came to America while a young man and followed his trade of sheet-metal worker; while working in a mill at Wellsville, Ohio, he sustained injuries from which he died in 1916, aged sixty-eight years. The mother is still living and makes her home at East Liverpool, Ohio, and has reached the age of sixty-eight years.

C. R. Davis is the third in a family of seven children and is the only one residing in California. He grew up in his native State and there received his education in the common schools; after leaving school he thoroughly learned the sheet-metal trade. Before leaving Ohio, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Erla Thompson, born at Wellsville that State, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Malone) Thompson, in whose family there were four children. The mother passed away when Mrs. Davis was six years old and the father is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have a family of four children: Willett McFarland is a lineman for the San Joaquin Light & Power Company; Ralph; Bert; and Dorothy Elizabeth. The Davis family came to California in 1903 and direct to Merced County, where Mr. Davis bought forty acres one mile north of Livingston; this he improved to fruit trees and vines and after five years sold it. He then entered the employ of Hammatt and Crowell as outside man, putting in crops of oats, rye, barley and wheat; two years later he became clerk in the store for the same company. He has grown up with the business and is now head of the hardware department for the Crowell-White

Company, Inc., successors to Hammatt and Crowell. Mr. Davis and his family reside in a modern six-room residence in Livingston built in 1913. He is a Democrat in politics and is a member of the Boosters' Club of Livingston. When Livingston was incorporated as a city, Mr. Davis was elected a member of the first board of trustees; for six years he served as clerk of the grammar school board. For the past eighteen years he has served as a fireman, first on the bucket brigade; Livingston now boasts an up-to-date fire department and Mr. Davis serves as fire chief. Largely through the efforts of Mr. Davis the Livingston branch of the Merced County free library was established. Fraternally Mr. Davis is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America of Livingston. The family are members of the Episcopal Church of Livingston.

OSCAR EPHRAIM PHILLIPS

It is the second generation of people who are now maintaining the standard set by more advanced settlers of the pioneer period in the Golden State, and none is more deserving than Oscar Ephraim Phillips, who was born at Badger Flat, Merced County, May 23, 1875, the son of the late William Milton and Sarah Jane Phillips, mention of whom is made on another page of this history. After finishing the courses at the Center Point school near Los Banos, O. E. Phillips became associated with his father, remaining with him until twenty-three years of age. He was then given forty acres of land by his father, who gave him the necessary equipment to carry on the project he had undertaken and for more than twenty-five years he has carried on a dairy industry. As he has succeeded he has bought sixty-five acres nearby, and finally he purchased eighty acres south of Los Banos on the plains, and in 1921 added fifty-five acres to his holdings one mile east of Los Banos. He raises grain on some of his land and on the rest he maintains a dairy of fifty cows. He is one of the successful ranchers of this part of the county and takes a live interest in all that pertains to the advancement of the people's interest.

On November 1, 1898, Oscar Ephraim Phillips and Miss Phoebe Mills were made man and wife at Gonzales, Monterey County. Mrs. Phillips was born in that county, the daughter of John Boardman and Louise (Bickmore) Mills, and she was reared in the San Miguel Canyon. Her father was a rancher and carpenter and one of the early settlers of that locality. He died at the age of fifty; Mrs. Mills lived to be fifty-six. D. O. Mills, pioneer banker in Sacramento, was an uncle of Mrs. Phillips. The following children have

been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips: Ervin Glenn, Lurine, Irma, Hazel and Melva Illeen. Mr. Phillips is a Republican and he holds membership in the Los Banos Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau. Fraternally, he belongs to the Woodmen of the World at Los Banos.

REV. E. N. TRAIN

To Rev. E. N. Train is given the credit for the building of the new and modern Swedish Evangelical Mission Church at Hilmar, Merced County. He was born in Sweden, June 22, 1881, the youngest son of Gustav and Mathilda Train, who came to America in 1886, and made their first settlement at Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kans., where the father followed making and repairing shoes. They were poor but honest people and, with their family of eight, had a struggle for existence. The father had been well-to-do in Sweden but lost his means through signing notes for another and had to begin all over again and in a land of strangers. Our subject attended the local public school, after which he entered the office of the Lindsborg News as printer's devil and started to learn the business. He next became a grocer's clerk and worked hard to get the necessary means to attend college and finally entered North Park College, near Chicago, and finished the regular theological course, graduating with the class of 1907. This college is controlled by the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church of America. Although he had graduated, the rules of this church require three years service as a preacher and mission worker before ordination; accordingly Mr. Train complied with the rules and was ordained a minister in 1910. He began his duties as a mission worker and preacher in South Bend, Ind., during his last year in college and, after finishing, returned to South Bend, in all spending five years there.

The year of his graduation Mr. Train was married, on June 12, 1907, at Clyde, Kans., to Miss Elvira Ostlund, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ostlund, who were farmers in Republican County, Kans. She was born and educated in Kansas, taking a musical course in the Conservatory of Music at Lindsborg, Kans., studying vocal as well as instrumental. She developed a fine soprano voice and sang in the Messiah, the oratorio which is rendered annually in the Lindsborg College and said to be the best rendition of the Messiah in America. They have had five children, all boys: Edward N., Jr.; Roy Enoch; Wesley Andrew; John Harvey Lind; and Ronald James Waldo.

Following ministerial work, Rev. Train went from South Bend, Ind., to Helena, Mont., and a year later took a post graduate course

in the Montana Wesleyan University and won the Ryder scholarship. He was then sent to Seattle, Wash., in 1913, and while there also did post graduate work at the University of Washington, pursuing classical studies, modern and ancient languages. He was at Seattle for seven years. In 1919 he came to Hilmar, Merced County. Reverend Train is a leader in the young peoples' conferences of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church and is recognized as an organizer of the young peoples' organizations, having specialized in that in Indiana, Washington and California. He is deeply interested in the public schools at Hilmar; is treasurer of the California Conference of his Mother Church; is president of the Young Peoples' League of California; is vice-chairman of the board of directors of Emanuel Hospital at Turlock and is active in all other philanthropic and worth-while enterprises that have for their object the raising of the moral and religious standard of the people.

It was largely through the efforts of Reverend Train that the handsome church edifice at Hilmar was erected at a cost of \$40,000. It is a modern structure 68 by 80, stucco construction, with a belfry sixty-two feet high. Ground was broken on January 4, 1921, the cornerstone was laid Easter week of that year and the building was dedicated in November of the same year. It is the best-appointed church in any country town and is the pride of the congregation, which was organized only in 1903. Every modern convenience is installed in the construction and arrangement of the building and the various rooms, and all in all it is considered to be a model of its kind.

ROY KRUGER

A native of California, Roy Kruger was born in Merced County, four miles south of the present site of the town of Gustine, on November 16, 1884, a son of Charles and Sarah Kruger, the former a native of Germany but a resident in California since he was twenty-five years old, when he located in Merced County and in time became the owner of an hundred-acre farm on which he raised hogs. There are two boys in this family, Hartley, of Gustine, and Roy, the subject of this review. The mother of our subject passed away when he was fourteen months old; the father made his home in Glendale, Cal., for several years and died in December, 1923.

Roy Kruger attended the Enterprise district school, which is now in the Gustine school district. At eighteen years of age he began to earn his own way in the world and for eighteen months worked at the New Era Creamery. He then learned the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed, and for the last ten years he has been

in the contract building business in Merced County. His good workmanship and reliability have been the means of bringing him a comfortable income and at the same time have aided in the development of his home town.

At Riverdale, Cal., December 10, 1913, Mr. Kruger was married to Miss Saidie Bradley, born at Mustang, Merced County, a daughter of W. T. and Frances (Leek) Bradley. There were four children in the Bradley family: Cora, now the wife of William O. Brown; Eba, now Mrs. Jerome Harlan; Maude, married Thomas Virgo and is deceased; and Saidie, the wife of our subject. Mrs. Kruger received her education at the Clay district school in Merced County. Fraternally, Mr. Kruger is affiliated with Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. of Merced and politically is a Republican. Mr. Kruger built his present home in Gustine ten years ago and his interest centers in the locality where he has spent his entire lifetime.

WILLARD K. McBRIDE

A man of unquestioned ability and integrity, active and enterprising, Willard K. McBride, as manager of the California Milk Products Company, is prominently identified with the industrial progress of Merced County; he is also interested in agriculture, owning a half interest in a forty-acre ranch in Stanislaus County and a twelve-acre ranch devoted to walnuts at Gustine, Merced County. His birth occurred on his father's ranch near Salida, March 15, 1895, a son of S. N. and Alice M. (Keeley) McBride. The father came to California about 1876 and followed teaching for about nineteen years. He married Miss Keeley, whose family came to California in an early day, and they are now living retired on their ranch near Gustine.

Willard K. McBride is the only child of his parents. His education was obtained at the grammar and high school in Modesto; then he was sent to the Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania and during this time was an understudy with Smith-Kline & French Company in Philadelphia. In October, 1917 he entered the United States Army and was placed in the 154th Depot Brigade of the 79th Division; he was promoted to the post of sergeant and attended the 3rd Officer's Training School at Camp Mead, Md., and at that camp received his discharge on account of disability. He returned to Modesto, Cal., and worked for one year for the Carpenter Cheese Company in Modesto. In 1919 he located at Gustine and assumed the management of the California Milk Products Company; this company manufactures milk sugar, albumin and casein. Under the able supervision of Mr. McBride this company has built up a fine business which is



M. A. Marshall:

steadily growing from month to month, as the products become better known.

On September 9, 1919, Mr. McBride was married to Miss Ora Lathrop Powers, a native of California, daughter of Lathrop B. Powers, a farmer residing near Oakdale. Mrs. McBride passed away in July, 1920. On July 23, 1924 he married Miss Fay Truitt, a native daughter of California. Mr. McBride is a Republican in his political views and fraternally belongs to Hills Ferry Lodge No. 136, F. & A. M., of Newman; Modesto Chapter No. 49, R. A. M.; Modesto Commandery No. 57, K. T., and Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Oakland; and to Romero Lodge No. 413, of Gustine.

MANUEL A. MARSHALL

Among the largest and most successful dairymen on the West Side in Merced and Stanislaus Counties is Manuel A. Marshall, of the firm of Marshall and Newsom. He is a very hard worker and a very good business man. Manuel A. Marshall is the son of Joao Machado and Mariana (Bento De Ramos Medeiros) De Souza. The father was a native of St. George, of the Azores. When he came to this country he found the name De Souza rather bewildering to the Americans; so he adopted Machado as a surname, which was in course of time changed to the more euphonious name of Marshall, and thereafter he was known as John Marshall. In common with many of the young men of the Azores, the sea appealed to him; and the seaman's life gave him an opportunity to see several of the principal ports of South America, as well as of North America. Being well educated in the schools of his native country, and apt, he became secretary for a very wealthy Brazilian coffee planter, which position he held for several years. After this he visited the United States and then returned to the Azores and married, and, as captain of a ship, came with his young wife to New York, where he lived for a few years. His first two children, Manuel, who died in New York State, and John, were born in Buffalo. Coming to California, he settled at Tiburon and began farming. Later on, for a short period, he farmed at Sausalito. In 1883 the family moved to Ross Valley in Marin County, where the family of twelve children were reared. They were as follows: John, Mary, Lucia, Joseph, Manuel A. (the subject of this review), Rose, Anthony, Carrie, Henry, Laura and Lenora (twins), and Helen. There were thirteen in all, including the two born in New York State. John Marshall, the father, died January 5, 1922, and his widow survived but a few days afterward, dying on January 25, that same year.

Manuel A. Marshall was born at Tiburon, Marin County, July 19, 1882, and worked for his father until he became of age. He was associated with his brother, Anthony L., in purchasing their father's interest in the dairy business in Ross Valley in 1903, and the two brothers conducted the business for about two years. Then Manuel A. bought his brother's interest, and on November 2, 1905, he sold a one-fourth interest to his brother-in-law, Hugh L. Newsom, and the firm name became Marshall and Newsom. This was later changed to Marshall-Newsom Co., when the father, John Marshall, bought a one-fourth interest from our subject, on January 1, 1907. This interest in the partnership the father held from that date until he sold it back to Manuel A. in 1921. Marshall and Newsom leased ninety acres of land at Crow's Landing and had two strings of cows. Afterward they located in the Cottonwood district of Merced County, eight miles south of Gustine, where they leased a quarter-section of land from Dennis McCarthy, which became the place of residence. Marshall-Newsom Co. bought 162 acres of the Henry Kuns ranch in 1910, and they have built a fine dairy barn upon it and intend eventually to make this their home ranch. It is one of the best dairy farms in Merced County. Besides this 160 acres, they also rent 1120 acres in Merced and Stanislaus Counties, which is used in connection with the dairy for raising feed and pasturing young stock. They have 300 milch-cows and are among the largest and most successful dairy farmers on the West Side. Mr. Marshall began only with his good will, and empty-handed; but he has been a tireless and intelligent worker and business manager, and his numerous friends are glad to know that he is on the road to success and independent competency.

Mr. Marshall was married on October 9, 1924, to Mary Olivia Chapman, of Twin Falls, Idaho, who was born at Butte, Montana. Mr. Marshall is a member of the I. D. E. S. and the U. P. E. C. Societies, of Gustine. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, West Side Council No. 2157, at Newman. He is a Republican.

When the Merced County Farm Bureau was organized in 1917, Mr. Marshall was made a director of the Cottonwood Center of this organization, which office he still holds. Since 1919 he has also been vice-president of the County Farm Bureau. The Cottonwood Center takes in all of the country north of San Luis Creek up to the north county line, and from the San Joaquin River to the west county line. The Cottonwood Farm Center became a positive force in securing the enlarged irrigation district for the West Side. Mr. Marshall was made chairman of a committee of seven, representatives of Cottonwood and Dos Palos Farm Centers, to take action to bring about the formation of the West Joaquin Irrigation District. The activities of this committee brought about the harmonious co-operation of land-

owners in Madera, Fresno, Merced and Stanislaus Counties for the formation of a much larger irrigation district, to be known as the San Joaquin Water Storage District. On account of the many dairies operated by Marshall-Newsom Co., our subject was not able to give the necessary time to the duties of chairman of this body, and he resigned in favor of W. E. Bunker, county supervisor.

Mr. Marshall has served as trustee of Romero school district since 1914. He has always worked for community progress and betterment, and has given freely of his time to further all such projects.

JAMES ROBERT JENSEN

One of the first purchasers of real estate in the town of Gustine at the time the town was laid out is James Robert Jensen, who stands out prominently among the enterprising and progressive men who have been influential in promoting the agricultural, industrial and social prosperity of this part of the state. He was born near Newman, on January 23, 1883, a son of Chres and Marie (Hansen) Jensen, both natives of Denmark. The father, Chres Jensen, came to California in very early days and settled at Hills Ferry, now Newman, Stanislaus County; he was married to Miss Marie Hansen at Modesto, who had come to California a short time before their marriage. The father leased land near Newman for a time, then he purchased 500 acres which he devoted to grain raising. There are seven children in the family, all living: James R. the subject of this sketch; Sallie M., Mrs. Nicolaisen, residing in Newman; Elmer C.; Grover N.; Irene; Harvey C.; and Leslie F. The father passed away at the family homestead at the age of sixty-five years; the mother is still living at Newman.

James Robert Jensen attended school at the Newman district school and during vacation time helped on the home ranch. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the machinist's trade at Newman, and after completing the trade worked as a journeyman for seven years at various places in California. He located in Gustine in 1907, when the town was laid out, purchased the property where his present modern garage stands, built a blacksmith shop and followed this trade for three years. He took his brother, Elmer C., in as a partner in 1910 and together they went into the automobile business and became distributors for the Oakland automobile. Mr. Jensen is now the agent for the Chevrolet, and in conjunction runs a general repair shop, carrying also a full line of automobile accessories. Mr. Jensen is also interested in agriculture, owning a twenty-acre ranch near Gustine devoted to grapes and walnuts.

At Gustine on June 13, 1910, Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Anna Bladt, born at Newman, daughter of Peter and Anna Bladt, both natives of Denmark, who came to California with the father of our subject. Peter Bladt settled on a farm near Newman and raised grain during his active life. There were two children by Mr. Bladt's first marriage, Peter, and Anna, the wife of our subject. By the second wife there are three daughters, Rose, now Mrs. Devecchio; Estella, and Fannie, the wife of E. C. Jensen. The mother of Mrs. Jensen passed away at the age of twenty-eight years, and her father died at the age of sixty-three years. Mr. Jensen is a Democrat in politics and fraternally is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Gustine, while his wife is a member of the Rebekahs of Gustine, of which she is a Past Grand. Mr. Jensen was a member of the first board of trustees of the town of Gustine, and served for seven years, and a year and a half he was chairman of the board, when he resigned.

JAMES JOHN BOYLE

Among the popular and successful business men of Livingston is James John Boyle, the genial and accommodating head of the dry goods department of the White-Crowell Company, Inc.; he also serves as vice-president and director of this institution of which he is a stockholder. His birth occurred in the Province of Quebec, Canada, on February 2, 1863. His father, James Boyle, was also born in Canada and was part owner of a whaling vessel and followed whaling for several years. He married Annie Ascah. The paternal grandfather, also named James Boyle, served with General Wolfe at the siege of the Plains of Abraham during the Revolutionary War.

James John Boyle attended public school in his native province until he was sixteen years old. He then became a clerk in a general merchandise store at Gaspe, Canada, where he worked for three years. At the age of nineteen he removed to Philadelphia and clerked in the store of John Wanamaker. In 1890 he came West and settled in Washington where he remained until 1898, when he joined the gold rush to Alaska, and placer-mined near Atlin, B. C., with only fair success during his two-years stay. In 1900 he returned to Washington and resumed his former position as clerk in a large drygoods house in Tacoma, but his desire to locate in California caused him to leave after one year. He first located in Oroville, then came to San Francisco where he clerked for Hale Brothers. In 1902 he removed to Los Banos and was employed in the drygoods department of the store of Miller and Lux. In July, 1911 he located in Livingston and

became an employe of White-Crowell Company, Inc.; soon thereafter he was made head of the drygoods department, which position he has since occupied. Mr. Boyle is an active member of the Merchants Association and the Boosters' Club of Livingston; fraternally, he is a Past Grand of Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F., of Los Banos.

GORDON HARVEY WINTON

In the ranks of the business men of Livingston, Gordon Harvey Winton occupies a prominent position and he is widely known as a leader in business and financial circles in Livingston. He stands for every measure intended to enhance the general welfare and was the leading spirit in organizing the First Bank of Livingston, and also in the incorporation of the city. A native son of California, he was born at Lakeport, January 22, 1885, a son of Rev. J. B. and Jessie (Williams) Winton, both natives of Missouri. Rev. J. B. Winton was born on his father's farm near Springfield, Mo., and the old homestead is still in the possession of members of the Winton family. The mother was born at Booneville, Mo., but her folks were from Pennsylvania, of German ancestors. Rev. J. B. Winton was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, who came to California in 1883, and held pastorates at Healdsburg, Lakeport, Knights Landing, Plainsburg, and Rockville. His last charge was at Rockville, Madera County, and he was on his way to the mountains for his health when he passed away at Raymond on May 8, 1892, aged forty-two years. There are five children in the family: G. E., a civil engineer residing in Merced; Florence; Gordon Harvey, our subject; Anna, now Mrs. Bolton; and Margarita. After her husband's death, Mrs. Winton bought ten acres west of Merced, where the family lived for the next ten years; she still lives in Merced.

Gordon Harvey Winton attended the district school adjacent to the farm home; then he entered the high school at Merced and was graduated therefrom in 1904. During his school days he worked in a drug store in Merced and also in the First National Bank, and in August, 1905, he became a stenographer in the First National Bank and by promotions became assistant cashier, remaining there until 1914 when he became the cashier of the First National Bank of Livingston, which was organized in 1913. In 1920 he was chosen vice-president, and in 1922 became president of the institution, continuing until his resignation to give his undivided attention to his personal interests. Mr. Winton is interested in farming lands, his holdings aggregating 200 acres, and he conducts a real estate and fire

insurance business, which also embraces automobile insurance and accident insurance.

In 1912 Mr. Winton was married to Miss Mildred Stoddard, a daughter of D. K. and Mary (Comins) Stoddard. Her father, who is mentioned elsewhere, has been a resident of Merced County since 1872. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Winton: Gordon Harvey, Jr., Stoddard, and Dower Keith. Mr. Winton is now serving as a member of the board of trustees of the City of Livingston and was president of the board of trade which was succeeded by the Merchants' Association of Livingston. He has served as trustee of the Merced Union High School, and also as trustee of the Livingston Grammar School. Fraternally, he belongs to Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M.; also to Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F., at Merced; and from 1913 to 1917 he served as auditor of the Fraternal Brotherhood. Mr. and Mrs. Winton are members of the Methodist Church at Livingston, of which Mrs. Winton is organist. Mr. Winton is a member of the board of stewards and also serves as treasurer of the church. In politics he is a Democrat and is at present a member of the Merced County Central Committee. He is a director in the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, and takes an active interest in furthering the best interests of Livingston and Merced County.

LOUIS E. SARBO

One of the first men to settle on Badger Flat in 1872 was Michael Sarbo. He had walked all the way from New York City, working at different places along the way to defray his expenses. His wife Bertha Pircolo, whom he had left back in Italy, his native country, came on to him four years later at Gilroy, where he was engaged in market gardening for two years. He then came on to Badger Flat, worked a while for wages on the grain ranch of W. J. Stockton, then came down into Merced County, and engaged in vegetable gardening, leasing land of Miller & Lux. The remuneration was sufficient to enable him to invest in thirty acres, which he added to by other purchases until he had 180 acres in the Badger Flat country under the irrigating ditch. He and his good wife became the parents of ten children, as follows: Mary, Mrs. J. V. Toscano; Martha, Mrs. L. Manduca; Joseph, Antone, and Joseph II are deceased; Louis E.; Grace, Mrs. J. G. Marchese; Rose, Mrs. Chetro; Angeline, Mrs. N. Dibiaso; and Flora, Mrs. John Rosseli.

Louis Sarbo was born in Badger Flat, on June 22, 1882, and his education which was begun in the Monroe school district of Merced County was finished in Heald's Business College in San Francisco.

For a short time he was bookkeeper in the Portuguese-American Bank at Los Banos. He then returned to the home ranch and carried on the ranch operations and now owns fifty acres of the old home place, and he has purchased 160 acres, eighty acres and fifty acres in other places, part of which he leases out, and carried on a dairy until 1923, when he sold out the business.

On November 20, 1911, Louis E. Sarbo was united in marriage to Miss Madaline Bove, a native of the Province of Potenza, Italy, daughter of Andrew and Agnes (Peluyasa) Bove, farmers in Italy. The daughter came to California and lived with her brothers until she was married. There are three children of this union, Bertha, Michael A. R., and Henry A. L. Mr. Sarbo is a Republican in his political affiliations. Fraternally, is a member and Past Noble of the Druids of Los Banos, and belongs to Merced Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W. of Merced. He is clerk of the board of trustees of the Monroe district school of Merced County.

JOHN MAGNUSON

Most of the thirty-eight years which John Magnuson has spent in California he has been engaged at his trade of carpenter. His birth occurred in Gottenburg, Sweden, on August 17, 1858, a son of Carl Peter and Anna Magnus, both natives of the same place. The father, Carl Peter Magnus, was a cooper and woodworker by trade. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a military man and one of Sweden's ranking generals; he served with Field Marshal Jean Bernadotte, who became King Oscar the First of Norway and Sweden. The paternal grandfather reached the remarkable age of 117 years, six months and three days. Carl Peter Magnus came to America, bringing his wife and family, in the latter part of his life and he located at Worcester, Mass., where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away at the age of ninety-seven years, and his wife reached the age of ninety-three years. To them were born eleven children of whom our subject is the ninth in order of birth.

When John Magnuson was fourteen years old he came to America and joined his sister, Mrs. Hannah Allen, who was living in Boston, Mass., and there he attended night school and learned his trade of carpenter and cabinet maker; for six years he was employed in the Chickering Piano Factory; then he moved to Moline, Ill., and for seven years worked with a manufacturing company. In 1886 he came to California and settled at San Jose, where for twenty-six years he was engaged in house building.

At Worcester, Mass., in 1877, when he was nineteen years old, Mr. Magnuson was married to Miss Albertina Coolson. They had eight children: Oscar, foreman of the San Jose Foundry, married Ida Steinnesson; James, deceased; Rocilda, married Ted Eckhart of Seattle, Wash.; Gladys, a widow living in Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Ethel Dunn, residing in Richmond, Cal.; Emery is a machinist; Vernon is an automobile mechanic and lives in Livingston; and Eva lives in Seattle. Mrs. Magnuson passed away in April, 1906. Mr. Magnuson continued his work as builder in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond and other cities and invested his earnings in property in various places. Becoming dissatisfied after his wife's death, he traded his property for ten acres near Livingston, where he has since resided, selling his ranch in 1922. He lives in Livingston and follows his trade.

T. W. PEDIGO

The family to which T. W. Pedigo belongs is a very ancient and honorable one. They came from the town of Pedigo in the North of Ireland and settled in Virginia, where they were farmers. The great-grandfather of T. W. Pedigo fought in the War of the Revolution. The father, John D. Pedigo, was living near Bedford, Ind., when T. W. was born on July 30, 1864. The boy was brought up in the Christian Church. Owing to the death of his father, when he was only nine years of age, he had but three years' schooling in the district school for he had to begin doing for himself at the age of thirteen. His mother lived until he was eighteen. He worked at various tasks, and finally got a job as brakeman on the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railroad, known as the "Monon." When he was nineteen he settled up the affairs of his mother and came to California in November, 1884. Young as he was, he was a zealous partisan of James G. Blaine and he was grieved when he read of his death. At Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, he got a job in a vineyard and worked two years; then went to Tulare County and worked in the sawmills in the mountains above Portersville on the headquarters of the Tule River. He was appointed postmaster of Daunt, Tulare County, and from that built a mercantile business in connection with the postoffice. He stayed at Daunt until 1906, then went to Berkeley, where he lived two years; two years more were spent in Finley, Lake County, where he had a grocery store in connection with the postoffice. From there he came to Merced County in 1910, settling in the Hilmar Colony and kept a store at Irwin. When the Tidewater and Southern Railroad established the Hilmar line, Mr. Pedigo sold out

his store and moved onto a ten-acre ranch near the town of Hilmar, established in 1916.

At the general election in November, 1922, T. W. Pedigo was elected justice of peace for Township No. 5 of Merced County, by a large majority over the incumbent, J. W. Hall. He took office on January 8, 1923. Besides the justice court at Livingston, he holds court in Hilmar on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of each week, and in Livingston, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Township No. 5 comprises the following voting precincts: Livingston No. 1, Livingston No. 2, Madison, Delhi, Irwin, Fairview, Turner and San Joaquin. The Judge resides at Hilmar in the Irwin precinct and has to drive twelve miles in his auto three days of each week to and from his office at Livingston. He is a man of commanding presence, six feet two inches tall, with coal black hair in which scarcely a gray hair is to be seen. Strong in body, he is equally strong in mind and his judgments are clear, fair and satisfactory to all who have any sense of justice.

T. W. Pedigo was married at Daunt, Cal., on October 2, 1898, to Miss Grace Wells, of that town, the daughter of the late Joseph Wells. They have had two children: Maude, who married L. L. Fleshman and has one child and resides at Hilmar, and Minta, the wife of Morris L. Cramer, a millwright at Klamath Falls, Ore., and the mother of one daughter. Judge Pedigo is the president of the Hilmar Board of Trade.

JAMES RICHARD WHERITY

The sterling personal characteristics which have placed Mr. Wherity in the position of irrigation representative have been proof of his high standing in his home community. He was born in Plumas County on July 24, 1874, the son of Peter Patrick and Mary (Kelley) Wherity, natives of County Meade and Kilkenny, Ireland, respectively. The father came to this State when a young man and upon arriving at Yerba Buena in 1846, went on foot to Ellis' Point, now Point Richmond. After the news of the discovery of gold he went to San Andreas and engaged in mining and freighting. After his marriage he settled in Beckwith Pass in November, 1874, and was engaged, principally in ranching. He and his wife became parents of the following children: Eugene P., of Woodland; Mary, widow of M. C. Judge, lives in Berkeley; Elizabeth, married Alex White and also resides in Berkeley; Harry P., of Loyalton, Cal.; Ida, wife of Isaac Bobo of Woodland; Nicholas, also living in Woodland; James Richard, our subject; and Annie, who married Sam. Holtz and resides in

Sacramento. The father died in Berkeley on April 30, 1913, aged eighty-six years.

James Richard Wherity's childhood was passed in Beckwith Pass attending the local school after he was fourteen. Up to that time he helped his father on the ranch, driving a combined harvester with thirty-two horses as a part of his practical education. He had to walk three miles to the Island district school in Plumas County, which to this day is one of the landmarks; later he attended Downieville College, pursuing an English course. He then entered the law office of Will Goodwin and U. S. Webb, now the attorney general of the State, in Quincy, studied law and was admitted to practice in the courts of the State, on February 22, 1897, and for the following five years he carried on a general practice. He was later engaged in work at Roberts Brothers sawmill above Loyalton. In 1901 he located in Lodi, Cal., and until 1912 he was the leading contractor and builder, helping to erect many of the homes in that town. He erected the arch across Pine Street, Lodi, that attracts much attention. He then was in various places until 1915, when he located near Livingston and took up ranch work and has developed a valuable property.

James Richard Wherity was united in marriage with Bertha Ella Hatton, on February 1, 1905, at Stockton. She was born in Mendon, Adams County, Ill., the daughter of Parker Nicholas and Rebecca (Tuxford) Hatton, the former born in the South in 1836, and married at Mendon, Ill. There were five children in his family, including an adopted son: William Henry, of Portland, Ore.; Thomas, fruit raiser of Lodi; Sarah Frances, wife of James Tout, of Tulare County; Mary Etta, married Benjamin Tout and lives at Sultana; and Bertha Ella, wife of our subject. She attended school at Mendon, Ill., and the Maplewood High School at Camp Point, that State. At the age of seventeen, lacking one year of graduating, she came to California with her mother as two sisters had located in this State some time before. The father was a veteran of the Civil War and died in 1882, at Mendon, Ill., at the age of forty-six, from the effect of his wounds received during the war. The mother, who had been born in Cincinnati, Ohio, located at Lodi, Cal., and there spent her last days, dying on July 8, 1914. Her ancestors were of English extraction. On the paternal side, grandfather Nicholas Hatton and his wife, a Miss Knotson, were born in Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively, but were staunch supporters of the Union. Mr. and Mrs. Wherity have three children: Hillard Richard, garage mechanic in Livingston; Effie Beatrice, high school student; and Frances Aileen.

Mr. Wherity appeared before the State legislature in 1901 in the interest of the Anti-Japanese legislation, which has now become a law, being upheld by the supreme court in November, 1923. He

takes an active interest in the Farm Bureau movement and is a member of the Livingston branch of the Merced County Farm Bureau, serving as its secretary for several years. He is the legal representative of the original Crocker-Huffman Land and Water Company, contract holders, now the Livingston Irrigation District. He is a 100 per cent American and interested in all movements for the advancement of his locality.

MANUEL LUIZ

The Azores Islands lie in almost a direct line from Portugal to the capital of the United States, and from them come many of our best citizens, some to make money and remain loyal to the Stars and Stripes, others to make money and return to their native shores to spend the balance of their days in comfort among those they know best. One of the latter was Domingo Antone Noya, a native of Ponta Del Gada, who left his home at the age of fifteen and, after having sailed around the world, landed in California and made his fortune, then returned to his native land, married and settled down to farm and political life at Ponta Del Gada, and there he died at the age of sixty-two years. His good wife was Anna Margarida da Conceicao, and they had four children, three daughters, who are still in the Azores, and Manuel, our subject.

Manuel was reared on his father's farm and attended the local school until he was old enough to make his own way. It was but natural that he should want to come to California where his father had made his stake, for he had told his son of the wonderful opportunities that awaited the ambitious young men. When seventeen he left home and boarded the three-masted ship Sarah and twenty-four days later was landed in Boston. He did not tarry there for within two days he was en route for California, arriving there ten days later via New Orleans. Being a stranger in a strange land did not stop him from securing work in the cherry harvest at \$1.25 per day; from that work he was employed on a ranch at twenty dollars per month, working from sun to sun, continuing so employed until 1898, when he visited the land of his birth and was absent for five months. Returning to California he located in Merced County and worked for Al. Owens near Atwater. In the meantime, in 1898, he had invested his savings in thirty acres of land in the Mitchell Colony near Atwater, and while he was developing this he worked on the Bloss ranch as foreman of the gang setting out trees of peaches and apricots, for nine years. Then he located on his own property and has since given his time to its intensive cultivation. Mr. Luiz was given his naturalization papers in San Francisco in 1896, and at the time he signed

them he dropped the name Noya and wrote it Manuel Luiz, the latter being his middle name, and as such he has ever since been known. His father had received his citizenship papers before returning to Flores.

On November 18, 1909, at St. Mary's in Stockton, Manuel Luiz was united in marriage with Miss Mary Josephine Vieira, born in Swansea, Mass. She was the second of five children born to her parents, Manuel V. and Mary (Soares) Vieira, the father born in Flores and the mother in Pico Island. The latter is now deceased but the father is living and resides on the ranch with his daughter and Mr. Luiz.

Manuel Vieira was born in 1859, was educated in the Portuguese schools and is a fluent linguist in Portuguese and English. He came to Boston a young man of seventeen on a sailing vessel, being thirty days on the water. The ship ran out of food and there was almost mutiny on the high seas, when the Bermuda Islands were sighted and there they landed and restocked for the rest of the voyage. He worked as a weaver in Massachusetts for five years, then returned to Flores, but remained only a short time, when he again came to America and straight on to California. He spent some time in Modesto as a barber in 1883. He was married in Oakland to Mary Soares, returned to Swansea, Mass., where two children were born, Alfred J., and Mary. With his family he made another trip back to the Azores to make a visit, but upon coming back to America he made for California and settled in Sebastopol, where two children were born, Palmyra Tahoe, Mrs. H. L. Wrheman, and Ernest. His wife died there and he came to Oakland and ran a grocery store, then for seventeen years he was with the State Harbor Commission in San Francisco, when he retired to make his home with his daughter. In 1925 he started on another trip back to his native country and a tour of Europe. He is an interesting storyteller and it is expected that upon his return he will have many new stories to tell his grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Luiz have four children: Mary C., born February 17, 1913; Anna Aileen, born December 23, 1915; Ernest D., born April 29, 1917; and Elaine M., born July 8, 1918. These children are attending the Atwater school. Mrs. Luiz is a great reader and is much interested in education, being a past vice-president of the Atwater Parent-Teachers Association, and served on the Ways and Means Committee in 1923. She served as the treasurer of the U. P. P. E. C. society for some time. Mr. Luiz is secretary of the U. P. E. C., of which he has been a member for over fifteen years. He is the president of the Atwater Pentacost Club Association, which he helped to organize. He is a Republican in politics. Both Mr. and Mrs. Luiz

are stockholders in the California Peach and Apricot Association and their thirty acres is in a highly developed condition, with trees from five to seventeen years old. They are liberal-minded and cooperate in all movements for the betterment of the community.

OSCAR HOLDEN

Lying northwest of Hilmar three and a half miles is the highly-developed ranch of fifty-five acres owned by Oscar Holden, a respected and popular native son of California, who is a director in the Hilmar Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Holden raises alfalfa, runs a dairy and also specializes in breeding pure-blooded, prize Minorcas. His original purchase of land was sixty acres, but he deeded five acres for an irrigation ditch. He is public spirited, well-liked and interested in the welfare of the Turlock Irrigation District and every other good thing for the county and the community.

Mr. Holden was born in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, May 15, 1879, the youngest of three children of Oscar and Mettie (Badger) Holden, late of Santa Barbara County, where they farmed. Oscar Holden, Sr., was born in New York State and married in Nebraska, where he was engaged in cattle-raising on the Nemaha River, when Nebraska was a territory. In 1875 he moved with his family to Goleta and farmed for a while and then moved to Montecito, a suburb of Santa Barbara. His wife was born in Michigan and grew up in Iowa and Nebraska. Her parents were also pioneers. Oscar Holden grew up on his father's farm in Goleta until he was seventeen. When his parents moved to Montecito he attended the public school there and learned the carpenter's trade. He did a little contracting and a little teaming. His attention being called to the Hilmar district in Merced County, he visited the place in 1908 and was so well satisfied that he bought sixty acres. Coming home he loaded up his goods and unloaded them at the Hilmar station on February 16, of the same year.

Mr. Holden was married in Santa Barbara to Clara Stevens, a daughter of Lyman and Lydia V. Stevens. Her father was a veteran of the Civil War, who came from Missouri to California after the war and passed away at the age of seventy-one. Her mother resides in Napa County, and is now seventy-five years old. The Holdens' two children are Earl Lyman, an electrician, and Laura, the wife of Donald Ross, an engineer in the cold storage plant in San Jose. Mr. Holden was elected a director in the Hilmar Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 1906 and has served acceptably and continuously ever since. This company provides insurance for about one half the cost

of old-line companies. During the late war he was captain of the district in the various bond drives, and his district went over the top every time. It is largely through his efforts that the Prairie Flower school district was organized, in which he has served as director for many years. Mrs. Holden has also served on the election board and done jury duty, and is deputy county clerk in the Riverside voting precinct, which has recently been formed out of a portion of the Fairview Valley precinct. Mrs. Holden is a very estimable lady and shares the excellent progressive spirit of her husband.

JOHN GROOM

When John Groom came to Livingston, Cal., in 1910, there was not much to suggest the present remarkable prosperity which he himself has helped to bring about. His first experience in Livingston was as a building foreman, but it was not long before he saw an opportunity for an energetic contractor. From the very start Mr. Groom averaged one building per month and to his credit stands the Marshall store building, the Livingston telegraph office building, the library building, the Sumner Grammar School building, the pool hall, the First Bank of Livingston building, the Walter Ward building, the Livingston bakery. He built the George Bloss home in Atwater, the residences of A. Craig, E. G. Adams, Dr. G. C. Saunders and others. In 1923 he built the Atwater Grammar School at Atwater and the new addition to the Merced Falls Grammar School. Mr. Groom has built five houses for himself and has sold four of them and is living in the fifth.

Mr. Groom is of English descent; his father, also named John Groom, and his mother, Anna Theresa (Williams) Groom, were born in England. They immigrated to Canada, and were there united in marriage. John Groom, Sr., located at Muskoka, Canada, where on May 22, 1876, John Jr., was born. The family remained in Canada for the following three years, then removed to Chicago, where the father engaged in contracting and building in the stockyards district. There were six children in this family: Anna, the wife of Angus Morrison, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Emma, the wife of George Palmeter, of Hood River, Ore.; John, our subject; Thomas, assistant superintendent at the California Barrel Factory at Arcata, Cal.; James, deceased; and Bessie, wife of Mark Austin, of Livingston. The father passed away at Antigo, Wis., aged sixty-five years, and the mother died at Livingston on February 9, 1924, aged eighty-one years.



James Ryan Jr.

John Groom attended public school in Chicago and one year at Benton Harbor, Mich., and at the age of fourteen he went to work as an apprentice to learn the carpenter's trade. He left the family home at Antigo, Wis., and came to California in 1901, locating first at Gonzales, Monterey County, where he worked for about eight months; then went to Eureka, where he remained until 1908, when he removed to San Francisco and worked for a couple of years prior to locating at Livingston.

At Livingston, in June, 1914, Mr. Groom was married to Miss Abbie E. Carson, a daughter of John Carson. and of this union one child has been born, John Carson Groom. Fraternaly, Mr. Groom is affiliated with Humboldt Lodge No. 77, I. O. O. F., and Mt. Zion Encampment, I. O. O. F., both at Eureka, Humboldt County, Cal. He is a stockholder in the First Bank of Livingston. He is very active in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the Livingston section of Merced County and is ever looking for an opportunity to aid in its further development.

JAMES RYAN, JR.

The list of public-spirited and highly respected business men of Merced is not complete without the name of James Ryan, a member of a large family of pioneers and a man who took an active part in local affairs. Being a stanch Republican, he made his influence felt in every movement to promote the welfare of Merced City and County. He was born on his father's farm in Mariposa County, on August 8, 1878, a son of James and Louisa (Pate) Ryan. The father came from New York State in 1859, while yet a boy, and mined for nine years, and then bought the ranch now known as the Cornett ranch, and farmed to grain. He sold this ranch and took up what is now known as the Ryan ranch, but moved from it two years before his death. His sons farmed the ranch up to the time of his death, in 1921, and it was later sold by the family to Frank Crane. There were thirteen children in the family, of whom two died young; the others grew to maturity and eight are now living.

James Ryan, Jr., attended the Cunningham school, four miles from his home, and afterwards took a course in the Santa Cruz Business College, at the age of eighteen. From working on a ranch he went to San Francisco and was employed in a wholesale store for three years; his next engagement was in a store in Le Grand for a while. Then until 1918 he was engaged in farming, and afterwards in prospecting for oil in Fresno and Merced Counties on the West Side. In 1924 Mr. Ryan became owner of a third-interest in the Lost Pose

Eaton gold quartz mine in Tuolumne County, and at the present time they have struck a ledge assaying from \$100 to \$2000 per ton.

James Ryan married Miss Eva Holloway of Illinois, but reared in California, and they have three children, namely: Leonore (Mrs. Phil Clark), Evelyn, and James. Fraternaly Mr. Ryan is an Odd Fellow, and served as Grand Master of California in 1922; and he is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Native Sons of the Golden West, and Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. He belongs to the Lions' Club and the Chamber of Commerce in Merced. He is fond of outdoor life and in his younger days was a baseball player.

P. A. LUNDQUIST

It is from Sweden, Denmark and Norway that the United States gets many of its energetic, reliable and progressive people, who make loyal citizens, and typical of the best in those races we have P. A. Lundquist, owner of a forty-acre well-improved ranch in the Fairview precinct of the Hilmar Colony. On a five-acre addition, which he later acquired, he has built a comfortable home which will serve him and his wife during their declining years.

The son of Andrew E. and Catherine Lundquist, P. A. was born in Skaraborg Lan, Sweden, on May 19, 1856; and he came with his parents to America and settled with them in Jefferson County, Iowa, being the youngest of three children, two sons and one daughter. He entered heartily into the work of helping to clear up and develop his father's farm. In 1886 the parents moved to Montgomery County, Iowa, where the parents and sister died. The brother, John G., is still living retired in Stanton, Iowa.

In 1892, P. A. Lundquist was married in Montgomery County, Iowa, to Miss Louisa Holm, a daughter of a merchant-tailor in Sweden. As a young girl of sixteen she courageously migrated to Iowa. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lundquist bought an eighty-acre unimproved farm in Montgomery County, Iowa, upon which they carried on a general farming business. Three children were born of this union. The oldest, John E., served in France during the World War and is now a farmer north of Hilmar; Agnes married Arthur Nilsen, and is the mother of three children, Arnold, Leonard and Reuben, and resides on the home ranch; David W., who graduated from Heald's Business College of Oakland in 1920, is a young man of sterling worth and is working for the Standard Oil Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Lundquist became interested in the Hilmar Colony in California and in 1915 they left Montgomery County, Iowa, and

came here. They brought with them considerable means and have wisely invested it and have improved their property. They are active members of the Swedish Mission Church and are among the best people of the Hilmar Colony. In politics they are Republicans.

PETER PETERSEN

Closely associated with the advancement of the agricultural prosperity of Merced County is Peter Petersen, who owns and occupies a choice and well-improved ranch of forty-eight acres, which is pleasantly situated west of the limits of the city of Gustine. During 1923 he purchased another ranch which contains 13.62 acres, both ranches being under the Miller & Lux canal. Mr. Petersen conducts a dairy of forty cattle and raises alfalfa. The birth of Peter Petersen occurred on the Island of Als, Germany, but now Denmark, March 2, 1875, a son of Mathias and Catherina (Petersen) Petersen. Mathias Petersen was a cooper by trade and also followed farming in his native country; he never left Denmark, passing away there in 1883, while the mother passed away about 1905. Five children blessed this union: Maria, Mrs. James Hansen, residing at Newman; Peter, the subject of this review; Hans, deceased; Mathias, living in Michigan; and Doris, who still makes her home in Denmark.

Peter Petersen attended public school in Germany and remained at home until he was sixteen years old, when he came to America. Locating in Escanaba, Mich., he worked for six and a half years in a saw mill. Desiring a change of location, he came to California and stopped at Newman, where he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for the next fifteen years. At the end of this time he came to Gustine and purchased his present home place, which was uncultivated land at that time; on this place he established a dairy and planted the land to alfalfa; his second purchase of land is also being developed to alfalfa.

At Modesto, June 18, 1908, Mr. Petersen was married to Miss Catherina Miller, also born in Als, daughter of Jorgen Miller, who was a professional musician, also a farmer, but devoted most of his time to music. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Petersen: Esther, Wilbur, and Edwin. During January, 1919, the flu epidemic claimed Mrs. Petersen and the two eldest children, all passing away within one week's time. Mr. Petersen favors the principles of the Democratic party, but usually votes for the candidate best fitted for office regardless of party lines. Fraternally he belongs to Romero Lodge No. 413 I. O. O. F. and to the Dania Lodge at Gustine.

CHRISTIAN STONER WEAVER

The rapid advance of education in every part of our fair land and the development and improvement of educational methods have raised the teacher's calling to the dignity of a true profession, which today is one of the most useful known. Especially qualified for his present position by reason of his broad learning, rare patience and good executive ability, Christian Stoner Weaver is successfully filling the position of county superintendent of schools of Merced County. A native of California he was born near Livingston, Merced County, on October 28, 1878, a son of William L. and Annie (Stoner) Weaver. W. L. Weaver was born in Pennsylvania in 1847, came to California the first time in January, 1870, remained until October, 1871, when he returned to his eastern home and on December 28, 1871, was united in marriage with Miss Annie Stoner, born in Pennsylvania on February 5, 1847. In 1874, with his wife and two children, Mr. Weaver again came to California and in 1876 located in Merced County and followed the carpenter's trade and engaged in ranching. In 1900 the family moved to the British Colony and here Mr. Weaver continued farming until he was accidentally killed in a railroad accident in 1907. Mrs. Weaver is still living and is the mother of nine children, all living, as follows: Charles H., residing with his mother; Mrs. Elma Middleton, of Ceres, who has two children; Mrs. Sadie Clark, of Alameda, who has two children; Christian Stoner, of this review; Robert S., of Merced, who is the father of three children; Mrs. Mollie Lander, of Ceres, the mother of five children; Nettie and Margaret A., who are with their mother; and Alvin E., of the British Colony and the father of two children.

Christian Stoner Weaver was reared and educated in Merced County, supplementing his public school studies with courses at the University of California, the Stockton Normal School, the Stockton Business College, and the Fresno Teachers' College. His first position as teacher was in the schools of his native county for three years. He then was in the employ of the Yosemite Valley Railroad during its construction for four years, after which he returned to his pedagogical work for three years in the schools of Fresno County; then in the city schools of Fresno for four years, and serving one year as deputy county superintendent of schools. In 1920 he came back to Merced County and farmed for a short time. He next taught for two and one-half years in the Tuttle school and in November, 1922 he was elected to the office of county superintendent of schools of Merced County, a position he continues to fill with efficiency.

The marriage of Mr. Weaver united him with Miss Anna Peden, a native of Kentucky, and four children have blessed their union: Robert Christian, Martha Elizabeth, Ruth Louise and Doris Mae. Fraternally, Mr. Weaver is a Mason, belonging to Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., and Fresno Consistory of the Scottish Rite; has been through the chairs of Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F.; and is also a member of the Woodmen of the World. Mr. Weaver is devoted to his work and is a close student of the educational needs of Merced County. Politically, he is independent in his views.

CLYDE E. BRIDEGROOM

A representative dairyman of the Fairview Precinct in Merced County, who has made his own way in the world and has reached his present place in the esteem of his fellow men, is Clyde E. Bridegroom, residing about seven miles southwest of Turlock. Mr. Bridegroom was born at Mt. Carmel, Wabash County, Ill., December 28, 1885, the son of William E. Bridegroom, the present mayor of Turlock, Stanislaus County. The latter was born in Winamac, Ind., and became a railroad man, running on freight and later on passenger trains as a conductor, first with the "Big Four," then with the Wabash, and later was with the Texas Pacific in Texas. He had married in Indiana, Miss Mary Gill, born in that State; and she bore her husband four children who are now living.

Clyde E. attended the public schools in Illinois and after completing his courses at the age of sixteen he took to farming on 192 acres owned by his father at Reinard, Ill. The lure of California called to the young farmer in Illinois and on October 3, 1905, he arrived in Los Angeles to see if he could not better his condition, he being the first member of his family to come this far West. After the usual sight-seeing in the southland, Mr. Bridegroom found employment in the factory owned by the Southern California Lumber & Box Company, and a few months later he went to Bakersfield, where he was fortunate to become a foreman for the Kern County Land Company on their 120,000-acre Poso Ranch and he remained in that position for the ensuing seven years. His next field of endeavor was with the American Oilfields Company, at Taft, as foreman of the Transportation Department for two years. In 1906 he had made a visit to Turlock, Cal., and at that time purchased a few lots in the new and growing community. In 1912 he came back to that city, but in the meantime had traded his lots for twenty acres of land south of the city, upon which he built a house and made improvements, and it is here that he still makes his home. Through

general ranching and dairying he has succeeded and now owns 120 acres of fine land upon which he runs a dairy of seventy cows, having every modern convenience obtainable to make his barns and equipment sanitary and convenient.

Much of the success that has accompanied the efforts of Mr. Bridegroom he attributes to his wife, whom he married in Modesto and who was in maidenhood, Miss Ethel Marie Kirkwood, born in Ukiah, Cal., the daughter of William Edward Kirkwood, who came to Mendocino County from Iowa when he was eleven years of age. Of this happy union have been born four children: William Radcliffe, Bethel Beatrice, Robina Bernice and Kirkwood Clyde. Mr. Bridegroom is essentially a "home-man" as he finds his greatest happiness in the bosom of his interesting family. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are Republicans in politics. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bridegroom are highly esteemed by their ever-widening circle of friends and well-wishers.

PAUL D. BLOOM

Among the younger generation of dairymen and ranchers in Merced County, Paul D. Bloom has won a name and place for himself. He was born in Davis County, Iowa, March 16, 1891, a son of John and Laura A. (Royer) Bloom. John Bloom was born in Sweden, near Stockholm, and was reared on a farm. He left his native land, lived in Iowa, where he married; in 1900 he came to California, eventually locating in San Jose, where he passed his last days, dying at the age of sixty-six years. He had been engaged in the hotel business in San Jose. Mrs. Bloom still makes that city her home.

Paul D. Bloom grew to manhood in San Jose and was educated in the public schools, after which he started out to make his own way in the world when he was twenty. His first employment was with the Standard Oil Company at San Jose in the sales department. He was there until he came to Merced County, in 1918. Here he located on the ranch owned by his father-in-law, Jasper Parnell, having at first forty acres, but now operates 160 acres devoted to dairying and raising alfalfa on shares.

On July 16, 1913, occurred the marriage of Paul D. Bloom and Miss Julia Stella Parnell, who was born in Stockton, the daughter of Jasper and Cassie Parnell, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Bloom have three children: Cedric, Mildred and Donald. Politically Mr. Bloom is a Democrat. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows at Newman.

CHARLES WILSON O'DONNEL

It is a significant tribute to the merits of Merced County, that a man of such wide experience as Charles W. O'Donnel should choose to settle here and invest his money. He is a citizen of whom any community might well be proud and the people of Merced County have accorded him a place in the foremost ranks of its representative citizens and business men. His material worth is represented by two fine ranches, one of sixty-five acres near Arena devoted to alfalfa, dairying and fruit; another of forty acres in the Jordan-Atwater section, in which there are ten acres of Thompson Seedless grapes, twelve acres of Malagas, fourteen acres of Elberta peaches, and four acres of alfalfa. He has concrete pipes for irrigating and an abundance of pure water from his own wells for domestic, stock and irrigating purposes which are operated by means of two Fairbanks-Morse gasoline pumping engines. The two farms are very fertile and valuable.

Mr. O'Donnel was born at Parker's Landing, in Butler County, Pa., on November 6, 1876. His father, L. D. O'Donnel, was born in 1847 and married to Edith Black in Venango County; he was well known as one of the first contract-drillers in the Venango County oil fields of Pennsylvania and was in the oil game until his retirement, in 1896, to his farm in Venango County. He drilled the first oil well that was drilled by contract in the United States, it being the discovery well at Scrub Grass, Pa., and drilled on what is now the right-of-way of the Pennsylvania Railroad, now known as the Allegheny Valley Railroad, between Oil City and Pittsburgh. Mr. O'Donnel is still living in Pennsylvania. His wife died there in 1914 at the age of fifty-nine. There were three children, the others being Edward, of Sharon, Pa., an inspector of the Carnegie Steel Works at Farrell, Pa.; and Daisy, Mrs. J. C. Reynolds, whose husband is a concrete contractor at Franklin, Pa.

The second child, Charles Wilson O'Donnel grew up in Pennsylvania. His education, begun in the common schools, was topped off by a commercial course after which, at the age of sixteen, he started in business with his father; and when his father retired, he took possession of the five strings of tools in the Rosenburg field in Pennsylvania. He has drilled in nearly every oil State of the Union. He came to California in 1910 and drilled at Taft for the K. T. & O. Co., which is subsidiary to the Southern Pacific Railway. In 1913 he left California and went to Electra, Texas, where he brought in thirty wells. When he left Breckenridge, Texas, in 1910, and came to California Mr. O'Donnel purchased his first ranch in the Jordan-Atwater tract in Merced County, but continued drilling until 1918. He

standardized and brought in the first oil well at Burnett, Texas, where he kept six strings of tools at work.

Mr. O'Donnel was married in Franklin, Pa., in 1908, to Miss Edna Levier, born in Venango County, Pa., the eleventh child of the twelve born to John Levier and his wife. Mrs. O'Donnel died in 1918.

On December 15, 1924, Charles L. O'Donnel, who is the oldest son of Edward O'Donnel, of Sharon, Pa., purchased an undivided half interest in the 105 acres of land owned by our subject at Arena and will give his time and best efforts to developing the property into fruits, and to the development of a market from Arena to Sharon, Pa., for California fruits. Charles L. O'Donnel was born at Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 27, 1897, and for ten years was connected with the Carnegie Steel Company, at Sharon. He was also for two years with the Pennsylvania Railway Company. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Moriarity, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, is a proficient stenographer, was secretary to the secretary of the Sharon, Pa., Chamber of Commerce, and like her husband, has a wide acquaintance and is well posted as to the market conditions and requirements for fruit of the people in the Pittsburgh section of Pennsylvania. 400 carloads of California grapes and other green fruits were marketed at Sharon during 1924. Mr. and Mrs. C. L. O'Donnel have one son. Their advent in Arena is very welcome, particularly as it initiates a new era for Arena as a fruit shipping center.

JAMES ROBERT McHENRY

Prominent among the active, wide-awake and progressive lawyers of Merced County is James Robert McHenry, whose untiring efforts and continued industry, combined with skill and practical judgment in conducting the duties of his chosen profession, have met with a well-deserved reward. His birth occurred on a farm in Missouri, November 20, 1879, a son of James and Emma (Galvan) McHenry, who came to California when our subject was a child of three years and settled in Stanislaus County.

James Robert McHenry acquired his early education in the public schools; this was supplemented with private study and a business course. His legal education was obtained through private study in Merced and he was admitted to the bar in 1916 and immediately thereafter opened offices in Merced, where he has continued to practice with gratifying success.

The marriage of Mr. McHenry united him with Miss Margaret Kelly. Her parents are old pioneers of the Snelling district of Merced

County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McHenry: Anna, Lola and Harvey. In politics Mr. McHenry is Independent. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. In 1922 he was elected treasurer of the Merced Irrigation District. Mr. McHenry is actively interested in horticulture, especially in the culture of figs, which reach the zenith of perfection in the Merced district; he spends his leisure time looking after his 200-acre fig orchard and when opportunity presents itself he goes to the mountains, where he enjoys hunting and fishing.

HARRY M. BAKER

The principal of the Elim Grammar School, located between Hilmar and Irwin, Harry M. Baker is a representative of a San Joaquin Valley pioneer family and was born in Stanislaus County, on October 11, 1888, a son of Francis M. Baker, a native of Ohio, born in 1852, and Elizabeth Harmon Baker, who was descended from Pennsylvania Dutch stock and who died in Richmond, Cal., in 1922, aged sixty-two years. F. M. Baker is a second cousin of the late President Harding; the Harding farm near Blooming Grove, Ohio, joined the farm belonging to the father of F. M. Baker. Both Harry M. and his father have autographed letters from the late President. The Baker ancestry is traced back to 1450 in England, from which country the progenitors of the family came to America and settled in the New England States, where they became wealthy mill-owners. Grandfather Baker was a Mexican War veteran, having served in that conflict.

F. M. Baker came to Turlock in the early seventies and started an eating house; some time after he had become established he returned to Ohio and was married and returned to California with his bride and took up his work in Turlock. He next went to Snelling, where he was employed in a flouring mill for some time; then was engaged in the same occupation with the Merced Milling Company. In 1896 he ran the Oak Park Dairy, having 200 cows, and superintended the making of cheese at the factory; he next had charge of the cheese factory on the Wallace Ranch, near Modesto. In 1900 he had the first irrigated farm in the Turlock Irrigation District at the Tegner District, having bought this land several years previous for twenty dollars per acre. He sold it at a handsome profit and invested in 100 acres in Mendocino County, which he also sold to good advantage. Then he moved to Richmond, Cal., and bought and sold real estate for several years until now he is able to retire from business worries and is enjoying life at his Richmond home, saddened only by the death of his wife. There were twelve children born to Mr. and

Mrs. F. M. Baker. The oldest child, a girl, met an accidental death by falling down stairs when she was two years old; the others are living and are: Alta, Mrs. J. M. DeVee; Roy W.; Jesse F.; Harry M.; Ethel, Mrs. C. O. Fewell; William W.; Hazel, Mrs. Elmer Ridd; Dora, Mrs. W. T. Woolley; Effie, Mrs. C. W. Friel; Gladys, Mrs. Emmet Dailey; and Estella, Mrs. Jesse White. An uncle of our subject, James A. Baker, was connected with the Southern Pacific Railway for thirty years and is now retired on a pension; he also receives a pension from the United States Government for his services during the Civil War and owns real estate in Newman, where he makes his residence.

Harry M. Baker was reared on a ranch and attended the schools in Turlock and in the Tegner District, and was graduated from the Turlock High School, class of 1910, and from the Western Normal School of Stockton in 1912. He began teaching in the Franklin School in Merced County, where he was principal in 1913-1915; then for one year he was employed as a stenographer for the Moline Plow Company, in Stockton, and later served as a deputy under Eugene Graham, county clerk of San Joaquin County. He next put in three years in the office of the Spreckels Sugar Company in Manteca, beginning as assistant bookkeeper, and advancing to head bookkeeper and next to auditor. He then resumed teaching as principal of the Atlanta Grammar School in San Joaquin County, 1919-1922. In the latter year he came to his present place in the Elim Grammar School in the Hilmar Colony. This has the largest enrollment of scholars of any grammar school outside of the incorporated towns in Merced County, the number being 246 in 1925. The pupils are transported to and from school in three large motor busses. Mr. Baker holds a State life diploma, also State administration credentials which entitle him to a superintendency of schools as supervisor of education. He keeps abreast of the times by reading and study and is thoroughly up-to-date in educational work.

Mr. Baker was married in 1914 to Mary Alice Carter, born near Manteca, a daughter of James and Medora (Kiel) Carter, a pioneer family, natives of Wisconsin who came to California with their parents via Panama and from San Francisco to Stockton by boat. Mrs. Baker was a student in the Western Normal School in Stockton and there she met Mr. Baker, and their marriage was the result. She is secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church, of which she is also a member and a teacher in the Sunday School. They have two children, June and Ila. Mr. Baker is an athlete of more than ordinary ability, is a champion sprinter and pole vaulter and could run 100 yards in ten and two-fifths seconds; even now he keeps up with his athletic exercises and occasionally

wins over those much younger than himself. He is strictly temperate, and never has used tobacco or liquor. He plays on the violin at concerts and special gatherings. For some time he edited the Hilmar Enterprise, now owned by Mrs. Betty Wright, but he severed this connection when he took up the Boy Scout work, being one of the organizers of the local troop, and is their Scout Master. He believes in the young boys and does everything in his power to help them to the right path they should take in future life. He and his family reside at Irwin, and are the center of a wide social circle.

FRED A. LAGOMARSINO

How the family represented by Fred A. Lagomarsino came to be established in this country is an interesting story, showing the circumstances that have led many to leave their native lands and seek their fortunes in the great West. Antone Lagomarsino was a native of Italy; he was drafted into the Austrian army but in order to evade military duty, he took to sea in 1849, and after six months on the ocean he arrived at San Francisco, and learning of the gold discovery, he set out for the mines. He reached Moccasin, Tuolumne County and instead of mining, started gardening and fruit-raising, and with such success that he continued in it. In 1852 he was married to Maria Canevaro who had just come from Genoa, Italy in a party from there. In 1854 Mr. Lagomarsino moved to Merced County and took up land on the river four miles below Snelling and engaged in general farming and prospered well by his industry and frugality, acquiring much valuable town property in Merced. He died in 1887. His wife removed to Merced where she died at her home in 1895, survived by seven children: Frank, who died at the age of thirty-five; Julia Faubel, of San Francisco; Louis, who died aged thirty-two; Mary; Joseph; Fred A., the subject of this sketch; and a child who died in infancy.

Fred A. was born on the Snelling ranch, March 25, 1872, and was reared on the Merced River ranch and worked with or for his parents until leaving home to learn the plumber's trade, which he followed as a journeyman for eight years. He owned and carried on the Merced Soda Works for twenty years, but he sold it out in order to give his attention to ranching which had been in the hands of tenants. He and his sisters own the old homestead of 219 acres on the Merced River and some of Merced's most desirable business property in lots and buildings. He is a member of the Exempt Firemen, and of the Native Sons of the Golden West and of the U. P. E. C. and the I. D. E. S. of Merced. He belongs to the Catholic Church.

MAURICE GAYLORD GREENLY

So much of the future development and advancement of California as a State, and each county as a unit in its progress, is dependent upon the growing generation, that enough cannot be said in favor of the men and women who are devoting their lives to educating these embryo citizens and helping to make them into men and women who will be an asset to any community. Especially in the line of vocational education, fitting them for their future work in life; or in preparing them for college courses, so that they, in their turn, may become educators. And Merced County has been unusually fortunate in its selection of faculties for the different schools in the district.

As principal of the Hilmar Union High School, Maurice Gaylord Greenly is filling an important place in county education. A native of South Dakota, he was born in Estelline, that State, on December 23, 1890, the son of Hiram B. and Latie A. (Gaylord) Greenly, both born in the State of New York; and they became homesteaders in Dakota Territory, the mother locating there in 1881. The parents moved to Brookings, S. D., when young Maurice had reached the age of eleven years, in order that their family of three children, of whom he was the youngest, might obtain good educational advantages. He attended the Brookings High School for three years, and then entered preparatory courses for entry into Brookings College, now the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. Taking up a general science course in college, he graduated from that institution with the Class of 1913, with his degree of B. S.

Following his graduation, Mr. Greenly immediately went to Honolulu, and there engaged in teaching in private schools for one year, and for the following seven years taught in the public schools there. Returning to California in 1922, he spent that year and the next as a post graduate student in the educational department of Stanford University, and received his degree of A. M. in June, 1923. In September, 1923, he entered upon his duties as principal of the Hilmar Union High School and has since that time devoted his energies, both mental and physical, to the building up of the school under his care and maintaining its high standard of efficiency.

The Hilmar Union High comprises the following subsidiary grammar schools: the Elim Union, Fairview, Hilmar, Merquin Union, Riverside and Raisin districts, Prairie Flower being joint with Stanislaus County. A regularly accredited high school with the University of California, with courses in commercial and vocational instruction as well as the regular high school courses; and situated as it is, in the midst of the fertile Hilmar Colony, in the northern part of Merced County, the school has an important bearing on the future

in store for this county. There are 130 pupils at the present writing, 1925, and this enrollment mounts steadily with the growing population and development of the district. Housed in a modern and well-planned building of brick construction, built at a cost of \$35,000, in 1919, the school was first started in 1911; and eight years later the bond issue was established for the badly needed new building. The first issue of \$28,000 was found insufficient and an additional \$6000 voted. Mr. Greenly is the fourth principal of the school, the others who served before him being W. W. Pettit, Herbert Kittredge, and A. L. Wedell. A "born" educator, and intensely energetic and interested in his work, Mr. Greenly keeps the Hilmar Union High up to a fine standard of work, getting unusual results from his earnest work in striving to bring out the inherent ability in each individual student.

During his years spent in Honolulu, Mr. Greenly met his future wife, and there his marriage occurred, in 1917, to Miss Helen Hoag, a native of Pasadena, Cal., and a graduate of the San Jose Teachers College, Class of 1915. Three children have blessed their union: Maurice Gaylord Jr.; Patricia Jean; and Marian Leilani.

JOSEPH M. SOUZA

It takes some character in a lad of fifteen to start out alone, for a strange country, on borrowed money and with no capital to see him through after his arrival, but these handicaps did not daunt Joseph M. Souza. He was born in the Azores Islands, on February 7, 1877, and was educated in the common schools and at the age of fifteen came alone to America to locate with his brother in Merced, Cal. He had borrowed \$200.00 to make the journey, and on landing in New York, took the overland train for California, and was eight days crossing the continent. It was a lonesome trip for the boy; he could not speak a word of English, and the only thing which cheered him on his way was the sight of numerous bands of sheep seen from the car windows, for he was raised in a sheep country and they made him feel a little at home in the strange land.

Arriving in Merced on May 11, 1892, he first worked for his brother, A. M. Souza, herding sheep for two and one-half years, and later became a partner with this brother in the sheep-raising business for about eight years. He sold out his interest and worked for F. I. Freitas, herding sheep, and later engaged in the business for himself, but again sold out and became a partner with Mr. Freitas, this time remaining so engaged for six years. At the end of that period he disposed of his interest, and purchased a ranch of 170 acres, west of

Merced, which he sold at a good profit in two years' time. In 1922, he bought a band of sheep, and now is raising about 3000 head, his partner in business being Bert Crane of Turlock.

The marriage of Mr. Souza in 1902, united him with Rosa A. Rodrigues, also a native of the Azores, and five children have been born to them: Joseph M. Jr.; Elsie, wife of Toney Freitas of Merced; Clarence; Rosaline; and Clinton W., all native of California. A self-made man in every sense of the word, Mr. Souza was made a United States citizen in Merced, August 6, 1906, and he has never regretted his decision to come here and establish his home and raise his family, for he realizes the opportunities at hand. Fraternally he is a member of the U. P. E. C. Society.

JOHN BARNEICH

No better example of the self-made man can be given than the life work and accomplishments of John Barneich; nor of the wonderful opportunities offered by California for the man or woman to rise to positions of affluence and influence by their own endeavors. Coming to California a lad of seventeen, poor in purse but rich in ambition and in strength, the success to which he has attained has been obtained by patient, persevering and honest labor.

John Barneich was born in the Basque province in the Pyrenees in the south of France, on May 6, 1863, and his education was obtained in the common schools of his section of country and he was reared in the sheep industry until he was seventeen. In 1880 his desire to become a citizen of the United States was granted him and he arrived in California and got work herding sheep for J. Miguel Arburua; and at the same time he was studying the English language. When these sheep were sold to Miller & Lux our subject went along with the band and remained in the employ of Mr. Miller for two years. From 1884 to 1886 he drove sheep through the Pacheco Pass to the stockyards and slaughter houses in San Francisco and Oakland while employed by Eugene Avy, a butcher in San Francisco, who had the Little Panoche Ranch in Fresno County.

In 1885 Mr. Barneich had saved enough money to engage in the sheep business on his own account; in 1886 he homesteaded 160 acres of land on Little Panoche Creek in Fresno County, and as he prospered he kept adding to his holdings until he owned 2000 acres, all in Fresno County. He farmed 150 acres of it, had twenty acres in alfalfa, with water rights. Here he made his home until 1898, when he sold his sheep and came to Los Banos and opened a butcher shop, one of the pioneers of the new town, and this he operated



D. Williams.

until 1915, when he sold out and retired to devote his time to his personal interests. He owns the O. B. Garage building and some residence property in Los Banos; and he also owns his ranch in Fresno County, which is leased to tenants.

Mr. Barneich was united in marriage in 1890, with Louise Clavere, born in France, and they have had nine children, viz.: Isadore J. of Los Banos; Julia, wife of Martin Jussel of Oakland, and the mother of two children; Mary, wife of Bernard Benitou of St. Helena, and mother of one child; Justine, married Frank La Forte, of Oakland and has one child; Annie, of Los Banos; John L., of Oakland; and Bernice, Louise and Marguerite, all of Los Banos. Mr. Barneich has always been public spirited and helped to promote all interests for upbuilding Los Banos and Merced County.

REV. DAVID C. WILLIAMS

In writing the history of any section, it is important that we include in its pages the histories of the outstanding men who have contributed to its real growth and advancement, and their effect on the moral and intellectual progress as well as the more material side of a nation's development. For the growth of town and city, county and State, is a part of the whole movement "toward the light" which our glorious country is slowly but surely making, and is important in the general scheme of things; and when we find a man who has worked faithfully both as a minister of the gospel, to help men to a better life, and as a man of affairs in the working world, putting his shoulder to the wheel to bring to actual accomplishment the movements which make for the upbuilding of a community, its general welfare and future progress, such a man is worthy of all praise, and his labors merit permanent record.

Rev. David C. Williams, a Methodist minister, and a member of the State assembly from the 49th District of California, was born in North Wales, Great Britain, June 15, 1879, and was educated primarily in the British grammar schools and a private English classical school, there taking up classic languages and modern sciences under a private teacher. He received his degree of A. B. in the University College of Wales, and in 1900 graduated with the degree of M. D. from the Liverpool College of Medicine. That same year he came to California. After his decision to enter the ministry, he attended the Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn. Since 1904, he has been a minister, preaching at various places in California, among them Lemoore, Hanford, Arbuckle, Williams, Red Bluff,

Kingsburg, Modesto, Le Grand and Merced. In 1918, Dr. Williams came to Le Grand, Merced County. He was chaplain in the United States Army during the World War, stationed at Camp Taylor, Ky., and received his commission as first lieutenant, being later commissioned a captain. Prominent in ministerial affairs, Dr. Williams is historian for the Methodist Conference, and active in the various meetings of the church body.

As assemblyman from Merced and Madera Counties, Dr. Williams was of invaluable assistance in promoting and putting through to completion some of the most important bills that have ever been before the public from this section of the State, among them the bills providing for the Merced Irrigation District and the Yosemite Valley Highway from Merced to El Portal. He served on the following committees in the State assembly: the Medical and Dental Laws, Labor and Capital, Soldier and Sailor Affairs, Public Morals, Military Affairs, and Agriculture; and he was chairman of the Committee on Irrigation. A brilliant and forceful speaker, he was called the best orator of the assembly, and his constituents were justly proud of his achievements, for they reflect good judgment on the part of those who put him in office, at the head of public affairs in their district. Dr. Williams was the founder of the Mercy Hospital of Merced and put that project through to completion, filling a much needed want in the community. He was president of the Le Grand Board of Trade, and he always gives of his time and knowledge to all causes which he knows are for the real benefit of his fellow citizens, for his vision is unusually broad and he can rightfully be called one of the builders of Merced County. He came to Merced as pastor of Bethel Methodist Church, South, in 1924.

The marriage of Dr. Williams, occurring at Lemoore on January 1, 1917, united him with Ruby Lobb, a native of California; and one daughter has been born to them, Eugenia Pearl. Fraternally, Dr. Williams is a Mason, a member of the Kingsbury Lodge of that order; and he is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Yosemite Castle, at Merced.

TIMOTHY THORNTON

A résumé of the careers of the people who contribute to the best interests of Merced County would be incomplete without mention of the earnest efforts of Timothy Thornton, formerly deputy city marshal of Merced. In the biographical sketch of Daniel K. Thornton, found on another page of this history, mention is made of thirteen children, three of them daughters, born of the marriage of Michael

and Ellen (Hanlon) Thornton, who came to Merced County in an early day and located on a homestead two and one-half miles west of Merced. One of their sons was Timothy and he was born on the place on December 25, 1879. He grew up on the farm and attended the public school along with the other children of their neighborhood. When he was eighteen he began farming on his own responsibility, continuing for ten years; then he became a member of the police force in Merced. In April, 1923, he was made deputy marshal, a position he now holds.

Upon reaching manhood's estate Mr. Thornton was united in marriage with Agnes C. Gainey, of Washington, D. C. She is a teacher in the Arena School and served as president of the County Board of Education. They have one child, Francis. In political affiliations Mr. Thornton supports the platform and measures of the Democratic party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Woodmen of the World. For recreation he is fond of all healthy out-of-door sports. As a public-spirited man, he is deeply interested in the progress of Merced, town and county.

A. W. SWARD

A name that is worthy to be enrolled among the pioneers of the Hilmar Colony in Merced County is that of A. W. Sward, an enterprising and persevering citizen of whom any community might well be proud. He owns a ranch of forty acres one-half a mile south of Irwin at the corner of Lander and Williams Avenues, all well-improved and productive. He was born in Ostrejotland, Sweden, on March 11, 1869, was educated in the schools of his native country and when he was eighteen he took passage on a White Star Line steamer for America and arrived at Castle Garden, N. Y., in December, 1886. His destination was Axtell, Nebr., where a brother had already located, and as soon as he arrived there he found employment at farm work, continuing for two years as a wage earner there. Wanting to see something of the country he traveled to Kearney and to Omaha, both in Nebraska, where he found employment to his liking, remaining in the latter place until 1902, when he had saved enough money to come to California. Soon after his arrival in the month of May, he bargained for forty acres in the Hilmar Colony, which was then a worn-out wheat field, and he set to work to make his property a good investment. How well he has succeeded is demonstrated by the well-kept and productive ranch he owns today.

In 1902 he was married at Omaha, Nebr., to Miss Anna Swenson, who had come to America from Sweden in 1894. This couple arrived in Hilmar Colony on June 10, 1903, settled on his ranch,

which he had purchased through the representations of N. O. Hultberg and A. Hallner, promoters of the colony. They began making improvements and in order to have water for their use they had to carry it from the well of C. A. Lundell three quarters of a mile away. This continued until he had sunk his own well, securing water for all needs at a depth of forty-one and one half feet. He also built his home and outbuildings. This worthy couple have had eight children, viz.: Emma, who died at the age of sixteen and one half years; Albert, a graduate of the Hilmar High School, class of 1923; Hilda, a pupil in the Hilmar High School, class of 1925; Leonard, also in the high school; and Esther, Wallace, Edith and Martin, pupils of the grammar school. Mr. Sward received his citizenship papers at Omaha, Nebr., in 1903, and exercises his right of franchise by supporting men and measures he considers best for the greatest number. Mr. and Mrs. Sward helped organize the South Elim school district and are in favor of the best obtainable for the children to get their start in life.

JESSE DALLAS WOOD

Occupying a position of prominence and influence among the citizens of Merced is Jesse Dallas Wood who, since 1920, has occupied the important position of mayor of the city. In 1906 he was elected city clerk of Merced and at the end of his term of two years was reelected and served until 1920, when he was elected a city trustee and appointed by the board as chairman, which carries with it the office of mayor; he was reappointed again in 1922. He is esteemed for his worth as an earnest, practical business man and a citizen who has always manifested the greatest interest in the general welfare of the community in which he has resided for so many years. He is a native Californian, born in Sonoma County, October 9, 1877, a son of M. D. Wood, whose sketch may also be found in this history. While still a lad, Jesse Dallas Wood accompanied his parents to Merced and in this thriving city he received his education in the grammar and high school; then for one year he was connected with a wholesale house in San Francisco. He returned to Merced, where since 1899 he has been associated with the Balfour, Guthrie Company, first as a bookkeeper; and rising steadily he became their local agent in 1907, which responsible position he still holds.

In 1900, Mr. Wood was united in marriage with Miss Daisy Ansley, born in San Francisco, and educated in the schools of San Francisco and Merced. Two children have been born of this union. Jesse Shirley is a student at the Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.; and Marjorie is in the high school in Merced. Since 1912 Mr. Wood

has been the junior member of the draying firm of French & Wood, conducting a successful hauling business in Merced and vicinity. In politics Mr. Wood is a staunch Democrat; fraternally he is a member of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World, and Native Sons, and he belongs to the Chamber of Commerce of Merced. He is vitally interested in the welfare of his community and spares no effort to aid in its growth and advancement along all lines. Personally he is pleasant and genial, with a fine regard for the feelings of others, and he has many friends who esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

LESTER EUGENE WHITE

Although a young man, Lester Eugene White has attained to a position in the mercantile and horticultural industries of which he may feel proud. While he has been practically reared in the mercantile business, yet his success has been the reward of perseverance and industry. His birth occurred at Los Banos, Cal., August 24, 1892, a son of William T. White, whose interesting sketch will be found in this history.

Lester Eugene White received his education in the Los Banos Grammar School and the schools of San Luis Obispo, graduating in 1911 from the California Polytechnic at San Luis Obispo after completing the mechanical course which included civil engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering. In the same year of his graduation he entered the county surveyor's office in Merced, where he held the position of draftsman and assisted in field work, remaining in that office until 1913 when he went to work in the county clerk's office, occupying a position until December, 1916. He then entered the employ of White & Crowell at Livingston and was in the dry goods department until his enlistment August 24, 1917, at San Francisco, entering the 117th Regiment of Engineers of the 42nd Division, known as the Rainbow Division. He was one of the three first men from Merced County to go across to France and served on the following fronts: Luneville Sector from February 28 to March 21, 1918; Baccarat Sector from April 1 to June 16, 1918; defense of Champagne, from July 1 to July 18; the Chateau Thierry front from July 26 to August 10, 1918. Then he served in the St. Mihiel Salient from September 12 to September 30; then to the front west of the Meuse River, October 13-31; and in the Argonne, November 1-8. On the 11th of November, 1918, he was on the Meuse River near Sedan when the armistice was signed. On November 16, being re-equipped, his company hiked through Luxemburg, up the Rhine, and was with the Army of Occupation until February 19, 1919, when

they moved up to Kritz, on the Rhine, and were there until April 10 of the same year, when they were ordered home. They embarked at Brest on April 17, and landed at Hoboken on the 28th; they were at Camp Merritt, N. J., until May 12, when they left for the Presidio, S. F., arriving there on May 17, and on the 20th he was honorably discharged and the same day returned to his home at Livingston. Mr. White serves as secretary-treasurer of the White-Crowell Company, Inc., and also conducts a fire insurance agency, representing the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company of San Francisco; the Hartford Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn.; Fidelity-Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of New York; and the Liberty Underwriters of Sacramento, Cal.

On April 20, 1920, Mr. White was married to Miss Louise M. Stayton, born at Fresno, Cal., a daughter of J. W. and Laura (Brazee) Stayton. Her father, J. W. Stayton spent his active years in the painting and decorating business and is now living retired in Fresno, Cal. Mr. White owns a twenty-acre vineyard within the city limits of Livingston on which he expects to build a fine country home in the near future. Fraternally, he belongs to Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks; and is an active member of the Boosters' Club of Livingston.

HANS J. RAVEN

The qualities which made Hans Raven the efficient and capable superintendent of the cattle department of Miller and Lux's large cattle ranches were inherited from a Danish ancestry. His parents, Iver and Mary (Lauritzen) Raven, both came from Denmark and were living in Des Moines County, Iowa, when their son Hans was born. The father was a farmer and moved with his family to Watsonville, Cal., in 1885, and from there to Los Banos in 1890, and here the father died; the mother is still living in Oakland at the age of seventy-one. Hans is the eldest of five children. The others are: Louis P. and Gertrude, Mrs. Conrad of Oakland; Anna, Mrs. Crowley, of San Francisco; and Carl, deceased.

Hans J. Raven, after two or three years schooling in Watsonville, started to work for himself, at the age of fifteen, on ranches and for the last thirty-three years has been with Miller and Lux. He is at present the superintendent of the cattle department of Miller and Lux. He owns a ten-acre orchard of prunes on Saratoga Avenue, near Santa Clara in Santa Clara County, also a fifty-two acre dairy farm four miles out of Los Banos, which he leases.

On July 2, 1902, Mr. Raven was married to Miss Lillian Irene Lenhouts, a native of Iowa, the daughter of Pete Lenhouts, a farmer of Iowa. There are two daughters of this union, Edna and Irene Bernice. Politically, Mr. Raven supports the nominees of the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Los Banos, and of the B. P. O. Elks of San Jose.

AXEL YOUNGBORG

The well-known firm of Youngborg Bros., who operate and own two dairy farms in the Hilmar Colony, is composed of August and Axel Youngborg, hard-working, intelligent and successful men. They came together to the Hilmar Colony, from Stanton, Iowa, in 1903 and have worked together in harmony and have been leaders in the Hilmar Colony since their arrival. August is single and a maiden sister keeps house for him. Axel has a wife and family and holds several honorable positions. He is secretary of the Farmer's Union Telephone Lines, organized May 11, 1909, with the following officers: A. Hallner, president; J. P. Snugg, vice-president; Axel Youngborg, secretary; and O. A. Lundell, treasurer. It was started with sixty members, each paying in \$36.25, was incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000, the paid-up stock being \$8181, par value one dollar a share. The present officers are D. E. Johnson, president; Harry Simms, vice-president; Axel Youngborg, secretary and treasurer. In addition to the above there is a board of directors consisting of F. A. Heil, Andrew Schendel and Albert Peterson.

Axel Youngborg was born in Sweden, on April 24, 1878, was brought to America in 1882, by his parents, who settled in Stanton, Iowa, where they farmed. The father is living in the Hilmar Colony at the age of eighty-three. The mother died here in August, 1922, seventy-nine years old. There were seven children in the family, as follows: Charles and Frank, twins; August, who owns eighty acres in the colony; Hannah, Mrs. Axel Tedborg, of Stanton, Iowa; Axel, our subject; Huldah, who keeps house for August; Emma, now Mrs. Sederquist in the Hilmar Colony.

Axel Youngborg grew up on his father's farm in Stanton, Iowa, attended the common schools, and later took a commercial course in Boyles Commercial College, in Omaha, Nebr. After graduating he and his brother August came to the Hilmar Colony in California, bought land and set at work at once to improve it. He was made secretary of the Mission Church in Hilmar and has held the office for many years. He helped organize the Hilmar Mutual Fire Insurance Company and is its vice-president and has served in some official capacity ever since its organization; he helped also to organize the

Farmer's Union Telephone Lines and has been its secretary continuously since its organization.

Axel Youngborg was married on June 16, 1909 to Miss Ruth Lindholm, a native of Marinette, Wis., a daughter of Rev. J. E. Lindholm, a retired preacher living in Santa Cruz. There are five children of this union, Marian, Pauline, Franklin, Esther and Donald. Politically, Mr. Youngborg supports the men and measures of the Republican party.

J. EMMETT McNAMARA

The real estate interests of Merced, Merced County, and vicinity are well represented by J. Emmett McNamara, one of the prosperous and enterprising citizens of this place, who carries with him in his work the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. He is a native son of California, born at Selma, Fresno County, August 8, 1892, a son of John H. and Sarah J. (McGinn) McNamara, natives of Ireland and California respectively. Grandfather John McGinn was a pioneer in the Mother Lode country in the gold days. John H. McNamara came to California in 1882, when he was about eighteen years old; he died in February, 1924, aged sixty years, and was among the oldest residents of Merced and did his share in the development of the county.

J. Emmett McNamara attended grammar and high school in Merced; then went to Oakland, Cal., and in 1912 was graduated from the high school there and four years later he was graduated from St. Mary's College in Oakland. He then entered the Hastings Law School, where he spent one year. Returning to Merced, where his parents were residing, he became deputy county clerk; after four months of service he enlisted in the Navy and for eighteen months was on board the U. S. S. Invincible; he was discharged in New York in December, 1918. Returning to California he entered the employ of Hind-Rolph & Co. and soon thereafter was sent to Merced to take charge of their property interests in this place, which he is still handling. In May, 1922 he organized the firm of McNamara & Company, Inc.; this company specializes in opening up additions and putting land under cultivation preparatory to selling. Among the subdivisions are Hind Irrigated Lands, Boulevard Acres, and the Ragsdale Subdivision.

The marriage of Mr. McNamara united him with Miss Hazel Clark of Oakland and they had one child, Carmel. Mrs. McNamara passed away in December, 1921. Fraternally, Mr. McNamara belongs to the Elks and Knights of Columbus, Third Degree; he is a past

commander of American Legion Post No. 83; he also belongs to Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W. He prefers to vote independently of any party restrictions. While in college he was the manager of athletics at St. Mary's College in Oakland and still takes a decided interest in all healthful sports.

FRANK D. ROBINSON

Commercial activity in Merced finds a worthy representative in Frank D. Robinson, who has been engaged as a commercial photographer for the past thirteen years at this place, where he has built up a far-reaching and satisfactory business, his work extending over the entire county. He is a native of the county, born near Merced Falls, on March 17, 1875, a son of Dr. William and Malissa (Yonker) Robinson, whose sketch may also be found in this work.

Frank D. Robinson received a public school education and while the greater part of his life has been spent on a farm he has been employed in various lines of work, broom making, smithing and milling; he learned mineralogy in the old Mariposa Mine. Since taking up commercial photography he has been content to make Merced his permanent home.

Mr. Robinson's marriage united him with Miss Edith Gann, a daughter of Eli Gann, a California pioneer of Mariposa County. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were the parents of one son, Ernest Alton, who was accidentally killed when only eighteen years of age. Mr. Robinson is independent in his political views, voting for the man best fitted for office, rather than be confined to strict party lines. Fraternally he is a member of Willow Lodge No. 121, I. O. O. F., of Snelling, in which he is a Past Grand; he also belongs to Yosemite Lodge No. 30, K. of P., of Merced.

FLORSILIN D. MEDLIN, JR.

As the son of one of the pioneer grain ranchers of the San Joaquin Valley, Mr. Medlin has passed most of his life in Merced County, and he is now one of the prominent business men of the Los Banos and Dos Palos districts. Born in Los Banos, on March 10, 1893, he is a son of F. D. and Jennie (Koepf) Medlin, both natives of Tennessee, and the latter still living to enjoy the fruits of their early labors. The father came to California some fifty years ago, and for many years was a grain farmer on the west side of the valley; he lived to reach

almost eighty years, dying in Dos Palos in August, 1924. Eleven children were born to F. D. and Jennie Medlin; the nine now living are: E. G., of Fresno; R. B., of Los Banos; C. Y., of Dos Palos; W. G., of Sacramento; M. M., of Dos Palos; P. E., of Sacramento; Mrs. B. F. Smith, of Tracy; F. D., of Los Banos; and Mrs. Carroll Jones, of Fresno.

Florsilin D. Medlin got his early schooling at the McGill School, near Los Banos, and also attended schools in Los Banos, Newman, and Gustine, finishing at the Dos Palos High School. He then took a course at the Barnes School of Embalming, in San Francisco, and gained practical experience with Halstead and Company, in that city. Returning to Dos Palos, he opened a furniture store and undertaking business, which he later sold out, and bought the undertaking business of W. J. Stockton, of Los Banos, which he has since operated as a first-class establishment, also maintaining a branch at Dos Palos. He has always carried on his work in the most conscientious manner possible, using modern methods, and the aids which science has brought to bear on this most necessary work for humanity. In the years he has been in business he has gained the respect and confidence of his community as a man of fine character and high ideals.

The marriage of Mr. Medlin, occurring in Dos Palos on August 17, 1915, united him with Margaret C. Mason, a native of Santa Cruz, and two children have been born to them, Thaylia and Garna. Prominent fraternally, Mr. Medlin is a member of Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M.; Merced Chapter No. 12, R. A. M.; Centinella Chapter No. 136, O. E. S.; Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F. of Los Banos; Merced Parlor No. 24., N. S. G. W.; and U. P. E. C., Los Banos Council.

J. R. CORNETT

Noteworthy among leading citizens and business men of Merced is J. R. Cornett, a man of more than average intelligence and ability, who is engaged in the insurance business and is also actively interested in the agricultural development of this section. He is one of California's native sons, born on his father's ranch in Mariposa County, May 10, 1877. His parents, H. W. and Mary F. (Wills) Cornett, are of eastern birth but were brought across the plains to California while still small children; the father owned and operated a large ranch in Mariposa County.

J. R. Cornett first attended the rural school adjacent to the home ranch; then he entered the Pacific Methodist College in Santa Rosa, and after finishing school he taught for a couple of terms. Then he

concluded he would try his luck at mining, which engaged him for a few years; he then returned to the home ranch and for several years was associated with his parents in farming.

The marriage of Mr. Cornett united him with Miss Sadie Louise Owen, a daughter of R. T. Owen, a pioneer of Fresno County. To Mr. and Mrs. Cornett have been born one son, Owen Walter. Since locating in Merced, Mr. Cornett has become an active factor in its development and prosperity and is now serving his second term as a member of the city council. He is a Democrat in politics and gives his hearty support to the local Chamber of Commerce in all movements inaugurated for the advancement of the city and county. Fraternally he is a member of the Masons, the Native Sons and the Elks, all of Merced.

DR. GEORGE INGRAM DEANE

Although born in San Francisco, Dr. Deane can really call Merced County his home; for he is the descendant of a well-known family of this section, who for three generations have been a part of the upbuilding of Merced County. Born in San Francisco, on March 19, 1890, G. I. Deane is the son of George C. and Clara (Ruby) Deane. The father, a native of Merced County, born in the Cottonwood district, was one of the first men to run a threshing machine in this section of the State. Grandfather B. H. Deane settled in Merced County in 1850, and was one of the early miners at Copperopolis, in the mountains, later devoting his time to agriculture. In 1892, B. H. Deane, in company with his sons George C. and Charles H., colonized Deane Colony. Dr. Deane's mother, Clara Ruby Deane, was also of an early pioneer family. Her parents crossed the plains in 1855 to reach the far west frontier, and her birth occurred in Shasta County. She now resides in San Francisco. G. C. Deane passed away February 16, 1924.

George Ingram Deane was educated in the grammar and high schools of Merced, and he then entered and was later graduated from the College of Optometry of San Francisco, and also took a postgraduate course in the Los Angeles College of his profession. He first practiced in Richmond, Cal., for one year, and then opened his office in Merced, where he has gained the confidence of a large clientele as a man who thoroughly understands his work and gives it his entire attention. He has served one term as president of the California State Association of Optometrists, and he was sent to Chicago and New York as a special delegate to the Educational Congress.

The marriage of Dr. Deane, which occurred June 28, 1911, united him with Miss Louise Wright, of Newman, Cal., a native daughter. Fraternally, the doctor belongs to the Masons, the Eastern Star, the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, and the Odd Fellows, and has been through all the chairs of the last two orders. He is a member of the Rotary Club. In professional organizations he belongs to the Central California Association of Optometrists, the California State Association of Optometrists and the American Optometric Association.

CLAUD HENRY McCRAY

In the ranks of good citizenship, Merced has enrolled a large number of capable and conscientious citizens, among whom is Claud Henry McCray, district attorney of Merced County. Energetic, progressive, and possessing the sound judgment and executive ability necessary for conducting the legal affairs of the county, he has won for himself the esteem of its citizens. He was born and reared in the State of New York, a son of L. P. and Emma (Blakeslee) McCray. The father was a practicing physician for years, and he served two years as chairman of the board of supervisors of Chautauqua County, New York. He died in 1924, aged seventy-four; the mother is also deceased. After completing the grammar and high school courses in his native State, Claud Henry McCray entered Hobart College, from which he was graduated with the degree of B. S. in 1907; then he entered the George Washington University at Washington, D. C., from which he received the degree of LL. D. In 1911, and immediately following the completion of his course, he began the practice of his profession in New York State, where he continued for one year. In the early part of 1913 Mr. McCray located in Merced and established a law office; in 1914 he was elected district attorney of the county and served for four years. In 1918 he entered the army and after his discharge returned to Merced, and in 1922 he was again elected district attorney. Mr. McCray is endowed with marked natural ability which has been augmented by a thorough training and years of practical experience, all of which serves to make of him an efficient public official.

The marriage of Claud H. McCray united him with Miss Mayme Barney, a daughter of a prominent rancher residing in Merced County. Fraternally, Mr. McCray is affiliated with the Masons, the Elks, the Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias, and he belongs to the Merced Chamber of Commerce. During the World War, Mr. McCray enlisted in the U. S. Army but his service was on this side of the water.



T. P. Polich

TOM P. POLICH

Among the busy business men of California, one who has made his own way in the world is Tom P. Polich, a member of the corporation known as the United Concrete Pipe & Construction Company, with its main office in Ventura and branch factories in Merced, Woodland, and Santa Maria, besides the plant at Ventura. The beginning of this industry was made by Tom P. Polich in 1919, at Merced, when he started the Polich Construction Company. The business was carried on by him for a short time, and then, in 1920, he sold a half interest to B. J. Ukropina and Steve Kral, of Ventura, who are still his partners; and at this time the name became the Merced Concrete Pipe Company. This concern continued the business, gradually expanding year by year, until in 1924 they consolidated with the United Concrete Pipe Company of Ventura, which concern was owned by Steve Kral and B. J. Ukropina. Soon after the consolidation, the name became the United Concrete Pipe & Construction Company, Inc., with its principal business office in Ventura, as mentioned above. This corporation employ from sixty to 300 men in their work; and they are equipped to do all kinds of concrete work, manufacturing and laying concrete pipe, building concrete bridges, concrete roads, and foundations for buildings, and installing complete irrigation systems anywhere in California or elsewhere. In fact, no concrete job is too big for them to handle and successfully complete.

Tom Polich was born in Serbia on March 22, 1888, and attended the common schools of his native land up to the time he decided he would come to the United States, which he did in 1905. He could not speak English, and he had only about forty dollars in his pocket after arriving in Los Angeles. He did not wait for a job to come to him, however; he sought the job, and worked at any employment that would yield an honest living, at first. He gradually worked into the concrete business, first in the employ of Bent Brothers, where he began by sprinkling newly made pipe; and from that he went through the various departments until he knew concrete pipe manufacture from start to finish and became a competent and experienced workman. He worked for G. T. McIntyre as general foreman, and later as superintendent of his business in Ventura. Then he was superintendent for Turner and Seppe, of Whittier, and afterwards went to Van Nuys as superintendent for the Valley Concrete Pipe Company, and remained with them for two and one-half years. Each year he had improved his opportunities and saved his money; and during the time he was in Van Nuys, he was deciding whether he would give up a salaried position to embark in business for himself. He decided upon the latter course.

After giving due notice of his resignation, Mr. Polich spent five months traveling over the State looking for a suitable location in which to establish himself, and finally selected Merced as having the best future for his business. In 1919 he established the Polich Construction Company, and his first work was the installation of a complete irrigation system for the California Packing Corporation at their orchard at Tuttle. This contract consisted in laying sixty miles of concrete pipe throughout their 4000-acre orchard of peaches and apricots, the largest orchard in the world in one body. From that beginning, the concrete business of the company has steadily grown until it has reached its present proportions, and is still on the increase, for the company plan considerable extensions. Some of the contracts the company have filled in Merced County are the construction of the John Muir school building; a number of concrete bridges throughout the county; the large outfall and sanitary sewer for Merced, using 30,000 feet of concrete pipe of their own manufacture; eight miles of concrete highway; considerable work for the Merced Irrigation District, which required especially large pipe; work on the Titus ranch near Livingston; and many irrigation systems for ranchers throughout the county in general. In all this work, Mr. Polich has been a busy participant.

Fraternally, Mr. Polich is a Mason, holding membership in Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., at Merced, and in the Oakland Consistory of the thirty-second degree, Scottish Rite Masons, and Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., in Oakland. He is a member of the Long Beach Pyramid of Sciots, the Knights of Pythias of Merced, and the D. O. K. K., in Fresno. Mr. Polich believes in progress along all lines, and is an enthusiastic Californian by adoption.

CHARLES EDWARD LOUNSBURY

In the history of Merced County the name of Charles Edward Lounsbury stood for energy, industry and progressiveness, and when he suddenly passed away the city of Merced lost one of its most popular and capable business men. He was born in Ft. Collins, Colo., on April 19, 1884, a son of Rufus and Emma (Rowley) Lounsbury. In 1892 the family located in Nevada, where they remained for six years, when they removed to San Jose, Cal. There the father passed away. The mother died in Merced on December 13, 1924.

Charles Edward Lounsbury received his schooling in Nevada and in San Jose, Cal. He helped his father on the home ranch near San Jose until he went to San Francisco, where he became apprenticed

as a machinist with the Union Iron Works. He remained in San Francisco for ten years, most of the time being spent in the automobile business, having charge of several large shops. In 1910 he removed to Merced to take charge of the Barcroft Garage, and after nine months he purchased the business with C. Jones as a partner; after one year R. Shaffer bought the interest of Mr. Jones and the business was conducted under the firm name of Lounsbury & Shaffer until March 1, 1923, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Shaffer taking over the Ford automobile agency. Mr. Lounsbury continued at the old place of business, having the agency for the Buick and Cadillac automobiles. The Lounsbury Garage & Machine Works is the largest of its kind between San Francisco and Los Angeles; the business has grown until additional room 50x150 feet is contemplated on a lot purchased for that purpose. Thirty people are employed in the different departments of the business. The mechanical department is equipped with lathes, cylinder grinders, drill presses, with a 250-ton hydraulic press; the electrical department is equipped with all testing and charging devices; battery department is equipped with charging machine. The company maintains a large accessory department with a \$15,000 stock, and a \$5000 stock of tires. The company has a large stock of parts for all makes of cars as well as a large stock of electrical parts; a paint shop is also conducted, as well as a repairing department, vulcanizing department, greasing and oiling department, garage and storage for 150 cars.

By his first marriage, Mr. Lounsbury had two children, Earl and Gladys. His second marriage united him with Miss Blanche McCrary, a native of Nebraska; and they had two children, William Miller and Harold Edward. Mr. Lounsbury was democratic in his politics and fraternally was identified with the Masonic and Sciots lodges, and locally was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. His death on December 7, 1923 removed one of Merced's most progressive and esteemed citizens.

GUY E. HANSARD

Constituting one of the most remarkable examples of business expansion in the San Joaquin Valley, stands Hansard's Grill, consisting of restaurant, cigar stand, billiard hall and soda fountain, the whole plant being estimated in value at \$70,000. Guy E. Hansard, the proprietor, purchased the poolroom in 1917. At that time there was a billiard-room of modest proportions, a cigar stand and small soda fountain, the entire equipment not representing a very large outlay. Mr. Hansard, with the help of one employe, conducted the resort. In 1918, the cigar stand was enlarged, and a year later the agency

for United Cigars was obtained, and has been a feature of the cigar stand ever since. In the same year, the lunch counter was trebled in size, and regular meals were offered the public. The most marked change, however, was completed when the large restaurant was added, and the billiard-hall was moved upstairs. This restaurant has a large horseshoe lunch counter and a number of tables. They are examples of Merced handiwork, having been manufactured by the Cross Lumber Company from Philippine mahogany. The entire space occupied downstairs is 50x150 feet, running through from Seventeenth Street to the alley. There is a seating capacity of 120. In the place of one employe in 1917, Mr. Hansard now uses thirty-three employes during the summer season, and twenty-eight in winter. The monthly payroll is in the neighborhood of \$3000. The kitchen is all-electric, cooking, dishwashing, and baking being done by electricity. The Hansard Grill bakes all its own breads and pastry.

Mr. Hansard was born in Hepner, Ore., on October 21, 1879, a son of G. B. and Benicia (Bowers) Hansard. The father is still living, but the mother of our subject passed away when he was a small child of four years. Guy E. Hansard received his education in the public schools of Oregon and Washington and was still a young boy when he began to earn his own living by working on farms in eastern Washington for about six years. He came to California in 1900 and resided in Los Angeles for twelve years, three years of this period being spent with an abstract company.

The marriage of Mr. Hansard occurred in Los Angeles, where he was united with Miss Emma Frank, a native daughter of California. Mr. and Mrs. Hansard removed to Merced in 1912 and four years were spent on a farm in the vicinity of this place. In 1916 his present business was purchased, and under his capable management it has grown to its present proportions. That he is confident of Merced's future must be evident when it is realized that no other such business as the Hansard Grill can be found in a city of Merced's size. It is a resort of which a much larger city might well be proud. Mr. Hansard is a public-spirited citizen and is affiliated with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Red Men, the Woodmen of the World and the Chamber of Commerce.

CYRUS STANTON CLARK

Among the educators of high literary attainment is Cyrus Stanton Clark, who since 1910 has occupied the important position of district superintendent of the Merced Union Grammar School. He is not only an able instructor, but is deeply interested in the educational advancement of the locality where he has made his home for the past

fifteen years. Born in Nova Scotia, Canada, February 27, 1884, he was a small lad when he accompanied his parents, John A. and Lucy E. (Stanton) Clark, to California, where the father pursued the occupation of a farmer until the time of his death; the mother of our subject is still living.

Cyrus Stanton Clark completed the grammar school course, then entered the Merced High School, from which he was graduated in 1901. He then went to San Francisco and for one year worked in a wholesale house; from there he went to Stockton, where he was in the wholesale business for seven years. His one desire had always been to become an instructor, so with this in view he took first a private course in teaching, then went to San Jose and entered the San Jose Teachers' College, receiving his teacher's diploma in 1906. His first teaching experience was in Colusa County, where he taught for two years. Then for one year he taught at Oakdale and two years in Stockton, receiving the highest commendation for his thorough work. He took up his duties as district superintendent of the Merced Union Grammar School in 1910, and his capabilities have been recognized as exceptional.

The marriage of Mr. Clark united him with Miss Ismay Wilson, a native daughter of Monterey, Cal. They have been blessed with two children, Beverly and Jane. Mr. Clark is a Republican in his political views; fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and he is an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Clark is an enthusiast for all wholesome outdoor sports.

WALTER C. CARDWELL

As a pioneer business man of Le Grand, Merced County, Mr. Cardwell has been identified with its growth since the town first came into being, and he has taken an active part in the movements toward the making of a small hamlet a prosperous and still growing business center, surrounded by such fertile valley lands. Born October 23, 1859, Walter C. Cardwell is a native of Fayetteville, Ark., and after his schooling was finished, he clerked in a store at Paris, near Forth Smith, that State. On April 12, 1885, he came to Merced County and at first lived with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Allen, on their ranch east of Le Grand. He later took a course at the Stockton Normal School, and then went to Plainsburg, where he clerked in the store of Abe Jacobs, and acted as assistant postmaster of Plainsburg, also being proprietor of the Plainsburg Hotel.

Coming to Le Grand in 1897, Mr. Cardwell first clerked in the store of E. C. Dickinson, and was assistant postmaster of Le Grand under postmaster S. W. Dickinson. He next clerked in the Rochdale Store for two years, and in 1906 bought the grocery store which he still owns, conducting it as a general grocery store, with a full and up-to-date stock of goods.

In all his years of residence in the San Joaquin, Mr. Cardwell has been sure of the ultimate prosperity in store for this section of the State, and he has supported the men and measures best calculated to further its real advancement. Fraternally he is active as a member of the Fraternal Aid Union, being past president of that order, and now serving as secretary.

CHARLES M. HYATT

That adverse conditions build up strong characters and break down the weak is a truism emphasized in the life of Charles Hyatt. Fortune smiled but little on his boyhood years; but in the difficult and somewhat bitter school of experience, his character was formed, his mind developed and habits of self reliance inculcated.

He was born in Indiana, on September 14, 1863. His father, Witt Hyatt, was a soldier in the Civil War, and died at Nashville, Tenn., leaving five children ranging from the age of four to seventeen. The mother, Margaret (Hughes) Hyatt was born in Indiana and bravely tried to keep the family together after her husband's death, but finally succumbed and left the son, Charles M., an orphan at the age of twelve. When only thirteen years of age he had to start out and make his own living working on farms round about for four dollars a month at first, then six dollars and eight dollars by the time he was sixteen; when he was seventeen he went to western Missouri, where he received sixteen dollars a month. In 1886 he went to Nevada and worked in and around Reno until 1889, when he secured a position with Senator Newlands and worked for him twenty-five years.

On September 17, 1885, Charles M. Hyatt married Miss Addie Ramsey, the daughter of William and Louisa (McPeak) Ramsey. Her mother was a native of Ohio, and died in Missouri about 1904 at the age of seventy-seven. Her father was born in Illinois and died in Kansas at the age of eighty-five. There were five children of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt: Edna, married Fred Saxer and resides in San Diego; Frank, lives in the Hilmar Colony, he married Violet Calvin and they have one child; Ethel, married Ed. Ryder and resides in Oakland, and has one child; Charles, married Miss Bertha Armstrong of the Hilmar Colony and is a rancher; and Lou, at home.

In 1908 Mr. Hyatt made an extensive tour looking for a place to invest the money he had saved in thirty-five years of steady and arduous service. He finally found the Hilmar Colony and finding conditions to suit him, bought twenty acres for which he paid \$92.50 an acre. It is a fine ranch and very valuable, being situated immediately east of the Union high school building at Irwin, and he improved it with a comfortable living-house, barn and other buildings and planted alfalfa and fruit, etc. Mr. Hyatt died on January 3, 1925, and was buried in the Turlock Cemetery. He was a man of excellent judgment and business acumen and was well posted on current events and voted for the candidates and principles which were for the best interests of the majority. He was generous, fair and public spirited and his death marks a real loss to the community.

JOSEPH JAMES YOUND

The descendant of pioneers of California, Joseph James Youd has lived since his birth in the central part of the State, and is now one of the successful business men of Merced. Born on Mariposa Creek, six miles south of Merced, on December 4, 1873, he is the son of Charles and Ellen (Howell) Youd. Charles Youd, who was born in 1845, came from England to St. Louis, Mo., when three years old, and in 1858 crossed the plains with oxen to California, arriving in Amador County in 1859, where he mined for a time and attended school three months. He later took up ranching and stock-raising. Ellen Howell Youd, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., in January, 1853, crossed the plains with her parents at about the same time as did Charles Youd. They were married in Amador County, and became the parents of six children, one of whom died in infancy, but four girls and one boy grew to maturity and are now living, viz.: Joseph J., Mrs. Eunice Reid, Geraldine, Mrs. Emma Harvey, and Mrs. Alice Mudd. In 1869 the family came to Merced, from Stockton, and the father farmed here until he retired, and with his wife he now lives in Concord, Contra Costa County. Mr. and Mrs. Youd celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on December 17, 1922.

Joseph James Youd received his education in the rural schools of Merced County. He helped his father on the home ranch until 1892, at which time he went to work for the Mariposa Commercial Mining Company, remaining with them for seventeen years as an electrician. In 1913 he bought into the garage business in Merced, with his uncle William Youd, and since that date they have operated the Hiway Garage, maintaining an up-to-date establishment for motor car serv-

ice, and have met with steady success. They employ ten people, and turn out expert workmanship.

The marriage of Mr. Youd, occurring on August 31, 1905, at Bagby, Cal., united him with Miss Matie Grider, a native of Bagby, Mariposa County, and two children have been born to them: James T. and Ruth Ellen. Naturally interested in his native county, Mr. Youd stands ready at all times to do his part in furthering the progress and advancement of Merced. In civic matters he votes an independent ticket, placing the man above party affiliations, for he realizes that the greatest factor in all progress is to pull together for the greatest good.

J. C. McCOLLUM

On the list of Merced County's viticulturists appears the name of J. C. McCollum who, since January, 1911, has been a resident and property-owner near Snelling. His property embraces twenty-five acres of highly developed vineyard one mile north of Snelling, and here he has pioneered and prospered. He began operations on his ranch by raising alfalfa and hogs, and has gradually set it to fruit, including Thompson seedless grapes and a small orchard of almonds. He is the pioneer in the use of modern methods in this vicinity, and many another rancher has followed successfully in his footsteps.

J. C. McCollum was born near Lynnville, Jasper County, Iowa, on April 27, 1874, the fifth in order of birth of six children, of whom five reside in California, and one in Seattle. His parents were Isaac and Louisa (Ballinger) McCollum, both born in North Carolina. The father came West to Iowa in 1850 and took up government land, which is the present townsite of Stewart. The family moved to California in 1883, locating in Los Angeles, then a city of 8000 inhabitants; soon after they removed to Pasadena, where Mr. McCollum purchased an acreage in the vicinity of Hill and Allen Avenues, the present site of the Pasadena High School buildings. J. C. McCollum attended Throop Polytechnic for two terms and the Pasadena High School. Then he located at the corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and Colorado Street, now the heart of the business section of that city. He learned the machinist trade, working at the bench at the Pacific Brass Works in Los Angeles for four years, and went out as a journeyman, following his trade for fifteen years. In the meantime he had invested his savings in town lots in Los Angeles, some of which he still owns, and they are now very valuable.

At Pasadena Mr. McCollum was married to Miss Mettie King, who was born in Kansas, the daughter of Jerome and Olive King, of Glendora, Cal. The King family came to California from Kansas in

1888. Mr. and Mrs. McCollum have two children. Walter is a machinist, and the night foreman at the Yosemite Mills in Merced Falls. He served during the World War with the Port Guard in San Francisco harbor; he is married and has two children. Irene McCollum married Leslie Halstad, of Snelling, in 1923. Mr. McCollum is a member and Past Grand of Snelling Lodge No. 325, I. O. O. F. at Snelling. He is a liberal Republican and supports any movement for progressive civic development. He came to the Merced River district with the belief that here is offered much more for the working dollar than in most new districts of diversified farming in California, and has never altered his opinion of this garden spot. He is a real booster and works in cooperation and harmony with the Merced County Farm Bureau, as well as the California State Agricultural Extension Bureau. While he has put in two seasons at the bench in the Yosemite Mills, he is an ardent lover of the outdoors, and accordingly spends much time at home on his well cared for ranch, which is a portion of the old Grimes Estate.

W. H. SEARING

A man of ability and energy, W. H. Searing is intimately associated with the industrial prosperity of Merced as one of its leading business men. As manager and part owner of the Union Steam Laundry and especially active in movements intended for the advancement of his locality, he is advancing the prosperity of this section. He was born in Merced, May 31, 1880, a son of Charles and Agnes (Young) Searing. The father came to Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras County, in 1852 via the Isthmus of Panama. The mother was born at Hornitos, Mariposa County. Her father, William Thomas Young, crossed the plains in 1849. His wife, Lucretia Phillips, crossed the plains in the same train. Mr. and Mrs. Searing were married in Merced, where the father conducted a livery stable business for many years; he was a pioneer of Merced, locating here in 1873 and was an active spirit in the early development of the county. The mother passed away in 1882, the father surviving until March, 1915, when he passed away, aged eighty-three years.

W. H. Searing attended grammar school until he was fourteen years old when he went to work at the printing trade, which occupied him for six years; then he engaged in the grocery business until he became interested in the laundry business, first as an employe, then as owner of the laundry. In February, 1919, the company was formed which is now known as the Union Steam Laundry, the other members of the firm being R. D. Ebert and O. M. Hickok; their establish-

ment is equipped with modern machinery of all kinds and they employ an average of fifteen people in conducting the business.

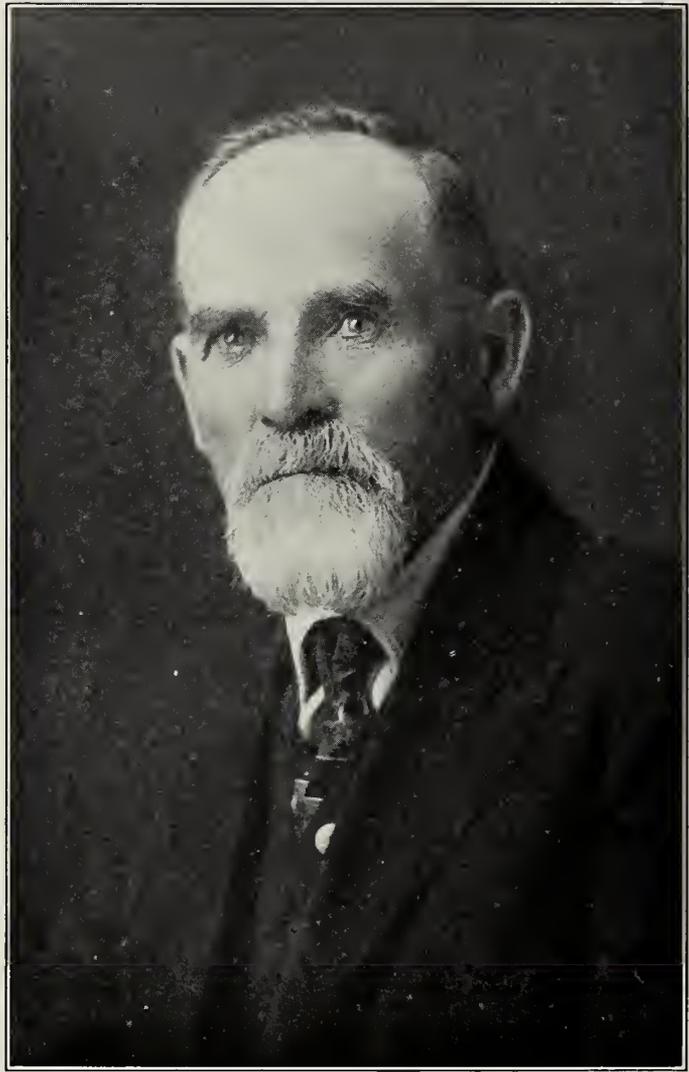
Mr. Searing has been married twice. By the former marriage there is a son, Roy Dwaine, a student in St. Mary's College, Oakland. The second marriage of Mr. Searing united him with Miss Caroline Alma Ormsby, a native daughter of California; she is a member of the Eastern Star, while Mr. Searing belongs to the Woodmen of the World, the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Elks and the local Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Searing enjoys all healthy outdoor sports and finds his recreation in the open.

HIPPOLYTE P. ESCALLIER

Sheep-growing has been a very lucrative business in California; many have made fortunes, but like everything else there are ups and downs in it, as Mr. Escallier has learned by experience. Brought up in the business from childhood, he herded sheep when he was only eight years old, in the Hautes Alps country in the south of France, where he was born April 27, 1862. Upon coming to California in 1882, he first visited with his brother, Louis, in Delano, Kern County, for a month and then was employed herding sheep until the year 1885. After sheep-shearing time in the spring of 1885, Mr. Escallier and his brother, Louis, started from Delano with a band of 4000 sheep, herding them as they went along they found pasturage in Kern, Inyo, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties, and in September they sheared the second crop of wool. Coming back through Merced County they went through Los Banos when there was no town or railroad on the West Side, crossed White's Bridge in Fresno County and saved all their sheep. The sheep were the property of his brother and partner, and in the spring of 1886 our subject bought an interest in the band, continuing for three years, when he sold out, and his brother returned to France. In 1891 our subject bought another band, kept them for a time and then sold at a good profit.

In 1892, in company with Etienne Chabot, he engaged in the sheep business and they were doing very well, when on May 14, 1894, their flock was caught by a heavy snow storm on Pine Ridge and 1600 perished. That year wool sold for five cents a pound and yearling lambs brought \$1.05. The next year he sold what was left to his partner and came out with only three horses and a few dollars.

After he had gone out of the sheep business for himself, Mr. Escallier went to work for wages, but it was not long until he bought a band of 200 sheep. He sold them in 1898 and again quit the business. Coming to Los Banos in August, 1899, he worked on the



asa William Finley

Woods ranch; and later he worked three winters on a sheep ranch twenty miles southwest of Los Banos during the lambing period. In 1908 he got the job of janitor at the old Los Banos Grammar School and in 1911 was made janitor of the high school, which position he still holds. He owns Los Banos real estate. Mr Escallier reared seven children. His wife, Leone L. (Atger) Escallier, died in 1916. Their children are as follows: Elsie, Henry, Aime, Felix, Louise, Blanch and Joseph. Mr. Escallier is a member of the Woodmen of the World.

ASA WILLIAM FINLEY

A very highly learned California pioneer, now eighty-one years of age, is Asa William Finley, who is at present making his home at Hotel Stevinson with his daughter, Mrs. G. H. Blount of Stevinson, Cal. He is one of the oldest, if not indeed the oldest living settler in California, in point of time of residence, having been a boy baby of two years of age in his mother's arms when his father, mother and grandfather, Capt. William Campbell, crossed the plains to California in 1846. They landed at Santa Clara, Cal., in October, 1846, settling there when every able-bodied male person, over fifteen years of age, enlisted and served under John C. Fremont. He was born in Saline County, Mo., July 23, 1844, a son of Asa Wallace and Sarah (Campbell) Finley, both born in Kentucky, where grandfather Campbell was a tanner, though they later moved to Missouri. The train started from Marshall, Saline County, Mo., in April, 1846. They were all ordered to rendezvous at St. Joseph, Mo. After traveling some days, there being a train of 100 wagons, it was found that the train was too large; so they decided to divide up the train. This was done and William Campbell was duly elected captain of his division or train. Campbell's company elected Kit Carson as their guide to take them over the Sierras. The other company, which was a part of the original train and known as the Donner party, ill-fated in history, selected Hastings as their guide. Kit Carson hurried his train through, while Hastings' dilatoriness led to being caught in the snows and the sad fate of the Donner party. A son of Capt. William Campbell, namely Benjamin Campbell, took up 160 acres of government land located between two Spanish grants in Santa Clara County; and when the railroad from San Jose to Santa Cruz went through, Benjamin Campbell donated the depot site, and the town of Campbell, Santa Clara County, was named after him. The Finley family originally came from Ireland. The Campbells were of Scotch origin. The father and William Campbell and his two sons, Benjamin and David, all

served under Fremont. Asa Wallace Finley became a farmer and raised wheat two miles south of Santa Clara. Capt. William Campbell, together with Asa Wallace Finley, built the first sawmill in Santa Clara County. It was built near what is now Saratoga, back in the mountains, and was operated by them. They manufactured fir and redwood lumber, which at that time was worth \$300 per thousand. Capt. William Campbell then built the first American store building in San Jose and was San Jose's first American merchant. There the Finley children grew up. The parents had seven children, of whom our subject is the second, and the youngest born in Missouri. The mother died in Kern County, when forty-five years of age. The father married a second time, to Miss Jane Steele, who also died, leaving one child. He was married a third time in Missouri to Mrs. Bessie Loper. He died at Stevinson on February 4, 1910, and was the first person buried in the Stevinson Cemetery.

Asa William Finley was educated in the early public schools of Santa Clara and San Jose and grew up on his father's farm. He was married the first time in Watsonville, Cal., in 1866, to Miss Frances Whisman, born in California. The Whismans and Moodys were members of the Campbell train crossing the plains. She died within three years after the marriage, leaving no children. He was married a second time at Hollister, San Benito County, on October 9, 1872, to Miss Elmira Hastings, a daughter of John Hastings, who died in Missouri. Elmira Hastings came out to California in 1871 with her mother and stepfather and settled that year at Hollister. By this union there were seven children. The first two children, Rufus and Charles, both died in infancy. The others are: Lelia, the wife of G. H. Blount, of Stevinson; Edgar, who died at the age of twenty-three years; LeRoy, who married Mrs. Carrie (Eular) Pascoe, and is employed by the Standard Oil Company at Richmond; Ella, the wife of William James of Kernville, Kern County, an extensive stockman; and Nannie L., who passed away at the age of ten years. The wife and mother died on July 30, 1915.

Mr. Finley was engaged in farming and stock-raising for the greater part of his life. He bought twenty acres in the Stevinson Colony in 1907, and in 1912 he traded his land for the Hotel Stevinson property. This property he sold to his daughter, Mrs. G. H. Blount, in May, 1925, and she is now conducting the hotel. Mr. Finley is still in the real estate business, having been a licensed realtor for the past five years, and is considered an expert on land values. He has been a consistent and lifelong Democrat and is one of the best-preserved men of his years in California. He helped to organize and build the Christian Church at Stevinson, and was called the "father of the Christian Church in Stevinson."

ROY P. THORPE

A man who is closely identified with the business life of Merced, Cal., is Roy P. Thorpe, the well-known fire insurance broker, who since 1914 has been county sealer of weights and measures in Merced County. He was born on his father's farm in Ross County, near Washington Court House, Ohio, on January 15, 1882, a son of Daniel and Hannah (Robinson) Thorpe. When our subject was six years old, the family removed to Kansas, where the father engaged in farming; he passed away when Roy was a lad of nine years.

Roy P. Thorpe received a grammar and high school education in the schools of Kansas, taking his high school course at Garden City. He came to California in 1902 and spent two years at Stanford University; then he was engaged in the automobile business in Palo Alto until 1908, when he sold out and removed to Merced, where he entered the employ of the Cooperative Land & Trust Company, remaining with them until 1910. That year, in partnership with Walter Casad, he established a real estate and insurance business, the partnership continuing until 1912, when he became a partner of G. A. Howell. Since 1913 Mr. Thorpe has successfully operated the business alone. Mr. Thorpe also owns and operates a ranch adjacent to Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Thorpe united him with Miss Isabel Bird, a native daughter of California, daughter of Isaac Bird, now living retired in Palo Alto. Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe have one son, Harold. Fraternally, Mr. Thorpe is a Mason and an Elk, being a past exalted ruler of the Lodge in Merced. In politics he adheres to the principles of the Republican party.

H. R. LOWELL

A man of broad years of experience who is unusually fitted for his present position in the business world is H. R. Lowell, the capable and efficient general manager of the Yosemite Lumber Company, of Merced Falls. A native son, he was born at Sacramento, on September 8, 1876, the youngest of two children, and the only son of R. C. Lowell, a native of Portland, Maine. R. C. Lowell came with his parents across the plains in 1852 with a large train of covered wagons, and his father located in Sacramento, where he founded a tannery on Front Street and engaged in the hide and leather business for many years. He was succeeded by his son, R. C., the father of our subject, who married Miss Nettie Simpson. She was born in Marysville, the daughter of the late John Simpson, a Forty-niner, who built the first toll bridge over the Yuba River on the Grass Valley road, where formerly he owned and operated a ferry boat. R. C. Lowell

was a prominent Mason, and died in Arizona in 1903, survived by his widow and children. His home was later located at N, O and Eighteenth Streets, the old home being pulled down for business buildings, since it was in the heart of Sacramento. The tannery business founded by his father in the fifties is still in existence, a son-in-law, W. B. Sumner, having become the worthy successor. He is the present head of W. B. Sumner & Company, located at Third and Townsend Streets, San Francisco.

After taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered in the public schools of Sacramento, H. R. Lowell entered the employ of his uncle, W. B. Sumner, at Benicia, where for four years he was an apprentice to the tannery trade. The following two years he was foreman in the tanning department, and was then sent to the forests of Mendocino County in search of a supply of tan-bark. He never returned to the tannery, for after his experience in the woods he became enthused over the prospects of becoming a logger, and, in addition to his newly-awakened ambitions, impaired health, due to the confining work in the tannery, made it imperative to give up his trade. Consequently he entered the employ of the C. N. W. Lumber Company, Ed. Middleton being the superintendent, and went into the woods and logging camp for one season. In 1900 he went to Scotia in the dense redwood forests, working as a logger; and then he was employed for three years by the California Timber Company as foreman at Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz County. He was given the position of logger superintendent for the McCloud Lumber Company at Siskiyou, and for the following six years had charge of the camps, employing as many as 600 men. The next six years he officiated as general superintendent of the Standard Lumber Company mills in Tuolumne County, and after three years as woods superintendent for the Yosemite Lumber Company he was made general manager of the company, taking up the responsibility of office in June, 1922, and has since resided at Merced Falls. Mr. Lowell is a pioneer in modern methods of lumbering, having gone forward steadily since his twenty-fifth year, when he decided to make lumbering his business. He installed the initial incline railway for the handling of logs in the mountains from timber to mill, a new departure in the logging business which is destined to become the future method of the lumber trade in many of the present inaccessible places where virgin timber stands.

The company which Mr. Lowell serves is worthy of mention. The Yosemite Lumber Company, Inc., was founded in 1910, and opened the same year with a two-band mill and resaw at Merced with two ten-hour shifts and a capacity of 300,000 feet of lumber per day. Since that time the business has prospered, and more especially

since Mr. Lowell was put in complete charge. Many improvements have followed, with the reinstallation of manufacturing machinery, the enlargement of all departments, and the employment of 1000 men. The general manager has a corps of assistants made up of able and experienced men, including a superintendent of mill and shipping, who also acts as assistant manager, one woods superintendent, three woods foremen, and so on, down to the track walker on their seventy-five-mile railway with two inclines. Thus, cooperation among the heads of all departments has been one of the most valuable assets with which the subject has built up this organization. The company, besides their own lands, buy timber from the federal government to the extent of eighty per cent of the standing timber, leaving twenty per cent of seed-bearing trees for reforestation. The ground cut over is cleaned up and left in as good condition as possible. Sugar pine, white pine, white and red fir and cedar are the varieties cut, and these timbers are found in the mountains at an elevation of from 4500 to 7000 feet, in Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties. This mill owns standing timber conservatively estimated to be in excess of the amount of two billion feet, or, in other words, a supply of logs to run the mill over four decades. This is more timber than the required amount they cut, but the development of the modern sawmill and lumber yard is steadily advancing. Among the improvements in the sawmill will be the working of the carriages by electricity, making a saving of \$1000 per month in hauling the saws. It is also planned to install new furnaces that will develop 1500 horsepower, using slabs for fuel. The present dry yards and kilns cover forty acres on the north side of the town of Merced Falls, which the company own, the 120 acres embracing the townsite. Six new kilns or dry houses will be built and a shed eighty feet wide and 800 feet long will be used for the storing of dry lumber. The storage capacity of the present plant is 40,000,000 feet, and it is frequently filled. The stored lumber supplies the retail yards in California from Sacramento City to Los Angeles, and forty such yards are operated. This business is subsidiary to the Charles Nelson Company, of San Francisco. A great deal of lumber leaves the Yosemite mills for export at tidewater and is reloaded from the railway cars to the Nelson boats at San Francisco, and from there sent to Australia, China, Japan and South Africa. The social side of life at Merced Falls is augmented by a company clubhouse, and the company expends \$180,000 annually for provisions to feed the workmen, the best quality of foods being used.

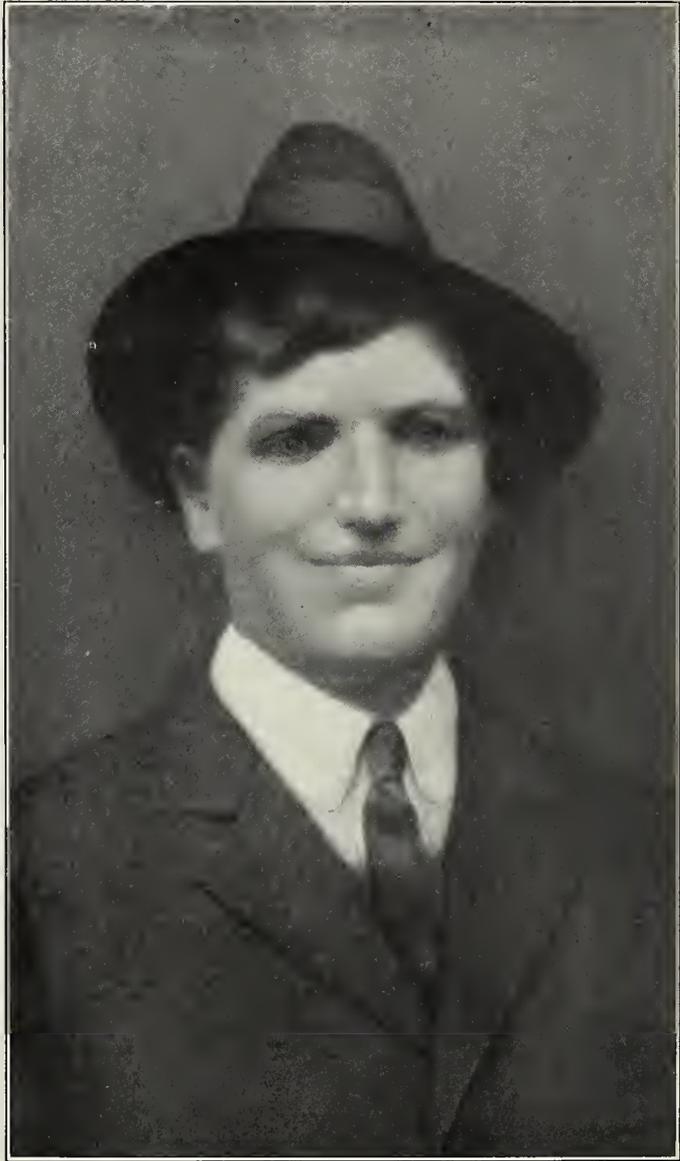
The military record of Mr. Lowell bespeaks his loyal support to his country in times of war. He was a volunteer of the W. S. A., during the World War, and was qualified on examination by Colonel

Du Bois, of the 20th United States Engineers, and received his commission as first lieutenant. He held himself in readiness to go with the A. E. F., on first call, but due to the Armistice was not called. He is now a reserve officer on the list of the Engineer Corps, Logging and Timber. In civil life Mr. Lowell has served as a deputy United States marshal in 1906, and was active during the emergency of the fire and earthquake at Redwood City, during the administration of Judge Buck. His political views are Democratic in principle. His affiliation with the Blue Lodge of Masons, No. 5, at Benicia, shows his status and character as a man worthy of recognition in the community. He makes his home with his mother, and together they are enjoying the opportunities which their native State, the Golden State, has in store.

C. J. BLOED

The growth and resources of Merced County, and its development from large ranches and stock ranges to a more intensive kind of agriculture, are matters of first-hand knowledge to C. J. Bloed, for he has been a part of ranch and stock activities here for over thirty years, and has within that space of time seen many changes take place in this section of the State. He was born at Princeton, Mariposa County, May 17, 1869, the son of Franklin Charles and Gertrude (Whipler) Bloed, the former born in Baden, Germany, November 15, 1826, and the latter a native of Carlsruhe, Germany, born March 19, 1827. The father came to California early in 1850, and worked in the mines at Copperopolis for a short time, and later went to Mt. Bullion. He conducted the hotel at Princeton, Mariposa County, for six years, and from there went to Merced Falls, where he worked in the mill. He had returned east to Pennsylvania, in 1856, and there his marriage occurred, in Philadelphia, and their eldest child, now Mrs. J. Coulston, of Modesto, was born in San Francisco, as the young couple soon came to California to make their home. The father was accidentally drowned in the Tuolumne River, near La Grange, his death occurring February 15, 1881, and the mother lived until February 4, 1893, their last years being spent at Snelling, Cal.

The youngest of nine children born to his parents, three of whom survive, C. J. Bloed received a good education at Merced Falls, and started in life for himself as a plow-boy, doing his first work in 1884, on neighborhood ranches, and continued in steady employ of large ranch and stock ranges until 1919, when he settled at Snelling, and soon after became successor to A. Bertrand's Snelling Pool Hall & Smoke House, where he conducts a first-class establishment.



Joe Q. Quinn

The marriage of Mr. Bloed united him with Miss Dora A. Shaw, a native of Oregon and daughter of William H. Shaw, late of Hopton, Merced County. One son has blessed their union, Franklin W., now a student at Heald's Business College in Fresno. Mr. Bloed is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Merced, and for three years past he has been a member of the Merced Municipal Band, playing the slide trombone. He is a booster for Merced County, and especially the Merced River district, one of the most fertile in the State, and even now just at the beginning of its real development.

JOSEPH A. OLIVEIRA

Numbered among the prominent and progressive agriculturists and business men of Gustine is Joseph A. Oliveira, who owns a 100-acre ranch three miles south of Gustine; he also owns two other large dairies in partnership with others and he is also part-owner of a butcher shop which occupies the ground floor of his own building in Gustine. A self-made man in every sense implied by the term, he is everywhere respected, and his honesty and straightforward business methods have gained for him the confidence of the community in which he resides. He was born July 2, 1875, on St. George of the Azores, where his parents, Joseph A. and Mary (Bontello) Oliveira were also born and reared. His father came to California when a young man, in 1855, and worked a few years for J. D. Patterson, the West Side pioneer. He was then married at Mission San Jose and lived for a time in California, where their first child, a girl, was born. Then the family returned to the Azores, where the rest of the children were born and where the father died. His widow returned to California and died in Haywards at the age of seventy-two years. There were five children in the family, namely: Mary A., deceased; Manuel A.; Josephine, Mrs. Frank Lopes; Joseph A., our subject; and Antone A., manager of the Jersey Milk Butter Company of Oakland, Cal.

At seventeen years of age Joseph A. Oliveira began to make his own living. After arriving in the United States he worked eleven years for one man in Rhode Island. Then he came to California and located in Oakland, where he worked in a paint shop for six months. Going then to Dutton Landing on the Sacramento River, he went into the dairy business and had succeeded in building up a fine dairy herd when the flood of 1906 wiped out the accumulations of years of hard work. He then removed to Newman and by borrowing money was able to establish a dairy business in this place, and did well. After seven months he bought the dairy business on the John Azevedo ranch, which he conducted for five years. By industry and economy he was

able to lay up sufficient money to purchase forty acres of land six miles southwest of Gustine, upon which he conducted a dairy of about 130 head of cattle. Later he sold a half-interest in his dairy business and, having decided to try another section of California, removed to San Jose; but after nineteen months spent there he was convinced that Gustine was the locality most promising for his line of work. Returning to Gustine, he accordingly rented 137 acres and started another dairy, which occupied him for four years, after which for four years he shipped cattle to the San Francisco markets. He then went into partnership in the grocery and meat business in Gustine, later selling out the grocery department and with his partner, Frank Carbello, continuing the meat business, in which they employ four persons. He carries on a dairy on 100 acres he owns, the old Kruger place, three miles southwest of Gustine. Under the firm name of Oliveira and Mello he operates a second dairy on fifty-seven acres of the Isabel Bunker place, two and one-half miles southwest of town, where he runs forty-five cows; and he and John Mattos conduct a dairy ranch of 137 acres on the William Bunker place.

At Fall River, Mass., in 1904, Mr. Oliveira was married to Miss Mary Avala, a native of Little Compton, R. I., and a daughter of Manuel and Rosie (Bettencourt) Avala, both natives of St. George, Azores Islands. Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira are the parents of five children: Joseph A., George, Frank, Dorothy, and Henry. Mr. Oliveira is a Republican in politics; and fraternally he belongs to the I. D. E. S. of Gustine. The family reside in the new home bought by Mr. Oliveira.

DWIGHT K. BARNELL

An experienced rancher, who has met with success in his own enterprises, and who also successfully served his community as president of the Farm Bureau for Merced County, Dwight K. Barnell is well known in the San Joaquin Valley. Born in Benton County, Iowa, on March 15, 1877, he is the fifth of six children born to his parents, Aaron J. and Elizabeth (Youel) Barnell, both natives of Indiana. Aaron J. Barnell settled in Iowa in the early fifties, and served as justice of the peace for his township in that State. During the Civil War he had served three years with the 20th Iowa Volunteers, receiving his honorable discharge as a sergeant, and after many years spent in Iowa, he settled in Los Angeles, in 1906, and there his death occurred.

Dwight K. Barnell and his brothers were reared and educated in Iowa and farmed the home place. He received a good education, graduating from the Benton High School, and then taking a course

at the Cedar Rapids Business College. In 1914 he went to Barnes County, N. D., and there was superintendent of the farm lands of the Dennstedt Land Company. Preceded by his father and brothers, he came to California in 1917, and joined with his brother in operating the land left by their father, the Barnell-Merced Tract, which that farseeing rancher had purchased in 1912.

The marriage of Mr. Barnell, on June 14, 1905, united him with Miss Estella McGranahan, a native of Newhall, Iowa. She is a graduate of the Academy of Music in Cedar Rapids and was well known in musical circles in that city. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Barnell: Charles G., in the class of 1925, Merced High School; Helen, also in that class; Robert and Elizabeth, both in the Tuttle Grammar School.

A man of strong public spirit, Mr. Barnell was elected a director in the Merced Irrigation District, from District No. 5. And as president of the Merced Farm Bureau, elected for 1923-1924, he efficiently carried on the work and directed this fast-growing organization in sixteen local centers.

FRANK PEBLEY

Since 1915 Frank Pebley has been active as a member of the board of supervisors in the upbuilding and development of Merced County and more especially of the town of Atwater. He is now serving his third term on the board, his first election being in 1915. He was born in Salem, Ore., on November 25, 1871, a son of Robert and Marcella (Gum) Pebley. The father, Robert Pebley, crossed the plains to the Pacific Coast from Missouri in 1854 and located in California, where he remained until 1866, when he went overland to Salem, Ore. Remaining there until 1879, he went by team to Walla Walla, Wash., one year after the Indian War; in 1880 the family moved to Olympia, Wash., where they remained for eight years. They then came to California and located in the Buhach Colony of Merced County. The Pebley family were among the first to settle in this locality and they became successful farmers, and here the father passed away in 1911. Mrs. Pebley died in 1873.

Frank Pebley received his education in the public schools of Washington and Oregon. He came to California in 1888 and stayed on the home farm with his parents near Buhach until 1914 when he removed to Atwater, which has since been his residence.

The marriage of Mr. Pebley on December 10, 1899 united him with Miss Ora Carter, one of California's native daughters; her father, J. E. Carter, is a pioneer of Merced County, locating there in the late fifties. Mr. and Mrs. Pebley are the parents of one son,

Clinton W., who is married and has one boy, Harlan Eugene, and resides in Los Angeles. In political matters, Mr. Pebley prefers to vote independently of party lines. Fraternally, he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Woodmen of the World, and the U. P. E. C. of Merced. Mr. Pebley is a man who takes a keen interest in the prosperity and advancement of his community, being ever on the alert to advance its best interests.

LEONARD F. JOHNSTON

One of the substantial ranch owners and a highly respected citizen of the Hilmar Colony, Leonard F. Johnston is a man of whom it may well be said "His word is as good as his bond and his bond is of the very best." In many ways he has proved a valuable citizen of Merced County, contributing to its growth, fostering its enterprises and promoting its welfare. He has much in common with his brother, A. O. Johnston, the well-known merchant and rancher at Irwin, who was a partner of his at Waverly, Nebr.

Leonard F. Johnston was born in Sweden, January 26, 1873. When nineteen years of age he set out for America and arrived at Waverly, Lancaster County, Nebr., where he found work as a farm hand at twenty dollars a month. After working around for a few years he had saved enough money to go in with his brother, A. O. Johnston, in the purchase of an eighty-acre home place near Waverly; to this they added 160 acres, and also cut hay on shares on 400 or 500 acres of upland by which they cleared about twenty-five dollars a day. Their parents were Johannes and Anna Charlotta (Samuelson) Johnson. It is a peculiarity of the Scandinavian names to add "son" to the Christian name of the father. The father's name being Johannes, the surname of the son should have been Johanneson, or shorter, Johnson. But on account of the confusion of names in the mails the sons found it convenient to change the name to Johnston.

While the boys were growing up in Sweden they learned blacksmithing and carpentering in the shop of their father, who was a mechanical genius. So the boys became expert machinists, an accomplishment which has been of great service to them in America. They first bought a Nicholas Shepard thresher, made in Battle Creek, Mich., and afterwards an Avery, made in Peoria, Ill. They were operated by a steam traction engine for power. Their corn sheller had a capacity of 1000 bushels per hour. Being expert machinists, by replacing worn parts at night, they were able to run a whole season without losing more than three hours for a breakdown. By frugality and good management they had accumulated considerable

capital when they came to California. A. O. Johnston was the first to come to California. Leonard has forty acres one mile southwest of Irwin and another ten acres under a high state of cultivation one mile north of the home forty acres.

Leonard Johnston was married in 1917 to Mrs. Alette Dignes, widow of Jens Dignes of Randsfonden, Norway, and daughter of Borger and Bertie Marie (Anderson) Gulbrandson of Hadeland, Norway. She had one son by Dignes, Borger, now a farmer in the Hilmar Colony. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have adopted John Vernon Nordstrom a bright lad and the youngest child of Mrs. Johnston's deceased sister. Though successful as a whole, Mr. Johnston met with a heavy financial loss by becoming bondsman to the amount of \$10,000 with A. T. Anderson for O. C. Holt, builder, in the erection of the high school gymnasium building at Tracy, Cal. Mr. Holt died before the building was completed; so the bondsmen had to make good and Mr. Johnston is out over \$11,000 cash.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are hospitable and very highly esteemed in their community. Mr. Johnston has acquired a vast stock of knowledge through experience and general reading, and he aims to keep himself posted on the national, State, county and local issues and he will cast his ballot without fear or favor for what expresses his honest conviction. An interesting incident in his life is his acquaintance with W. J. Bryan, which came about through his enthusiastic admiration of Bryan and free silver in the latter's first campaign for the Presidency. Bryan heard of it, and when he was in Waverly called on him and walked up the street with him. His respect for the Great Commonor is as profound as ever.

ROY VAN DEN HEUVEL

One of the many highly respected citizens of Merced County is Roy van den Heuvel, a resident of Merced and proprietor of the Merced Monumental Works and a cement contractor. He is a native son of California, born at Santa Rosa, on July 22, 1875, a son of William and Eliza (Iles) van den Heuvel. About 1872 William van den Heuvel came from his native country of Holland to the United States and directly to California and located in Lake County; he passed away in 1888, while the mother of our subject is still living.

Roy van den Heuvel received a public school education and when the family located in Merced, he learned the butcher trade with Banks & Bedesen, working for them five years. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he volunteered for service and was made first lieutenant of Company H, 6th Infantry of the 1st Battalion; after

-serving eight months he returned to Merced. He began clerking in a grocery store but after three months secured the position of janitor of the high school, which he occupied for eight years, the last two years acting in the capacity of assistant manual training instructor. He resigned this position and served as deputy sheriff of the county for four years, at the end of which time he engaged in the cement construction business and in 1918 established the Merced Monumental Works; he does all kinds of flat concrete work, including sidewalks, curbs, foundations, gutters, copings and vaults.

The marriage of Mr. van den Heuvel united him with Miss Mary Gstrein and of this union two sons have been born, Cyril A. and Raymond W. Mr. van den Heuvel is a Democrat in his political views, and fraternally has been clerk of the Woodmen of the World camp for eighteen years; he is also a member of the B. P. O. Elks and the Odd Fellows lodges of Merced.

M. M. REIMAN

One of the pioneer fruit men of the Planada district, Mr. Reiman and his wife are among the three families of Planada's original settlers who have the distinction of having remained there through "thick and thin" in the years of the pioneering of this new fruit section, and they are now the owners of a very fine ranch, entirely of their own development, and in the meantime have built up a remarkable business in the raising of prize-winning Giant Bronze turkeys. A native of Somerset, Pa., born January 22, 1888, M. M. Reiman is the third of four children born to J. J. and Rebecca (Schrock) Reiman, of that State. J. J. Reiman was born June 26, 1854, the youngest of four children, and he became a school teacher in early life. He later engaged in farming as a vocation, and was successful in his undertakings, for he was a decidedly enterprising man; he organized and is still a director of the First National Bank of Berlin, Pa.; is secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and a man whose friends are legion. He is still living, active and well-known in his section of the country as a man of distinct public spirit and the energy to carry through his ideas to completion.

M. M. Reiman attended the Stony Creek public school, and at the age of sixteen passed the teachers' examination with the county superintendent of schools, and taught for the next three terms. He was a graduate and class president of the Normal School at California, Pa., receiving his degree in 1910. After teaching for one term in Centerville Borough, Pa., he left for California, in August,

1911, and never returned to his native State until 1924, when he made a visit to his people.

After his arrival here, Mr. Reiman remained six months in Southern California, and as a sightseer took in that entire section. In April, 1912, he located at Planada, Merced County, investing in twenty acres of land, a portion of the Holt Ranch. He taught school for five terms in the Plainsburg and Planada schools, from their beginnings, and in the meantime he set about the development of his ranch, setting it out to almonds and figs, and has added by subsequent purchase an adjoining ten acre tract. His ranch property has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and is very sufficient proof, both of his ability and industry, and of the suitability of this section of the State for profitable raising of fruits.

In the spring of 1913, Mr. Reiman started with a single setting of eggs, to raise turkeys; he now has enlarged this branch of his business to an extent shown by the size of the annual catalogue he issues, giving full information about his prize-winning birds, and showing many testimonials from pleased patrons. The year 1924 ushered in the initial Fair of the Merced County's Poultry Association, of which, on its organization in January of this year, Mr. Reiman was elected president, at the general meeting. The show was a huge success, with about seventy-five exhibitors and 500 birds in evidence, breeders exhibiting from Fresno, Madera, and Stanislaus Counties, as well as from Merced. Among Mr. Reiman's exhibits was his forty-five pound turkey gobbler, "Warren G. Harding," who was transplanted from Illinois to Planada. He was presented to President Harding to grace a White House Thanksgiving table, but the former President said he was too nice a bird for mere "eats," and so he is still alive to carry off all honors. This turkey was a first winner at Chicago, both as a cockerel and a yearling, and since Mr. Reiman bought him in 1922, he has captured first ribbons, both at Los Angeles and Modesto, and at Chicago during two successive years. He was pronounced by Frank Platt, of the American Poultry Journal, as "outstanding, in a class by himself, a flame of bronze." With this bird at the head of his flock, Mr. Reiman is going in for even higher standards; during the eleven years he has been breeding bronze turkeys it has always been his aim to produce "better turkeys," and he has built up a large patronage in turkey eggs for settings, which are shipped to customers in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands and South America.

The marriage of Mr. Reiman, occurring August 15, 1911, at Pittsburgh, Pa., united him with Elma Ruth Weaver, the third of eight children and eldest daughter born to L. S. and Lucy Leora

(Smallwood) Weaver, both natives of Pennsylvania and still living. Mrs. Reiman is a graduate of the Centerville, Pa., High School, class 1910, and also attended both the Pennsylvania and California State Normal Schools, and taught in the primary grades for one term. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reiman: Genevieve E., Gerald Milton, Irma Rebecca, Rita K., and Ruth Lucille; the first born in Los Angeles, and all the others natives of Planada.

While never seeking public office, Mr. Reiman has, since his first coming to the district, been active in upbuilding the community and in advancing the general welfare. He was the first secretary of the Merced County Farm Bureau, resigning in 1919, and for three years he served as school trustee of the Planada district, and in 1925 was elected a trustee of the Joint Union High School of Le Grand, Cal.

CLARENCE L. FANCHER

An extensive grain rancher of Merced County, Clarence L. Fancher is a member of a family well known in the county since the early days of 1850. He was born on a farm, five miles west of Niles, Mich., on February 11, 1875, the fifth of seven children born to Jonathan W. and Margaret C. (Roe) Fancher, the father a native of Syracuse, N. Y., born in 1835, and the mother of Indiana, her death occurring in Michigan, in 1905. Jonathan W. Fancher was a cooper by trade, who settled in Michigan in 1853. Moving to Indiana in 1885, he became an extensive owner of land and stock there; and Clarence L., from the early age of ten, took up duties on the home ranch as chore boy, and remained there until 1899, when he came as far west as Butte, Mont., and later went into the Big Horn Basin, Wyo., where he entered on land under the Carey Act and homestead law, forty miles from the railway, and for twelve years developed the land, devoting it to grain, sheep and hogs, with marked success. In the meantime, his father had come west to Merced, Cal., in 1900, where he had been preceded by his brothers, the late George H., and Lee R. Fancher, settlers there in 1850 and prominent figures in Merced banking and farming circles. Jonathan W. had acquired land near Merced, and came out to look after his interests, and in 1912, Clarence L. brought out a carload of stock, and has since handled the ranch work and managed the property.

C. L. Fancher's marriage, on March 27, 1903, in Wyoming, united him with Miss Lydia A. Lindsay, a native of Utah, and the fifth of ten children born to her parents, the late Edwin R., and Mrs. Emma Bowden Lindsay of Big Horn Basin. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fancher: Lila, Iras, Arlene, Vir-

ginia, Lindsay, and Llewellyn.

In 1921, Mr. Fancher entered the Poultry Producers Association, and he is building up his pens to full capacity, with 1600 hens, engaging in egg production on a large scale. He is a member of the Planada-Tuttle Farm Bureau, and has always championed modern methods, both in theory and practice, for he sees in intensive cultivation the real growth of California, and especially her valley lands. He is likewise interested in educational advancement, and is a member of the board of school trustees for the Tuttle district. A Republican in political adherence, he sponsors all movements which have for their purpose the ultimate development of the district's resources, realizing that in that way is the prosperity of the individual enhanced, in proportion as the country develops.

THOMAS CRAWFORD TURNER

The name of Turner is synonymous with advancement and development; for when William C. Turner came to California and Merced County, though he at once plunged into mining, he soon realized that the future of this great Western State depended on land development, and in 1852 he became a rancher and stock-raiser. A sketch of his life appears on another page of this history. Thomas Crawford Turner, familiarly called "Tommy" by his associates, is a worthy son of his father, and like him has done his share to bring Merced County to the fore in agricultural circles. He owns 500 acres of fine land on the Merced River in Livingston Precinct No. 2 and 320 acres south of the Mellican Bridge, across the river in Turner precinct; and on this large and fruitful acreage he has been raising grain and stock, as well as some fruit.

Tommy C. Turner was born in Merced County on July 19, 1874. After pursuing his early studies in the public schools of Merced County, he finished the high school course at Santa Cruz, and then entered Stanford University. He remained at Stanford until the death of his father, when he came back home and carried on the work begun by his father on some 7000 acres in the home ranch; and ranching has been his forte ever since. He has been successful in his undertakings and holds a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

In San Francisco occurred the wedding of T. C. Turner and Miss Della Prusso, and they had three children: Louise, Beatrice, and Thomas C., Jr. Mrs. Turner died on January 1, 1919. Mr. Turner is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks. He is a stockholder in the First Bank of Livingston. Politically he supports Democratic candidates and principles in national affairs, but locally he is guided by an independent estimate of men and measures.

JOSEPH R. SOUZA

Success has accompanied the efforts of Joseph R. Souza in his work as general blacksmith; he located in Merced in 1906 and established his present business, at first on a small scale, but it has increased during the passing of the years to its present proportions and he is now equipped to repair anything in the way of wagons and farming machinery and with the help of four men takes care of his large and growing business. He is a native of Mariposa County, Cal., born July 15, 1877, a son of J. M. and Mary Souza, both natives of the Azores. J. M. Souza came to California in 1862 and engaged in mining; later he followed farming in Mariposa County. There were seven children in the family. The mother is still living but the father died March 27, 1925, eighty-three years of age.

Joseph R. Souza received his education in the public schools of Mariposa County; after leaving school he drove a team for the Mariposa Mining Company for three years; following this he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he has since followed.

The marriage of Mr. Souza united him with Miss Ivah Ellen Pickard of South Bend, Ind., and they are the parents of four children: Annie, Chester, Lloyd, and Robert. Mr. Souza is a Republican in politics, and fraternally is affiliated with the Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, Neighbors of Woodcraft and I. D. E. S., all of Merced. He has spent the greater part of his life in Merced and has shown his public spirit in various ways, always supporting men and measures for the development of the resources of this place.

CHESTER E. WELCH

Not only is Chester E. Welch well-known and highly respected, but he is among the most prominent business men of Merced. As the senior member of the firm of Welch & Griffin, undertakers, he has become well-known as a man of broad sympathies and kindly nature. The firm occupies the entire lower floor of the Masonic building and is thoroughly equipped to handle their business in the most modern way and with up-to-date methods.

Chester E. Welch was born on a farm in Kansas, July 9, 1886, a son of C. R. and Flora (Winches) Welch. The family came West when our subject was a child of two years and located in Salem, Ore., where they lived for fourteen years, then removed to Medford, Ore., and from there to Baker City and thence to Portland. During all these years the father, C. R. Welch, was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. He sold his business in Portland, Ore., and

removed, with his family, to Oakland, Cal., where he successfully conducted a furniture and undertaking business until his retirement; he still has large interests in this line of business in Oakland and there makes his home.

Chester E. Welch received a grammar and high school education in the schools of Oregon and from the time he was sixteen years old was associated with his father in business, learning the undertaking business in a thorough manner. Mr. Welch located in Merced in 1915, when he bought the undertaking business then operated by Mr. Nordgren and the firm became known as Welch & Company; later he sold an interest in the business to W. M. Griffin, who died in 1924, and was succeeded by his widow Mrs. Lulu Griffin. The firm still conducts business under the name of Welch & Griffin. Some few years ago Mr. Welch became interested in agriculture and has invested considerable money in farming land adjacent to the city of Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Welch united him with Miss Josephine Reuder, a native daughter of Merced. Mr. Welch has been deputy county coroner for many years and is now serving as county coroner and public administrator. He is a Republican in politics and fraternally is associated with the Elks and the Moose, and he is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

C. B. HANNER

Merced County has been unusually fortunate in attracting men of broad vision and the practical experience to carry out the possibilities they could see in this most fertile part of our wonderful State. Among these C. B. Hanner has played a prominent part in the extensive development work done in the county during the past few years, where the face of this section of California has been changed from a haphazard grain field into one of the most productive fruit growing valleys in the world. Mr. Hanner was born in Waverly, Iowa, the fifth of seven children born to his parents, John and Margaret (Jewell) Hanner, both now deceased. John Hanner was a native of Montreal, Canada, of Scotch parents, farmers who migrated to Rockford, Ill., in the early sixties, and later located in Iowa, crossing the Mississippi River on a ferry, and drove overland with ox-team to where the town of Waverly now stands. John Hanner became a widely and well-known rancher and stockman in Iowa, and his family are among the present day representative men and women of that State.

C. B. Hanner was reared in a good home on the farm in Iowa, attending the Waverly Grammar and High schools, and also taking

a dairy course at Ames College, Iowa. At the age of nineteen he took an active part in the conduct of the home farm with his father and a brother, and continued so engaged for several years. In the early nineties he purchased a farm near Forest City, Iowa, and endured many privations in order to get ahead quickly, and he soon became one of the leaders in that section, and in 1895 organized the initial Farmers' Cooperative Creamery in Madison County, becoming its secretary and manager until he resigned, in 1899, to come to California. He was a breeder of high-grade cattle and thoroughbred hogs and was very successful, and also as a breeder of imported Percheron horses from Riga, France, always selling his stock at top prices, for they were the best obtainable. His knowledge on all farm problems and market conditions is well rounded from both a theoretical and practical standpoint and in all fields of land development he is an able authority, as has been well proven by his success since coming to California.

He came West in 1899, and reached Fresno at a time when building was active. With considerable knowledge of the trade, and being a good carpenter, he soon started out as a builder there, and followed it through until 1918, devoting his attention to residence and home structures, and doing his own planning and designing. His work stands out in Fresno today; the H. Swift home, on Calaveras and L Streets, the Creighton, Beane, and scores of Fresno's finest homes are from the plans drawn and work done by Mr. Hanner. In the meantime he was always interested in land development, and owned a ranch of 160 acres in Lone Star, which he held until it came into bearing, growing Muscat grapes; and a highly developed vineyard of 115 acres in the Dinuba district.

In 1918 Mr. Hanner left Fresno, having a big contract to fill at Chowchilla, Merced County, \$75,000 worth of construction and development work on the D. Hayes property. He incidentally became interested in a 1000-acre tract himself, which he subsequently sold off until he now holds but 200 acres of this. It was in 1919 that he came to Merced County to do his greatest piece of work.

On August 15, 1919, he brought from Chowchilla over the highways into Planada \$60,000 worth of land developing implements to carry on his work, consisting chiefly of the following: seven Holt caterpillar tractors, subsoiler and full equipment, land-levelers, etc.; and a gang of twenty men started to work almost at once, near Tuttle. People looking on did not realize then what they were destined to see today on the land, the largest orchard in the world, peaches, and apricots, embracing some 4000 acres. Mr. Hanner was in full charge of operations, the property being owned by the California Packing Corporation, owners of the Del Monte brand.

Through 1919-1920-1921, this great project worked slowly but successfully into a state of being. It is conceded by authorities that the remarkable growth of the 350,000 trees which stand today in such splendid symmetrical lines could not have attained such growth had it not been for the skilled work performed with Hanner's wonderful outfits—the subsoilers.

While this was being accomplished, this energetic man had to have something to do for himself, so he bought 160 acres, the former home place of M. L. Holt, in December, 1919, and started at once to transform it from a grainfield into a fine vineyard, surrounded by a border of Kadota figs.

The marriage of Mr. Hanner, at San Francisco, May, 1923, united him with Miss Nellie Mae Backus, a native of Boston, Mass. She came to California in 1918, and is an ardent supporter of "our" climate and other factors which make California a pleasant place in which to make one's home. Mr. Hanner's parents both came to California in 1894, from Iowa, locating at Fresno, where the home they built is still standing, on East Avenue. The father returned to Iowa on a visit to his sons there, in 1898, contracted a severe cold en route, and died in Waverly, in January, 1898. The mother remained a steadfast devotee to Fresno, and her death occurred there in 1911.

JOHN ALFRED HALLNER

Prominent among the Swedish-American population of Merced County is the Hallner family, of which John A. Hallner is a member and the owner of a forty-acre ranch on Turner Avenue two miles southwest of Irwin in the Hilmar Colony. He was born in Carver County, Minn., on March 10, 1867, and at the age of three years was taken to Saunders County, Nebr., by his parents, John and Johanna (Johnson) Hallner, the former born in Westre Jotland on November 7, 1820, and the latter on August 20, of the same year, and they were married in Sweden.

Our subject grew up on his father's farm in Nebraska, forty-five miles west from Omaha, where he had homesteaded eighty acres of land. This was improved by himself and members of the family, all cooperating together until there were 400 acres under cultivation to corn. When this land was divided, John A. received 100 acres as his share. There were seven children in the family, viz.: Andrew, now living in Turlock; Mary married John Smith in Saunders County, Nebr., and died in 1892 leaving four children; Hannah, widow of Samuel Rylen, lives in Merced County; August and Carl are dealers

in agricultural implements and automobiles at Mead, Nebr.; Christina is the wife of Charles Youngstedt, of Turlock; and John Alfred, of this review, is the youngest and the only one born in the United States. A girl and boy died in infancy. The family came to America in 1863, settling first in Iowa, and then moved to Minnesota, and in 1870, to Nebraska.

Here John A. Hallner grew up under pretty rough and trying experiences, living in a sod house and battling with blizzards, drouths and grasshoppers. He went to school to his brother Andrew in a sod schoolhouse, and at the age of fifteen went to work herding cattle for his father. Much of his life was passed in the saddle. Carrying his books with him he learned his lessons at spare times while out with the cattle on the Nebraska prairies. His father had a herd of from fifty to one hundred head of cattle. After a strenuous life in Nebraska the parents moved to California in 1912, where they died, the father, January 21, 1913, and the mother, January 22, 1916.

John Hallner was married on his father's farm near Mead, Nebr., to Miss Anna Carlson, a native of Wadesten, Ostre Jotland, Sweden. the daughter of P. G. and Clara (Sundberg) Carlson. The father started for America four months ahead of his wife and family. They had three children: Tina, now Mrs. Sorenson of Randolph, Nebr.; Anna, Mrs. Hallner; and August, a carpenter who makes his home at times with his brother-in-law, John A. Hallner. Mr. Hallner bought twenty acres when he first came to California in 1912 and has added twenty acres since, and he has improved the place with a good house, barns and other farm buildings. He is a careful student of political economy and casts his vote for progressive and constructive legislation and for the general welfare of the people. In all of his hard work he has had a most loyal helpmeet in his good wife, who shares all his sorrows and rejoices in his successes. They are interesting people, of ready wit and cheerful disposition.

CHARLES B. TILLER

One of the best painting and decorating contractors in Los Banos is Charles B. Tiller, who was born in Dekalb County, Mo., on January 26, 1887. He attended school in his home locality until he was eleven, at which time his parents came to Riverside County, Cal., and settled in Corona, where the lad continued his education, then they moved to Lincoln, Placer County, and he finished there. Upon leaving school he entered the laboratory department of the Standard Oil Company in Richmond and remained for eighteen months, when he went to Oakland and served his time in learning the trade of

painter. Coming to Los Banos, Cal., in 1905, he soon formed a partnership with W. P. Sears and for four years they did business as painting contractors under the name of Sears and Tiller. Thereafter Mr. Tiller has carried on an independent contracting business. Numerous buildings stand to his credit, among which we mention Bank of Los Banos building, a \$150,000 structure; the Masonic Temple; Odd Fellows Hall; Oberon Hotel; two annexes of the Los Banos High School building; the Kneep and Cornett residences. He does all the painting and decorating for F. H. Riedle, which takes in dairy plants all over the West Side. For several years he was painting foreman for Miller and Lux. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Tiller is a very busy man.

When Mr. Tiller came to marry in 1912, he was united with Miss Emily M. Jameson, born in Los Banos, and they have two boys, Norman and Charles B., Jr. Fraternally, Mr. Tiller belongs to Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M., and to the Merced Pyramid of Sciots.

A. N. SHEESLEY

Whoever labors to instil into the minds of the youth the knowledge of religion founded on the Bible and for the development of upright Christian character, he it is who earns a place as a public benefactor and is entitled to mention in the pages of history. Of such a character is A. N. Sheesley, a leader in church and Sunday School work and proprietor of a fifty-five acre dairy ranch two miles east of Livingston. He was born on July 27, 1871, near Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, Pa., a son of A. J. and Sarah J. (Wachob) Sheesley. The former is living retired in Colorado at the age of eighty-six. Both parents were born in Jefferson County. The mother died in Colorado in 1914. They were the parents of nine boys and one girl. The fifth child, A. N. Sheesley, was ten years old when his parents moved to Spencer, Ohio, where the father followed farming. From Ohio they moved to Clark County, Kansas; nearly ruined by drouth and broke, they moved to Burlingame, Osage County, that state. The advantages offered A. N. Sheesley by the public schools in Pennsylvania and Kansas were supplemented by a course in a business college at Topeka, Kansas, after which he ran a dray business for ten years in Burlingame, Kan.

A. N. Sheesley was married in Burlingame, Kan., to Miss Mabel Wood, a native of that place. Of this union were born three children, namely: Glenwood, an expert livestock man in the Agricultural College at Davis, Cal.; and Clayton and Lois, who are still at home. From Burlingame Mr. Sheesley came to Arena, California in 1908,

bringing with him a carload of household goods. His brother-in-law, C. G. Wood, traveling auditor of the Santa Fe Railroad, was already in California.

Mr. Sheesley has a dairy of twenty registered Guernsey cows and a registered bull. He has a home orchard and an acreage of alfalfa and is an active member of the Arena Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau. He has been superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School at Livingston for many years and is chairman of the board of trustees of that church; he served four years as president of the California State Sunday School Association as well as holding other positions in that organization.

ANTONE J. NOYA

If we travel East as the crow flies about 6500 miles we will find some islands in the Atlantic Ocean called the Azores; on one of these called Flores there was born on January 27, 1873, a baby, now known as Antone J. Noya. There were thirteen children in the family, of whom only three are living, A. J. being the oldest. The parents were Manuel and Mary Noya; the former is dead but the mother is still living. How Antone comes to be in this country and one of Atwater's most substantial citizens is the story which this sketch is to relate.

He grew up at home and went to school in Santa Cruz, in the Azores Islands, and was reared to life on a farm till the age of sixteen when the desire to follow his brothers, Ventura and Constantine, who had come to seek their fortunes in the land of the Setting Sun, was accomplished. His father had come out to California in 1852 and did very well in gold mining and while here took out his citizenship papers, but he returned to Flores and died there in 1890. His brothers were still here and were mining in Siskiyou County. The boy arrived and joined them and worked seven years in the Spangler mine. In 1899 he came to Atwater, then a place of four or five families and only one store. He got a job on the Buhach ranch at one dollar a day. The next year he bought twenty acres of the Mitchell No. 1 Colony, his home place, and planted sweet potatoes. The first season's profit was \$285. He followed it up with the growing of fruits and vegetables. He now owns three ranches embracing sixty-five acres and raises large quantities of grapes, sweet potatoes and alfalfa and has been fairly prosperous.

Mr. Noya was made a citizen of the United States at Yreka, Siskiyou County, in 1893, and he exercises his rights as a citizen by voting the Republican ticket. He was married on November 28, 1903,



Peter Erreca Catherine Erreca

in Yreka, to Ermeline L. Noya, born in Flores, who came to California in 1893 with her father and mother and two sisters. The father died in San Jose, and her mother still resides in that city. Six children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Noya, viz.: Erma F., a graduate from the Mitchell Grammar School, class of 1920; Constantine, a graduate with the same class; Anthony J., in the class of 1926 in the Merced Union High School; and Joseph C., Ernest E., and Marie E., pupils in the local grammar school. Mr. Noya is a member and a director of the Atwater Pentacost Club Association; belongs to the I. D. E. S. at Buhach; is a charter member of the Druids of Merced; and a member of Atwater Camp No. 164, W. O. W. The Noya family are well-liked by all who know them.

PETER ERRECA

A prominent sheep man of Merced County and a thorough American by adoption, Peter Erreca represents the best type of Basque manhood. He was born on March 15, 1884, in the Basses-Pyrenees, the son of Gracien and Catherine (Laxague) Erreca. The father was a farmer in France and died there in 1890 or 1891. His farm was small but he was successful in his way. During his lifetime he made a visit to America, but returned to his native land and there died. The mother is still living on their home place in France and is aged seventy-five years. There were twelve children in the family. Of these, besides Peter, the following still survive: Martin and Jean, both living in Los Banos; Mike, in San Diego County; Marcelline, wife of Antone Inda, living in Reno, Nev.; and three brothers and a sister still living in France, John, Bernard, Joseph and Mary, the wife of Ferdinand Avambel.

Peter attended the schools in his native country until he was thirteen, and then worked on his father's farm for his mother until he embarked for the United States and California, in 1902. He arrived in Fresno, Cal., in November of that year and found employment for a time on a sheep ranch owned by the late John Menta. From there he went to Madera County with his brother-in-law, and still later came to Merced County, about 1905. Here he worked for his brother, Martin Erreca, and others for a few years, and then embarked in the sheep business for himself. He began on a small scale, and as he succeeded he added to his flocks until now he has about 3000 head of fine French Merino sheep. These he has on the Gastambide ranch about eleven miles southwest of Los Banos, which ranch he has operated for the past two years, meeting with very good success in his operations.

Mr. Erreca was united in marriage in San Francisco, on April 18, 1925, with Miss Catherine Laxague, who was born in France. She is a sister of Mrs. Martin Erreca and Mrs. Jean Erreca, of Los Banos, and is a worthy helpmate to her husband, enjoying with him a widening circle of good friends in their new home in Merced County. Mr. Erreca is public spirited and is ready and willing to assist in every movement that will bring Merced County to the front in the galaxy of counties in California.

JOSEPH M. TRINDADE

The development work in soil cultivation done by J. M. Trindade in Merced County is of considerable import from the fact that he was among those who started the raising of diversified crops in what is now one of the largest and richest belts of its kind in the State. He pioneered until he found from experience what would produce and pay, and his foresight in realizing the market situation has been of real benefit to the grower in this locality. A native of Cedros, Flores, Azores, Mr. Trindade first saw the light on September 10, 1870, the fourth of nine children born to his parents, Antone S., and Mary (Souza) Trindade, both natives of Flores and farmers; they did their work in life well, reared their large family of eight sons and one daughter to be of use in the world, and then passed to their reward, the father aged seventy years, and his good wife at sixty years of age.

Mr. Trindade received his education in the public schools of his native country and learned the rudiments of farming on the small home farm. He came to California with a party of his countrymen, and reached Merced, then a small village, on July 4, 1887. Soon after his arrival he went to Mariposa County to work, and in starting earned fifteen dollars a month as a sheep herder. Three months later he bettered his condition by going to work for F. Lopez at thirty dollars a month as a plow boy, and he was so industrious and thrifty that he went into ranching for himself four years later, putting in a crop on the Bennett Ranch, on the Merced-Mariposa County line, farming to wheat and barley, but with slim results. He later tried again, on the C. Ehler place, with better results, each year increasing his operations until he became an extensive grower, his last four years in grain-growing being on the Lee Fancher ranch in Merced County.

Mr. Trindade is now the owner of seventy acres in Ash Colony, there maintaining the Trindade home place, and sixty-two acres in the Atwater-Jordan District. For the past eight years he has had his lands farmed by tenant farmers and his main business is centered in

the shipping of fruits and sweet potatoes, buying and selling as an independent, in the territory from Turlock to Merced, his trade mark, "Merced Sweets," being well established and finding a ready market.

The marriage of Mr. Trindade, occurring February 13, 1895, at Merced, united him with Mary A. Rodrigues, a native of Indian Gulch, Mariposa County, and ten children have blessed their union, as follows: Daniel, Inez (Mrs. A. J. Thomas), Bessie, Marie, Joseph (deceased), Amelia, Joseph and Josie (twins), Jesse, and Hubert, all securing a liberal education, and popular with their associates. Mr. Trindade is widely known and well-liked throughout Central California for his dealings are invariably straightforward and his business associates know him to be a man of his word. He is a stockholder in the San Joaquin Light & Power Corporation, the Merced Security Savings Bank, and the Merced branch of the Bank of Italy. A Republican in politics, Mr. Trindade received his United States citizenship in Merced. He has always been active in advancement along educational and social lines as well as in business progress. He contributes liberally to charity, and gives of his time and means to all community betterment. For fifteen years he served as a school trustee of the Franklin district.

HENRY A. DU BOIS

Another native son of the State who has made good and has won a place for himself through his own efforts is Henry Du Bois, owner of 106 acres of land in the Fairview Precinct in Merced County, but now residing at the corner of Almond and Gear Road, Turlock, Cal. He was born in San Rafael, Cal., December 22, 1882, the son of the late Dr. Henry A. and Emily (Blois) Du Bois, natives of New Haven, Ct., and New York City, respectively. Dr. Du Bois was a Yale graduate and was a surgeon during the Civil War, being a staff officer of General Sheridan. After the war he came to California and practiced in San Rafael until his death. There were three girls and two boys born in their family, Henry being the second child.

Henry attended the Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy and the San Rafael High School, and was graduated from the University of Nebraska Agricultural College with the class of 1905. Thus equipped for whatever might be in store for him, he returned to California, then went to Harney County, Ore., and took a position on the "P" cattle ranch, which controlled a million acres of land, and he remained there for two years. Then he purchased 320 acres in Lower Lake, Lake County, Cal., and engaged in the stock business, continuing for

six years, when he bought his present place in the Hilmar Colony in 1913. Here he has leveled and planted the acreage and made valuable improvements, but he now leases it to tenants.

While residing in Lake County, Henry Du Bois married Miss Beatrice Van Fleet, daughter of M. B. Van Fleet, and a niece of the late Judge Van Fleet, well-known Federal jurist. Five children have come to gladden the Du Bois home circle: Thelma, Alan, Jack, Philip and David. Mr. Du Bois is a member of the Hilmar branch of the Merced Farm Bureau. In politics he is a Republican, but a very liberal one. He is a shareholder in the Farmers Exchange at Modesto, which business is receiving his attention.

ANGELO IACOPI

Perhaps one of the most popular Italian-Americans on the West Side in Merced County is Angelo Iacopi of Los Banos. The record of his progress since landing in America when a lad of thirteen is one of thrift and perseverance. He was born at Montuolo, Lucca, Italy, on December 11, 1870, the son of Louis and Justina Iacopi, both natives of the same section of Italy as our subject. This worthy couple had five children: Almina, living with her mother in Italy; Angelo, our subject; Felice, represented on another page in this history; May, also in Italy; and Pasquale, who died when he was twenty-seven years old, while on a visit back to his home. Louis Iacopi died on May 5, 1905 at the age of seventy-eight; the mother is still living and at the age of ninety-eight is hale and hearty and does not look over fifty.

Angelo went to the Italian schools until he was thirteen, then he came to America and upon arriving in San Francisco he sold fruit out of a basket on the streets of that city. He next went to work on the San Pedro ranch in San Mateo County, saved his wages and soon was able to rent some ground and raise vegetables for himself. In 1889 he went to Firebaugh in Fresno County and worked for Miller and Lux, but in 1890 he was recalled to Italy and had to serve his allotted time in the Italian Army, being an artilleryman. As soon as he was free from military service he hurried back to California and began raising beans and potatoes on Staten Island, in the Sacramento River. This was very discouraging, for beans sold for sixty-five cents per hundred pounds and potatoes for ten cents a sack, simply enough to pay for the sack. He quit business and returned to Firebaugh and went to work for Miller and Lux again for twenty dollars per month. He was frugal and saved his money and soon had enough to take him back to Italy in 1897, where

he married the girl of his choice who was waiting for him to make his pile in America and go back and get her. Returning to California he went to work for the Kern County Land Company at Bakersfield in opening an artesian well. From there he went to Tulare, then back to Firebaugh and finally got to Los Banos in 1900. Here, he in partnership with his brother, Felice, began the manufacture of soda water and syrups of various kinds and met with success, Angelo buying out his brother and continuing the business. Before this Mr. Iacopi was in the liquor business, having a retail and a wholesale establishment. He made money, invested it in property in Los Banos and built houses and today owns some of the most valuable business corners in the town. He also had a nice home built in Italy for his parents, in which his mother is still living and where his father died.

A short time before National prohibition was declared by President Wilson, Mr. Iacopi became a candidate for the city council and before he entered the office he disposed of his large stock of liquors at a heavy loss because he did not want to hold office while he was selling liquor. He also has been a heavy loser by indorsing notes for his friends. Notwithstanding all his losses he is optimistic and enjoys life to its full. He has always been large-hearted and generous, liberal with his money and has made and retains his friends.

Mr. Iacopi was married in Italy in 1897 to Miss Clara Puccinelli, a native of Lucca, and they have five children: Nello, who is in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, in Los Banos; Amabilia, who married A. Michelotti and has one daughter, Peggy; Jennie, married P. Carlotti, lives in Dos Palos and is the mother of a son, Bruno; Mary married F. Cosella of Dos Palos; and Laura, who is attending school in Los Banos. Mr. Iacopi received his citizenship in Merced in 1902 and is a Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the Eagles, the Druids, the Foresters and the I. D. E. S., all in Los Banos. He conducts an oil station on the highway at the edge of Los Banos. He has a bowling alley and soft drink parlor in his own building on I Street. He is an ex-councilman, serving from 1915 to 1919, during which time many of the improvements were made in the city, streets paved, sewers installed, and the water works enlarged and improved.

ELMER K. ANGLE

A leading general contractor and builder of the San Joaquin Valley is Elmer K. Angle of Dos Palos, the builder of many of the reinforced concrete bridges of Merced County in the last eight years. He was born in Louisiana, Missouri, on September 25, 1882,

and here he attended the public schools. As a lad he worked at the carpenter trade with his father and at an early age began taking contracts for general building. In 1905 he came to California and located at Dos Palos and since that time has been engaged in his chosen line of work. Among the bridges and buildings he has built are the Santa Rita Slough bridge, built in 1915; the Los Banos Creek bridge over Los Banos Creek, in 1916; the bridge across the Livingston Canal above Atwater; bridges across the double canals on Pacheco Pass lateral; and he has done bridge work all over the San Joaquin Valley. Buildings which stand to his credit are the Medlin block, the Odd Fellows Hall block, the Du Bois block, the George Nickel home and tank house on the Delta Ranch. He built the Dos Palos Public Library, which he sold to Merced County. He also built the North Star and the Reynolds Avenue school buildings in the country; the Dos Palos Grammar School; the new gymnasium of the Dos Palos Union High School and the Dos Palos Junior High in 1924; and he remodeled the two churches in Dos Palos. He owns a twenty and one-half-acre alfalfa ranch on the main canal.

He married Ella May Krigbaum, a native of Missouri, and has three children, Shelton, Mary and Doris. In fraternal relations he is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of Mountain Brow Lodge No. 132, F. & A. M.; Merced Chapter No. 12, R. A. M.; and Fresno Commandery No. 29, K. T.

W. B. PUGH

The rapidity with which new towns and subdivisions have been developed in California during the past ten or fifteen years is little short of miraculous, and great credit is due the men who have been on the ground from the beginning, literally working like beavers in the activity attendant upon the opening of new lands, and making them ready for the influx of new settlers. When Planada, in Merced County, was first opened by the Los Angeles Investment Company, in 1912, they were looking about for a man to take charge of all field operations in the opening and laying out of the district, and their choice settled upon W. B. Pugh, and he was the man who was on the ground when the "first gun was fired." In fact he "fired" it, superintending all street grading and other development work in the new colony, and he has remained steadily in charge and is still the caretaker for all their interests there today, in the interval seeing all the changes that the short length of time has made, and these have been many, for it is today one of the most prosperous districts in the San Joaquin Valley.

A native of Hancock County, W. Va., Mr. Pugh was born April 10, 1862, the second of nine children in the family of Andrew C. and Matilda (Pugh) Pugh, of that State. The mother has passed on, her death occurring at Chester, W. Va., in January, 1924, but Andrew C. Pugh is still living, and maintains an active interest in affairs at the good age of ninety years. Educated in the public schools of his native county, W. B. Pugh was reared as a farmer's son, and left home when nineteen years old to take a job as apprentice to the blacksmith trade, at Hookstown, Pa. He learned the trade most thoroughly and at the end of eighteen months became his employer's successor to the shop; he later sold out, to enter sales work for the International Harvester Company, and was on the road for many years.

In 1908 Mr. Pugh came West and established a shop, working at his trade once more, first at Santa Monica, Cal., and later moved to Hollywood, until the time when he came to Planada for the Los Angeles Investment Company. He has since made his home there; and he is now owner of one of Planada's fine homes, and also of desirable real estate in the town, which he has seen grow from "the ground up," and his every effort has been to help the progress, thereby adding one more prosperous community to the State, where nothing but bare land had been before.

The marriage of Mr. Pugh, in Hancock County, W. Va., in 1885, united him with Ida Boody, a native of East Liverpool, Ohio, and one son has been born to them, Andrew, an ex-service man of the World War, an expert machinist and tractor man, and now an employe of the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company. Mr. Pugh belongs to the Planada-Tuttle Farm Bureau, and is a real "booster" for Merced County, for he has seen what can be accomplished, and has a very real foundation for his faith in this section of our wonderful State.

STEPHEN P. GALVIN

Prominent among the professional men of Los Banos may be mentioned Stephen P. Galvin, attorney at law. He was born in Boston, Mass., April 20, 1880, and educated in the public schools and the Boston University Law School; he had a law office in New York City and in Oklahoma. He came to San Francisco in 1910 and was in the law office with Charles F. Hanlon until he came to Los Banos in 1913, where he has since lived and practiced his profession.

In addition to the fact that he is well qualified by education and experience, with a keen and analytical mind, characteristic of the

typical attorney, is another important fact that he is interested in public affairs and is thoroughly posted concerning the problems of the municipality in which he lives. This adaptation to fill positions of trust in the city was appreciated by his fellow citizens in his election to the office of city attorney, city health officer, and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. He has always been prominent in Democratic politics and is a member of the Democratic County Central Committee, and the Democratic State Central Committee.

On August 17, 1909, Mr. Galvin married Effie M. Burke and they have two children: Stephen P. Jr. and Martha R. Fraternally, Mr. Galvin is a member of the Knights of Columbus of Merced, and of the Woodmen of the World, the Druids, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of Los Banos.

J. M. FINSTER AND HARRY WALLACE FINSTER

The advantages that await the cooperation of father and son who are industrious and enterprising are fully exemplified in the accomplishments of J. M. and Harry W. Finster of the Livingston district in Merced County. They own a sixty-acre vineyard located two miles east of Livingston, upon which they settled when they came here from Taft, Cal., in 1913. The land at the time of purchase was a worn-out grain field and by much hard work the property has been made into a fine producing vineyard, one of the best in the county.

J. M. Finster was born in Peru, Ind., on June 26, 1868, the son of Simon and Elizabeth (Danfer) Finster, farmer folk who were born and married in Germany. Fourteen children blessed the home of this couple, but only four boys are living, J. M. being the only one in California. Both parents died in Indiana. J. M. Finster remained with his father until 1889, when he came to California and ran cattle on the range in San Bernardino County. Later he conducted a dairy in Riverside. Going from there to Humboldt County, he remained there for six years and then we find him in Taft, where he was for many years a pumper in the Mascot Oil Company's lease near Taft.

Mr. Finster was married at Highlands, San Bernardino County, to Miss Annie Baker, a native of Iowa, and they have had four children. Mrs. Florence Conratt, living with her father, has two children, Genevieve and Harry. Lester and Chester are twins. Lester, a driller at Huntington Beach, Cal., saw service with the aviation section in France during the World War; he married Zulu Eccles. Chester is also a driller and he married Miss Alice Cook



Henry L. Kears.

and resides at Reward, Cal. Harry Wallace was born in Riverside in 1897, worked with his father after leaving the Taft public school and is now a partner and part owner in the Livingston vineyard. He is now working in the oil fields in Tampico, Mexico. Father and son are Republicans and admirers of Hiram Johnson and are in favor of a clean, honest program for efficient government. In February, 1925, J. M. Finster bought a residence in Livingston where he and his family reside, he having leased his ranch.

HENRY L. KUNS

The custom of many wealthy men, who accumulate property which they must leave behind them to be quarreled over by their heirs when they are gone, has not been followed by Henry L. Kuns. The 1200 acres which he still owns represent what is left after many benefactions, and after distributions to his heirs while yet alive. One of his greatest benefactions, for which he will be remembered by many orphan children, was the gift of a parcel of land at La Verne, in Los Angeles County, for an orphanage known as the David and Margaret Home for Children, named after his father and mother, to whom he was an only child. Four hundred children have been entered and cared for in this place, and at present there are ninety in the institution. There have thus far been but two deaths at this orphanage, it having the lowest percentage of mortality of any institution in California; and it ranks among the best in the United States.

Henry L. Kuns was born in Cass County, Ind., on November 19, 1847. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer at Monticello, Ill., where he came in 1853. In 1892 he moved to California; and here he spent the balance of his life at La Verne, formerly Lordsburg, dying in 1905 at the age of eighty-six years. The mother was of Virginian stock and attained the age of seventy-seven years. The father and mother died just four months apart. They were the first deaths in the family for many years. The son was closely associated with his father in the farming enterprises, although he left home in 1878 and came to Gilroy, Santa Clara County, where he farmed until 1892. Coming then to the San Joaquin Valley, he made his home in Merced County, in the Romero school district. In company with his father he acquired several parcels of land. At one time they owned 5000 acres, but various parcels have been sold off and given away until there are only 1200 acres left.

Henry L. Kuns has not farmed much for fifteen years and is at present interested in drilling for oil in Merced County. Of an acquir-

ing and inquiring mind, Mr. Kuns has for years observed and studied the geological structure of California's oil-fields. Becoming convinced that the structure of the foothills south and west of Los Banos indicated the presence of gas and oil, he leased up a tract of land in that vicinity. Drilling is now in progress; and if this venture proves as successful as present conditions indicate, it will give Merced County one of the most important oil-fields in California.

Mr. Kuns' first marriage took place in Scioto County, Ohio, on March 28, 1870. His wife, Mary Pearce in maidenhood, was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Pearce. They were farmers living in Ohio, where their daughter was born and reared. She died in 1914 leaving five children, namely: Arthur, at present superintendent of a mine at Angels Camp, Cal.; Margaret, Mrs. Williams, of La Verne, Cal.; Lena, Mrs. Neher, of Porterville, Cal.; David, deceased at the age of twenty; Ora, Mrs. Melvin Johnson, of Spokane, Wash. Besides the above-mentioned five children, Mr. Kuns has seventeen grandchildren, fourteen living and three deceased; and also five great-grandchildren, three living and two deceased. The son Arthur has two living children; namely, Lloyd and Norman. Mrs. Williams has three living children: Dorothy, Ronald and Robert. Mrs. Neher has five children: Elrino, Viola, Victor, Bernice and Leland Kuns. Mrs. Johnson has four children: Eoline, Miriam, Launa and Arliss. The grandson Lloyd had a pair of twins that died, and now has one living daughter. The grandson Elrino Neher has two children.

Mr. Kuns was married to his present wife, formerly Mrs. Bartlett, of Mattoon, Ill., on March 8, 1915. She was a widow and had two children by her former marriage, Ruth and Wendell. Mr. Kuns has been a member of the Prohibition party for thirty years. He has lived to see the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment and hopes to see its complete enforcement.

H. BOYD SMITH

A native son of the Golden State, H. Boyd Smith, justice of the peace at Dos Palos, is justifying the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. He was born at Elsinore, Riverside County, on July 21, 1893, the son of E. B. and Martha B. (Cotton) Smith, natives of Illinois and Iowa, respectively, and both now living. E. B. Smith came to California some thirty-five years ago and was a foreman in the coal mine in Riverside County; and he later became a rancher of that county. Coming to Dos Palos about eighteen years ago, he engaged in the dairy business, and, meeting with deserved success, he is now living retired. Mrs. Smith was a descendant of the

Cotton family whose progenitor came from England on the Mayflower. Mr. Smith was twice married and by the first union there are two children, H. M., of Dos Palos, and Mrs. William Codd, of Riverside. Of the second union there are Mrs. V. E. Reynolds, of Manteca; Mrs. H. B. Lucas, of Dos Palos; Mrs. B. Buckham, of Lemoore; and H. Boyd, our subject.

H. Boyd Smith was educated in the schools in Riverside County and Dos Palos and he was a clerk in a general store for some time. Later he engaged in the real estate business in Dos Palos; and he is also handling insurance, representing the Western States Life Insurance Company at Dos Palos and is meeting with success.

Mr. Smith married Oramae Shain, a native of Nebraska, and they have a daughter, Geraldine. Fraternaly, Mr. Smith belongs to Santa Rita Lodge No. 124, I. O. O. F. at Dos Palos, and to Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks in Merced. In 1922 Mr. Smith became a candidate for the office of justice of the peace for Dos Palos, was elected at the general election that fall and took his office on January 1, 1923, since which time he has ably filled the requirements of the office. He is secretary of the Dos Palos Chamber of Commerce.

P. R. PETERSON

For many years P. R. Peterson has been a resident of Merced County and by his own untiring efforts has become influential in the business circles of Merced, where he conducts a profitable real estate and insurance business. He was born in Wisconsin, November 6, 1872, a son of R. L. and Marie (Sorenson) Peterson, pioneers of Wisconsin. The father is still living at Oregon, Wis., having reached the age of eighty-five years; the mother died on April 3, 1925, aged eighty-one years.

P. R. Peterson completed the grammar and high school courses in Stoughton, Wis.; then he took a business training at an academy. After completing his education he engaged in the shoe business in his native State for twelve years. Then he disposed of the business and came to California.

The marriage of Mr. Peterson united him with Miss Lulu T. Jolley, a native of Merced, and daughter of E. B. Jolley, an old settler of Merced County, who crossed the plains in 1852. Mrs. Peterson's mother came to Mariposa County, Cal., as a girl of eight years; she was a Miss Phillips, daughter of John Phillips, who came to Merced County in 1849 and settled at Merced Falls where he conducted the Phillips Ferry for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of two children: Velma Teresa Marie and Ellsworth

Elden. Mr. Peterson worked in the Merced postoffice for eleven years and was for some time a postal carrier; besides being thus occupied he was operating a farm in the Bradley Addition adjacent to the city and was among the first to settle in this locality. Mr. Peterson first engaged in the real estate business with H. Nelson, but the partnership was dissolved after one year and Mr. Peterson has since conducted an office independently. Mrs. Peterson taught music in Merced County for eighteen years. Fraternally Mr. Peterson is a member of the Knights of Pythias; he is an enthusiastic athlete and at one time held the tennis championship for the State of Wisconsin.

J. B. DULCICH

One who has taken advantage of the opportunities that have come in his way, and when the opportunities were not coming has made some, is J. B. Dulcich, the owner of a sixteen and one-half-acre ranch in the Second Bradley addition of Merced, which he acquired by purchase in 1908. It is not a large ranch, but developed as he is doing it, into orchard and vineyard, it will furnish a comfortable livelihood whenever he may wish to retire from other business.

Though of foreign parentage, Mr. Dulcich is a native of California, born in Hunter's Valley, Mariposa County, July 9, 1883, the youngest of two sons born to George and Adelaide (Spagnoli) Dulcich. His brother, Jaciamore, died when eleven months old. His father was born in Jugo Slavia and died at his home in Merced, January 8, 1914. The mother was born in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, and died in Hunter's Valley in 1903. The father left home at the age of twenty and went to sea and, after traveling the seven seas of the world, left his ship at San Francisco in 1861, went to Stockton on a river boat, and by stage from there to the home of his cousin near Hornitos, crossing the ferry at Merced Falls. For twelve years he worked in the Washington Mine. He became a naturalized citizen and a prominent figure in mining circles. In 1873 he took up Government land in Hunter's Valley, built a house there and engaged in stock and fruit production, planting one of the earliest orchards in that section. It proved a wonderful success and he won the esteem of his fellow men and had a wide circle of friends. The property was held till his death, when his son sold it in accordance with a plan of his father's. The mother came out to California in 1868, preceded by her brothers, Joseph and Valentine Spagnoli, both prominent Swiss-Americans at the time of their death, the oldest having come to California in 1849.

J. B. Dulcich received a good education in the Hunter Valley school, then attended by some twenty pupils. At sixteen years of age he took up ranch work with his father and remained at home till he was twenty-three. He was married at Merced to Miss Eloise N. Wickham, born at West Point, Calaveras County. Her father was a pioneer miner of that place and lost his life in a mine catastrophe. Her mother then married Winfield Scott McSwain and resides in the Bradley addition. They have four children: Harold; Verna, a student in the Merced High School; Orval, and Elma. Mr. Dulcich is a member of Merced Camp, W. O. W. He left the home ranch to work for the Exchequer Mine and Power Company at Exchequer, and three years later he went to the Barrett ranch at Merced Falls, where he was occupied until 1913. He then moved to Merced, and in 1915 came to his own ranch property. Besides his ranching he was in the employ of the Standard Oil Company for three years and delivered oil throughout Merced County with a horse-drawn vehicle; in 1918 he entered the employ of the Associated Oil Company, of Merced, and with motor vehicle covered forty miles a day, going as far as Chowchilla, Madera County.

Mr. Dulcich holds the high esteem of his fellow men and his family is well and favorably known, their home being the center of many happy and social occasions.

CLARKE P. RALSTON

Perhaps there is no factor so important in the development of an agricultural district as the financial institutions in its immediate vicinity, and the personnel of the management. Among these men is Clarke P. Ralston, a native son of California, born in Bakersfield, on July 23, 1890, the eldest of three children. His father, Frank Wesley Ralston, was also a native Californian, born in San Francisco, on July 21, 1869, the youngest of eight children born to his parents, and was graduated from the pharmacy department of the University of California in 1888. He followed his profession until 1896, when he engaged in ranching on William Cook's ranch, on Bear Creek, Merced County, for three years. At the end of that time, he entered the employ of Klegg, Sherm and Prime Company, a wholesale firm of San Francisco, as traveling salesman, and while on the road, his death occurred in Seattle, Wash., in 1905, when only thirty-six years of age. The mother died at the Bear Creek home in 1895. F. W. Ralston was a member of the Woodmen of the World, and of the Foresters of America of Selma, Cal. A daughter, Mrs. Sadie Meek, resides in Oakland. She is a graduate

of the Grammar and High Schools of Merced, and of the San Jose Teachers' College, and was vice-principal of the Michael Angelo School of San Francisco. She is the mother of a daughter, Alberta Ralston Meek. The third child, Albert B. Ralston, is proprietor of the Pleasant Corner Store. He enlisted in the United States Navy, for service in the World War, on June 15, 1917, and was honorably discharged on November 28, 1919. He is a member of the Elks.

Mr. Ralston's grandfather, Maj. Clarke Ralston, the founder of the family in California, was a native of Pennsylvania and was a major in the 66th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving through the Civil War. He was a California pioneer of 1849, coming around Cape Horn, and put in five years in the Southern Mines. He returned East, and after the war, came overland to California with his wife, Eliza (Butler) Ralston, and their six children. He was identified with mining, but located in Landram Colony in Merced County. He moved to San Francisco in 1905, but returned to Atwater, where he passed away in March, 1912, at the venerable age of ninety-three years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Masonic Lodge of Merced.

Clarke P. Ralston graduated from the Atwater Grammar School when there were but two teachers and forty pupils; there are now eight teachers and 280 pupils, an increase of 600 per cent, all the more remarkable when considering the comparatively short interval of time. After a course in the Polytechnic Business College in Oakland, in 1908, he entered the employ of the Merced Lumber Company, on June 23, 1909. Their yard then required only one man in attendance a third of his time; now the yards have been enlarged and two men are needed steadily, with an extra man working part time. Mr. Ralston remained steadily in the employ of this company until June, 1917, being absent not more than thirty days during a period of eight years. He was then offered a position in the Atwater branch of the Merced Security Savings Bank, and in June of 1918 he succeeded C. R. Shaffer as cashier and manager.

About 1912, Mr. Ralston invested in real estate in Atwater, erected and furnished a home, and on June 16, 1913, his marriage occurred, uniting him with Miss Alta Greene, born in Atwater, a graduate of the grammar school, and for three years a clerk in the local postoffice. Her parents were Elmer E. and Mattie (Dunlap) Greene, the family being identified as early settlers in Merced County. Mr. Greene was formerly a grain farmer in the Atwater district, but is now a resident of Chowchilla. The mother passed away at Atwater, in December, 1907.

Clarke P. Ralston has been a director of the Merced Security Savings Bank since 1917; on August 12, 1922, he was elected trus-

tee of Atwater on the eve of its incorporation; and during the war he served as chairman of the Liberty Loan drives, and of the Red Cross, for foreign relief, while Mrs. Ralston served in the Home Department of Red Cross work. He is a Democrat in politics, and fraternally is a member of the Lodge and Chapter in Masonry, and of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. He contributes to all public charities, and is active in all projects for the upbuilding of his community.

EDWIN R. FOUNTAIN, M. D.

Along with the agricultural growth of Merced County, has come the advancement of its community centers and the steady growth in population. These have brought to the district a class of men to carry on the work of building and maintaining the business and professional life in each community, and more especially in the city of Merced, the thriving center of agricultural activity in one of the richest counties in California. And it is to the caliber of such men that much of the present prosperity is due, for they have been both public spirited and farseeing to a degree, and have laid a very real foundation for future generations to work on. Among these may be mentioned Edwin R. Fountain, physician and surgeon, who for the past twelve years has been identified with the welfare of this section.

A native of Mt. Idaho, Idaho, where his birth occurred on October 18, 1883, he was reared and educated in Klamath Falls, Ore., and in 1907 he graduated from the University of Oregon with his degree of A. B. He later attended the Northwestern University Medical School, of Chicago, and there obtained his degree of M. D., in 1911, after which he spent eighteen months as an intern in the Cook County Hospital, in Illinois, and then returned to Oregon and in 1913-1914 practiced his profession in Portland.

In 1915, Dr. Fountain located in Merced, and established a practice which has grown since that time, making him today one of the best-known physicians in the Valley. His practice here was interrupted only during the World War, when he enlisted as a captain in the United States Medical Corps at Camp Fremont, went from there to Camp Jackson, S. C., and saw active service over seas at Base Hospital No. 60; also at Evacuation Hospital No. 114, at the Front during the worst stages of the conflict. Returning to Merced in 1919, he resumed his practice, and he has gained the esteem of his fellow citizens, both as a man and a physician. He is past president of the County Medical Society, the State Medical Society and the National Medical Association. Fraternally, he is

a Mason, having joined that order in Eugene, Ore., and belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Elks of Merced; he is Commander of the Merced Post, American Legion, and Past Commander of the 40 & 8, a branch of the latter organization; also special vice-commander of the American Legion. In addition to his private practice, he is surgeon for the Southern Pacific for the Merced district.

The marriage of Dr. Fountain, occurring in 1909 at Eugene, Ore., united him with Helene Holmstrom, a native of Kansas, and one son, William, has been born to them, his birthplace being Oregon. The doctor owns a twenty-acre Calsmirna fig ranch on Bear Creek, Merced County, and a forty-four-acre Kadota fig ranch at Lingard. He is a firm believer in the even greater future advancement in store for this fertile section of the Golden State.

MATT ROSSI

The country which gave birth to Matt Rossi, on March 24, 1863, is far away Finland. Though about the same as California in area and population it is very different in climate and general character. How Mr. Rossi came to leave that country and take up a residence so far away from the home of his nativity, and struggle against hard adversity until he has accumulated a competence, is a story worth relating. His father, Matt Anderson, died in the early sixties. His mother, Mary, married a Mr. Rossi, and lived to be eighty. The boy, even at eight years of age, had to work for his room and board on a neighboring farm; and to get any schooling he put in his nights in study and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church at the usual age of sixteen. By the law of the land he had to put in three years of service in the army. While there his eyes were opened to the golden opportunities for advancement in America, and having saved a small amount of money before he went into the army, he used it to pay his transportation and still had twenty dollars clear. He reached California on May 25, 1889, and a month later he came to Merced and entered the employ of the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, and for eighteen years he worked at the various ranches and camps of that company. In 1894 he was made foreman and so remained until 1908, when he resigned to give his entire time to his own ranch, which was coming into production. In the following years he bought forty-two acres of land in the Casad Colony and set out almond, peach and fig trees and also a small vineyard. He also owns desirable securities and real estate and has accomplished much by his own unaided efforts. He received United States citizenship in Judge Rector's court in Merced, and exercises the duties of a loyal



W. L. Keopina

American by voting the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Winton Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau.

Matt Rossi married Catherine Kaugus, a native of Finland, who died in 1914 survived by three children: David, Mary Alson, and William. In 1918 Mr. Rossi married Mrs. Mary Johnson, also a native of Finland, who came to California from Canada in 1917, and has four children as follows: Zulla, residing in Canada; Hilda, of Eureka; Harvey, of Humboldt; and Towner, of Atwater. There are besides eight grandchildren. Mr. Rossi had a hard struggle at first, not knowing the English language, but he persevered and studied nights, till now he scarcely betrays a foreign accent. He is a most enterprising fruit grower and has donated fruits of excellent quality to the county exhibits in our state and county fairs and has won many awards. Of late his products have been sought for display at various state fairs.

B. J. UKROPINA

The younger generation of Merced's business men include none more energetic than B. J. Ukropina, one of the energetic and enterprising proprietors of the United Concrete Pipe & Construction Company, Inc., of Merced. Mr. Ukropina is forging his way to the front solely on his own merits, depending upon tenacity of purpose, ambition and natural ability to connect him with the best citizenship of the county. He was born in Serbia, on October 8, 1895, a son of John and Anna Ukropina; the father is still living in Serbia but the mother has passed away.

B. J. Ukropina was educated in the grade schools of his native land and at an early age went to work at farm labor. When a little over sixteen he left home, in 1912, for the better opportunities of the United States and came direct to California. He spent one year in Los Angeles, then worked two years for a cousin in Venice, who was a general contractor there. He then went to Fullerton and started in the concrete work and remained there until June, 1918, when he went to Ventura, and with Steve Kral, organized the United Concrete Pipe Company, Inc. He had learned the art of manufacturing concrete pipe, and with his partner continued the business in Ventura with considerable success, until he came to Merced, in the course of the expansion of their business, and in September, 1920, with Tom P. Polich and Steve Kral, organized the Merced Concrete Pipe Company. These partners continued steadily to develop their industry and in 1924 they combined with the United Concrete Pipe Company, of Ventura, under the incorporated name of the United Con-

crete Pipe & Construction Company, which operates four plants, one in Merced, the others in Woodland, Santa Maria and Ventura, their main office being in the latter city. There is no contract wherein concrete is used that is too large for them to handle and they have carried out some of the largest jobs done in the State in their line. They employ from sixty to 300 men, as the size of the job necessitates, and are continually expanding as their business grows. Each man gives his whole attention to the work in hand and they are accounted among the most representative men of the State in their line of business.

The marriage of Mr. Ukropina, on February 25, 1922, united him with Miss Persida Angelich, and they have one son, John Robert. Mr. Ukropina is a member of the Knights of Pythias and belongs to the Chamber of Commerce of Merced.

THOMAS A. WAYNE

The leading contractor and builder of Atwater, Merced County is Thomas A. Wayne, born in Effingham County, Ill., on January 21, 1873, the third in order of birth of four children and the only son of G. W. Wayne, a native of Kentucky and a wheelwright by trade. In 1875 he came to California, followed the next year by his family; and the family home was established in Lake County, where he worked in the Sulphur Bank Mine. They later moved to Lower Lake, where he opened a wagon shop, carried on the business many years and died at the age of sixty-five years. He had married Cynthia Ellen Jaycox, who died at the age of sixty-four years. Both parents are buried in Lake County.

Thomas attended the Lower Lake public school and at the age of sixteen went to work in his father's shop, remaining for five years. At the age of twenty-one he engaged in carpenter work, learned the business thoroughly, and in 1902 came to Merced and worked as a journeyman until 1911, when he removed to Atwater, then a village of about 100 inhabitants. Since that time he has done most of the building in that town and vicinity, his handiwork showing in many of the best residences, business blocks and school buildings; in 1925 he erected the Bloss Memorial Library costing \$15,000. He is the owner of a ten-acre vineyard in Arizona Colony and his home property in Atwater; and he is the proprietor of the Atwater Billiard Hall and Cigar Store and is considered one of the substantial men of the town, as well as a public-spirited citizen of the county.

Mr. Wayne was united in marriage with Miss Bertie L. Cunningham of Lower Lake, daughter of the late W. H. Cunningham, a

pioneer blacksmith, who was also assessor of Lake County three terms. He was well and favorably known in Northern California. The children of this union are: Leonard A., Nora E., Ethel I., Mildred M., Leta and Thomas A., Jr. Mr. Wayne was elected a member of the first board of trustees of Atwater upon its incorporation in August, 1922. Fraternally, he is a member and a Past Grand of the Odd Fellows lodge at Lower Lake, and a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. He stands at all times for cooperation in all public development and is a champion of the rights of the people.

JOHN NORDSTROM

Numbered among the well-to-do ranchers of the Hilmar Colony, Merced County, John Nordstrom has met with truly remarkable success, due to his habits of unremitting industry, thrift, and good management. Born in Sweden, on September 1, 1875, he is the eldest of nine children born to his parents, P. A. and Sophia Nordstrom, who never left their old estate in Sweden, the father still living there, and the mother having passed away on March 4, 1925. The owners of a fine farm in the old country, the parents were able to give their children good educations, and John Nordstrom was educated and confirmed in the Lutheran Church, and finished with a course in business college in Stockholm. On completing his schooling, John was apprenticed to learn the machinist trade, and for five years worked in a general machine shop in the manufacture of turbines and all kinds of engines. The lure of "Westward Ho!" finally had its effect on him, and embarking at Gottenburg, on the ship *Mayflower* of the Old Dominion Line, he landed in Boston, Mass., in May, 1903. A few days later, May 19, found him stepping off the train at Chicago, where he secured employment in the firm of Pettibone & Millikin, a railway supply company, for whom he worked eight years.

In Chicago, in 1907, Mr. Nordstrom's first marriage occurred, uniting him with Miss Vorborg Bergersen, a native of Norway, and three children were born to them: Morris; Carl Roald; and John Vernon, who has been adopted into the family of his aunt, Mrs. Leonard F. Johnston. In 1911, Mr. Nordstrom enjoyed a six-months tour of Europe, with his wife and eldest son, visiting Norway, Sweden and England; and on May 13, 1921, occurred the death of the wife and mother.

The family had come to California and settled in the Hilmar Colony, in 1912, and, starting with a working capital of only \$800, Mr. Nordstrom is now the owner of fifty acres of productive land,

twenty acres in the home ranch, and thirty acres one-half mile north of there. He keeps the property in excellent condition and carries on a general mixed farming, raising alfalfa, corn, beans, grapes, and has four acres of peaches; and in addition operates an eight-cow dairy. That he has met with such results in a comparatively short length of time shows him to be a man of sturdy character, willing to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities so abundant in California and Merced County.

In December, 1923, Mr. Nordstrom married a second time, to Mrs. Freida Lind, widow of John Lind, late of Chicago; she is the mother of three children by her first husband: Clarence, Siegwald, and Lester.

M. P. LEWIS

Numbered among the representative business men of Los Banos, Merced County, are the Lewis Brothers, grocers of that thriving city, who by the careful attention to business and courtesy to their customers have built up a very successful enterprise, principally by anticipating the wants of their many patrons and by carrying a clean and up to date stock. The senior member of the firm, M. P. Lewis, was born in Watsonville, Cal., on September 13, 1885, and attended the public schools of Watsonville in the primary grades, supplementing this foundation by the practical experience gained while in the office of the Watsonville Pajaronian, the leading newspaper of that city. He started to learn the trade, beginning as "devil," after which he followed the trade in Kingsburg, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria and Los Banos. While thus employed he acted as foreman of various shops and during the temporary absence of the proprietors he frequently got out the papers. For a time he had charge of the printing department on the Spreckels Californian at the Spreckels sugar factory.

In 1907 Mr. Lewis came to Los Banos and entered the office as a printer on the Los Banos Enterprise, serving on its staff for several years, later leasing the plant and becoming the editor and proprietor. The possibilities of intellectual development in publishing any country newspaper are varied, but are more than offset by the small financial returns and Mr. Lewis was induced to give up his chosen calling and enter the grocery trade by becoming a partner with M. B. Miranda by buying out J. J. Silva. Later the firm became Lewis and Miranda, and still later Lewis Brothers when Miranda sold out to W. J. and M. P. Lewis, who have since greatly enlarged their stock and expanded their trade so that their patronage now covers

a wide area in this section of Merced County. They now have one of the largest, if not the largest grocery store in Los Banos.

Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Miss Ethel King, born in Salinas, who was a teacher in the Oakland and Los Banos schools. They have one daughter, Marjorie. Mr. Lewis is a member of Merced Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

LORENZO A. SISCHO

As proprietor of Sischo's Garage of Los Banos, Lorenzo A. Sischo has established himself on a firm basis in Merced County. He first came to the West Side as a duck hunter, which vocation he followed very successfully for several years, until he decided that he could find better opportunities for advancement here than in any other place he had seen. He was born in the Puget Sound country, at what was called Sischo's Cove on Henderson Bay, Washington, on October 10, 1884, and was the first white child to be born in that locality. His education was obtained in the public schools of Washington, which he supplemented by studying law in Tacoma. In February, 1902 we find him in Los Angeles looking for employment, and not finding anything satisfactory he went out to the E. J. ("Lucky") Baldwin ranch in the country and went to work as a ranch hand.

That same year Mr. Sischo drove a team of horses to Los Banos on a duck-hunting expedition and upon his arrival on the West Side he found more than a hundred men engaged in hunting ducks for the markets in the State. Being a good shot and noting the success made by the other men, he decided he would cast in his lot and therefore he equipped himself for the business and continued in that line of work for twelve years. He not only did a thriving business in supplying ducks for the market, but he studied the scientific side of the game and furnished the Academy of Science with various specimens of birds' eggs, and made a business of capturing wild geese alive and shipping them to various parts of the United States, one shipment consisting of 352 birds. He furnished the New York Zoo with many specimens. In hunting he used the largest bore shotgun made, a No. 2 gauge. After following the business for a time he was humane enough to see that some restriction must be put on the wholesale killing of wild game and he assisted in organizing the People's Fish and Game Protective Association in San Francisco for conserving wild game for all the people instead of the favored few, and he was one of its first directors. In November 1918 he engaged in his present business with a capital of \$9.45, and from this small

beginning he has developed a business until at one time he had four garages, three in Los Banos and one in Gustine. Disposing of his various places he moved into the new and modern garage that had been built for his use in 1920. He now has one of the most modern and thoroughly equipped garages in the valley. He is the local agent for the Dodge Brothers automobile, also handles various makes of tires and does a large battery service business and is meeting with success.

When Mr. Sischo came to marry he chose one of Merced County's native daughters, Miss Kate Pedroni, born at Volta, and they have a daughter Dorothy. Mr. Sischo was elected justice of the peace of Los Banos and served from 1908 to 1913. He is public spirited and does what he can towards promoting the best interests of his adopted town and county.

FELICE IACOPI

An enterprising citizen of Los Banos, Felice Iacopi is a self-made man in every sense of the word for he landed in San Mateo County, California, with nothing in the way of cash and only his willingness to work and a strong constitution as his only assets. A native of Italy, he was born at Montuolo, Lucca, on November 18, 1872, the son of poor but highly respected parents who gave their children such schooling as was possible under the circumstances. When he was sixteen years old he left home for the United States and arrived in Sacramento, Cal., in April, 1888, with just ten cents in his pockets. This he spent for a plug of tobacco, feeling that he might as well be broke in the new country as own one lonely ten-cent piece. He made his way to the San Pedro ranch in San Mateo County, later came into the San Joaquin Valley and in 1890 worked for Miller and Lux in Merced County. Then he went to Tulare County, and it was while he was employed there that he received his citizenship as a United States citizen at Visalia. He came back to Merced County and worked for Miller and Lux again. In 1901, with his brother, Angelo Iacopi, he bought the Los Banos Soda Works and they operated it for a time; then Felice sold out to his brother and built an ice plant, which he operated for some time, then leased it for a creamery. He then became the agent for the Union Ice Company, which he still continues and at the same time deals in fuel. At the fire in August, 1919 our subject lost considerable, but nothing daunted he rebuilt and continued doing business.

Mr. Iacopi was married January 2, 1905, in Los Banos to Teresa Puccinelli, born in Italy, and they have six children: Louis, Fred,

Emma, Velia, Mario, and Dante. Mr. Iacopi is self educated in English, is well-known and well-liked in Los Banos and is always ready to help put through any worthy project that he believes will help the town and its people.

OLOF P. ANDERSON

A name which will be remembered long in the Hilmar Colony as belonging to a man of sterling worth and exemplary character in the community in which he has lived, a self-made, hard-working God-fearing man, is that of Olof P. Anderson. No less honor is due to his loyal and faithful help-mate, who has mothered nine children and helped put them all through the high school, and a number of them through the university, and is still well preserved, active and interesting. Mr. Anderson is a son of Aaron and Mary (Pearson) Rosen. His father was in the Swedish army and passed most of his life as a soldier. Olof was the sixth in order of birth in the family of seven children and was born in Seffle, Sweden, on August 28, 1859. He grew up in Sweden and began working out on farms when only eleven years old. He has a brother, Jacob, in Turlock, a sister, Sophie, in New York City, and three sisters still in Sweden.

In 1882 Olof P. Anderson embarked at Gottenburg, Sweden, on the S. S. Romeo for America, landing at Hull, England, then took the train to Liverpool, from there crossed the Atlantic and after a stormy voyage of eleven days arrived at Castle Garden, N. Y. He proceeded at once to Fremont, Nebr., and worked around as a farm hand for a year and a half. He next went to Haxtum, Colo., and there took up a homestead of 160 acres and proved up on it, but it proved to be a drouthy country and not well adapted to general farming.

Mr. Anderson there met and married Charlotte Marie Anderson, a countrywoman, whom her parents, Anders and Johanna Johnson, brought to this country when only eighteen months old with three other children. They first settled and lived for four years near Lincoln, Nebr., then moved to Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson lived on his Colorado homestead and farmed for seven years, then returned to Nebraska and rented a farm at Mead, and engaged in farming and stock-raising for four years. They then moved to Warsaw, Knox County, Nebr., where they farmed for seven years before coming to California. They joined the Swedish Mission Church in that city. Mr. Anderson bought a ranch of forty acres in Hilmar Colony without seeing it, but sold off three acres. They have nine children as follows: Ephraim Julius, who owns an undivided one-half interest in a thirty-five-acre farm in the

Hilmar Colony across the road from his father's place; Joseph Emanuel, a professor in Heald's Business College in San Francisco; Reuben Benjamin, bookkeeper and assistant cashier in Hill Brothers' Coffee Company, San Francisco; Olga Ruth, a registered nurse in San Francisco; Lydia Elizabeth, stenographer in San Francisco; Hildur Marie and Naomi Mariam, both seniors in the University of California; Clarence Nathaniel, a graduate of the Hilmar High School; and Florence Viola, a junior in the Hilmar High School.

WILLARD R. DAVIS

The life which this article narrates began in Brookfield, Mass., on November 16, 1847. The only son and survivor of three children, Willard R. Davis has experienced many hardships and struggles against adversity, and has seen many changes in the space of seventy-eight years. When he was a small boy his father, Benjamin F. Davis, went to Pikes Peak and was never heard from. His mother, Alice (Rice) Davis, a native of Massachusetts, moved to Chicago and died there in 1853. The children were then taken to Bowen Prairie, Jones County, Iowa, where Willard was reared on his uncle's farm, attending school until he was fifteen. When he was eighteen he hired out to some men who were coming to California, but on the way he stopped at Reese River, Nev.; from there he went to Virginia City, encountering many tough experiences common to those days. In 1868 he came on to California, and stopping in San Francisco, heard there was a good chance to get work at Mountain View, Santa Clara County, and thither he made his way. He spent some time working on ranches, then went to White Pine, Nev., and from there packed in to Hamilton. In 1871 he went to Kansas and took up a government claim on the Osage Indian reservation. He suffered many set-backs and decided he would return to California. He then spent five seasons in Mountain View section, and in 1877 went to Eastern Washington and staid four years. He returned to California and bought forty acres in the Kearny tract in Fresno County and tried raising raisin grapes, but it did not pay at 2c per pound; then he went to Cotati and tried the poultry business there and in Santa Rosa, but the Mississippi Valley cold storage eggs forced him out again and he spent two years in the quicksilver mines in Lake County. In 1904 he bought eighteen and one-half acres one and one-quarter miles from Atwater and raised beans and sweet potatoes as a double crop; he also set out fig trees, getting the stock from George Roeding in Fresno in 1905. He developed his property and now has ten acres in figs. In 1920 he built his house and the following year his

barns and installed lighting facilities in his home. His sister, Violet Huff, came from Walla Walla, Wash., and lived at his home about eighteen months, until her death in 1918.

Mr. Davis was married in San Diego on January 1, 1921, to Mrs. Helen (Rogers) Wright, a native of Wetumpka, Ala., born in 1848, who on September 17, 1867, was married to Dr. W. A. Wright, a prominent surgeon in Waco, Texas. He died in 1908 and his widow came to California in 1909, accompanying her daughter, Mrs. Annie Willet, to her home at Yam. Mrs. Davis is the mother of five children, as follows: A. M., R. E., Mrs. Annie Willet, J. B. of Indianapolis, and Ella. There are twenty-two grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Mr. Davis has prospered well of late years and is now living comfortably in his home.

DANIEL T. HALEY

Through their removal from their native Ireland and their settlement in California the Haley family attained a degree of independence and prosperity that would have been impossible in the old home. It was during 1850 that William Haley crossed the plains in the primitive manner then necessary, and cast his fortunes with the new and undeveloped State of California. He settled in San Francisco, where he worked at his trade as a brick-layer. In 1854 his wife, who was Miss Esther Byrne before her marriage, and two sons came via Panama to California. In 1860, William Haley engaged in the dairy business in San Francisco, and from that humble beginning has been evolved the present Dairy Delivery Company. Eight children were born to this pioneer couple, four of whom are still living, namely: James W., residing at Los Banos; Mary Catherine, living in Palo Alto; William Edward, who also resides in Palo Alto; and Daniel T., the subject of this sketch.

Daniel T. Haley was born in San Francisco on November 11, 1854, and there early was trained to habits of industry and thrift. He attended the Spring Valley school and while still young in years became associated with his father in the dairy business. The business was first known as the Laurel Vale Dairy; later the firm name was changed to the Dairy Delivery Company, this being the outcome of the great fire of 1906, when seven other companies consolidated and formed this one company. In 1908 Mr. Haley came to Gustine to take charge of the branch which he had established at this place, and here he has since resided. The Gustine plant furnishes from eighty-five to 100 ten-gallon cans of cream a day, and this product is distributed by the San Francisco plant. The main plant in San Francisco

distributes some 10,000 gallons of milk daily to customers in San Francisco and Burlingame and other towns in that vicinity.

The marriage of Mr. Haley united him with Miss Grace Truitt, born at Wheatland, Cal., daughter of George Washington and Rose Truitt, natives of Missouri and Oregon, respectively. They were pioneers of Yuba County. When Gustine was incorporated, in 1915, Mr. Haley was elected mayor of the town. After his term in office expired, for a year and a half he was not active in political affairs; but he was again elected mayor, and still holds the office at the present time. Mr. Haley is Democratic in his political views. Fraternally he is affiliated with Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks; Sequoia Lodge No. 615, N. S. G. W., San Francisco; the Knights of Columbus of San Francisco; and also the Young Men's Institute No. 4, of the same place. He is a member of the California Dairy Council.

H. P. SARGENT

In a country in which agriculture is entirely dependent upon irrigation for production there is no more responsible position than that of secretary and right-of-way man, which H. P. Sargent has held with entire satisfaction for the Merced Irrigation District. Though he owns a twenty-acre ranch in the Fruitland voting precinct, he gives his entire time and attention to his official duties and his office is in Merced.

The son of Franklin H. and Elizabeth (Ham) Sargent, he was born in Norway, Maine, October 5, 1879. His father, who was a builder and contractor, moved to Salem, Mass. in 1881, and worked principally as a brick and stone mason; he built some of the leading business blocks in Salem, and remodeled the old Ropes (historic) museum in Salem. He is the man who moved the Ghirardelli Chocolate exhibit building at the Chicago Exhibition to Brookline, Mass., and rebuilt and remodeled it into a mansion for its millionaire owner. He died at Fair Oaks, Cal., in 1918, when sixty-six years old. His wife died in Salem in 1893.

H. P. Sargent attended the grammar schools and after he had graduated from the Salem High School, in 1897, he took care of his father's office, keeping his books and accounts in his building operations. He was so engaged until he came to California in January, 1898, accompanying his father to Fair Oaks, where the latter bought an olive and orange ranch. He helped his father on the ranch and became the assistant manager of the olive and orange department of the Fair Oaks Fruit Company, continuing thus engaged until 1906.

H. P. Sargent and Idaline Adele Buckley, a native of Truckee, Placer County, were united in marriage on June 14, 1906. She was the daughter of John Mason and Emma (Orr) Buckley. Her father was born in Boston and was a mechanical engineer who came to California and was employed by the Central Pacific Railroad Co., in its machine shops at Truckee, as a master mechanic. Her grandfather, James Orr, was born in Scotland and was a California Forty-niner. He mined at Coloma and Virginia City and he worked on the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, Nevada. Idaline Adele was graduated from the high school at Colfax, and from the State Normal School in Stockton with the class of 1895. She took a post graduate course in pedagogy under Miss Bernard at the University of California. She specialized as a primary teacher for three years before her marriage and is now in charge of the primary department of the Atwater Grammar School. They have one son, Franklin Buckley, now a student in the Merced Union High School.

In 1907, Mr. Sargent went to Sacramento and entered the county clerk's office and served as clerk and deputy under William B. Hamilton until his death, and under his successor, Ed. F. Pfund, until his decease, and he then became assistant county clerk under Harry W. Hall, the present county clerk of Sacramento County. During that time for eight years he was clerk of the Superior Court under Judge Peter J. Shields, the present incumbent. He also served four years as chief deputy county clerk and registrar of voters. In politics he is a stanch Republican. He took an active part in carrying the bond election for the Merced Irrigation District and was appointed right-of-way man and later secretary for the district.

CHARLES MARCHESE

California is noted for many things, such as gold, fruits, climate and so forth; it also has its meed of self-made men, for here, perhaps more than in any other section of our country, are the opportunities offered the ambitious and enterprising young men to get ahead and make a name and place for themselves. One of this number is Charles Marchese, the enterprising and successful plumber of Los Banos, who has done about one-half the plumbing business of the fast-growing city. A native son, he was born in San Francisco, on September 29, 1889, the son of James and Antonia (Tringla) Marchese, both natives of Italy and now deceased. The father came to Merced County in 1884 and was employed as a gardener by Miller and Lux. Later he was able to buy some land and he followed ranching on it until 1918, when the family moved into Los Banos, where

he died aged sixty-eight years. His widow died in 1921 at the age of sixty-five. They had eleven children, seven of whom are still living.

Charles Marchese attended the public schools in Los Banos and in 1908 entered the employ of Ed. Hoffman to learn the plumbers' trade. When he had mastered the craft he went to San Francisco and worked as a journeyman for a time, then went to Los Angeles, where he continued at his trade until 1912, when he returned to Los Banos and started in the business for himself. In 1909 he assisted with the plumbing of the Los Banos Bank building and the Morbes block; he has done the plumbing on all the business blocks but one erected to the present time in Los Banos; the Cirimele block, one of the finest in the city, the Toscano residence and the original grammar school building are among the many jobs he has executed since opening his shop in 1912.

Mr. Marchese was married on January 19, 1916, to Ida Morbes, born in Stockton, and they have two children, Eddie, born in 1917, and Mary, born in 1920. Mr. Marchese is a wide-awake citizen, ready at all times to do his share towards the general good and is highly respected by all who know him.

JOHN ERICSON

The position held in Merced County by John Ericson has been reached by his own unaided efforts; and the varied interests with which he has been identified indicate his adaptability to conditions and his resourcefulness. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 14, 1856, and at the age of fifteen began clerking in a store; when he was seventeen he went to Hudviksvall, Sweden, and for eight years was in the service of two employers. In 1881 Mr. Ericson bade good bye to his native land and embarked on the S. S. Wyoming, at Gottenburg, for America and he arrived at Castle Garden, N. Y. on July 6. Proceeding to Chicago he secured a position in a grocery store, working for his board the first two weeks; for the next four weeks he received five dollars per week in addition to board. His first week's pay was given to him in a \$5 gold coin, which he had made into a watch charm. He continued as a clerk until 1890, then secured a position of time keeper in the shops of the Chicago and North Western Railway in Chicago, remaining with that company until 1912. Owing to his being a good penman, and quick with figures, Mr. Ericson was advanced from one position to another adding more responsibility each time, until the last ten years with the company he was general time keeper and cashier and had general charge

ot the company's pay roll, there being about 5000 employees to be settled with each month.

When Mr. Ericson came to California in 1912, he settled in Merced County and purchased twenty acres from the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Co., Lot 85 in Merced Colony No. 2, Winton district, which he improved and set to Malaga grapes and fruit, now having one of the finest Malaga vineyards and orchards in the district. He has won more than ordinary distinction as a horticulturist and is a frequent exhibitor at the Merced County Fair and other local exhibitions and usually brings home the blue ribbon, now having quite a collection. He is a member of the California Fruit Exchange, the California Prune and Apricot Association, and the Almond Growers Exchange. He is also a member of the Winton Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau. Mr. Ericson knew nothing about fruit growing but he has developed a fine fruit ranch; he knew nothing about carpentering but with his own hands he built his house and other ranch buildings.

On June 24, 1886, John Ericson and Miss Josephine Davis were united in marriage. She was born in Clinton, Iowa, on May 19, 1867, the daughter of David and Sarah H. (Sluman) Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Ericson have one daughter, Florence Dorothy, who married Edward Sandman and lives at Fresno; and they have two children, George and Jeanette. Mrs. Ericson is a member of the Woman's Improvement Club of Winton. Mr. Ericson is a Republican in national politics. Fraternally he is a member of Austin Lodge No. 850, A. F. & A. M.; Cicero Chapter No. 180, R. A. M., both in Chicago; Siloam Commandery No. 54, K. T. of Oak Park, Ill.; and Medina Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. in Chicago. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ericson have attained to a high place in the esteem of the community where they live and they take an active interest in all movements for the betterment of the conditions of the county in general.

CHARLES F. RIEDLE

The position of postmaster in any town or city is an office of public trust and the holder of such a position is selected for the post because of his personal qualifications and ability. Such a man is Charles F. Riedle of Los Banos, who received his appointment from President Wilson, although he is a Republican in politics. He was born in New York City on October 15, 1885, and his education was obtained in the grammar and high schools in that metropolis and in Macon, Mo., which he supplemented by attending Park College in Parkville, Mo. This schooling enabled him to secure an appoint-

ment in the United States postal service in Denver, Colo., which he held for eight years. He arrived in Los Banos in 1914 and engaged in the building business, later becoming a contractor, specializing in erecting dairy buildings on the ranches in the vicinity of Los Banos. He was building up a reputation for efficiency and his abilities were soon to gain recognition.

The fire which caused the loss of over one million of dollars occurred in Los Banos on August 27 and 28, in 1919, and it was the day following that he received the appointment as postmaster. He was confronted by a serious problem, that of keeping the postal service in operation and creating order out of chaos. This he did to the eminent satisfaction of the citizens, who recognized in Mr. Riedle distinct qualities of leadership, and he won and has since maintained the confidence of all the people of Los Banos. He is a booster of the highest order for Los Banos and vicinity. Fraternaly he is a Knight Templar Mason and Shriner, holding his membership in Denver, Colo. Locally he belongs to the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce.

LESLIE A. KAHL

Among the younger representative ranchers of Merced County we find the Kahl name closely identified with its best interests through Leslie A. Kahl. He was born on Bear Creek on the Kahl ranch established by his grandfather, Adam Kahl, on September 26, 1890, the oldest of the two sons born to Ernest D. Kahl and his wife, mention of whom is made on another page of this work. Leslie attended the Plainsburg school and the Oakland Polytechnic, where he took a business course, after which he returned to the ranch and assisted with its operation. With his brother James A., he is carrying on the extensive interests owned by their father, to whom the sons give all credit for their present success. The sons raise large quantities of wheat, barley and oats, and are continually doing development work, having leveled and checked sixty-five acres and put in alfalfa, and have set out seventy-five acres of fig trees. The brothers have become popular through their breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs and Durham cattle, thereby doing a great deal to raise the standard of hogs and cattle in this section. They own and conduct the grain elevator at Athlone, where the ranchers within a radius of ten miles find it convenient to store and ship their grain. Their land under cultivation reaches some 3000 acres.

On August 10, 1916, at Stockton, Mr. Kahl was united in marriage with Miss Gladys Brandon, a native of Merced County, the youngest daughter of Amberson Brandon, well-known grain farmer

here. Mrs. Kahl is a graduate of the Stockton Normal and was engaged in teaching school in Merced, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties for seven terms. Of this union three children have been born: Elizabeth Ann, Phyllis M., and Marvin Leslie. Mr. Kahl is a director in the Le Grand Bank, and clerk of the board of trustees of the Plainsburg school, serving his third term. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church at Merced. Fraternally, he is a member of Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., and belongs to Merced Pyramid of Sciots, and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is straightforward in all business matters, believes in doing what he can to assist in the development of his native county and is held in high esteem. Both brothers have erected comfortable homes adjoining on the home ranch, where they were reared.

JOSEPH A. WOLF

In many ways Joseph A. Wolf has proved himself a good citizen of Merced County, contributing to its growth, fostering its enterprises and promoting its general welfare. He has been especially interested in education and is a member of the board of trustees of the Livingston Grammar School and helped to carry the vote for the \$200,000 bond issue for the new Merced Union High School district, \$125,000 of which was used for the Livingston unit of the district. He was born in Detroit, Mich., on August 2, 1879. His father was a native of Germany who came to America when a boy; he was a building contractor and died at his home in Detroit when seventy-one years old. His mother, Mary (Crowley) Wolf, was accidentally killed by a motor truck when on her way to church the Sunday before Thanksgiving in 1916, at the age of sixty-three.

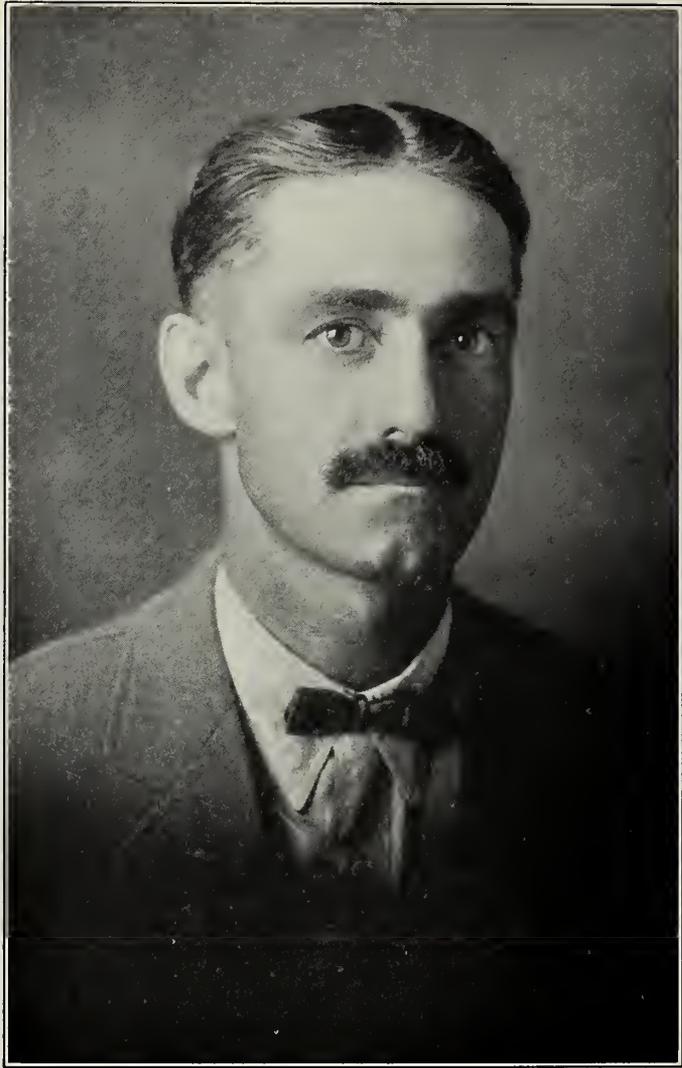
Joseph was the eldest of five children, the others being Jeremiah E., a building contractor in Detroit; Daniel, a contractor and builder and an insurance and real estate agent in Detroit; Clara, wife of C. M. Spencer, in Detroit; Charles, a foreman for his brother in building and contracting. Joseph A. Wolf attended the public schools in Detroit and worked for three years in the Roe & Stevens Iron Works in that city. The next two years he worked with his father at contracting and building. While in Detroit he was a member of Company E., Michigan National Guard, and when war was declared against Spain, the regiment of which Company E was a unit was united with the regular United States infantry and Mr. Wolf was placed in Company M, 32nd Regiment of Michigan Volunteers. He was mustered in April 26, 1898, at Island Lake, Mich., and served through the Spanish-American War, stationed at

Tampa, Fla. He was mustered out November 9, 1898, being dangerously ill with typhoid malaria, and was discharged in February, 1899. After the war he put in ten years with the Detroit United Railway. In 1909 he came to California and bought land of the Cooperative Land and Trust Company in the Livingston district, where he now lives.

On January 8, 1903, J. A. Wolf was married to Miss Lynne Roxana Daly, born in Dover township, Lena County, Mich., the daughter of Franklin and Maria (Macomber) Daly. She represents the fifth generation of the Dalys in America. Grandfather Daly was a Collector of the Port at Lockport, N. Y., and was a veteran of the Mexican War. She was the youngest of six children. The others were as follows: Henry F., of Adrian, Mich.; Josephine E. became Mrs. George Oram, of Adrian, Mich., and died in 1920; Mary Evaline, widow of John Pooley, lives in Detroit; Edwin F., also of Detroit, and Thaddeus B., of Blackfoot, Idaho. Mrs. Wolf was educated in the high school in Adrian and is the mother of five children: Phyllis H.; Edith Louise, who married Robert Sutherland and lives in Modesto; Robert Joseph; Laura Helen and Edwin Leo. In 1920 Mr. Wolf was elected a member of the board of trustees of the Livingston Grammar School, since which time the new building has been erected and now the city has two fine grammar schools employing ten teachers. He is an active member of and chairman of the Livingston Farm Center. Mrs. Wolf has passed through all the offices of the Home Department of the Livingston Farm Center. The family are members of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church at Merced. As a man and citizen, Mr. Wolf keeps himself well informed on all matters of public moment and votes for the best men and measures at all elections.

NETTIE H. MAYES

From the time of the establishment of the San Joaquin Valley Cement Pipe Company, Nettie H. Mayes has had charge of the financial end of the business and owns a third interest in the concern. This company owns and operates three factories, one at Chowchilla, established in 1917, one at Livingston, established in 1919, and one at Herndon, established in 1922. The firm is composed of S. Y. Mayes, the originator of the business, Nettie H. Mayes and John Baisa; they manufacture the guaranteed hi-test irrigation drainage and sewer pipe under their duly registered trade mark, "Hi-test," and the three factories have a combined capacity of one and a half miles of pipe per day. The sand used in the factories is washed-sand from Friant,



J. H. Riedle

Fresno County, and the cement comes from Davenport, Cal., and is known as Santa Cruz Portland cement.

Mrs. Mayes' maiden name was Nettie Hartzell and she was born at Waubeek, Iowa. She grew up in the Hawkeye State and was graduated from the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls. She came to California in 1907 and for six years taught in the Wilson Grammar School at Pasadena. At Santa Ana, Cal., Miss Hartzell was married to S. Y. Mayes, born at Melrose, Texas. The third partner, John Baisa, was born in Texas and is of Spanish descent; he has charge of the factory at Livingston. Mr. and Mrs. Mayes reside at Chowchilla, where they own the telephone building and other valuable property; they also own a lemon ranch in San Bernardino County, and property in Livingston and Herndon, besides a row of houses near their factory in Livingston, which are occupied by their employes.

FRED H. RIEDLE

The natural-born capacity that developed Fred H. Riedle into one of the most successful contractors and builders in Los Banos began to manifest itself when he started in to learn the trade of carpenter at an early age. He was born in New York City, on August 18, 1887, attended the public schools, and after leaving school began learning the trade in Sayer, Okla., after which he traveled about and worked as a journeyman in Amarillo, Texas, in Fargo, and in Portland, Ore., coming to Los Banos in 1912. In point of service he is the oldest builder in Los Banos, having erected eighty per cent of the dairy buildings on the West Side in Merced County. He constructs everything in line with dairying, barns, milk houses, flumes, silos, windmills, tank houses, pump houses, etc. He has built over 300 homes in and about Los Banos, designing many of them himself. Of these homes we mention those of Mrs. Alma Wilson, Mrs. Carrie Wilson, A. C. Smith, Carl Hultgren, S. P. Dismukes, and Mrs. Harry Lower. He also built the Catholic parish house, the L. H. Hoffman and Nick Cuiffo business blocks, and thirteen houses for Dr. C. E. Heikner. In 1925 he built the American Legion building costing \$15,000, in Los Banos. To facilitate his work he operates a planing mill and lumber yard in Los Banos.

Mr. Riedle was united in marriage with Sephese Van Wickle, daughter of a pioneer family in Merced County. Fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to Los Banos Lodge, No. 312, F. & A. M. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, belongs to the Los Banos Volunteer Fire Department, and is serving as a city trustee.

WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON

Honored as the son of most worthy parentage and the father of a family that has done great credit to their country and their bringing-up, W. H. Johnston is the sixth in order of birth of seven children born of the marriage of Rev. Thomas M. and Helen (Steele) Johnston, natives of Kentucky and North Carolina, respectively. The father went to Missouri with his parents in the early thirties and there studied law and became a journalist; later he entered the ministry, which calling occupied the greater part of his life. He came to California about 1859, followed by his family in 1860, and they settled first in the San Ramon Valley, in Contra Costa County, removing in 1865 to Stockton. While at Alamo he was publisher of the Pacific Observer, a Presbyterian organ. In 1870 they moved to Berryessa Valley, in Napa County, where he had charge of the Presbyterian church work through his declining years. The present pastor of this church at Winters, in 1923, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary as successor to Rev. Thomas Johnston. He died in Napa in 1877.

The son, W. H. Johnston, was born in Greene County, Mo., on April 16, 1857, and educated in the schools of San Joaquin and Napa Counties. He was brought up as a farmer's son and early gave attention to the production of grain and stock. In 1886, in company with his brother, J. R. Johnston, he carried on a farm in Berryessa Valley for four years when the partnership was dissolved. Our subject was thereafter for thirty-seven years engaged in raising cattle and hogs in the same location. Selling out the property in Napa County he came to Merced County in 1908 and engaged in the dairy business and fruit raising near Atwater. He is the owner of fifty acres on the edge of Atwater, a portion of the late J. W. Mitchell estate.

W. H. Johnston was married in Napa County in 1885, to Clara Wassum, the third of seven children born to T. A. Wassum and his wife. She was born in Yountville, Napa Valley, in 1865, and died from injuries received in a train and auto collision at the Yam crossing on the Santa Fe, in 1921. There were four children of the union: Edith (Mrs. W. S. Newhall), who has two children, William S. and Franklin; Thomas H.; Finis, and Bennett M. Thomas H. served in Company C, 361st Regiment of the A. E. F., and was honorably discharged on May 5, 1919. Finis served in Company F, 58th Infantry, 4th Division, and was killed in action at Chateau Thierry, on July 18, 1918. Mr. Johnston recalls the first steam train to Stockton in 1869. The family were living then on Sutter and Weber streets, that city.

GEORGE B. SMITH

Holding the important office of supervisor of the Fifth District in Merced County, George B. Smith has taken a part as a leader in his section of the county and by his close attention to the wishes of his constituents has won a firm place in their regard. He was born in Warren, Warren County, Pa., on April 21, 1872, the son of Cyrus and Sarah (Spaulding) Smith, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. The Smith family came to California in 1877, the father following ranching near Galt, in Sacramento County, and later near Lodi, in San Joaquin County. George B. was educated in the public schools of Galt and in the Woodbridge Academy, after which he worked out on ranches, in time becoming a manager, which position he filled with several ranch owners. In the spring of 1890 he came down into Merced County and engaged in farming on the plains about fifteen miles south of Los Banos; then for a time he was in the liquor business in the town, selling out upon the enforcement of the prohibition proclamation issued by President Wilson.

George B. Smith was united in marriage with Bertha Nelms, a native of Tennessee, and they have two children: Earl B. and Mrs. Georgia M. Powers. Mr. Smith was elected a member of the board of trustees of Los Banos and for eight years, from 1914 to 1922, served as chairman of the board. It was during his administration that the city voted a bond issue for \$150,000 for municipal improvements and the old water works were purchased from Miller and Lux, greatly enlarged and extended to every part of the city; also nearly all of the street improvements were installed and other civic projects were carried out. Mr. Smith has always favored public improvements for town and county and in the fall of 1922 he was elected, on the Democratic ticket, to membership on the board of supervisors; and as such he is filling the responsible office to the best of his ability and giving the people of the entire county the best there is in him. He stands high in the esteem of all who know him.

EDWARD SCHULTZ

An intelligent and prosperous business man of Merced County is found in Edward Schultz, who is a member of the firm of William W. Abbott & Sons Garage at Livingston, and a prosperous baker in the town of Le Grand, where he opened up a bakery on March 1, 1925, and is rapidly building up a good trade with the able assistance of his wife. He was born in one of the German colonies on the Volga

River in Russia, on December 21, 1888, a son of Rev. Alexander George Schultz, a Lutheran minister and also a school teacher who is still living in Russia. When eighteen years old Edward bade good-bye to his home folks and sailed for America, and landed at Ellis Island, N. Y., on November 21, 1907. He left immediately for Cincinnati, Ohio, where he found employment in a shoe factory at six dollars per week; remaining there until 1908, when he came to California and stopped at Fresno, where he worked in the Home Bakery, and learned the business thoroughly; later he worked in a restaurant in Fresno, where he has a number of relatives living. In 1910 he located in Merced County and for three years worked in the Merced Bakery, but in 1913 he removed to Turlock and was employed in the Home Bakery there for several years.

On May 1, 1915, Mr. Schultz was married to Miss Mildred E. Abbott, a daughter of William W. Abbott, whose sketch will be found elsewhere in this history. After going out of the bakery business, Mr. Schultz became agent for the Chalmers, Briscoe and Chevrolet automobiles in Turlock, continuing there until his removal to Livingston in 1918 when he became a partner in the Abbott & Sons Garage. Mr. Schultz is a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 395 of Turlock.

FULGENZIO C. RUSCONI

All praise is due men from foreign shores who have come to this country, and, by dint of unremitting industry and strict frugality, have built up a competence for themselves and their families, educating their children to be an asset to any community, and who uphold the principles and aims of their adopted land. Among these must be mentioned F. C. Rusconi, of Merced County. He was born in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on February 20, 1870. Coming to California when a young man, in 1883, he located for a time in Napa County, then went to the Santa Maria Valley, and there spent twenty-two years in the dairy business at Guadalupe, working early and late, the hardest kind of work, and making his work count for something, in that he saved the proceeds for future investment.

In 1917, Mr. Rusconi went to Sanger, Fresno County, where his brother, Louis, is an extensive land owner and pioneer raisin grower. He also owns the 400-acre Meadow Brook Ranch, two miles from Merced, in the Franklin District. In 1921, F. C. Rusconi moved onto the property and had charge of operations as general superintendent of the vineyard and alfalfa, carrying on development work on a large scale. The brothers, Louis and F. C., owned

and were developing 800 acres on the Merced River, fifteen miles from Merced. In 1925, F. C. acquired the latter property known as the Barfield ranch; he is developing a large acreage to vineyards, the land being well adapted to raising grapes, and in doing so has added materially to the value of land in this section of California, for his work is a demonstration of what can be accomplished along horticultural lines when the right spirit is behind the enterprise.

The second marriage of Mr. Rusconi, which occurred April 29, 1905, at San Luis Obispo, united him with Miss Josephine Tognazzini, who was born in Melbourne, Australia, the daughter of Noah and Mary (Zanolli) Tognazzini, ranchers of that country. She came to California when two years old, with her parents. F. C. Rusconi's brother, Victor, is a successful dairyman of Napa County, and Philip is in Santa Maria, Cal.; and he has two sisters in California, also. Both of his parents are deceased. Mrs. Rusconi's father died at the age of sixty-three; her mother is still living, at Guadalupe, Cal. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rusconi: Theodore, Christine, Wilfred, Lelola, Vivian, Eugene, and Irma, all natives of the Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County. By his first marriage he has a daughter, Mrs. Mamie Caroni, of Guadalupe. Fraternally, Mr. Rusconi is a member of San Luis Obispo Lodge No. 322, B. P. O. E., and in all ways he is a man of worth, ready to do his share in promoting the further progress of his county and state, and with unbounded faith in the future of the fruit industry and the opportunities offered land owners in Merced County.

JOHN W. LANDRAM

A native-born son of California, and a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of Merced County, John W. Landram has been actively identified with the development and advancement of Livingston since 1917, and now holds a position of prominence among the younger generation of practical and progressive business men. He is the manager of the Livingston branch of the Merced Lumber Company. He was born in Merced, Cal., August 17, 1891, a son of W. E. and Ida (Banks) Landram. The father, W. E. Landram, formerly manager of the Merced Lumber Company, holds the position of vice-president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

John W. Landram completed the Merced Grammar School course and then entered the Merced Union High School where he remained for one year; then he took a business course at Heald's Business College in Oakland. After his graduation from business college he returned to Merced and became the stenographer and bookkeeper for

the Merced Lumber Company and in 1917 came to Livingston as yard foreman, and in 1921 he was put in charge as manager.

On September 16, 1913, at Merced, Mr. Landram was married to Miss Irene Freeman, a daughter of the late J. D. Freeman, a farmer living south of Merced. Two children have blessed this union, Bernice and Doris. When the City of Livingston was incorporated in 1921, Mr. Landram was among the most active boosters and he is a director of the Livingston Merchants Association and a member of the Boosters' Club; he also belongs to the Hoo Hoo's and is a member of the San Joaquin Valley Lumberman's Club. Fraternally he is a member of Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M. at Merced, and Merced Camp No. 352, W. O. W. Mr. and Mrs. Landram belong to Merced Chapter No. 126, O. E. S. in Merced and are members of the Central Presbyterian Church of Merced.

THOMAS B. MORTON

The birth of Thomas B. Morton occurred in Ireland on June 30, 1862, and as a babe in arms he was brought to this country, and reared and educated in Akron, Ohio. From May, 1876, to 1882, he was a cowboy in Montana, rode the range and saw many stirring scenes in those early days, and was a member of the Law and Order League. Some of the old brands he worked under were Circle S, 7 Bar 7, T C P, and S & K. C. M. Russell, then known as "Kid Russell," now a resident of Pasadena, the famous painter of western scenes, wild cattle and horses and cowboys, was his partner and friend in his cowboy days in Montana. One of the first pictures he made was while he was a member of the S & K outfit, when he cut a piece of canvas from a tent and with charcoal drew a picture of cowboy life. This was sent to the S & K outfit and later used as a brand.

Mr. Morton recalls the hanging of a number of cattle thieves; the last to be strung up was Con Murphy, who was hanged near Helena, Montana. When he was a cowboy he wore his hair long and curly, the fashion those days for the men of the plains. Later, he was teaming and freighting to and from Helena from 1884 to 1891. In 1892 he came to San Francisco and worked for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, digging ditches at \$1.75 for a day of twelve hours. In 1896 he went to Chicago and worked on a drainage canal. Returning to the Pacific Coast in 1897, he became superintendent of construction for the Great Northern Railway in Washington, in the building and excavating of the Cascade tunnel, which took three years to complete. The tunnel was three miles and 1785 feet long, the longest tunnel in the world at that time. One thou-

sand men were employed at each end, and all records were broken in its construction. In 1900 he went to San Francisco and entered the employ of the California Construction Co., general contractors. He worked for them in various places, at tunnel construction in Kern County, in San Diego, and in Honolulu, deepening the harbor and building government coal docks.

Coming to Los Banos in 1907, Mr. Morton took up the automobile industry. The only car he owned before coming to Los Banos was a 1903 Reo. In 1912 he engaged in the garage business when there were only two autos in Los Banos. He sold the first Ford car on the West Side of the valley and had the only auto agency from Tracy to Fresno. He has sold the Reo, Studebaker and Haynes cars, and now has the agency of the Oakland. The first auto repair shop in the valley was under a spreading pine tree on the Pacheco Pass road, and was operated by Mace Roberts and Bill Knight; and with the aid of the subject of this sketch many a disabled car was repaired on that spot.

In 1911, Thomas B. Morton was married to Minnie Cavala, born on her father's ranch in Badger Flat, Merced County. Her father was a native of Italy and came to California in the early days. The old Cavala home ranch is still in the possession of the family. Mr. Morton is a member of Mountain Brow Lodge of Odd Fellows of Los Banos.

ELGIN EVANS

No names are more worthy to record on the pages of history than the names of those who are producers of the means of subsistence. To that class belongs Elgin Evans who, for thirty-five years, was one of the largest grain producers of Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Strong, active, intelligent and public-spirited, it is to such men as he that California owes the development of her resources.

The fifth in a family of ten children, Elgin Evans was born in Mineral Point, Wis., on May 7, 1866. His father, John Ewell Evans, a native of Ohio, was one of the pioneer California gold miners. He returned to Wisconsin and married there Margaret Jane Davis, a native of Illinois. Her father, Ephraim Davis, a native of Wales, was a trapper who came to southern Wisconsin while Chief Black Hawk held sway. He crossed the plains and was a frontiersman in California. Grandfather and grandmother Evans were both born in Wales, and the former crossed the plains twice in the early days, but went back to Mineral Point, where he died in 1871, at the age of eighty-seven. His wife followed him at the age of eighty-three. Elgin Evans' father died when the son was six years old, and

three years later his mother married J. H. Haskell. Then the family came via the Union and Central Pacific Railroads to California and settled first in Alameda County and in 1878 removed to Merced County. From that time on Elgin Evans farmed in Stanislaus and Merced Counties; the very first year he raised 30,000 sacks of grain, 23,000 of which were oats.

In 1890 Elgin Evans was married to Miss Wilhelmina Rosenquist, a native of Sweden, a dutiful wife and loyal helpmate who has borne her husband four children, as follows: Edwin Chester, who lives in Merced, married Miss Mercedes McNamara, a native of Merced County, and they have one child, Maryle Renett; Clara Ethyel became the wife of Frank Pelton Montgomery, has one child, Norine, and lives in Hollywood, Cal; Herby Elgin married Mamie Souza of Merced and has one son, Herby Elgin, Jr., and resides in Long Beach, Cal.; Gladys Elvira is a student in the Livingston High School. Fraternally, Mr. Evans is a member of the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Elks lodges of Merced. In politics he is a progressive Republican. He is a Methodist, while Mrs. Evans adheres to the Lutheran faith in which she was reared. Mr. Evans quit grain farming in 1923, after he had raised 23,000 sacks of barley the previous year. He lost two harvesters and a caterpillar tractor by fire; and the price of farm machinery having increased while the price of grain had decreased, he thought it was a good time to retire.

FRITZ E. OLSON

A thorough-going business man and the owner and proprietor of a paying grocery business in Livingston is Fritz E. Olson, who started in business in 1913 in the Wilson Building, then located south of the railroad tracks; in 1923 Mr. Olson moved his stock into the Walter B. Ward building, which is centrally located, and the business is gradually increasing in volume each month. Mr. Olson was born in Sweden, March 11, 1887, and was a babe in arms when he accompanied his parents to the United States. The family located at Riley, Kan., where the father managed the large creamery interests for the Continental Creamery Company of Topeka, Kan.; later he established a separator and ice business in connection, which was his own private property. Six children were born in this family, but only three reached maturity: Fritz E. our subject; Ales H., a rancher at Livingston; and Arnold A. The father passed away in Kansas January 4, 1907, aged fifty-two years.

Fritz E. Olson was attending the Grand Island Normal College, where he was pursuing the commercial course when his father passed

away; he left school and returned home to take charge of the creamery and ice business. In 1908 the business was sold and the family removed to Merced County, Cal., where they bought forty acres of land on the Cressey Road which is now within the city limits of Livingston. Mr. Olson and his brothers engaged in dairying and farming for the next five years, but our subject secured a position as book-keeper and cashier with the Star Meat Company in Turlock, after his first year on the farm. He was next connected with the Fresno Republican until he started his present business in 1913.

At Livingston in 1910, Mr. Olson was married to Miss Hazel Grinstead, born in Kansas, a daughter of Newton P. Grinstead, who was well known in Livingston and who passed away in January, 1925, aged sixty-four. They have a son, Harold Olson. Mr. Olson ranks with the citizens to whom much credit is due for the influence they exert for the moral welfare of the community.

DAVID BENNETT

Among the active and able officials of Livingston is David Bennett, city marshal of Livingston and constable of the Fifth township of Merced County; he also acts as deputy sheriff under T. A. Mack. He is a fearless officer who performs his duties promptly, according to law, asking no favors and granting none. His birth occurred in Jackson County, Oregon, July 2, 1873. His father, G. W. Bennett, was born in New York State and came to Oregon and then to California, where he mined in Amador County, and where he was married the first time, by which union there was one daughter, who is now deceased. He later located at Cressey, which was renamed Livingston. His second marriage, at Snelling, united him with Miss Elizabeth Cheidester, daughter of David Cheidester, born in Virginia, from an early family. David Cheidester removed from Virginia to Iowa and from Iowa he crossed the plains to California in 1850 and became a farmer at Snelling. There were thirteen children born of this union, eleven of whom are now living: Dora, David, Daniel, Mabel, Susie, Myra, Sylvia, Wesley, George, Lizzie, and May. Two children died in infancy.

At the age of eighteen David Bennett left the family home and came to Livingston and at first worked on various farms throughout Merced County; then he leased land and farmed for fourteen years, when he purchased his present home place of ten acres just outside the city limits of Livingston, which is devoted to raising alfalfa.

On January 11, 1894, Mr. Bennett was married to Miss Amanda Willhoit, a daughter of Benjamin Willhoit, a farmer now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are the parents of five children; Myrtle is the wife of B. F. Johnson residing in Yakima, Wash; Violet is the wife of R. G. Rhodes of Livingston; Elsie is now Mrs. C. L. Benoni residing at Tia Juana, Mexico; Floyd; and one boy is now deceased. Mr. Bennett is a Democrat in politics and at the regular election in 1922 was elected marshal of Livingston. Mrs. Bennett is a regular attendant at the Episcopal Mission Church in Livingston.

CHARLES PHILIP SMITH

A worthy representative of the second generation of citizens of Merced County is found in Charles P. Smith, dairyman, and road overseer of the Fifth district on the West Side. A native of the county, he was born at Central Point, September 6, 1874, the fifth child of Samuel A. and Nancy (Dollarhide) Smith, one of the oldest families on the West Side in Merced County.

Samuel A. Smith was born near Rock Island, Ill., February 14, 1839. At the age of two he was taken by his parents to Winnebago County, Ill., where he attended public school. In 1856 his parents became pioneers of Fayette County, Iowa, and here he helped his father improve a homestead, remaining with him until 1862. That memorable year the young man took the long journey across the plains to California, hoping in this congenial climate to obtain a living from the soil. He looked over various parts of the State looking for a suitable location and spent his first year here in Yolo County, then he spent several seasons in Solano County and finally reached Merced County, locating on the West Side in October, 1868. He preempted 160 acres of land on section 23, the north line of his ranch being only one-half a mile from the present limits of Los Banos. To this he added 160 acres, and later thirty-six acres more, all of which he operated with good results. He gave each of his sons forty acres of the property, retaining 196 acres for his own use. He kept over 200 head of stock and raised alfalfa, made many permanent improvements on the ranch until it was all under irrigation and supplied with a substantial set of farm buildings. Here he continued successfully as a dairyman for many years, taking an active interest in all projects for the upbuilding of this part of the county, serving as a justice of the peace and taking an active interest in Democratic politics. He was a member of the first school board of the first district and helped to build the first school house on the West Side. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a chairman of the board of trustees. He had married in Iowa, in 1860, Nancy

Dollarhide, who was born in Indiana, the daughter of John Dollarhide, who had come to California in the pioneer days, settling on the Sacramento River. Mrs. Smith passed away in 1879, leaving seven children: Oscar E.; Jasper, of Soquel; Grant, now deceased; Frank, of Los Banos; Charles P. of Los Banos; Alice and Amanthus. Three children died prior to Mrs. Smith's decease. The sons became successful ranchers of Merced County.

Charles P. Smith attended the Los Banos school and remained at home with his father on the ranch, learning what he could of the methods of agriculture as carried on at that period. He embarked in the dairy business on part of the home acres and had 190 acres in alfalfa and 100 head of cattle. In 1908 he sold the dairy business and engaged in teaming at Richmond, Cal., and then purchased a dray business in Los Banos and carried on the business for three years, since which time he has operated fifty acres of the old home place. He is serving as the road overseer of the Fifth district of Merced County, besides doing a general farming.

Charles P. Smith and Fannie B. Brown were united in marriage in San Francisco, on October 24, 1915. She was born in Illinois, a daughter of William and Anna Christina (Hauk) Brown, and was in the railway postal service. In 1908 she came to California. They have one son, Charles P. Jr. Mr. Smith is a Democrat. He belongs to the Odd Fellows of Los Banos.

J. W. RIGGINS

Located three miles east of Merced on Bear Creek is the twenty-four-acre fruit and almond ranch owned by J. W. Riggins, who purchased the land in 1908 and since that date has been developing the property, and since 1921 has lived on it. A native of Tennessee, he was born in Normandy, Bedford County, on April 26, 1867, a son of the late W. L. Riggins, a railroad man. During the Civil War he had charge of building bridges. He died in 1873, after which his widow married M. P. Huffman. She died in Tennessee in 1907 at the age of seventy-seven years.

J. W. Riggins attended the schools in the South and at an early age began to learn telegraphy at Estel Springs, Tenn., on the N. C. & St. L. Ry. He has worked in many places since mastering the key, among which are Coahoma, Miss., for fifteen months as an operator; eighteen months at Dundee, Miss., as operator and station agent and one year at Lake Cormorant. In 1901 he went to work for the St. L. I. M. & S., as relief man; later went to Varner, Ark., where a Captain Rice owned the town and county seat, there being two

courthouses in the county where court was held alternately. In the spring of 1902 he went to Michigan in the employ of the Wabash Railway; in December of that year he went to Kansas and was working for the M. K. & T. Railway at Bayard at the time of the strike of the Order of Railway Telegraphers in 1904. Mr. Riggins left the railroad service to take up picket work for the Railroad Telegraphers at Parsons, Kans., and was one of the ten members of the initial board under H. B. Perham, president of the Railroad Telegraphers Union of America, serving from 1904 to 1908. In 1907 he went to the Pacific Coast from Salt Lake. Incidentally he visited Merced County that same year and made some investments in property, but continued with his organization work over the western roads. He has worked in every state of the Union except Idaho, Oregon and Washington in the interests of the railroad telegraphers. He quit in 1909 and entered the employ of the Yosemite Valley Railroad as its agent at Merced Falls, continuing active until 1921, when he left the railroad employ to give his entire time and attention to his ranch interests.

Mr. Riggins is a member of Hornitos Lodge No. 98, F. & A. M., in which he is a Past Master; he is a Past Grand of Willow Lodge No. 121, I. O. O. F., in Snelling; a member and Past Chief Patriarch of Snelling Encampment No. 86, I. O. O. F.; and Past District Deputy Grand Patriarch of the 49th District of California; he is also a member of the Navarro Lodge of Rebekahs at Snelling and of the Eastern Star Chapter in Merced. Mr. Riggins is very much interested in irrigation movements and was secretary of the committee of the Crocker-Huffman Contract Holders Association, whose affairs were settled amicably, so that it is now a part of the Merced Irrigation District.

A. A. HARRINGTON

Among the recent accessions of the business life of Livingston is A. A. Harrington, the junior partner of the firm of Lentz & Harrington; the senior partner, C. H. Lentz, has charge of the electrical supply store in Modesto, while Mr. Harrington operates the Livingston Telephone Company and conducts the electrical supply store at Livingston. The firm also takes care of electrical contracts throughout Merced County. Mr. Harrington was born at Paxton, Nebr. on May 30, 1888, a son of the late Norman L. and Nettie (Hargis) Harrington, natives of Missouri and Iowa, respectively. The father, Norman L. Harrington, was a railroad man connected with the signal service of the Western Pacific Railway and made his home in Stockton, Cal.; he passed away at the family home there in 1922, aged

sixty-two years. The mother is still living. There are five sons in the family of children, of whom our subject is the third. A. A. Harrington attended public school until he was fourteen years old, then he went to work for the Pacific Telephone Company at Stockton and within two years time he was advanced to a good position with this company.

At Merced, Cal., Mr. Harrington was married to Miss Blanche Wells, a daughter of George Wells, a rancher living at Dos Palos. In March, 1921, Mr. Harrington removed to Livingston and at that time purchased from G. H. Winton and William T. White the Livingston Telephone system, which Mr. Harrington has since operated with increasing success. In the management of the Livingston Electrical Supply Store, Mr. Harrington is using thorough business methods that insure permanent success in every undertaking.

E. M. STODDARD

The late E. M. Stoddard, of Merced County, was a man of education and much native ability, inherited, no doubt, from his Scotch ancestors, who settled in America about 1800, when the progenitor located in New York State, where the descendants of that Stoddard have made names for themselves in their various lines of endeavor. A nephew of our subject, Charles Stoddard, was the publisher of Munsey's Magazine. E. M. Stoddard was born in Delhi, N. Y., on March 6, 1831, and was the youngest of the twelve children in his parents' family. He grew to manhood in New York State, where his father was a landowner in Delaware County.

E. M. Stoddard received a good education in the schools of his day, and remained a resident of New York until 1872, when he came to Merced County and embarked in the dairy business; and it is worthy of note that the dairy he established is still in existence. He took an active part in the development of the new city of Merced and was a stockholder in the first newspaper published in the town. He was active also in Republican politics, though not an aspirant for office. He served as a school trustee for several years and was interested in elevating the educational standard of the schools of his time; for he realized the value of good schools, which he knew were necessary for the coming generations to prepare them for their life work. He was right-of-way man for the Central Pacific Railroad and did much to bring the steam line, now the Southern Pacific, through this part of the San Joaquin Valley. A good mixer, he made and retained loyal friends.

On November 22, 1857, E. M. Stoddard was united in marriage with Cynthia M. Benton, who was born on March 22, 1832, at Canajoharie, N. Y.; and she gave birth to the following children: Dower K., of Merced; Mrs. J. H. Simonson, of Merced; Clara M., of Merced; W. H., of Berkeley; Mrs. Nellie Outcalt, deceased; H. B., of Merced; and Mrs. R. L. King, also of Merced. Mrs. Stoddard came to Merced County in 1855 and was a teacher in the public school at Tuttle town, near Sonora, Cal. She died in Merced at the age of eighty years. E. M. Stoddard passed away in 1909. He was a Mason and a Knight Templar, and was a charter member of the Yosemite Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He had been brought up in the Scotch Presbyterian Church and was a consistent Christian.

DOWER KEITH STODDARD

Perhaps the best-known man in California, in stage transportation circles in the early days of the Yosemite Valley travel out from Merced, is Dower Keith Stoddard, of that city. A son of the late E. M. Stoddard, who is mentioned on another page in this history, he was born on a dairy and stock ranch in Calaveras County, on September 29, 1858. His schooling was obtained in public and private schools in Calaveras, Merced and San Joaquin Counties; and when he was sixteen years old his parents moved to Merced County, where his father engaged in the dairy and stock business with success. Our subject was interested with his father from the time they located here in Merced County, and he grew up in the handling of stock and running a dairy. He owns the original ranch purchased by his father, two miles from Merced, and is still conducting a dairy business there.

In 1886, Mr. Stoddard bought the McClanathan livery and stage business from the administrators of the estate of Mr. McClanathan and at once entered into the development of an enterprise that was destined to yield a good profit and at the same time build up a reputation for himself, not alone in the confines of California, but even at the national capital at Washington, D. C., where it is of record in the Postoffice Department that the stages run by D. K. Stoddard never varied a minute in arriving in Merced with the United States mail for a period of eleven months. It was always 11:15 a.m., rain or shine, and the experienced drivers he employed considered their honor was in question if any one spoke of their being late. So marked was the regularity in the local postmaster's reports, that the government authorities in the nation's capital could not credit their

accuracy until they had sent out several inspectors, who, however, always reported the time as 11:15 a. m., as per schedule. Along with the mail contract, and the most particular part of the business, Mr. Stoddard made a specialty of carrying passengers to and from Yosemite Valley; and during the years from 1886 to 1911, the Stoddard stages were known far and wide and handled without accident tens of thousands of passengers going to and from Yosemite Valley. One year he handled 20,000 tourists. Since 1911, Mr. Stoddard has been looking after his dairy interests, though residing in Merced.

On March 10, 1886, D. K. Stoddard was united in marriage with Miss Mary Comins, a native of Maine, where she grew up. She was educated in Boston and later came out to California. The following children have been born of this union: Mildred, who married G. H. Winton and resides in Livingston; Minette (a twin of Mildred), who is at home; Jean, who married Roscoe Roduner and lives in Merced; and Dower Kenneth, the youngest, who is an employe of the Merced Irrigation District. There are five grandchildren to brighten the homes of the Stoddards.

Mr. Stoddard has been a staunch Republican all his life and cast his first vote in the city of Merced, and has never voted elsewhere. He served as a city trustee for several terms. He is a charter member of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., in which he is a Past President and takes an active interest; and he has a wide acquaintance throughout the State through his restoration work for the Native Sons. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias since 1882, and has been Grand Trustee of the State of California in that order. If Mr. Stoddard has a hobby, it is in preserving historic records and landmarks and relics of early days in California, in order that the coming generations may have visible evidence suited to inculcate in their minds a veneration for the pioneers who have been responsible for the firm foundation of a commonwealth where they and their posterity can live in peace and happiness.

FRANCISCO S. GARCIA

America has been justly called the "Melting pot of all Nations." People flock to this country from all parts of the world and in a few years, usually not later than the second generation, they are no longer foreigners, but Americans, loyal to the tenets of the country of their adoption and many of them rated among the substantial and successful citizens. A fair example of the above is shown in the record made by Francisco S. Garcia, who was born in the Azores Islands, on October

31, 1885, and came to America at the age of ten, landing at Newport, R. I., where he attended school and grew up until he was twenty-five years old. He then joined his brother, A. C. Garcia, and they came to California in 1910. As soon as he had become acquainted with the country he rented land and engaged in the dairy business for four years, after which time he came to Los Banos and started another dairy, also on 186 acres of leased land. He prospered and soon was able to invest in land of his own, and he is still a land owner, leasing his property to tenants who are in the dairy business. Mr. Garcia was one of the first dairymen to pay the sum of \$1000 for a high grade bull for his Holstein herd. He began with sixty cows and when he sold out his herd had increased to 200 head.

In 1918 Mr. Garcia helped organize the Portuguese Bank in Los Banos and was its vice-president, eventually being elected its president, continuing his connection with the bank until it was sold to the Portuguese American Bank of San Francisco, in 1921, when he retired from the banking business and now devotes his time to the real estate and insurance business and is meeting with well-deserved success.

Mr. Garcia was united in marriage with Miss Anna Gomez, also born in the Azores, and they have four children: David, Minnie, Francisco and Mary. Mr. Garcia is a member of the I. D. E. S. Society and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of Los Banos, and of the Knights of Columbus, of Merced.

HARVEY A. BAKER

A progressive business man and an able official is found in Harvey A. Baker, who conducts a real estate office in Livingston and serves as judge of the city recorder's court; he was appointed to this position by the mayor, C. A. Ottman, and the city board of trustees in April, 1923. From the time of his appointment in April until October, he tried fifty-nine cases and collected \$909 in fines. Mr. Baker, assisted by his wife and daughter, have charge of the stage depot; the line is known as the California Transit Co. and connects with Sacramento, Stockton, Merced, Fresno and Los Angeles and intermediate points with hourly departures. He was born at Danville, Ind., November 20, 1881. His father, G. W. Baker, was for many years a successful farmer and real estate broker at Eureka, Cal.; he married Miss Lucretia H. Jones, born in Indiana, who can trace her family history back to Sir Isaac Newton; her maternal grandmother, Lydia H. Jones has reached the age of ninety-nine years and is living at Craig, Nebr. Three sons were born of this union: H. J. is a real estate

broker in Livingston; H. M. resides in Berkeley, and Harvey A. is the subject of this sketch. Both parents are still living.

While still a small child, Harvey A. Baker accompanied his parents, in a prairie schooner, to Nebraska and he grew up and was educated at Beatrice. His father was a traveling salesman for a school supply house and made his home at Beatrice. During the panic of 1893, Mr. Baker resided in Omaha, Nebr.; from there he removed to Deadwood, S. D. and in 1898 enlisted for service in the Spanish-American War, but was discharged on account of disability. In 1901 he removed to Denver, Colo., and was for ten years in the employ of the street car company; he resided in Denver until 1918 and during that time made frequent trips to California to visit his family, who had located at Eureka, where the father was engaged in the real estate business. Mr. Baker permanently located at Livingston in 1920, and became a salesman for his brother H. J. Baker, who is engaged in the real estate business. Later Mr. Baker established his own real estate office.

At Denver, Colo., in 1903, H. A. Baker was married to Miss Bertha Damon, born in Missouri, a daughter of the late John Damon, a Civil War veteran who died from the effects of a wound received during the war. Her mother is making her home with our subject at Livingston. Two daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Baker; Elsie is the wife of Maynard Pierce, a rancher living near Delhi, Cal.; and Lucetta G. married Eldridge C. Swan, traffic officer at Livingston. Mr. Baker belongs to Denver Lodge No. 41, K. of P. in Denver.

LEO HEID

As far as lies in the power of any one individual, Leo Heid has illustrated in his life the control of circumstances and the manifest advantages that await the industrious and enterprising men which have characterized for generations the race from which he springs. Born in Bavaria, Germany, September 26, 1881, he was left an orphan at the age of seven years and was brought up by his uncle. His parents, Paul and Margaret Heid, had both passed away by 1888. The Lutheran minister assisted him through the parochial school until the age of twelve, but from that time on he has made his own way in the world, first by working in a planing mill and serving an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade for three years. It was a work to which he naturally gravitated for his father had operated a planing mill, as well as a farm. At fifteen years of age he worked as a journeyman carpenter, but in common with all of his countrymen he

had to serve in the army and he didn't get free until 1909, when he struck out for the "Land of the free and the home of the brave."

Landing in Fresno, Cal. he found employment at once in a planing mill; later he took up carpentering and bought a twenty-acre ranch in Fresno County. It was a good investment for in two years he sold it at a good profit. In 1920 he investigated Livingston and, as it appeared to be a good proposition, he bought twenty acres. He continued his trade and as contractor and builder has erected a number of bungalows, including the Methodist parsonage. Many other buildings in Livingston are to be credited to his industry among which may be mentioned the residences of A. A. Harrington, Mrs. Ottman, Frank Emerich, L. Prusso, Forest E. Hammond, and John J. Hoch, besides several garages and other buildings, including the Lutheran Church and Dr. C. E. Saunders' office building. Mr. Heid was made a citizen of the United States in 1917 and is a Republican in politics. In many ways he has proved a valuable citizen of Livingston, contributing to its growth, fostering its enterprises and promoting its welfare.

ADOLPH SWENSEN

Among the dairymen and farmers of the Livingston section of Merced County is Adolph Swensen, proprietor of the Greenacre Dairy located a mile southwest of the city in precinct No. 2. He owns sixty acres, twenty acres devoted to his dairy, twenty-five acres in bearing Malaga grapes, and twelve acres in alfalfa. When Mr. Swensen purchased this tract of land in 1910, it was known as "blow land"; here the wind blew unobstructed and the sand drifted, but by the application of water it has been turned into vineyards, orchards and alfalfa fields. At the Pacific Slope Dairy Show held in Oakland, Cal. in November, 1923, Mr. Swensen made an almost perfect showing; his milk scored 95.5 out of a possible 100; on the item of bacteria, for which a perfect score was 35, Mr. Swensen's milk scored 35; other perfect scores by Mr. Swensen were butter fat, 15 points; and temperature and acidity, 5 points. He lost points on bottle and cap or otherwise would have had a perfect score. He runs fourteen cows on his dairy farm.

Mr. Swensen was born at Skane, Sweden, on April 18, 1873, a son of Peter and Anna Swensen, both natives of the same country. There were six children in the family, two sons and four daughters, our subject being the second in order of birth and the only one living in America. Peter Swensen was a farmer and a creamery man and is now deceased; the mother is still living in Sweden, aged seventy-six.

Adolph Swensen left the parental roof when only fifteen years old, and landing in Quebec, Canada, came directly to the United States, settling at St. Paul, Minn., where he found work in a store. He was ambitious to learn the language and manners of the Americans, and he attended night school, and also had private instruction in English. At Hallock, Minn., he learned the trade of harness and saddle-maker. While residing in Kittson County he was appointed a deputy sheriff. In 1902 he removed to Washington and worked at Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma as a journeyman saddler, and was also engaged as a salesman. In 1909 he arrived in Merced, where he was employed as a traveling salesman for Barcroft & Company, hardware dealers; in the meantime he purchased his present farm and began to improve it and in 1917 moved onto it, where he has since made his home.

At Modesto, Mr. Swensen was married to Miss Pearl Turner, born and reared in Merced, the daughter W. H. and Marian (McSwain) Turner, early pioneers of California. Two children, Marian Catherine and Virginia June, have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Swensen. Mr. Swensen is a member of the local Farm Bureau and takes a good citizen's part in the advancement of his section.

JOSEPH LOUIS PERRY

A well-known dairy farmer in the Livingston section of Merced County is Joseph Louis Perry, who owns one of the best appointed dairies of forty-six acres to be found in this section. He was born on the Island of Tuhido, of the Azores group, on April 14, 1876, a son of J. L. Perry, a soap maker who had married Emila Augusta Dutra, and they had three children; Joseph Louis; Samuel S., still in the Azores; and Emila Augusta, also at home. The father died in 1880 at the age of forty-three years. Mrs. Perry passed away in February, 1923, aged sixty-six, at her old home.

Joseph L. Perry, our subject, learned the blacksmith's trade in his native country and when he was twenty-five he came to America and California, arriving in San Francisco in October, 1901. He went to Sausalito and the next day after his arrival secured a job in a blacksmith shop, continuing there for a year. He then went to Oakland and bought out a restaurant, which he later disposed of and went to work for wages as a cook; he was cook and general employer for the Oakland Y. M. C. A. for nearly two years. On account of ill health Mr. Perry had to seek outside work and he came to Livingston and bought his ranch and has been active in its development ever since. His improvements are all of the best and have been put there

by himself or under his direction. He has a bungalow house surrounded by a fine lawn and shade trees and shrubbery, and has a family orchard, a large dairy and cow-barn, milking sheds and the various yards and sheds needed on an up-to-date dairy farm. He has two good wells sufficient for his domestic needs and for his stock, an eighty-ton silo, tanks, troughs etc., all of which show the master mind who directed the laying-out and building of the home place. In his herd he has a registered Holstein bull, and also young stock.

Joseph L. Perry was married in San Francisco in 1910, to Mrs. Maria Lewis, widow of Frank Lewis, of Gloucester, Mass., and daughter of Martinho Costa, born on the Island of Pico, where he was a farmer and where his daughter was also born. She came to America when a young girl and was married in Massachusetts to Mr. Lewis, by whom she had three children: Frank E.; Marie, wife of Frank Golart of Livingston; and Henry, at home. Mr. Perry is a member of the U. P. E. C. Society.

REV. SOREN EMANUEL SORENSEN

Among the ministers of the Gospel in Merced County, none is more widely known or more successful in his chosen calling than Rev. Soren Emanuel Sorensen, who is serving as pastor to the newly established congregations of the Lutheran faith at Waterford, Stevinson and other places and by the sterling traits which distinguish his character has won the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. He was born in Norway, on December 1, 1849, a son of Soren Torinessen Gjerdal and Elisabeth Katerina Sorensen, born in Minnesota. When Rev. Sorensen came to the United States he settled in Minneapolis, Minn., and there studied theology at the Augsburg Theological Seminary; later he was duly ordained as a minister in the United Norwegian Lutheran Church and held several important pastorates before coming to California in 1903.

Rev. and Mrs. Sorensen are the parents of ten children, all born in Minnesota: Elizabeth, Mrs. L. F. Peterson; Camille, Mrs. Floyd Stevinson and the mother of Anita, Deta Dell, James, Samuel, and Soren Sorensen; Soren C., who married Ida Ness and is the father of three children, Loren, Soren C., Jr., and Floydine; Hulda, Mrs. E. H. Williams and the mother of Mercedes, Luther Wallace and Elmer H., Jr.; Luther, who married Maude Fox and has three children, Bernice, Georgia and Luella Maude; Joseph, who married Gertrude Pedrotte; Tonnis Oscar, who married Theresa Pollick and has two children, Garland and Margaret; Emma, wife of Harry

Cochran and mother of Anna May, Dorothy and Elizabeth; Martin, proprietor of Sorensen and Co., in Livingston; Anna, who married Lars Mattson and has two children, William and Betty Ann. Reverend Sorensen, with the help of his sons, has developed a fine ranch in Merced County, consisting of forty acres located about ten miles west of Livingston, where he makes his home.

JOHN BAISA

The success of the San Joaquin Concrete Pipe Company at Chowchilla is due in no small part to the energy and expert direction of John Baisa, who is one-third owner of three factories, at Chowchilla, Livingston and Herndon. A more detailed account of the company is given in another place in this book; suffice to say here that it has a capacity of a mile a day of excellent pipe for irrigating, drainage and sewerage which endures the celebrated "Hi-Test."

Mr. Baisa is of Spanish-Mexican blood and was born in Texas in 1887, and he came to California in 1901. His parents, Catarins and Remigia Baisa, reside in Livingston and he lives with them as he is still unmarried. He began very early to work for this company and has been with it continuously up to the present and has become a highly efficient expert in laying concrete pipe. He personally attends to the outside work and has from four to twelve men under him. Politically he supports the men and measures of the Republican party.

SAMUEL J. ANET

A prosperous rancher of Merced County, who came here to the United States from his faraway home in Switzerland, when a boy of seventeen, and has made good in his chosen line of work, Mr. Anet, entirely unaided, has reached a position in life above the average, and can look back at his early struggles with pride in the fact that he surmounted all obstacles by hard work, unceasing thrift, and the combining of both with intelligent management. A native of Aigle, which is situated six miles east of beautiful Lake Geneva in Canton Vaud, Switzerland, he was the second of seven children born to Henry Vincent and Anna (Blanc) Anet, the former born in 1842, and died in 1917, and the latter born in 1843, and died October 30, 1908. There were seven children: Louis, Sam, Rosine, Fanny, Alice, Alfred and Benjamin. Both parents were of well established families in Switzerland, who had four centuries earlier fled from France during the per-

secution of people of their belief as French Huguenots, and took up their life again in Switzerland, where today their descendants have made beautiful the natural resources of the Rhone Valley, and there is where "Sam" Anet was reared. Of the well-to-do class, his father was a foremost authority on viticulture in his day, and owned and operated large vineyards.

Sam. J. attended the public and high school of his home place, receiving at the latter the benefit of thorough courses in literature. He worked on his father's property during harvest, a busy time, and also in the making of choice white wines from the small white wine grape, usually producing 800 gallons of liquid per acre. They also conducted a dairy, and were occupied in cheese and butter making. During the summer months, he went with the herders to the higher altitudes on the mountain slopes, returning in October. His brother, Louis, served twenty-five years as gendarme in Switzerland, but is now retired. Sam decided to come to the larger republic of the United States, and sailed, via Havre, on the Steamship La France, crossed the Atlantic, and arrived in New York May 27, 1883. He went direct to Knoxville, Tenn., to a countryman of his named Buffet, who owned large ranch property six miles out of that city. Saving all he could out of his earnings of \$8.00 per month, after three years he made his way to Texas, where he earned \$40.00 per month, working in the cotton fields. There he was stricken with fever, and was obliged to return to Knoxville. On regaining his health, he entered the employ of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railway, and after three years on the road as fireman, brakeman, etc., he entered the main shops of the company, where were employed 600 men, and worked at the bench.

In May, 1893, Mr. Anet moved with his family to California, located at Merced, and soon after went to work in the Grange Company's warehouse, then in charge of W. L. Turner. That fall he went into the flour mill of the Merced Milling Company, where for the next nine years he was foreman; it was while in charge of the mill that the name of just "Sam" was given him, an appellation which has remained his since that time; all knew Sam and Sam knew everyone while in the mill.

In the meantime he invested his savings in land around Merced, and now owns some very desirable property. His first buy was eight acres of Southern Pacific railway land on the edge of south Merced, where now stands his home, rebuilt since 1908, when it was a fire loss. He has added thirty-four acres to the original acreage, and has fig and peach trees now bearing which are twenty-five years old. He also owns other residence property in Merced, and his unbounded faith

in this district still grows, for he has never regretted his decision to settle in this fertile district. Twenty years ago he conducted a city retail milk route from his small dairy; the town has grown to three times its size since that date.

The marriage of Mr. Anet, which occurred December 31, 1889, at Knoxville, Tenn., united him with Miss Alice E. Hoffer, a native of Knoxville, and daughter of Rev. W. A. and Susan (Smith) Hoffer, descendants of old families of planters in the South. Before her marriage, Mrs. Anet taught in the high school for fifteen years. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Anet: Henry L., born in Tennessee, served in the Ordinance Department during the World War as sergeant, and was absent about eighteen months from Merced; he married Miss Rosina Collins, of Hornitos, daughter of Supervisor Collins of Mariposa County. Eugene E., the second child, died at the age of five years; Ann Eleanor, now Mrs. Earl Kittrell of San Jose, has one son, Robert Sheldon.

Mr. Anet received his citizenship papers at Merced, in 1901, and he has always taken an active interest in public affairs and advancement; for the past fifteen years, he has served as county roadmaster of district No. 2.

ROBERT L. PUCCINELLI

The position of assistant cashier of the Los Banos branch of the Bank of Italy is held by Robert L. Puccinelli through his ability to accurately carry out the policies of the financial institution he so ably serves and by the ability he displays in handling the many problems that confront a man in his responsible position. A native of the Golden State, he is a 100 per cent American although born of foreign parents. His parents, Edidio and Nancy (Del Carlo) Puccinelli, were both born and reared in Italy and the former came to California about thirty-five years ago and engaged in raising beans on the islands in the Sacramento River near the capital city; later he was engaged in ranching in the Italian Swiss Colony near Campbell, Santa Clara County, but is now residing in Los Banos.

Robert was educated in the schools of San Jose, spending two years in the high school there, after which he took a course in Heald's Business College in that city. Thereafter he entered the employ of De Bernardi, Inc., wholesale importers in San Francisco. Coming to Los Banos, he entered the Bank of Los Banos and worked his way through the various departments until he became the assistant cashier. When the Bank of Italy took over the bank he was made assistant

cashier in 1921, the position he now holds to the eminent satisfaction of all who know him.

Mr. Puccinelli was married to Mary Padula, born in Los Banos, and they have two children, Eunice and Florine. He belongs to Merced Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W.; the Knights of Columbus; and Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E., all of Merced; and to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of Los Banos. He is a firm believer in the old adage that "Nothing succeeds like success" and is living up to the tenets of the Golden Rule in his everyday life.

JOSEPH MARCHY

Merced County has become known far and wide as a prosperous dairy district, and among the men who recognized this fact and took advantage of it, may be mentioned Joseph Marchy, a rancher and dairyman of this section. In a comparatively short space of time he has demonstrated both his ability, and the suitability of Merced lands for dairy and ranch purposes, and the fact that a newcomer need only use his brain and brawn to become successful. Born on January 6, 1886, at Brunnen, Canton Schwitz, Switzerland, he was the youngest of five children in the family of Joachim and Anne (Boggenstor) Marchy, both natives of Brunnen, where the father was a well-known landscape gardener.

Young Joseph attended the common schools of his native canton, and on reaching twenty years of age, left home for the United States, making the journey via Havre, on the Steamship St. Paul, and arriving in New York November 7, 1906; November 14, that year, he reached San Francisco. The party he came with was made up of some thirty of his countrymen, and the day after his arrival, he commenced work in San Francisco. Soon after, he joined the Cement Workers Union, and during the rebuilding days of the city he made good money, and saved it, investing in the real estate which he now owns in the Mission district of the city. Two seasons were occupied in the logging camps of Mendocino County.

January 26, 1916, Mr. Marchy came to Merced County, and took a one-third interest in the Three Joe Dairy and Cheese Factory, near Plainsburg. This partnership was dissolved in 1919, and Mr. Marchy has gone forward with his share of the land; he has a string of Holstein dairy cows, and with one helper, conducts his business in a modern and up to date manner. In addition to his dairy, he is developing a part of his acreage to fruit, and has set out vineyard and orchard, now in the third year of growth. A progressive man,

Mr. Marchy received his United States citizenship papers at San Francisco in 1912, and he is fully interested in the further advancement of his adopted land. His only relatives in America are two nieces, living at Stockton and San Francisco, respectively.

JOSEPH WIGET

An interesting and well traveled life has been the portion of Joseph Wiget, and he has settled in California with the full knowledge that here can be found real opportunity and advancement. A native of Canton Schwitz, Switzerland, his birth occurred February 16, 1883, the youngest of thirteen children born to his parents, Martin and Frances (Rickenbacher) Wiget, both born, reared and lived their entire life in their native land. Martin Wiget served in the National Army as bugler, and he was on the frontier in 1870 and 1871, during the Franco-German War, while in civil life he was hotel and stable owner at Brunnen, on the Lake of Four Cantons. An expert coachman, he handled a vast amount of the tourist trade, as this was in the famous resort district of Switzerland, and he knew the roads thoroughly, especially to Berne and Geneva, over which he drove hundreds of times with his guests, among whom were often the crowned heads of Europe, and other famous people. He led the town band at Canton Schwitz, and was one of the popular and leading figures in the community. His death occurred in 1895, while his good wife passed to her reward in 1889.

Joseph attended the public and night schools, and during his upbringing was in constant association with the cultured people who stopped at this father's hotel, among whom he was a general favorite. He remained at home until after the death of his parents, when, the happy home life being broken up, he left, and went to Canton Lucerne, entered the trade of tinsmith as an apprentice in a shop there, and after three years spent in learning, for which he paid tuition fee of 460 francs, he went to work at the trade, his first wage being six dollars per week. He then went out into Continental Europe and worked steadily as a journeyman at his trade in the meantime spending parts of each year in the home land; and it was while on one of these visits that his marriage occurred.

The young couple decided to seek their fortune in a new land, and left home May 9, 1907, coming to the United States via Bremen, on the S. S. Kaiser Wilhelm, six and one-half days crossing the Atlantic. On landing, they came direct to San Francisco, and in that city Mr. Wiget followed his trade at the Union Iron Works. After the

fire, following the earthquake of 1906, the rebuilding of the metropolis made good times for wage earners, and the young newcomer was just in time to take full advantage of the opportunities thus offered. Also, with his wife, he diligently pursued the study of English at night. In 1912, they went to Florida, only to return after six weeks with the full determination to always remain in California. For a period of seven years following their return, Mr. Wiget worked in the Homestead Bakery. Impaired health, due to inside work in close quarters, made him decide to go into ranch work, and he was made foreman on the Aftergood Ranch, situated six miles south of Marysville, Yuba County.

In 1916, Mr. Wiget made his first investment in California lands. Coming to Merced County, he became one-third owner in the Three Joe Dairy and Cheese Factory, near Plainsburg; the three countrymen acquired the old Welch ranch and conducted the business until 1919, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Wiget retaining the old home place, and forty-eight acres of land. He is improving this property with the view of making it his home, and besides his livestock and dairy, he is developing an apricot orchard and a Thompson Seedless vineyard.

July 14, 1906, occurred the marriage uniting Joseph Wiget and Miss Anna Stadelmann; she was born at Attigny, France, on October 17, 1885, the youngest of eleven children, born to Xavier and Anna (Egli) Stadelmann, both natives of Switzerland, who returned to their home canton of Basel in 1889, and conducted a genuine Swiss dairy in the mountains. In Basel Mrs. Wiget was reared and educated. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wiget: Anna, born in Switzerland, January 2, 1908, who was brought to California by her aunt, in 1910; she is now a well advanced pupil, class '25, of the Le Grand High School; and Martin, born at Merced, July 25, 1919. Mr. Wiget became a United States citizen in San Francisco, March 14, 1916. He has a military record as a member of the National Army of Switzerland, 1903-06, and he also served as secretary of the Rifle Club of 200 members. Fraternally, he belongs to the Foresters of America, Sausalito Lodge No. 150. The family attend the Presbyterian Church.

FRANK R. RODRIGUES

A successful dairyman of Merced County, with property embracing eighty acres located three miles west of Merced, on the Los Banos road, Frank R. Rodrigues is a native of Fayal, the Azores Islands, born on September 8, 1873, the son of Joseph and Ignacia (Goularte)

Rodrigues, both natives of that place, where the father was a carpenter and farmer. He died at the age of ninety years; the mother was a remarkable woman, and reached her seventy-five years of life hale and hearty, to meet a sudden death.

Frank R. had three sisters and three brothers, and being one of the oldest, he had a very limited opportunity for schooling, as he had to go to work to help support the growing family. At the age of eighteen, he left home to come to America, "land of hope and promise," and worked for wages at Newport, R. I., four years; later working in New Bedford, Mass., in a dairy for two years. Here he learned much to help him in the new environment, and bettered his financial condition by working in a foundry for fifteen years.

In 1913, Mr. Rodrigues came west to the Golden State, and after first working out, at Los Banos, he soon got started in a small dairy at Lemoore, Kings County. Two years later he left the ranch to work for the Standard Oil Co. at Richmond, and then he moved to Tracy, returning to Merced County in 1915, and reentering the dairy business at Snelling, where he leased a ranch. In 1918 he bought his present ranch, where he has, by dint of hard work and thrift, built up a model dairy, with a herd of thirty-five head of fine cattle.

The marriage of Mr. Rodrigues, August 24, 1896, united him with Miss Reta Mattoso, also a native of Fayal, and daughter of Frank and Delphina Mattoso, well-to-do farmers of the Azores. Five children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigues: Antone, who is married and lives on the ranch; Frank; Joseph; Manuel; and John. Mr. Rodrigues received his citizenship papers at Providence, R. I., and he is a Democrat in political adherence, with a due regard for the principles and aims of his adopted country. Fraternally, he is a member of the U. P. E. C., of Los Banos.

F. F. PALMERLEE

The ability to solve problems in finance has been demonstrated by F. F. Palmerlee, cashier of the Bank of Los Banos since 1921. This position has not come to him through favoritism, but by well-earned and faithful experience. A native of Washington, he was born at Spangle, on November 6, 1885, and he received his education in the grammar and high schools in Corning, Tehama County, Cal., finishing in the business colleges in Santa Rosa and Long Beach. With this training he secured a position as stenographer with the San Pedro Lumber Company in Long Beach for one year. Then he entered the First National Bank of Long Beach and started to learn

the banking business from the ground up—and with what success is demonstrated by his subsequent positions and advancements through the various channels in banking. His next important step was from the First National Bank into the Citizens Savings Bank of Long Beach; then until 1907 he was with the Callexico State Bank. For one year he was a special auditor for Imperial County, and he was cashier of the Imperial Bank of Brawley a year. In 1909, with W. T. Dunn, Mr. Palmerlee organized the First National Bank of Brawley and was its cashier until January 1, 1918, when he became agent for the Buick Automobiles in Brawley. Eighteen months later he sold out and went to Texas to engage in the oil business at Dallas, where he remained until in March, 1921, when he was offered and accepted the position of cashier of the Bank of Los Banos, at Los Banos, Cal., and he has since held this responsible post to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Palmerlee is a public spirited citizen and enters heartily into all movements for the upbuilding of his adopted city. Fraternally, he is a member of Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F.

CLYDE A. MAKIN

The manager of the large lumber yards, mill and office of the Miller and Lux lumber interests in Los Banos is ably filled by Clyde A. Makin, who was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, on January 15, 1891. His parents, George and Sarah (Headley) Makin, were both natives of that state and came to Dos Palos, Merced County, Cal., in 1908, where the father carries on a dairy ranch. He was active in the political life of Wood County, W. Va., serving as a member of the board of supervisors and as secretary of the county board of education. He and his wife had seven children: Clyde A., Harold, George, Clarence, Gail, Lillian and Myrtle.

Clyde A. Makin attended the public schools in his native city and finished in the Dos Palos school and the Fresno Business College. For the next two years he worked in the oil fields in Coalinga and also assisted his father on the home ranch near Dos Palos. His next employment was with the Kings County Packing Company at Hanford. In 1917 he entered the employ of Miller and Lux in their lumber yard at Dos Palos and he soon rose to be assistant manager, then manager. In June, 1923, he was sent to Los Banos, the headquarters of the company, as manager and he is surely making good. The Miller and Lux Lumber Yard and Planing Mill occupies a space covering three blocks and employs thirty men in its different depart-

ments, all under the supervision of Mr. Makin. Thus it will be seen that his is a position of no mean responsibility.

Mr. Makin was united in marriage in December, 1922, with Miss Marie Brown, of Los Angeles, but born in Illinois. She was a teacher in the Dos Palos schools at the time of their marriage and is now dean of the girls of the Dos Palos High School. Mr. Makin belongs to Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F. and to the Los Banos Aerie of Eagles. He is a booster for Merced County.

HERMAN PAUL JUENEMAN

Among the numerous dairy herds in Merced County the one owned by Herman Paul Jueneman is counted among the best; his ranch of forty-six acres in Madison precinct supports thirty head of registered Holstein dairy stock. He also owns 186 acres of choice island land west of Stockton in Contra Costa County. He was born at Nienburg, Province of Saxony, Germany, October 24, 1874, and at nine years of age accompanied his parents, Christopher and Sophia (Biermort) Jueneman, to America. They landed at New York May 6, 1883, and proceeded immediately to Iowa, where the father worked at his trade of stone mason for three and a half years; they then removed to Dakota, then a territory, and were there for eleven months, when they removed to Washington territory, and settled at Puyallup, where a small tract of land was purchased and the father and our subject engaged in truck gardening. There are two children in this family, our subject and Anna, now Mrs. John Irmer residing in Sonoma County, Cal.

At nineteen years of age Herman Paul Jueneman began working in the sawmills at Puyallup and Cosmopolis, on the Chehalis River, and was thus occupied until he decided to return East to the state of Maryland. The first Sunday spent in Maryland he became acquainted with Miss Eva Reiter, a native of Austria-Hungary, and on March 1, 1899, they were married. The same day they left for New York and for the following seven months resided on a farm near Steamburg; then they removed to Wisconsin, where Mr. Jueneman worked in a sawmill for one year; then they went to Michigan and for six years raised peppermint in Van Buren County. Returning to the West, Mr. Jueneman located at Campbell, Santa Clara County, where he became the owner of a forty-acre prune orchard; later he traded this for his present dairy ranch of forty-six acres in Merced County. Mr. and Mrs. Jueneman are the parents of ten children: Anna Christine is the wife of Reuben David Fessler; Helena Carrie is the wife of Marvin McConnell and they have one child, Oliver

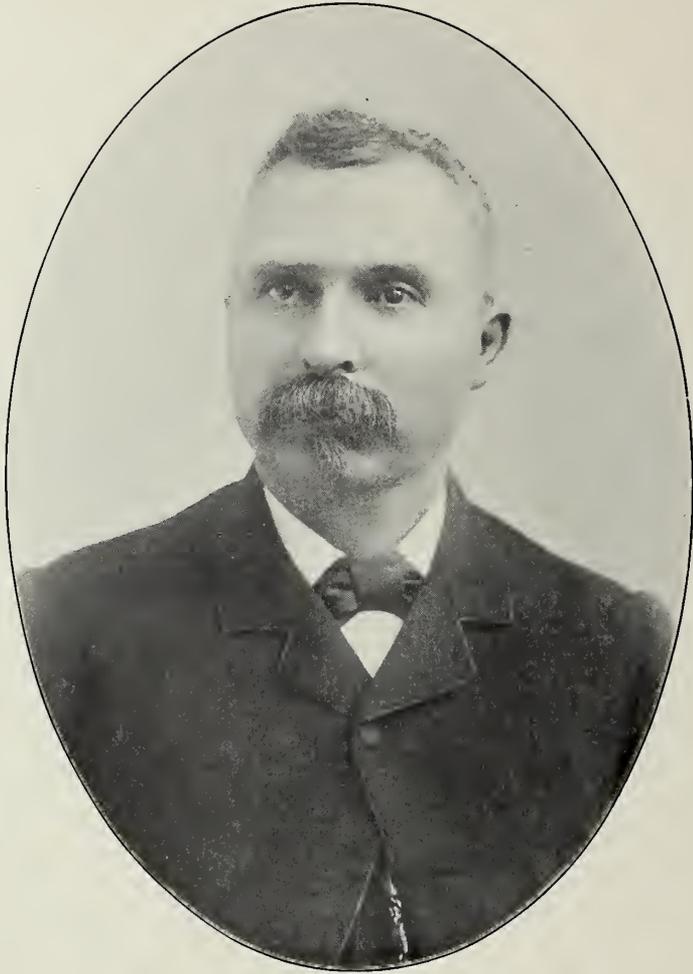
Morris; Herman Paul, Jr., assists his father on the home place; Carl John, deceased; Eva, deceased; Minnie Frieda Eva; Emma Geneva; Ellwood Ralph; Walter Abraham Raymond; and William Arthur Earl. Mr. and Mrs. Jueneman are active members of the Lutheran Church at Livingston. In politics Mr. Jueneman is a Republican.

MRS. ELIZABETH LEE OLDS

A native of Merced County, born below Livingston, on the Merced River, Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Olds is the seventh daughter and child of the pioneer couple, William G. and Ann Eliza (Jackson) Collier. The late William G. Collier is recognized as the "Father of Irrigation in California," and is mentioned at length on another page of this history. Mrs. Ann Eliza Collier is a direct descendant of former President Andrew Jackson. Mrs. Olds grew to maturity in Merced County, attending the public schools, and also received instruction from her father, who was a graduate of Columbia University and an able educator. On January 20, 1884, she was united in marriage with Edward Jerome Olds.

Edward Jerome Olds was born in Ingham County, Mich., in September, 1848, a son of Rev. Arice Olds, a Presbyterian minister. The mother was in maidenhood E. Louisa Gallup. The Olds family is represented by a long line of college professors, lawyers and ministers. The Gallups were prominent in financial circles for generations in New York State and Michigan. Edward J. Olds came to California in 1866, via Panama, in company with his brother-in-law, Dr. Samuel Blackwood. Some time after arriving in this State, Mr. Olds purchased land in Merced County and was the first settler in Livingston, where he erected the first hotel and store building. With the Cresseys, he was among the pioneer grain-growers in the Livingston section; and in time he became well-to-do.

Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Olds six children were born. Calvin J. is a mechanic and lives in San Francisco. Danton E. is engaged in scientific dairying at San Mateo. He served in the hospital corps at Camp Lewis during the World War. Roscoe C. attended the University of Nevada, receiving special honors in geology. He became a writer of note and was a member of the Writers' Club of Seattle, Wash. He was called the "Kipling of the West." When war was declared he entered the 316th Engineers, became a corporal, went over seas, and fell in the last battle of the war, in the Argonne forest. Beatrice D. attended the University of California and be-



E. J. Wells



Elizabeth L. Jones

came a dramatic reader of note and an esthetic dancer. She lives in San Francisco. Isabel E. attended Miss Head's School in Berkeley, specializing in music, both piano and voice. She makes her home with her aunt, Mrs. Harriet C. Whitworth, near Newman. Claude M. is in the employ of the P. G. & E. in Modesto. While a student in the Berkeley High School he received high honors for his poetry. He studied dentistry at the Affiliated Dental College in San Francisco, but never practiced the profession. At the age of twenty he married Miss Edith Coffey of Stockton.

Mrs. Olds has been a frequent contributor to newspapers and other periodicals. Something like one hundred poems from her pen have been published from time to time. The professor of literature at the University of Utah was attracted by their beauty, collected them, and had them typewritten preparatory to publishing in a bound volume. For several years she was a political editor on the staff of the Merced Sun. She was for many years an active worker for the principles which are embodied in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments and delivered the first speech ever made in the San Joaquin Valley on woman's suffrage. Personally she is a strong advocate of prohibition. She is fond of out-of-door life, and her hobby has been the study of botany and ornithology.

Since the death of Mr. Olds, in December, 1913, at Berkeley, Mrs. Olds has been an invalid. She has lived at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland, and at various sanitariums, and has been a very patient sufferer. Her fondest recollections are of her many friends and acquaintances in Merced County.

M. M. FINLAYSON

A building contractor who has had a varied experience in his field of endeavor on the Pacific Coast is M. M. Finlayson of Los Banos, California. A native of New Zealand, he was born on January 5, 1878, and reared on a farm up to the age of twelve. Since then he has traveled extensively, going to the South Sea Islands and through Canada. Mr. Finlayson began working at his trade in Gore, New Zealand, continuing for five years in heavy construction and on business blocks. Going to Vancouver, with a force of sixty men he remodeled a number of business blocks and constructed five new ones. Coming to San Francisco in the fall of 1906 he helped to rebuild that city after the great fire and earthquake. His first work there was on the second brick building in Chinatown; he built a sixty-room hotel on Howard Street; worked on the Ferry building and remodeled the front of it; did work on Yerba Buena Island, and erected

a hospital at Fort Berry for the U. S. government; built a number of school buildings for the City of San Francisco, also a number of fire houses; and two churches. During the World War he built several cantonments, having 300 men under his supervision at the Presidio in San Francisco. Going to Aberdeen, Wash., he was engaged in the work of building twenty-two wooden vessels of 4000 tons each, laying the keels, sterns etc. Returning to San Francisco he worked in the shipyards for the Government, making steel masts and spars.

Completing his work in the bay metropolis, Mr. Finlayson came to Los Banos on October 2, 1919, and soon became associated with Frank Burke in the contracting and building business; after the death of Mr. Burke, he carried on the business alone and in Los Banos he erected the Odd Fellows Block, city water works building, three units of the Los Banos High School, Sischo's garage, West Side Hotel, Guyer Hotel, Oberon Hotel, Bank of Los Banos three-story building, many of the fine bungalows seen in and about Los Banos and on the West Side, as well as a number of homes and dairy barns and buildings. He has drawn plans for many of his buildings, having had a wide and varied experience in the building line.

Mr. Finlayson married Sybil Maclean, a native of Michigan, and daughter of Dr. Daniel Maclean, dean of the California Medical College in San Francisco, and they have a son, Thomas Gray Finlayson. Mr. Finlayson is a graduate of the Armour Architectural Institute of Chicago; and is a Mason, belonging to Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M.

ROBERT L. A. THOMAS

A country which has given to California a large number of inhabitants, perhaps more than any other foreign country, is Portugal and its dependencies. They have come from the Azores and the mainland, and are temperate and thrifty; and soon they become most substantial and loyal Americans. Of that class may be mentioned Manuel P. and Mary (Peters) Thomas, both natives of Portugal, who came to this State in the early days and engaged in sheep farming; Manuel eventually started a number of small hotels in the San Joaquin Valley, which were headquarters for his countrymen. Nine children were born to this worthy couple of whom six have gone with their father to that bourne from which no traveler returns. The three living are Robert L. A.; Mrs. T. Solis; and John P. of Merced.

Robert L. A. Thomas was educated in the grammar and high school of Merced and in a correspondence school in law. His prac-

tical experience began as teller in the Security Bank of Atwater; from that he passed into the general merchandise business in Los Banos and next into the First National Bank of Los Banos, where he was assistant cashier for eight years. His standing as a citizen was recognized in his election as a trustee of the city of Los Banos for a term of four years beginning 1920. He is at present in the collecting and accounting business and is an income tax consultant.

His family consists of his wife, who was Lillian Puccinelli before marriage, and two children, Robert A. and Eileen Marie.

PETER A. CATSEFTAS

Among the later additions to Merced's business circles must be mentioned Peter A. Catseftas, who, together with his partner, James Moskos, is making a success of the Valley Lunch Counter at No. 537 Sixteenth Street. Mr. Catseftas came to Merced from San Francisco in 1923 and at an outlay of \$4200 thoroughly remodeled his place; and despite the competition of live restaurateurs on either side, the Valley Lunch Counter is constantly forging to the front as a sanitary and up-to-date eating house. It is largely patronized by the traveling public. A commodious dining room with its snow-white linen gives ample accommodations to ladies and children and tourist parties, while the long lunch counter facing the grill is largely patronized by clerks and business men, farmers and laborers. Prices are very moderate and its numerous patrons get the advantage of excellent cooking, Mr. Catseftas' experience in the culinary art extending over a period of almost a third of a century.

Peter A. Catseftas was born at Sparta, Greece, on September 17, 1869, a son of H. Aristides Catseftas. His parents are poor but honorable Greek working people, who are still living in their native land, having attained the remarkable ages of 102 and 99 years, respectively. Our subject grew up in Greece, where he attended the Greek schools and was reared in the Greek Orthodox Church. At the age of fourteen he began to work in a silk factory and together with his good wife continued in that work as long as they lived in Greece. He was married at an age of nineteen to Sophia Arneotes, who was born near Sparta and began working in the silk mill when a little girl of eleven years of age. She is thoroughly conversant with silk weaving and has made some of the finest dress goods that ever came from Greek looms.

Fired with an ambition to see the New World and to better his condition, Mr. Catseftas left his wife and family in his native country and came to San Francisco, in 1895. He immediately entered business

for himself, becoming proprietor of the Gust Restaurant at No. 29 Ninth Street, between Mission and Market Streets. Fortunately he sold this place a short time before the great earthquake and fire and for a few months ran a restaurant in the outskirts of the city and thus escaped the great fire. In 1907 he made a seven-months trip to Europe, making a five-months visit to his old home, and on returning to San Francisco brought his wife and two children with him. Sad to relate, however, his oldest child, a promising young man of sixteen, died a month after reaching California.

Mr. Catseftas was best known as the proprietor of the Cosmopolitan Restaurant in San Francisco, which he ran for sixteen years until he came to Merced and opened up his present place. He believes in "live and let live" and American standards of living at that. Mr. and Mrs. Catseftas have a comfortable home in Merced, where both are highly respected as industrious and enterprising citizens. They have become parents of four children, namely: Florodia, who died in Greece; Louis, who died in San Francisco; Ernest A., who was born in Greece and is now in the Merced Union High School; and Catherine, born in San Francisco, and now in the grammar school.

In entire sympathy with American institutions and in thorough accord with the business life at Merced, Mr. and Mrs. Catseftas and family are cordially welcomed. They are at present, as a side issue, engaged in raising silk-worms in Merced for the production of raw silk and Mr. Catseftas is very optimistic in the belief that the silk-industry will, before long, become of commercial importance in Merced County.

JOSEPH GAVAZZA

As part owner and one of the proprietors of the Winton Mercantile Company, of Winton, Merced County, J. Gavazza has already become a well-known figure in commercial circles in Merced County. He was born at Villa San Secondo d'Asti, Italy, on December 23, 1892, the son of Valentino and Angela Gavazza, farmer folk in that country. The father was a lieutenant in the Italian Army for fourteen years and fought in the Italian-Austrian wars from 1858 to 1859, also in the war of 1870 when Italy became free from foreign domination and gained its national unity and independence. The parents are both deceased. They had two children: Claudine, wife of Arri Jefferino, of Oakland; and Joseph, our subject.

Joseph attended the public schools of his native land, completing the fifth grade, and can read and write Italian as well as English. Bidding good-bye to his home and family he joined his sister and her

husband for California, coming direct to Oakland, arriving March 13, 1910. He was then seventeen years old. He began working on ranches, mostly in market gardens in Santa Clara County for two years, then going back to Oakland he worked as an apprentice moulder for six months, then took up carpenter work, making boxes for moulds, etc., following the moulder's business until 1921, when he came down into Merced County and began raising tomatoes on Bear Creek, continuing one year. The following year he went to Livingston and engaged in peach growing and market gardening for the season of 1922. That year he began working for the Pregno Mercantile Company at Atwater, and after six months was transferred to the Winton branch and became a partner in both stores. On July 1, 1924, with his partner, H. Dessiaume, he bought out the Winton store, stock and fixtures, changed the name of the company to the Winton Mercantile Company and they are continuing the business along broader lines than carried on under the former name.

Mr. Gavazza was married at Merced in 1923, to Miss Ruby Frances Logan, daughter of Henry Logan, a rancher at Winton. Mr. Gavazza was naturalized in Oakland in 1916 and registers as a Republican. He has purchased a comfortable home, the George Fast residence, in Winton.

ALFRED R. NEVES

The splendid new store in Atwater, the Atwater Mercantile Company, which has a general line of merchandise and which employs two clerks, is owned by Alfred Neves. How it was acquired is something worth relating. It was at Pico, on a distant Isle of the Azores, that the proprietor was born on October 9, 1880, the fifth in a family of ten children. His parents were Josph and Mary (Perpetua) Neves, both natives of the same place. The father died there at the age of fifty-four. The mother came to California and spent her declining years at Livingston, passing away in 1916, aged sixty-four.

Alfred attended the common school in Pico, and learned agriculture on his father's farm. When his brothers, Manuel, Joseph and Antone, came to America, he was naturally interested in the glowing letters they wrote of the wonderful prospects in the Great Golden West. So when he had saved up enough money for traveling expenses he followed his brothers hither in 1903. He took the first job that offered, that as a farm hand on the Bloss Ranch, and with the exception of two years spent at Sugar Pine, in the Fresno hills, he has lived in Merced County. He raised stock and cultivated sweet potatoes near Atwater up to 1912. That year he opened a small store 30 feet by 25

feet on the site of his present store at Broadway and Fourth. In 1916 he succeeded to the Pregno-Souza Mercantile Company on Front Street, and changed the name to the Atwater Mercantile Company, and carried on the business for seven years in that location. In the meantime he made investments and erected the present building, 45x115 feet, in 1922, which would do credit to a city five times the size of Atwater, and removed his stock to the new location. Mr. Neves received his United States citizenship in Judge Rector's court in Merced and, as a Republican, has fulfilled the duties of an American citizen. In August, 1922, he was elected city trustee of Atwater on the incorporation of the town.

In February, 1912, A. R. Neves was united in marriage with Mary Leal, born at Angra, in the Azores, the daughter of Frank Leal, a mechanic of St. George. Her uncle, Antone Leal, was an early settler in California. The children of the union are Harry and Guida. Mr. Neves is a very enterprising business man and what he has achieved thus far in life has been through the exercise of his frugality and honest industry. He was one of the organizers of the Atwater Pentacost Club and is ex-secretary of the I. D. E. S., and secretary of the U. P. E. C. societies; and is the banker of the Atwater Camp of the Woodmen of the World.

HENRI DESSIAUME

The life of Henri Dessiaume presents an example of industry and worthiness creditable alike to his native country and to the country of his adoption. He is the senior partner in the Winton Mercantile Company at Winton, successors to the Winton branch of the Pregno Mercantile Company. The firm employs the same systematic methods that characterized the work of the former concern and are assured of continued success. Henri Dessiaume was born at Bourges, France, on January 13, 1888, a son of John and Helen (Pigeit) Dessiaume, vineyardists who spent their entire lives in the land of their birth.

Henri Dessiaume received a thorough education in the schools of France, Germany, Belgium and England; he can read, write and speak French, English, German and Spanish and can read Latin and understands the Japanese language. Mr. Dessiaume became a steward in some of the leading restaurants and hotels in England, being thus engaged in the city of Liverpool and other large cities; in 1906 he went to Japan, where he spent two years as assistant manager for the Metropole and the Imperial hotels. In 1908 he came to America and directly to Victoria, B. C., where he was steward of the Empress Hotel, owned and conducted by the Canadian Pacific Railway Com-

pany. Later he removed to San Francisco and was steward at the St. Francis Hotel; also for a year and a half he was steward at Hotel Oakland, in Oakland, Cal.

In 1914 Henri Dessiaume was married in San Francisco. In 1916 he located at Winton and was placed in charge of the Pregno Mercantile Company, which carries a full line of staple and fancy groceries, dry goods, clothing, hardware, farming implements, etc., and handles meat and provisions. Under the direction of Dessiaume and Gavazza, the firm is doing a thriving business. On July 1, 1924, the present establishment was taken over by H. Dessiaume and J. Gavazza, who continue the business under the name of the Winton Mercantile Company.

FRED R. FERGUSON

A public-spirited man whose principles have determined his progress in the business world is Fred R. Ferguson, the capable assistant manager of the Yosemite Lumber Company, at Merced Falls. He was born at Toronto, in Ontario, Canada, March 20, 1875, the eldest of four children born to Andrew T. and Amelia (Reynolds) Ferguson, who were also born in Ontario of Scotch and English families. The father was widely known as Rev. A. T. Ferguson, and was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He moved with his family to Michigan in 1884, and following the ministry in that state became the assistant superintendent of the Michigan State M. E. Conference, passing away while in office. His wife passed away two years previous to his death, in that state.

Fred R. Ferguson was graduated with the Class of 1894 at Albion College, and soon identified himself with the teaching profession by teaching school at Manistee, Michigan. In 1900 he went west to Arizona, and locating at Williams, he entered the employ of the Saginaw-Manistee Lumber Company in the clerk's office, and soon became one of their superintendents, remaining with this enterprising firm for seventeen and one-half years. The following three years he was superintendent of the Charles Ruggles Company, manufacturers and lumber dealers, in Amador County, California. In June, 1922, he accepted the position of assistant manager to H. R. Lowell, of the Yosemite Lumber Company, at Merced Falls, where he is superintendent of the shipping and sales. The shipments of this company in 1922 totaled seventy-five million feet, with a handsome increase during 1923, and preparations to store and handle still greater amounts of lumber are rapidly being made at the Yosemite yards in Merced Falls.

The marriage of Mr. Ferguson occurred at Williams, Ariz., in 1906, when he was united with Mable H. Adams, daughter of H. F. Adams, ex-pioneer lumberman of Arizona and Michigan, now living retired at Pomona, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have two daughters, Florence and Lauretta, who are both being educated in the best possible way. Mr. Ferguson's brother, Prof. W. A. Ferguson, is principal of the Porterville High School, and his sister, Miss L. M. Ferguson, is vice-principal of the Sacramento High School. Thus the members of this family have contributed liberally to the educational progress of our Golden State.

The activities of Mr. Ferguson in public and political life have been characterized by efficiency and sagacity, and while at Williams, Ariz., he was deputy sheriff for two terms. For eight years he was an active member of the Arizona State Republican Committee, when Thomas Campbell, Arizona's first Republican governor, was elected, and for his efforts in the campaign Mr. Ferguson was highly commended by those who knew the conditions and principles involved. He is active in fraternal life, being a valued member of the B. P. O. Elks, No. 499, at Flagstaff, Ariz., and the Masons in Hornitos Lodge No. 98, F. & A. M.

U. ORA ABELL

A successful grower of figs in California, who is highly esteemed in the community of Merced, is U. Ora Abell, who first saw the light near Indianapolis, Ind., on March 11, 1868. He was the eldest of the five children born to Perry and Rebecca (Klepfer) Abell, who were born in Pennsylvania and Michigan respectively. Perry Abell settled in Indiana where he helped his father carve a home out of the forest and where he farmed until the Civil War broke out, when he enlisted in the 70th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving throughout the conflict. He moved to Nebraska in the eighties, homesteading land twenty miles from a railroad, and about 1890 he removed to Salt Lake City, where he lived for six years. In 1896 he located in Merced with his family and here he and his wife both spent their last days.

The common schools of Indiana and Nebraska afforded U. Ora Abell a good elementary education. Being a farmer's son he worked steadily on the home farm and in the meantime learned the carpenter trade, accomplishing a great deal as a journeyman, and later engaged in the building trade as a contractor. He accompanied his parents to California in 1896, where he continued to work at his trade. That same year he invested wisely by purchasing a tract of land on the Merced River, one and one-half miles below Merced Falls, where he

began farming and made improvements. By 1900 he had a few fig trees, and as the years progressed, he set out many more, until the property became a valuable one. At present he is the owner of thirty acres of highly developed orchard set to Black Mission figs, the trees ranging from ten to twenty-five years of age. A newly completed residence fills the need for an orchard home.

On January 14, 1913, at Merced, Mr. Abell was united in marriage with Miss Nan R. Peak, who was born in Merced, the youngest of seven children. Her father was the late Luke Peak, a Forty-niner and pioneer of Contra Costa County. He had come from Jacksonville, Illinois, to California, and in the sixties he moved to Plainsburg, Merced County, where he was a well and favorably known farmer. Just prior to moving to Merced he owned and operated a grain farm adjoining the Atwater ranch. Mrs. Abell's mother came from Southern stock and was a member of the Hancock family who arrived in Contra Costa County in 1853. One daughter, Isabel May, has blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Abell, who are popular in Merced social circles. Mr. Abell is a baritone singer of ability, and has favored the public by appearing at many functions, giving his talent freely for general enjoyment. He was the director of the Merced Methodist Episcopal Church choir from 1912 to 1917. He has belonged to the Merced Lodge of Odd Fellows since 1899, and to the Modern Woodmen of America since 1903. His political views and efforts have been with the Democratic party, but any movement for civic and community betterment has his hearty endorsement.

BENJAMIN H. BUSH, M. D.

The city of Los Banos is to be congratulated on having the services of so accomplished and experienced a physician and surgeon as Benjamin Howard Bush, M.D. Though born in Nebraska, he came to California at such an early age that he has grown up with the progressive California spirit. He was born in Broken Bow, on July 11, 1884, and he was brought to California at the age of six years, and educated in the Santa Cruz public schools, after which he entered Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, graduating with the Class of 1911 as an M.D. His first field for practice was in Santa Cruz, where he also served as city health officer. When the United States was drawn into the World War, Dr. Bush enlisted in the U. S. Navy, was commissioned a lieutenant and served on a flotilla of destroyers as medical officer. Later he had shore duty in the Panama Canal zone for seventeen months, and was five months in the hospital at the

Mare Island Navy Yard in California. Coming to Los Banos in 1919 he began the practice of medicine and established a private hospital in company with Dr. C. E. Stagner, of Gustine. The success he has made and the position he holds are a practical recognition of his skill and efficiency in his calling.

Dr. Bush married on June 20, 1920, Miss Margaret Hugus of Wyoming, and they have a son, Dean Howard. Dr. Bush belongs to the Merced County Medical Society, the State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. He is serving as city health officer of Los Banos. His good fellowship is betokened by his membership in Santa Cruz Lodge No. 38, F. & A. M., and in Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. He is also a member of the American Legion of Los Banos.

REUBEN DAVID FESSLER

Though a comparatively recent accession to the business ranks of Cressey, Merced County, Reuben David Fessler is thoroughly satisfied to make this part of California his permanent home. Since 1919 he has been associated with his brother-in-law, L. H. Moyer, in the general merchandise business at Cressey, a prosperous town on the Santa Fe Railroad. This firm is enjoying a lucrative business throughout this section of the county. Reuben David Fessler was born on his father's farm near Middleworth, Snyder County, Pa., April 21, 1895, a son of Franklin Pierce and Lovina (Benfer) Fessler, both natives of Union County, Pa., but of German-Swiss ancestors. Of the eleven children born of this union, nine are now living, namely: Sally is the wife of O. B. Sanders, a farmer at Beavertown, Pa.; Lettie is the wife of L. H. Moyer, whose sketch may be found in this history; Libbie is the wife of Merle Sanders, a farmer in North Dakota; Harry resides in Santa Rosa, Cal.; Lena is the wife of W. A. Brubaker, a draughtsman, and they reside at Akron, Ohio; Maud lives in Akron, Ohio; Reuben David is the subject of this review; Edna is the wife of W. E. Norr and they reside in Cleveland, Ohio; Franklin Pierce, Jr., is a tiremaker living at Akron, Ohio. Two children died at the ages of twenty-one and fifteen, respectively. The mother is still living and makes her home at Centerville, Pa. The father died in 1924, aged seventy-four.

Reuben David Fessler received a public school education and grew to young manhood on his father's farm of 105 acres in Snyder County, Pa. When he reached the age of eighteen he went to North Dakota where, for fourteen years, he was associated with his brother in farming pursuits. In 1915 he came to California and in 1917 enlisted in

Company L, 363rd Infantry; he was sent to France and served in the St. Mihiel, Argonne and Flanders campaigns; on September 27, 1918, he was wounded by a machine gun missile. He returned to the United States and received his honorable discharge at the Presidio, San Francisco, April 26, 1919; he then made a visit to his parents in Pennsylvania of a few months and upon his return to California became a partner with L. H. Moyer as before stated. Mr. Fessler acts as assistant postmaster of Cressey.

At Cressey, Cal., August 10, 1919, Mr. Fessler was married to Miss Anna Christine Jueneman, the eldest daughter of Herman Paul and Eva (Reiter) Jueneman, natives of Saxony, Germany and Austria-Hungary, respectively. Her father, Herman Paul Jueneman, lives on a farm of sixty-seven acres near Cressey, and also owns 186 acres on the islands west of Stockton, Cal. There are eight living children in this family, namely: Anna, the wife of our subject; Helena, the wife of Marvin McConnell, a farmer of Livingston, Cal.; and Herman, Minnie, Emma, Ellwood, Walter, and Willie. Mr. and Mrs. Fessler are the parents of two children: Eva Lovina and Francis Franklin. Mr. Fessler was brought up in the English Lutheran Church; fraternally, he is affiliated with the Turlock Lodge No. 395, F. & A. M.

RINALDO M. MIANO

One of the best and most fully equipped schools in Merced County, or in any town of equal size in all of California, is the Los Banos Grammar School. The children are brought in busses, within a radius of eight miles; there are fifteen teachers, and a student body of 475. The building has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 500; a Kindergarten department; and a nurse in attendance for the whole school.

The district superintendent of the elementary schools of Los Banos, Rinaldo M. Miano, was born in Tombstone, Ariz., on April 29, 1892, a son of John B. and Christina (Desimone) Miano, the latter born in Columbia, Cal., daughter of a pioneer gold seeker who eventually settled in Santa Clara County. Here in San Jose, J. B. Miano married, and then went to Tombstone, Ariz., where he was a pioneer miner and cattleman. He died in San Jose in 1906. Mrs. Miano makes her home with her children. Rinaldo M. was educated in the Tombstone schools, and then took a year in the New Mexico Military Institute, three years in the San Jose High School, and a teacher's course of three years in the San Jose Teachers' College. His college work finished, he taught two years in the school at Wheat-

land, Yuba County, and three years in Los Banos High School. For the past four years he has been district superintendent of the Los Banos elementary schools, and has made a very fine record in educational circles in California.

In 1915 Rinaldo M. Miano married Thelma Ostrom, a native of Wheatland, and they have two children, Phyllis and Melvin. Mr. Miano is a member of Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M., and Merced Pyramid of Sciots No. 14. He belongs to the volunteer fire department of Los Banos.

PETER KUTULAN

The proprietor of the Highway Grill at 543 Sixteenth Street, Merced, is an example of what a young man of energy and ability can attain to in California, and especially in the city of Merced, where he has become a freeholder, owning several lots and houses, as well as a thoroughly-equipped and up-to-date restaurant. No less remarkable is the success of his brother Steve, who is also a freeholder and the proprietor of the Kutulan Shoe Shop at 519 Seventeenth Street. These two brothers left their home in Greece, in order to seek their fortunes in California, arriving in San Francisco in December, 1907. They are two of the seven children born to James and Christine Kutulan, farmers in Greece. Both parents and all of the children are still living and prospering. The subject's brothers and sisters are: John, a restaurateur in San Francisco; Steve, who was born in Greece on January 24, 1886, was married in San Francisco in 1922 to Miss Caliope Giona-Copoulou, by whom he has one child, Christina, and resides at their home, 620 Twenty-third Street, Merced; Gus, foreman of the McDonald Manufacturing Company in San Francisco; Peter, the subject of this review; Frank and Oliver, farmers and ex-soldiers of Greece; and Petra, the youngest of the family, and only sister, who is still under the parental roof.

Arriving in San Francisco when a lad of sixteen, Peter Kutulan worked and studied and applied himself to such work as his hands could find to do and attended day and night public schools whenever he could, to obtain a knowledge of the English language; and this helped him to get better positions. For five years he was in the employ of the McDonald Manufacturing Company in the manufacture of fruit baskets, during which time he rose to be the foreman; he was also with Angelo and Son for five years; and later with the Western Baskets & Barrels Company, being employed in this line of work for a period of thirteen years altogether. In 1910 he made a six months' trip back to his old home in Greece.

In 1913, at San Francisco, Peter Kutulan was married to Miss Ella Boyce, born in San Francisco of English parentage, and they have one son, Christ, and reside in their home at 740 Nineteenth Street, Merced. In March, 1921, Peter Kutulan came to Merced and started a shoe-shine and repair establishment at No. 519 Seventeenth Street, which he sold to his brother, Steve, who has conducted it ever since. On August 1, 1923, Peter Kutulan bought the business of the Highway Restaurant at 543 Sixteenth Street and has refitted it and made of it one of the popular restaurants in Merced. He has added soft drinks and improved its cuisine and dining room, and has an up-to-date lunch counter. His dining-room is spotlessly clean and caters to family and tourist trade. He has also provided sanitary wash and rest-rooms for men and women.

Brought up in the Greek Orthodox Church, Mr. Kutulan received the advantages of strict moral and religious training and continues faithful to the teachings of that church. He was naturalized in San Francisco and while he usually registers as a Democrat, in local matters he votes for the best man. He is of an inventive turn of mind and is the inventor of Kutulan's Automatic Fire Alarm System, which was tried out by Fire Chief Thomas Murphy in San Francisco, who pronounced it a success. It has also been endorsed by George Robinson, Chief Engineer for the Pacific Coast Fire Underwriters, and is duly protected by a patent procured in 1919.

LOUIS H. KNUDSEN

As far as lies in the power of any one individual, Louis Knudsen has illustrated by his own life the sterling character of the race from which he sprung, and through his own unaided efforts has been able to rise above adverse circumstances to a position of honor among men. A native of Denmark, he was born in the Island of Oro, April 9, 1881. Growing up on his father's farm he attended the public schools and was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. His parents, Knud and Anna Maria (Albertson) Knudsen, lived and died in their native land. Louis H. learned dairy farming in Denmark and learned it well, but the chances for advancement in the old country were not good enough to satisfy the aspirations of an energetic young man; therefore he turned his eyes westward and, embarking at Esbijo, Denmark, crossed the Atlantic and landed on Ellis Island, N. Y., November 19, 1909. As soon as he could get by the custom officers he made for Los Banos, California, where he arrived April 4, 1910. He worked out by the month for one year.

In 1910 Louis H. Knudsen married Miss Agnes Madsen, and they started out in life on a rented farm. By 1916 he had got enough ahead to invest in twenty acres of land which he bought of the Crocker-Huffman Company in the Merced Colony No. 3. He moved there with his family, and cousins of his wife, and ran a dairy. His wife was taken with a cancer and for four years was a patient sufferer. Thinking it would do her good he took a trip back to Denmark with her and his daughter, to visit her parents, Louis and Maria Madsen, returning to America the same year. Mrs. Knudsen passed away in April, 1923. Mr. Knudsen was naturalized in Merced in 1920, and votes for what he considers correct principles and the best man.

JOHN JOHNSON

Sterling personal characteristics accompanied by exceptional skill in repairing automobiles have been the key to success of the garage conducted by John Johnson in Irwin. Being a strong, active, able and intelligent young man of strict integrity and an expert machinist, he is able to provide all the needs of an automobile, from repairing and all the accessories to oil and gas.

A son of Olof and Marie Johnson, he was born near central Sweden, August 24, 1886. Olof Johnson was employed by the Ovre Ulerud Railway and is living retired on a pension, aged sixty-four. His mother had three children: Eugene, a commercial traveler of Stockholm, Sweden; John; and the third child was Hannah Marie, who is still single in Sweden. She miraculously escaped death in a railway accident in which her mother was killed, John then being four or five years old. The father married again and the boy was brought up by his stepmother and was educated in the public and church schools and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. In 1909 he came to America and, arriving in Fort Wayne, Ind., he obtained work as a machinist.

The son John sailed for the United States on the White Star line from Gottenburg, in August, 1909. Passing through England from Hull to Liverpool he embarked again and arrived at Ellis Island, N. Y., in the latter part of August of the same year. He worked three years in the railway shops of the Wabash Railway in Fort Wayne, Ind., and from there he went to Oakland, Cal., in September, 1912. After working around in several automobile shops he engaged with the Scandinavian Gas Engine Works, builders of the celebrated Scandinavian Marine Engines. At the same time he attended the night school provided by the Y. M. C. A. course in mechanical engineering

and became a member of the Y. M. C. A. of Oakland, Cal. He could not speak English when he first arrived in America, but he acquired the language by self study.

John Johnson was married in Oakland to Miss Clara Larson, a native of Minnesota, and they came to Irwin in 1917. They have two children, Stanford and Florence. Mrs. Johnson is a daughter of Fred and Christina Larson, who own forty acres in Hilmar. They had five children, Alice, Arthur, Clara, Carl and Anna. Mrs. Larson died in the spring of 1924. When the Johnsons first came here in 1917 they farmed for three years, but in 1920 Mr. Johnson came to Irwin and bought his garage which he has run successfully ever since. They are both members of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church in Hilmar, and live in Irwin in the Hilmar Colony. Mr. Johnson has no choice as to political parties, but votes for principle and men of principle.

FRED PEDRONE

Mention should be made of Fred Pedrone, partner with Giacomo Triglia in the Oberon Hotel. He is a successful young man and was born in Volta, Merced County, on November 19, 1894. His father was born in Italy and was an early settler of Volta district, where he had one of the first general stores. Fred was educated in the Sacred Heart Convent in San Francisco and worked in his father's store at Volta and later in the grocery department of the store operated by Miller and Lux in Los Banos. In 1916 he was taken into partnership with Mr. Triglia and has since been identified with him in his hotel enterprise.

Fred Pedrone married Miss Della Bibby, a member of an old family of Los Banos, and they have a daughter, June. He belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Los Banos.

LUTHER HENRY MOYER

A worthy representative of that class of enterprising citizens who have made the prosperity of California a possibility is Luther Henry Moyer of the firm of Moyer and Fessler, who conduct a successful general merchandise business at Cressey which was established in 1914. He was born at Troxelville, Snyder County, Pa., on October 13, 1882, a son of John Y. Henry and Sarah Jane (Klose) Moyer, both natives of the same state, but of different counties, the former born in Snyder County and the latter in Union County. Five children

were born of this union, three sons and two daughters, all of whom reside in Pennsylvania, with the exception of our subject. The Moyer family came originally from Holland and settled in Pennsylvania in an early day; both parents are still living in the Keystone State.

Luther Henry Moyer was educated in the public schools of Snyder County, Pa., was reared on his father's farm, and at twenty years of age started out for himself. He came to California and for fourteen years worked at the carpenter's trade in various places, including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Clovis, Cressey, Corcoran, Visalia and Hanford. He located in Cressey in 1914 and on October 13 established his present business, which has steadily grown to its present proportions. On March 2, 1915, Mr. Moyer was appointed postmaster at Cressey and has served continuously and acceptably to the present time.

At Clovis, Cal., on June 2, 1908, Mr. Moyer was married to Miss Lettie Naomi Fessler, daughter of Franklin Pierce and Lovina (Benfer) Fessler, both natives of Pennsylvania and both deceased, the father dying at the age of seventy-two and the mother at seventy. Mr. Moyer was brought up in the English Lutheran Church; fraternally he is a member of the Turlock Lodge No. 395, F. & A. M.

T. R. TRICK, M. D.

Among the leading professional men of Merced County is T. R. Trick, M. D., of Dos Palos. A native of Indiana, he was born in Wabash County, on August 25, 1893, and was educated in the public schools of his home locality. His desire was to become a doctor of medicine and he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco. He graduated in the Class of 1921 with his coveted degree of M.D. from the medical department of the University of Southern California. For six months he practiced in San Francisco, then came to Los Banos, where he continued for another six months, and in February, 1923, located in Dos Palos, where he is gradually building up a lucrative practice.

Dr. Trick married Miss Ruth Galloway and they have a daughter, Ruth. Fraternally, Dr. Trick is a member of Sunset Lodge No. 352, F. & A. M., of Los Angeles. He is a member of the Merced County Medical Society, the California State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. Since taking up his residence in Merced County Dr. Trick has become recognized as one of the very public-spirited men on the West Side and enters into all movements to promote the welfare of town and county.

RAFFAELE MORETTI, M. D.

A very successful physician and surgeon, as well as a versatile gentleman, Raffaele Moretti, M. D., of Los Banos, holds a high place in the estimation of the citizens of Los Banos, where he is carrying on a very lucrative practice. He was born in Florence, Italy, on March 25, 1876, and was educated in the schools of his city. Having finished the Cremona preparatory school he entered the University of Florence and graduated with the Class of 1904, as a Doctor of Medicine. He at once began the practice of his profession as county physician in Lucca, and after three years there he came to America, locating in Lawrence, Mass., in 1907, and practiced medicine and conducted a drug store for five years. Hoping to better his condition, Dr. Moretti came to Los Angeles in 1912, passed the examination of the State board and spent six months in Sacramento, after which he came to Los Banos in the fall of 1913, since which time he has been engaged in the building-up of a successful practice. He is a member of the Merced County Medical Society, the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Moretti has been married twice. His first wife was Miss Lena Dini, by whom he had a daughter, Celsa, now a student in the University of California, taking a course in dentistry. His second wife was Miss Annie Massei, born in Worcester, Mass., and they have four children, Rosie, Josie, John and Lydia.

MRS. MARGARET C. CASSELL

Among the women of Merced County who have taken an active part in the advancement of educational, civic and social life of their community mention is made of Mrs. Margaret C. Cassell, who came to California in 1912 to join her parents, who had preceded her in 1911. She is the daughter of the late Joseph William and Lucinda Rice, both natives of Kentucky. Margaret C. accompanied her parents from Paris, Ky., to Pueblo, Colo., where her father was a rancher until 1911, when they came to Winton, Cal. The daughter attended the Pueblo schools, graduating from the high school in 1909, after which she began teaching in that State. After one year there, she joined her parents in Merced County.

On January 28, 1915, Miss Rice was married to Clifford J. Cassell, born near Lake View, Mich., now a salesman in the Ford garage at Livingston. Mrs. Cassell has four children: Clifford Joseph, Jr., Elinor Margaret, Helen June and Elizabeth Clay. Mrs. Cassell is

an ex-president of the Woman's Improvement Club of Winton and is prominently connected with the Home Department of the Winton Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau. She assisted in the organization of the Parent-Teachers Association and is a positive force for the proper education of the youth of Winton and vicinity.

Mrs. Cassell was appointed by the board of trustees of the Winton Grammar School to fill a vacancy on the board in 1923, and at the election the following spring she was regularly elected for a three-year term, the two other members being H. M. Stutsman and W. C. Abbott. There are five well-qualified teachers in the Winton Grammar School, of which Miss Winifred Kennedy is the principal. Mrs. Cassell was the second incumbent in the Winton postoffice, serving from 1915 to 1918, and gave satisfaction to all patrons of the office. Politically she is a Democrat. With her mother, Mrs. Lucinda Rice, and Mr. Cassell, she is active in the Presbyterian Church at Winton, Mrs. Cassell being one of the Sunday School teachers, and active in the organization of the Sunday School. Mr. Cassell serves as one of the trustees and is the financial secretary. He is an Odd Fellow.

GIACOMO TRIGLIA

As the manager and proprietor of the Oberon Hotel in Los Banos, Giacomo Triglia has easily demonstrated his ability to handle diversified interests. He was born in the farming district of Italy on October 21, 1874, educated in the schools of his native land and worked at various occupations until coming to the United States and California in 1904. He had no advantages except a willingness to work; he could not speak English and had only \$115 as visible assets. His first employment was in the vineyards of the Italian Swiss Colony in Madera County; three years later he arrived in Los Banos and engaged as a cook in the Oberon restaurant. Saving his money he was soon enabled to purchase the business and from that period he began to forge to the front. In 1919 when the entire business district of Los Banos was destroyed by fire, Mr. Triglia lost all he had, but with the determination to succeed he buckled down to hard work and in 1923 was enabled to build a modern structure of reinforced concrete 50x90 feet in dimensions on the site of the old Oberon Hotel. This structure, costing \$50,000, was financed by the Bank of Italy of Los Banos. The building is of three stories, with twenty-two rooms, eight of them with bath, and there are eight public shower baths. The building is steam heated throughout, has a fine lobby, a large and sanitary dining room with a lunch counter and grill, and is reputed to be among

the best hotels in the San Joaquin Valley for its size. An addition is contemplated which will give him eight more rooms.

Mr. Triglia was married in Marseilles, France, in 1900, to Adeline Grisanti, born in Italy. She has one daughter, Elizabeth Lucy. Mr. Triglia is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Foresters of America. He was a director in the First National Bank of Los Banos and is now a member of the advisory board of the Los Banos branch of the Bank of Italy. He has made and kept his many friends since coming to Merced County and believes in progress along every line.

ASHLEY S. PARKER, M. D.

Prominent in the medical profession in the central and northern part of California, and with an outstanding record behind him in Southern California, Ashley S. Parker, M.D., has taken rank in Merced County among the leading physicians and surgeons. A native of Marshall, Harrison County, Texas, he was born on April 5, 1871, and was educated in Louisiana and California. Coming to Riverside, Cal., in 1887, he graduated from the high school in that city, and later attended Tulane University, at New Orleans, from which he was graduated in 1893 with his degree of M.D. His first practice was in Fallbrook, San Diego County, Cal., and from there he went to Riverside and practiced from 1897 to 1909. In the latter year he went to Needles, Cal., practicing until 1909; while there he was division surgeon for the Santa Fe Railway with headquarters at Needles. While in Riverside Dr. Parker was physician to the Sherman Indian School; surgeon for the Salt Lake Railway; and he was also county physician of Riverside County, in charge of the county hospital for a number of years. He was president of the Riverside County Medical Society, and a member of the Council of the State Medical Society. He is now a member of the Merced County Medical Society, and the National Medical Association. Coming to Merced on February 21, 1921, he became associated in practice with Dr. W. E. Lilley, and his large and growing practice attests to the esteem he has gained in the community. Having a comprehensive knowledge of the great scientific principles which underlie his work, he has steadily increased his efficiency through research and study, keeping in touch with the most modern methods and discoveries, and these facts, added to his years of varied practice, make his services to humanity invaluable.

The marriage of Dr. Parker, occurring in March, 1896, at Riverside, Cal., united him with Grace Guffin, a native of Indianapolis, Ind. She has made music her life study, and is an accomplished artist on the

piano and organ, and is now organist and leader of the choir in the Presbyterian Church in Merced, besides devoting some of her time to teaching, giving recitals, etc. Four children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Parker: Lewis; Sarah, also a musician; James, attending the University of California, and Ashley, a student at the Merced High School; all natives of California. Fraternally, Dr. Parker is a Mason, belonging to the Lodge, Chapter, Fresno Commandery of Knights Templar, and Aahmes Shrine of Oakland; he is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E., and a charter member of the Merced Lions Club. His ranch interests consist of a cotton farm at Blythe, Riverside County; a forty-acre alfalfa ranch at Patterson, Stanislaus County, and ranch land at Planada, Merced County.

CHARLES A. DONAHUE

One of the painting contractors of Los Banos whose reputation for good work is well known is Charles A. Donahue. He was born in Hamilton County, Nebr., on August 31, 1885, the son of Charles L. and Elizabeth (Brown) Donahue, and was the third in a family of four children, the others being Mildred, Frank and Emma, the wife of Mr. Carlson of Tranquillity, Cal. The father was a carpenter by trade. The son was taken by an uncle, his mother's brother, A. Brown, when only seven years old, in 1892, who brought him to Dos Palos, Merced County, where he attended school, grew to young manhood and worked on ranches in the neighborhood until 1905, when he was twenty, at which time he began learning the painter's trade in Watsonville. This trade he has followed ever since. His first three years were spent in Watsonville. Then he came to Los Banos, and here he has since lived and been employed at his trade, working on many of the important buildings in the town and surrounding country. For some time he was a foreman for Miller and Lux and looked after the painting of the buildings on their many holdings. Mr. Donahue bought an acre and a half on the western limits of Los Banos and this he has been cutting up into building lots and selling; and he now owns four houses himself. Among the buildings that show his handiwork are the Birch, Central Creamery, Commercial Club Home and Hotel, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, and the Toscano home; also the enamel work on the new grammar school building.

On June 9, 1911, Charles A. Donahue was united in marriage with Miss Kate Jones, the marriage taking place in Stockton. She was born in the same town in Nebraska as was Mr. Donahue and they attended the same public school. She is the daughter of William and

Alice Jones, farmers, who settled in Dos Palos in 1894, and was the ninth in a family of eleven children born to her parents. She has been prominently identified with the educational advancement of Merced County and was a teacher in the Volta grammar school. Mr. Donahue belongs to the Odd Fellows of Los Banos, and to the Encampment. He is a member of the American Legion Band of twenty-five pieces, he playing the tuba horn.

JAMES NEGRA

The logical connection between conducting a life insurance business and running a sheep ranch is not so apparent that the conditions of success in the one business would insure success in the other. Nevertheless it is a fact that James Negra has been very successful as agent for the West Coast Life Insurance Company with offices in Merced and Los Banos, and it is chronicled that both he and his father made a success in raising sheep on their ranch. The father, Bernardi Negra, who is still living, was a native of Italy and came out to California in the early days before the railroad came to the West Side, and before the wagon roads were graded, and engaged in sheep-raising on a large scale. He was a personal friend of Henry Miller and was with him in many deals in livestock. In that day wool sold as low as three cents per pound and sheep for three dollars a head. James was born on his father's ranch three miles from Los Banos, on October 13, 1885, and was educated in the Monroe school in Badger Flat, Merced County, and he engaged in sheep growing on a mountain ranch, which he still owns. In 1922 he sold the sheep and took up the life insurance business.

James Negra married Lela Smith, a native of Merced County, and they have two children, James, Jr., and Jessie. Mr. Negra is a member of Merced Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W.

M. L. SILVA

A native son of California who is filling a position of honor and trust is M. L. Silva, cashier of the Los Banos branch of the Mercantile Trust Company of California, formerly the Portuguese-American Bank of San Francisco. He was born on September 16, 1881, in Alameda County, a son of Frank and Rita (Mendes) Silva, both natives of the Azores Islands. The father's early experience was on

a whaling vessel. He came to California in the early sixties, before the Central Pacific Railroad was built, and herded cows where now the residential part of San Francisco is situated. He was in Virginia City, Nevada, at the time of the great gold excitement and lived in the same boardinghouse with Mackie and Fair, who later became millionaires. The later years of his life were passed on his ranch in the Livermore Valley in Alameda County, where he ended his days.

M. L. Silva was educated in the public schools and business college. He began business for himself in Livermore, then for ten years was a deputy in the county tax collector's office in Oakland, after which time he entered the employ of the Bank of Italy and for five years was the assistant cashier of the Livermore branch. On November 1, 1922, he was appointed to his present position as cashier.

On September 4, 1908, Mr. Silva was united in marriage with Miss Anna Frances McCleud, born in Alameda County, a daughter of the pioneer, A. J. McCleud, and they have a son Andrew Francis. Mr. Silva is a member and Past President of Las Positas Parlor, No. 96, N. S. G. W.; belongs to the Woodmen of the World, both at Livermore; and to the Knights of Columbus of Merced. His many years of experience in the banking business have made of him an expert in his line and he holds a secure place in financial circles of Central California won solely on his merits.

MRS. LUCINDA RICE

Held in high esteem by all who know her, Mrs. Lucinda Rice is recognized as one of the guiding spirits for the betterment of conditions in Winton, Merced County. A native of Bracken County, Ky., she was married near Blue Lick Springs, Nicholas County, Ky., to Joseph William Rice, born in Robertson County, that state, on September 29, 1860. They moved to Morton County, Kansas, but finding it too dry there moved back to Kentucky and settled in Bourbon County, near Paris, remaining until 1906, when they located in Pueblo, Colo., where Mr. Rice farmed leased land. In 1911 they came to Winton, Cal., and bought land in Merced Colony No. 3, put in alfalfa and built a home in Winton, which is still known as the Rice home. Selling their first piece of land they invested in a peach orchard of thirteen and one-half acres south of town, which Mrs. Rice still owns. Mr. Rice died on October 9, 1923. They had five children: Margaret C., Mrs. C. J. Cassell, mentioned elsewhere in this history; Irvin Galbraith, the eldest, proprietor of a general store in Manzanola, Colo.; Iva Ray, married to Nathan Wheeler, a machinist near Pueblo, Colo.;

Bessie May, the wife of Franklin Poteet, a machinist in Pueblo; and Bernie E., who died at the age of fourteen.

Mrs. Rice was the first acting postmaster at Winton, preceding H. A. Logue, the first regularly appointed postmaster. By popular consent Mrs. Rice was allowed to distribute the mail, thus making her the first official. She is an active member of the Presbyterian Church at Winton, Mr. Rice serving as an elder from the date of the organization of the denomination in Winton, of which both Mr. and Mrs. Rice were factors. She was one of the organizers of the Woman's Improvement Club and has never relinquished her interest in its activities. She was also instrumental in the organization of the Winton Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau and the local Home Department, and took an active part in establishing the Parent-Teachers Association. Hers is truly a benign influence which is felt in all things for the betterment of the community in general.

ALVA O. HORTON

As postmaster and druggist of Le Grand, Merced County, Alva O. Horton is well-known in that section of the county, and is prominent in both business and social circles. A native of Ripley County, Ind., he was born March 17, 1881, and went to Oregon when only five years old, and lived near Portland during his childhood, there receiving his education in the public schools. He graduated in pharmacy from the Oregon Agricultural College, at Corvallis, Ore., in 1904, and clerked for D. P. Adamson in his drug store at Prineville, that state, later working as clerk in the Tabler Pharmacy, on North Sixth Street, Portland, for three years.

Deciding to enter business for himself, he bought the drug store at Philomath, Ore., and ran the establishment for five years. He then came to Merced County and first worked as clerk in the Cody Drug Store at Le Grand, and later in Cody's store in Merced, also in the Maze Drug Store there. In 1920, he bought the Cody store at Le Grand, and has since that time been proprietor of this establishment, running it as an up-to-date drug store and catering to the wants of his many patrons in Le Grand and surrounding territory. He was appointed postmaster of Le Grand by President Harding, in 1920, and combines that office with his business interests, carrying on his duties efficiently and to the satisfaction of his many friends in the community. He is secretary of the Le Grand Board of Trade, and has always been interested in civic advancement; while in Philomath, Ore., he was a member of the city council for two years.

The marriage of Mr. Horton, occurring at Atwater in 1918, united him with Belle Adams, a native of Los Angeles County, and a graduate of the University of California, Southern Branch. She has taught in Los Angeles County and in the district schools of Merced County, and now holds the position of principal of the Le Grand Grammar School. One daughter has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Horton, Betty Jean. Fraternally, Mr. Horton belongs to the Modern Woodmen, and the Redmen, having passed all the chairs in both.

CARL ROSE

A prosperous rancher of Irwin is Carl Rose, who resides on his well cultivated ranch of forty acres in the Hilmar Colony. The comfortable competence which he now enjoys proves what it is possible to accomplish here by a man who possesses patience, foresight, energy, and a calm and wise judgment. He bought his first twenty acres in 1905 and made the necessary improvements, including the sinking of his well and the building of his house, but it was several years before he was able to add another twenty acres. He follows mixed farming, including the raising of trees, vines, alfalfa, beans, etc.

The third of seven children, Carl Rose was born at Smaaland, Sweden, on July 6, 1876, a son of Carl and Helen Peterson, frugal and upright people who passed their time in agricultural pursuits. The father attained to the age of eighty-two and the mother passed away at the age of sixty-three. Growing up on his father's humble place, Carl was taught to work. There was a particular intimacy between him and his elder brother Ed.; and when the latter emigrated to America, Carl longed to follow him to seek the enlarged opportunities which his brother reported. Five years later, 1896, he also was able to bid good-bye to his home and sail for America, his destination being Lancaster County, Nebr., where his brother was, and for three years he worked out on farms; then he and his brother rented a farm for the next two years, after which they divided up and Carl went back to Sweden for a six months' visit, while Ed. came on to California and settled in the Hilmar Colony. Being pleased with conditions here he wrote Carl to come on and join him, which he did in 1905.

In 1916, Carl Rose was married to Miss Emma Loomis, a native of California and daughter of Rev. C. H. and Carrie (Strid) Loomis, the former for many years pastor of the Free Methodist Church at Santa Clara. Mr. and Mrs. Rose attend the Baptist Church in Turlock. In politics they are consistent Republicans.

While living in Nebraska he took an interest in American politics, and though a Republican he became an admirer of William Jennings Bryan, who was then a resident of Lancaster County. Though many years have passed he is still an admirer of the Great Commoner and happy in knowing that he has never compromised with grafters and crooked politicians.

C. A. MORD

A man who commands the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens in the Hilmar and Irwin sections of Merced County is C. A. Mord, blacksmith at Hilmar. A native of Sweden, he was born November 5, 1882, the son of August and Olivia Mord, natives of that country who came to America when our subject was a child of one year. They first settled at Oakland, Nebr., and seven years later moved to Warsaw, Knox County, that state, where the parents are still living. They had ten children in their family, C. A. being the fourth, and the eldest of five boys. He attended the common schools of Nebraska and was reared on the prairies. He learned how to farm successfully in that country and also learned the trade of the blacksmith in his father's shop, and later went to Warsaw, where he worked in a shop two years. In 1915 he came to California and went to work in the blacksmith shop of A. O. Johnson in Irwin as a journeyman. Six months later he entered the service of A. Hochlightner and remained with him two years. Then he decided to go into business for himself and he erected the first unit of his shop in Irwin, but later moved it to Hilmar and made an addition to it for the better conduct of his growing trade. In 1918 he built his residence in Hilmar.

Mr. Mord was united in marriage on April 2, 1913, with Agnes Wickstrom, a native of Indiana, and they have five children: Lucile, Weldon, Everett, Laverne and Naomi. Mr. and Mrs. Mord are members of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church at Hilmar and he served as treasurer of the organization during the erection of the new \$46,000 church in 1922. He studies carefully the political issues of the day and votes without fear or favor.

OLIVER FRANKLIN JOHNSTON

As an intelligent, energetic fruit grower, Oliver Franklin Johnston is typical of all that is best in an estimable ancestry. His father is a carpenter and builder and at the age of seventy-three is an active and

skillful workman, able to do a full day's work. They are of that sterling Scotch blood which predominates in Canada, from whence they came; hospitable and highly respected, they are of the class that are ever regarded as the bulwarks of society. O. F. Johnston is the owner of a fruit ranch of thirty-three and a third acres in Fruitland precinct, fourteen acres being in peaches and vines, and he resides at the ranch home of his parents in the same precinct. Mr. Johnston was born at Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, on May 26, 1892, the son of John Henry and Emma (Crawford) Johnston, the former born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and brought up in Upper Canada near Toronto. The mother was born in Quebec, her father of English and her mother of Scotch birth, and she attended the public school. After their marriage they moved to what was then the territory of Dakota in 1882, and homesteaded 160 acres near Lisbon, now in North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Johnston moved from Dakota to California about 1884 and settled in Dixon, for four years, where Mr. Johnston worked at his trade. Coming over to San Luis Obispo County he bought a farm in 1888, where their son Oliver Franklin was born. They had six children, as follows: William, a clerk in a store at Paso Robles, who married Alice Luckey and lives in Paso Robles; Elizabeth Grace, wife of Hubert Petersen, a rancher in the Par Colony; Anna Mabel, wife of Verne Donaldson, in the trucking and transfer business in Livingston; Oliver Franklin, our subject; Agnes Isabel, a trained nurse in San Francisco; and Flora, wife of Raymond Van den Heuvel of Merced.

Oliver Franklin Johnston grew up on his father's farm near Paso Robles until he was nine years old, and then came with his parents to San Francisco, and to the Fruitland Colony in 1910. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Woodmen of the World.

LOUIS DAHLSTROM

That "honesty is the best policy" is the maxim that governs the business life of Louis Dahlstrom, merchant at Irwin in the Hilmar Colony of Merced County. He believes in the "square deal" with everybody and in consequence he is prospering accordingly. A native of Sweden he was born on January 17, 1877, the son of H. L. and Carrie Dahlstrom, natives of Sweden who came to America with their family in 1889. Their eldest son, Peter Dahlstrom, had come the year before and the family located in Marshall County, Minn., where the father was a farmer on 160 acres of land. There were six children in the family, viz.: Mary, Mrs. Henry Lundell of Turlock;

Peter, who died in Minnesota in 1889; John, born November 24, 1874; Louis, our subject; Dan, born August 12, 1880, who erected the Dahlstrom block in Irwin in 1922; Gust, born in Sweden on May 31, 1884, now running a Union Oil station in Turlock. The mother, who was born in 1842, died in Turlock in 1922 aged eighty years; the father, already past eighty-four, is living retired in Turlock.

Louis Dahlstrom accompanied the family to the United States and attended the schools in Minnesota and then spent some time in Washington before he arrived in Turlock, he being the first member of the family to arrive here. In 1921 he started a grocery store on a small scale at Irwin, later being joined by his brother John; and they carried on the grocery business under the firm name of Dahlstrom Brothers until January 1, 1925, when Louis bought his brother's interest and continues the business as Louis Dahlstrom. He has built up a prosperous business and his trade gradually increases with the growth of the community.

In 1905 Louis Dahlstrom was married to Miss Annie Johnson, daughter of Mrs. Frank Johnson of the Hilmar Colony, and their children are: Ella Evangeline, Helen, Stanley, Chester, June, Pershing and Donald. Mr. Dahlstrom is one of the progressive men of the colony and does his duty as a citizen at all times.

ALBERT EDWARD SMITH

The town of Winton was named after the surveyor of Merced County, who was operating for a land and trust company. In 1918 a fourth class postoffice was started with Harry A. Logue as postmaster; it was made a third class postoffice on February 14, 1923. The second incumbent of the office was Mrs. Margaret Cassell, and the third, Albert Edward Smith. He was born in Grass Valley, Nevada County, Cal., July 12, 1879. His father, Zenor T. Smith, was born in Worcester, Ohio, came to California as a young man and taught school at Grass Valley. The mother, Caroline McClosky Smith, was born in Iowa and came to California with her brother. Being afflicted with asthma it was necessary for her to leave Grass Valley and they located at Atwater, Merced County, where her health was improved. The father taught in the Merced, Turlock, Snelling and Madera public schools, and passed away in 1904 at the age of sixty-six. The mother still lives at Gustine, Merced County. They had three children: Frank E., who is in the employ of the State Highway Commission and resides in Merced; Albert Edward, our subject; and Belle, the wife of Harry Foster, who lives in Gustine.

Albert Edward Smith was only a year old when his parents brought him to Merced, and his education was begun in the public schools of the county and completed by a course in Heald's Business College in San Francisco. He clerked in different stores and at length started a general merchandise store for himself in Winton.

On November 9, 1909, A. E. Smith was married to Martha Ann Logue, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs Harry A. Logue, of Winton, of whom a sketch is elsewhere given in this book. Two children were born of this union, Robert Arthur and Mabel Verna. The former has the distinction of being the first boy born in Merced Colony No. 2 at Winton, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are intelligent and personally attractive and have won the esteem of the community in which they live for their thoughtfulness and attention to the wants of the people of their community. Mrs. Smith makes an able and accommodating assistant postmaster. Mr. Smith is a member of the Moose and of the Modern Woodmen of America of Merced.

SAMUEL E. HARRIS

It has been said of the World War, that those who "talked about its horrors did not know, and those who knew about them did not talk." It is doubtless for that reason that no data have come to the sketch writer from the veteran Samuel E. Harris of his experience in the field of Argonne and elsewhere in France. He does not talk. It is only chronicled that he was an engineer in Co. A, 25th Regiment of the 1st Army Corps. All honor must be given him for responding to his country's call and for faithful service to the end. He is today serving his day and generation quite as efficiently as agent of the Ford products in Dos Palos. Born in New York City, July 14, 1891, he was reared and educated in Cincinnati, Ohio, up to 1910. From 1911 to 1913 he was in San Francisco. From there he went to Firebaugh, Fresno County, where he was a clerk in Miller and Lux's general store. He next engaged in business for himself until he enlisted in the United States Army. When he returned from the war he sold out his business in Firebaugh in 1919, and coming to Dos Palos he took over the agency of the Ford products and now sells the Ford and Lincoln cars and the Fordson tractors and all accessories.

Mr. Harris is vice-president of the Dos Palos Chamber of Commerce, and a member of Mountain Brow Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M., of Los Banos, and of the Dos Palos Post of the American Legion, No. 86. His family consists of his wife, Elsie E. (Cline) Harris, and one son, Samuel E., Jr.

ARTHUR O. WICKSTROM

A Swedish-American of sterling worth who is prominent in farm and church circles in the Hilmar Colony of Merced County, is Arthur O. Wickstrom, who is deeply interested in projects for the advancement of his adopted county and state. He lives on his thirty-five-acre ranch on August Avenue, one mile northwest of Hilmar. He was born at Earl Park, Ind., on November 30, 1879, the son of Oscar A. Wickstrom, who is mentioned elsewhere in this history. When Arthur was a child of two his parents moved to Iowa, and when he was four they removed to Dakota Territory, that part now embraced in South Dakota. It seemed that the elder Wickstrom was looking for a suitable location for a home, and in 1886 he went to Colorado and farmed near Holyoke, Phillips County. In 1898 they left for Knox County, Nebr., and it was in the public schools of these various places that our subject received his education. He was brought up to be a farmer and has devoted his entire life to that pursuit and is now a well-informed man on many branches of agriculture and horticulture. In 1911 Mr. Wickstrom left Nebraska for California, having decided to settle here, where his father had located in 1903. He has been successfully carrying on his ranch ever since.

In 1904 the marriage of Arthur O. Wickstrom and Ida Mord was celebrated in Nebraska. She is a sister of C. A. Mord, the blacksmith at Hilmar. This marriage has resulted in the birth of four children: Oliver, Olivia, Dorothy, and Alvin. Mr. Wickstrom is a member and a trustee of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church at Hilmar, contributing generously towards the fund for the fine \$46,000 edifice. He is a liberal Republican and considers the correct principles of government and the strict observance of the Eighteenth Amendment.

RALPH D. HOARD, D. O.

One of the rising young professional men of Merced, where he is building up a fine practice, is Ralph D. Hoard, a native of Union County, South Dakota, born April 20, 1895. There he was reared and educated up to the age of eleven. He later was associated with his brother in a flour mill in Oregon, and came to California in 1909 with this relative, first locating in Pasadena, where they were engaged in the garage and automobile business.

After some time spent in these different lines, Mr. Hoard decided to follow a definite profession, and one in which he felt an especial interest. He entered the Los Angeles College of Osteopathic

Physicians and Surgeons, and after graduating in 1922, practiced in Los Angeles. Coming to Merced in October, 1923, he opened up offices here and has since been a part of the professional life of the city and county, building up a practice founded on the confidence and patronage of the people, who know him as a conscientious, able exponent of his profession, one who makes a study of each individual case, and uses the most modern methods to bring about a cure. His well-equipped offices are a testimonial to his success.

The marriage of Dr. Hoard, which occurred November 29, 1917, united him with Dorothy Crumley, a native of Canada. During the World War Dr. Hoard served in the medical corps attached to the 40th Division, went over seas with them, and was later transferred, spending altogether one year in France. He is a member of American Legion Post No. 83 at Merced.

WALTER T. PETERSON

Though still young in years Water T. Peterson has demonstrated his ability in mercantile lines and is proving that he possesses the qualities of success in any occupation in life. Coming from an excellent Swedish family, he is a man of unusual worth and promises to make a citizen of which any community may well be proud. On October 1, 1923, he bought the store from the Hedman-Johnson Hardware Company and has started the Peterson Cash Grocery, dealing in staple and fancy groceries and hardware.

Walter T. Peterson was born in Central City, Colo., on September 4, 1901, the son of John and Amanda (Lindahl) Peterson, who are living in the Hilmar Colony, where they own a fruit and dairy ranch of thirty acres. They are both natives of Sweden and were married in Colorado, where the father was a gold and silver miner for twenty years before coming to Hilmar in 1903. They have three children: Ethel, at home; Paul, who owns forty acres in the Hilmar Colony; and Walter T., who grew up in the Hilmar Colony and worked on his father's ranch during school vacations until he was ten years old, when he went to work for the Hedman-Johnson Hardware Company. After finishing the Elim Union Grammar School he had three years in the Hilmar Union High School. His brother Paul left for the war and he was called home to help on the farm. With the exception of that ten months he worked for the Hedman-Johnson Hardware Company until he bought out their store at Hilmar in 1923. He owns five acres which he has improved from bare land to a bearing vineyard. He is secretary of the Hilmar Community Chamber of Commerce and in politics is a Republican.

W. B. OLSON

The state of Iowa is sending many well-to-do and honored citizens to California, prominent among whom is W. B. Olson, who resides with his family in his comfortable and attractive home on his thirty-acre farm devoted to general and mixed farming near Irwin. He is a fine type of the Norwegian-American manhood, a large, well-built and muscular man, with a strong mind in a healthy body, full of good nature and streaks of humor that make you feel that he is a jolly good fellow.

Mr. Olson was born in Story County, Iowa, in 1869. He grew up there and was married to Miss Martha Sydnes, also a native of Iowa. They came to California in 1907 and bought the thirty-acre ranch one mile south of Irwin on the east side of Lander Avenue. His father, Brite Olson, settled in Iowa in 1855, being one of this county's earliest permanent settlers. He brought with him the intelligence and strength which characterized the hardy Norse pioneers of the Northwest.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson stand for education and progress and it is their aim to provide a good education for their four daughters. All are well known in educational circles. The eldest, Rebecca, is a graduate of the Fresno Teachers College and is a teacher in the high school at Kerman, in Fresno County. The second daughter, Elma, is a high school graduate and now the wife of Prof. Haberman, whose specialty is horticulture in the schools of Los Angeles. The third daughter, Winnie, is a graduate of the Fresno Teachers College and is a teacher in Hanford. The youngest daughter, Pearl, is a graduate of Fresno Teachers College and teaches at Atwater, Merced County.

WILLIAM P. MORRISON

The possibility of starting at the bottom on the road to success with only a team of horses and a plow, and eventually winning out, is exemplified in the career of William P. Morrison, who resides on the Merced River ranch near Snelling. He was born in Redlands, Cal., the youngest of four children in his parents' family. His father, F. P. Morrison, was born in San Rafael, Cal., and attended Yale College in the nineties, and upon returning to California he located at Redlands and engaged in citrus culture in partnership with his brother, W. P. Morrison, whom he eventually bought out. He was one of the founders and was president of the First National Bank of Redlands, and he served as city treasurer of Redlands for fifteen years. F. P. Morrison was married to Mabel Stillman of San Francisco. Her

father was the late John B. Stillman, who came to San Francisco via the Horn in 1846 and went on to Sacramento in 1849, where he later became prominent as the builder and owner of the Stillman Hospital. Later he moved to San Francisco, where the family is prominent and active today.

William P. Morrison attended a private school at Redlands and was a student in the Sheffield Preparatory School in 1914 at Andover, Mass. He entered Yale College, Class of 1917, but in 1916 transferred to the University of California, Agricultural Department, Class of 1918. His college days' work was interrupted when he enlisted, in June, 1917, in the University of California Ambulance Corps No. 2 for service in the World War. He trained at Allentown, Pa., and was transferred in January, 1918, to the Officers Training School; he received a commission as second lieutenant of the 152nd Depot Brigade and served until the Armistice, and received an honorable discharge on December 30, 1918 at Camp Kearny. He returned to his father's home in Redlands and was unsettled until the fall of 1919, when he took up the responsibility of operating his father's ranch, on the south side of the Merced River, one and a half miles above Snelling. This property, consisting of 640 acres, and known as the Old Blunt Ranch, has been in the family for the past thirty-five years and has been leased to tenants. Here Mr. Morrison raises hogs on the uplands, and hay, grain and figs on the rich soil of the bottom lands; walnuts are also being set out.

ELMER B. WOOD

As the present manager of the Atwater Fruit Exchange, a branch of the California Fruit Exchange, Elmer B. Wood is making good in the responsible position he holds. The Exchange is a non-profit, cooperative association and the Atwater branch started in 1918 with thirty-two members, the first season shipping seventy-six cars of fruit. At the present writing, 1925, there is a membership of some 250, and the season of 1923 shipped 333 cars to various sections of the country. The various plants of the original local company employ as high as 200 people during the heaviest part of the season, at which time the pay roll amounts to \$8,000 per week. Not a little of the gradual growth of the local Exchange is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Wood, who devotes his entire time to the business.

The eldest of three children, Elmer B. Wood was born on a farm in Indiana, not far from the city of Chicago, a son of the late John R. Wood. His mother, Lela (Diehl) Wood, still makes her home

in Indiana. Elmer was reared on the home farm and attended the public schools, coming to California in 1913, to make his home with his grandfather, W. D. Wood, in the San Marino citrus belt, where he learned about all there was to know of the industry in all its branches. He continued his study at the Davis Agricultural College, Davis, Cal., in 1917. But his work was interrupted by his enlistment in the army, where he became a second lieutenant in Headquarters Co., Ninety-first Division, serving until honorably discharged at Camp Sherman, Ohio, in June, 1919.

Mr. Wood was united in marriage in November, 1919, with Miss Dorothy Hertges, born in the State of Washington. After his discharge from the United States service he returned to California and was engaged in farming and agricultural development until he was made the successor of W. H. Spann, as manager of the Atwater Fruit Exchange, the position he now holds. Mr. Wood owns a twenty-acre ranch one-half mile north of Atwater, which is set to peaches and grapes. Fraternally, he is a member of Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., and the Merced Pyramid of Sciots, both of Merced. He is an upright and conscientious man, and has a host of friends in the county.

AMBROSE E. DANERI

Endowed with sound executive and business ability, Ambrose E. Daneri, postmaster of Merced, Cal., is recognized as a worthy representative of the intelligent and substantial citizens of his locality, and is held in high esteem throughout the section in which he resides. A son of John and Angella Daneri, he was born March 24, 1880, in Coulterville, Cal., where he remained until he was a young man. The father, John Daneri, was an early settler in Mariposa County, coming there in the late fifties, he engaged in farming on a large scale and served as road overseer. He passed away on the home farm in 1899, aged fifty-nine years; the mother still makes her home there and is seventy-eight years of age.

Ambrose E. Daneri completed the grammar school course in his native county, and then entered the Stockton Business College, from which he was graduated in 1900. After his graduation he became bookkeeper for Hale Brothers in San Francisco, remaining with this firm for two years, when he entered the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company and was sent to Richmond, Cal., where he served in the commissary department for fourteen months. He then returned to Mariposa County and took the management of the famous Horse Shoe Bend Ranch in that county owned by Francis B. Loomis, assis-

tant Secretary of State in Washington, D. C., and Richard H. Rogers of Springfield, Ohio, and successfully managed the ranch for one year, when he went home and ran the home ranch for the following three years. On March 15, 1909, Mr. Daneri removed to Merced and entered the postal service under Charles Harris; from 1916 to 1918 he served as assistant postmaster and in 1919 he received his appointment as postmaster, a position he has capably filled ever since. Mr. Daneri received the further distinction of being made county director of Merced County of the Government Savings under the U. S. Treasury Department, and during the World War was very active in this department. Always taking an active and helpful interest in public affairs, he lends his aid toward the advancement of all movements calculated to enhance the general welfare.

On April 8, 1903, Mr. Daneri married Miss Cora Belle Hamilton, of Wellington, Ill., who became the mother of two children, Amo and Hamilton. Mrs. Daneri died in 1915. Mr. Daneri is a member and a Past Grand of Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F.; Past Chief Patriarch of San Joaquin Encampment No. 46, I. O. O. F.; also a member of Fresno Canton, I. O. O. F.; President (March, 1925) of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., and First Vice-President of the Lions' Club of Merced.

JAMES H. SLAVAN

The life of the manager of the Atwater branch of the Merced Lumber Company has much in it that is worthy of honorable mention. The only son and eldest of three children, James H. Slavan, was born in Winnemucca, Nev., November 2, 1892, a son of James P. and Lorena (Hastings) Slavan, born in New York and Wisconsin, respectively. James P. came west with his father from New York. The latter engaged in the cattle business in Nevada and died there. James P. later came on to San Francisco and took up railroad work and was agent on the Southern Pacific. He afterwards engaged in the wholesale grocery trade and died in 1916. Mrs. Slavan's father, Al. Hastings, was roadmaster on the Southern Pacific in Carson City, Nev. His principal work, however, was in the construction work of the Alameda Pier.

James H. Slavan was reared in Oakland and was graduated from the John C. Fremont High School in 1911. In 1913 he shipped as a sailor before the mast and served four years, receiving his certificate as pilot in May, 1917. In the meantime he worked as assistant cashier for the Santa Fe in Oakland, then went on the road as clerk to Roadmaster John Clendening. Later he enlisted in the U. S. Navy as

warrant boatswain and was appointed recruiting officer. He is Past Supervisor in the West Coast Naval Reserve under Captain Castle of San Francisco. He received a commission on the U. S. S. Invincible under Captain George H. Zeh, in November, 1918, and made many trips to France. He received an honorable discharge in San Francisco in 1921. He is secretary of the Board of Trade of Atwater and of the Boosters Club; is a Republican in politics and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of Merced Lodge No. 1240. B. P. O. E.

ERNEST PAGNINI

Although a resident of Merced for comparatively a brief time, Ernest Pagnini has won a recognition as a citizen of worth and his business, located at 524 L Street, has been conducted with fair success. He came to Merced in 1920 and was associated with Mr. Bozeman in the bicycle business. One year later he became the sole owner of the establishment; he deals in all makes of bicycles and motorcycles, and is equipped to do all kinds of repairing. A native of Italy, he was born on February 6, 1894, a son of P. and Mary Pagnini, both natives of the same country. The father brought his family to California in 1896 and settled in Merced County, where he engaged in raising raisin grapes. Both parents are now residing at Santa Cruz, retired from active business life.

Ernest Pagnini attended the public school in Merced and grew up on his father's farm. He remained with his parents until 1919, when he established a bicycle business at Madera, which he sold one year later and removed to Merced. Since 1911 Mr. Pagnini has been a professional motorcycle racer.

JOSEPH CARDOZA

The Azores Islands have sent many of their inhabitants to America, and they have usually done so well and have sent back such glowing reports of their success that it was natural that as Joseph Cardoza was drawing towards manhood he should be fired with the ambition to seek that El Dorado where so many of his countrymen had gone. He was born December 27, 1888, in Terceira. His mother, Jane Lawrence Cardoza, had died at the age of twenty-five. His father, Antone, is still living at the age of sixty-eight. There were only his brother Manuel and sister Mary, so the ties to keep him at

home were not strong and the year 1907 found him in Boston, Mass., and not long thereafter near Sacramento, Cal., where he found employment on a dairy farm at Freeport, on the Sacramento River. A year later he was in Los Banos, still working in the dairy business. Then he went into the business for himself, leased land and carried on five strings of cows. After eight years in company with his brother he was able to buy a ranch of 225 acres from M. M. Wood in 1918, and here he had 130 cows. Then he and his brother and a third partner, F. S. Pacheo, bought a second ranch of 140 acres near Los Banos, and ran a dairy on this place. He and his brother now own 295 acres. In the spring of 1922 he and his brother started into the dairy business again and they now have about seventy-five cows on the 225-acre ranch bought of Mr. Wood.

On June 6, 1922, Mr. Cardoza was married at San Francisco to Mary Augustino, born in Bedford, Mass., and daughter of Joseph and Margaret Augustino, natives of Flores of the Azores.

Mr. Cardoza is a director of the Los Banos branch of the Mercantile Trust Company of California and stock inspector for it. He is not identified with any political party, but votes for the man he thinks is best fitted for the office. Fraternally, he is a member of the U. P. E. C. and an ex-vice-president of the I. D. E. S. and belongs to the Eagles. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

ANTONE FURTADO

An example of the rewards in store for young men of ability and industry who are fortunate enough to have been born in Merced County, the descendants of worthy parents who came here and took advantage of the opportunities at hand, may be found in Antone Furtado, born October 4, 1900, at El Nido, Merced County, the seventh of eight children born to the late John F. and Margaret (Silva) Furtado, both natives of the Azores Islands, and now deceased. He was reared on the home ranch, attending the Russell district school, and during his spare time, when not busy at his books and school tasks, he took an active part in the ranch work, and when old enough, took part in grain raising on an extensive scale with his older brothers and his parents, in the El Nido district.

Tony Furtado, as he is familiarly known, has shown his business acumen by careful handling of business long before he reached his majority, and since then he has made some splendid investments and has become one of the richest of Merced County's young men. His home ranch, in Franklin District, where he located in 1920, consists

of twenty acres devoted to alfalfa and dairy, and he owns a part of the estate of his father, the late J. F. Furtado.

The marriage of Mr. Furtado, which occurred in Merced, Sept. 6, 1920, united him with Bessie A. King, born in Le Grand, on June 8, 1902, the daughter of Joseph and Marie King, venerable pioneers of Merced County, born in the Azores, and now deceased. Two children have come to bless their marriage: Carmel M., born on April 29, 1922, and A. Merlin, born on January 24, 1925. After the death of Mrs. King, in 1915, Mrs. Furtado inherited the home property on 21st Street. The father died August 5, 1912. Mr. Furtado belong to the I. D. E. S. society, and the Knights of Columbus, and he is very sincerely interested in the advancement and further development of the resources of his home county. He knows its possibilities, and has faith in the prosperous future in store for this section.

J. J. GONZALES

A building contractor of Atwater who has always had his share of the building business of that fast-growing settlement is J. J. Gonzales, a native son, born in Bear Valley, Mariposa County, on May 1, 1873, the oldest child of Manuel and Mary (Silva) Gonzales. Manuel Gonzales was born on the Island of Pico in the Azores, and in the early sixties landed in San Francisco and soon afterwards located in Mariposa County. At the age of thirty he married Mary Silva, who is still living at the age of seventy-four years and resides at Atwater. Manuel died there in 1923.

J. J. Gonzales attended the public schools of Mariposa County and as he grew up he followed mining in the creek channels in that county. The results were far from satisfactory to the ambitious lad and he started in to learn the carpenter's trade and learned it from the bottom up. He came to Atwater in 1906 and for some time his attention was divided between ranching and carpentering as he secured jobs here and there. In 1913 he gave up ranching to devote his time to contracting and building and has since been thus engaged, doing his share of the home building in Atwater and the surrounding country.

Mr. Gonzales was married in 1905 to Anne DeNeves, born in Bear Valley, Mariposa County, the daughter of the late Mathew DeNeves, who died in April, 1925 at the age of seventy-seven. His widow, Mary DeNeves, is still living. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales four children have been born: William, Elmer, Franklin and Thelma, all born in Merced County.

WILLIAM C. COTTON, M. D.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 4, 1882, W. C. Cotton was the fourth in a family of eight children born to Charles F. and Mary F. (Edgar) Cotton. Charles F. Cotton was born at Fort Smith, Texas, in 1849, became a journalist and publisher and after forty years of active life retired to San Antonio. Mrs. Cotton was born in San Antonio. Her father was a member of General Miles' Scout troops, and a captain in the regulars in the Mexican War with General Taylor. He served for fifteen years as Vice Consul of Mexico City. He lived to be eighty-two years of age. The grandparents on both sides of the family helped make history in the early days when Texas was a territory.

William C. Cotton was educated in the public schools in San Antonio, graduating from the high school. He began life's work as a copy boy in the office of the Daily Express of San Antonio, receiving three dollars per week as a wage. Becoming dissatisfied with the outlook he went to Chicago in 1900 and entered the employ of W. R. Hearst, left copy work to take up the mechanical end of the newspaper and rose to be color man at sixty-five dollars per week and was thus engaged for four years, continuing newspaper work until 1911. He had entered Valparaiso University in Chicago in 1907, and upon receiving his M. D. degree in 1911, became an intern in Bellevue Hospital and two years later went to Bloomington, Ill., and became associated in office work with Dr. Benson.

In 1917 Dr. Cotton enlisted for service in the World War, was First Lieutenant of Benjamin Harrison Medical Casuals A. E. F. three months later, serving until 1919. He was Chief of Staff at Winchester, England, in charge of 200 men and thirty-five nurses and seventeen doctors. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Riley, Kans., in March, 1919. After the war he came to Atwater, Cal. and engaged in the practice of his profession and since then has built up a lucrative practice and has made a large circle of friends.

In Chicago, in 1902, Dr. Cotton was united in marriage with Marie Steele, daughter of the late Carl S. Steele and Marie O. Steele, now a resident of Los Angeles. Mrs. Cotton was born in Ohio. They have two children: Opal, an advanced student and Russian Ballet dancer in Los Angeles; and William Edgar, attending the public schools in Merced County. Dr. Cotton is a Republican in politics. Fraternally he is a member of Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M. and the Sciots, both in Merced; Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E. and a charter member of the Atwater Camp, Woodmen of the World; and he is a member of the Atwater Booster Club. He is a member of the Atwater Fruit Exchange and the California Peach and Fig Asso-

ciation. He owns 100 acres of highly developed orchard and vineyard in Merced County, and is a one-fifth owner in Mercy Hospital in Merced. He was president of the Merced County Medical Society in 1923, and health officer of the county in 1922, 1923 and 1924.

While in Chicago Dr. Cotton was one of the founders of the Federated Newspaper Trades of that city and served as secretary in 1911-1912. He was prominent in politics while in Chicago and opened the Victor Berger campaign at Milwaukee, Wis. He is a personal friend of Eugene Debs and was formerly an active member of the Socialist party. He is a profound thinker, brilliant debater and ready writer and scholar. He has been the champion of the under dog, so to speak, wherever he finds he can do some good. Take it all in all he has been and is a very useful member of society.

FREDRICK W. HANSEN

Of all the immigrants who come to our shores there are none who make a better class of citizens than the Danes. Loyal Americans, frugal, honest, temperate and industrious, they soon rise to positions of honor and respect. Typical of that class in every respect, is Fredrick Hansen, section foreman of the Santa Fe Railroad at Merced. A native of Denmark, he was born August 2, 1862, a son of Christian and Mary Ann Hansen. His father was a miller and with his brother conducted a grist mill until his death. He was injured in a runaway of his team, from the effects of which he never fully recovered.

Fredrick Hansen was educated in the grammar schools of his native country and grew up at home until he was sixteen years of age, when he joined the army. After four years of service, at the age of twenty, the lure of adventure and the desire to make his fortune induced him to emigrate and he eventually arrived in Wisconsin, where he got employment on a farm at twelve dollars a month. Characteristic of his frugal countrymen, he soon accumulated enough surplus funds from even such small wages to enable him to begin farming on his own account, which he did at Iowa Falls, Iowa. That it was not entirely to his satisfaction is evidenced by the fact that in 1900 he turned his steps still further westward and he arrived in Livermore, Cal., that fall. For four years he worked on a ranch, and at the same time had charge of a section of the Southern Pacific Railroad. His next move was to Stockton, where he worked for the Santa Fe until he came to Merced in 1909, since when he has been section foreman on the railway up to the present.

It was in Iowa Falls that Fredrick W. Hansen was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Marie Larsen, a native of Denmark, but reared in the United States. The children of the union are as follows: Louis, who is a partner in a drug store in Stockton; Dorothy, wife of Frank Blair of Stockton, and mother of a son; Edward, also in Stockton; Mabel, wife of John Fragie, of Merced, and mother of a son and daughter; Agnes, Mrs. Herbert Dean, of Oakland; and Roy, who served in France in the World War, was wounded and came back physically unfit from shell shock. Mr. Hansen is a Democrat in politics. He is deeply interested in Merced City and County and is a public-spirited and highly respected citizen.

ALBERT WALKER CHINN

The name of Albert Walker Chinn has become well known to the citizens of Merced County and is synonymous with thrift, honesty and integrity. After coming to Merced in 1918 he acted in the capacity of representative of the California Nursery Company until entering the employ of the California Peach and Fig Growers Association. He was born in Lincoln, Nebr., April 2, 1883, his parents being Edward F. and Ida (Walker) Chinn. The father is now deceased and the mother makes her home with our subject in Merced.

Albert Walker Chinn attended district school adjacent to Lincoln and then completed the high school course in Lincoln. After finishing school he worked in a meat packing establishment for ten years, and also engaged in ranching in Nebraska prior to coming to California in 1912. Arriving in California he ranched for six years, then when he came to Merced in 1918, he became the representative of the California Nursery Company. During the World War, Mr. Chinn served in the U. S. Army with credit to himself and his country. When casting his vote he considers man above party; fraternally he is affiliated with the Moose Lodge, and he belongs to the Chamber of Commerce of Merced.

WILLIAM D. CARLIN

A fair type of the rising young men of California, whose success thus far is promising of a bright future, is William D. Carlin. The youngest of four sons and the fourth in order of birth of five children, he was born in Eureka, Cal., on May 4, 1895. His father, also W. D. Carlin, a native of Michigan, married Barbara Fleckenstein, a

native of Iowa. He came to California at the age of eighteen and followed agriculture quite successfully. He was well-known among the dairy and creamery men. He died in Eureka in 1900; the mother died the same year.

The son, W. D. Carlin, went to the school in Eureka, and further prepared himself by a course in electrical engineering in the International Correspondence School. He was brought up on a ranch and later drifted into the employ of the Sacramento Valley Sugar Company and was the staff engineer for two years at Hamilton City. He next took up field and contract work with the California Fruit Canners Association in their Stockton office covering territory as far south as Turlock. Drawn away by the Oatman gold boom, for five months he was occupied in Kingman, Ariz. Returning to California, Mr. Carlin worked for the Western Auto Stage Company in Merced. From that he entered the employ of W. C. Dallas, working gradually into ranch and general machinist business with the Dallas Ranches, Inc. He owns desirable real estate in Antelope Valley, Long Beach, and Eureka, Cal. He came to Atwater in 1919 and has unbounded faith in its future.

W. D. Carlin was married on August 10, 1916, to Miss Elizabeth Sale, a native of Kentucky. She was reared in Kentucky and Colorado and studied pipe organ under Elizabeth Graham. Although she has practiced little of late, she is always interested in that line of art. They have one son, William D., Jr., born September 2, 1919.

N. GENEVIEVE CHIPMAN, M. D.

Numbered among the successful members of the Medical profession is N. Genevieve Chipman, M.D., of Livingston. Dr. Chipman is held in high esteem for the ability she has evinced in her profession, the earnestness and thought she gives to her work, and the spirit in which she ministers to the needs of suffering humanity. Her birth occurred at Savanna, Ill., and she was graduated from the high school at that place, after which she entered the Lewis Institute at Chicago, Ill., where she began her preparation for the practice of medicine. Completing her course there she entered the Chicago College of Medicine and was graduated with the class of 1915. She began practice in Chicago and continued until 1917. When the call came for doctors and nurses for government service she went into the United States Public Health service and was assigned to Nitro, W. Va., near Charleston, where the munition plant of the government was located. Dr. Chipman was honorably discharged from the service on December

11, 1918, and returned to Chicago, where she resumed general practice. In November, 1919, she removed to California and settled at Turlock, where she became associated with the doctors Julien, continuing until November 1, 1923, when she took over the office and practice of Dr. Gilbert C. Saunders in Livingston. Dr. Chipman keeps abreast of the times and is an active member of the County Medical Society, the State Medical Society, the American Association and the National Woman's Medical Association.

HARRY E. DOYLE

Successful in his chosen work, Harry E. Doyle is entitled to a place among the substantial citizens of Merced County, to which location he came in 1917, when he assumed the agency for the Dodge Brothers motor cars. His fireproof building is located at 644 Seventeenth Street in Merced. A son of William S. and Adaline (Legg) Doyle, he was born in Ellenville, N. Y., on January 28, 1889. Both parents are still living in New York State.

Harry E. Doyle completed the grammar and high school courses; then took a course in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N. Y., and completed his education at Stanford University. In 1917 he removed to Merced to take over the agency for the Dodge Brothers motor cars, and during the time of his residence in this section his strongest interests and associations have been in the community which he selected for a home.

The marriage of Mr. Doyle united him with Miss Helen Jones, a native of Porterville, Cal. Fraternally, Mr. Doyle is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.

Mr. Doyle takes great pride in his growing business, but finds time during the heated season to spend a few weeks in the open, camping beside a mountain stream and indulging his fondness for fishing.

REVEREND MANUEL CORDEIRO

Active in the Roman Catholic Church circles in Merced County, whose interests he has zealously upheld for twenty years, is Rev. Manuel Cordeiro, pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Atwater; he also serves the church of the Immaculate Conception at Buhach. He was born in Fenaes da Luz, Azores Islands, on May 13, 1879, a son of Anthony and Mary da Encarnacao Mello. His father died when

Manuel was but two years old but the mother still makes her home in Fenaes da Luz. Father Cordeiro was educated in the schools of the Azores and attended Angra Seminary, where he took his work in the classics, theology and philosophy. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 23, 1905, and was called to the San Francisco diocese by Archbishop Riordan. He was assistant pastor at Centerville, Cal., for two years, then was called East and for over two years labored in St. Michael's and in Santo Christo churches, in Fall River; Our Lady of Lourdes, in Staunton; and St. John's, in New Bedford, all of the Fall River diocese in Massachusetts. Father Cordeiro then returned to California and for four years was assistant pastor at Santa Maria Parish. He was the first pastor of and served four years at Our Lady of Guadalupe, at Guadalupe, both in Santa Barbara County. During the late World War he served as chaplain at Balboa Park, San Diego, Cal., for eight months working among the Knights of Columbus. Then he was assistant pastor in Riverside and at the same time was chaplain at Marshfield Camp; also during this time he had charge of the Arlington Parish for seven months, during the illness of the priest in charge. After that he was appointed pastor at Elsinore, still retaining his position as chaplain. After these labors he was granted leave of absence and made a trip to his old home in the Azores Islands to visit his mother and remained there one year. Returning to California he was placed in charge of the school and church at Bakersfield; then his next appointment was pastor of Our Lady of Victory at Compton, Cal. In 1922 he came to Atwater as pastor of St. Anthony's, and the Immaculate Conception at Buhach. This includes the towns of Livingston, Winton, Delhi, Hilmar, Amsterdam and Cressey. Thus he ministers to all the Portuguese of this part of Merced County.

In this connection it will be well to give a little history of the Catholic Churches in this district. St. Anthony's Parish, as it is now known, was started as the Immaculate Conception Parish, Buhach, in the diocese of Monterey and Fresno. The parish is a memorial to Rt. Rev. Bishop Henry da Silva, who organized it in 1908, as he was passing through on a visit. The following year Rev. A. M. Souza was appointed pastor. He built the church and rectory at Buhach that same year, 1909. The first marriage solemnized in the church was on February 23, 1909, when Crespinus Stefani and Elizabeth Cordella were united. The first baptism was on February 14, 1909, Blanka Rossi, daughter of David and Blanche (Fleming) Rossi. Rev. Fr. Joseph Cunha succeeded Fr. Souza in 1911. The latter founded the church in Atwater and in 1913 the building was erected. In December, 1913, Rev. Henrique A. Ribeiro took charge, and remained until November 14, 1914, when Rev. Manuel C. Grillo

came to Atwater. He was succeeded by Father John Power in July, 1917; and in 1918 Rev. Abel Costa took charge and remained until 1922, when Father Cordeiro assumed the work of the parish. He changed the name to St. Anthony's. In 1922 the rectory was erected. The church is in a healthy condition and rapidly taking its place in the community.

In 1919 there was a movement started for a Catholic cemetery for St. Anthony's Church and the members of the church negotiated for five acres of land at Winton for that purpose. On February 3, 1920, the first burial was made when Maria Mattos was laid to rest. The cemetery is not yet officially recorded as a Catholic cemetery, although all of the conditions for which the property was purchased have been fulfilled. The committee in charge (in March, 1925) have not yet deeded the property to St. Anthony's parish.

Father Cordeiro is a Republican in politics and fraternally is identified with the Knights of Columbus, Third Degree of the San Diego Council. He is accorded a high place as a citizen for his efforts to coordinate his charge and in giving his best efforts and most unselfish endeavors to advance the general welfare of the locality where he resides.

JOSEPH V. ALVES

One of the enterprising business men of Atwater, and manager of the Martha Washington Stores Inc., on Broadway, is Joseph V. Alves. He is one of the many men who have come from foreign countries and, beginning at the bottom of the ladder, have taken advantage of the abundant opportunities which this country offers and have climbed to wealth and affluence. The only son and the youngest of two children he was born in Flores of the Azores Islands on December 25, 1882, a son of Antone R. and Mary (Alves) Vieira, farmers in the Azores. Mrs. Keaton of Fergus station is his sister. He received his education in the common schools of his native land and was reared on the small farm of his father. At the early age of fifteen he left the parental roof, in 1897, on a two-masted schooner to seek his fortune beyond the sea, and after a voyage of forty-one days landed in New London, and soon after came direct to California. He got work on ranches near Fresno at fifteen dollars a month. Later on the Bloss ranch near Atwater he earned thirty dollars a month. After being in California about a year he found it difficult to get mail addressed to him because there were so many here by the name of Vieira. So he had his name changed, taking the maiden name of his mother. In 1916 he left the ranch to go into business as part owner

of the Broadway Cash Store, which was succeeded in January, 1921, by the Martha Washington Store, and which carries a fine stock and is doing a good business. He owns the store building and also residence and rental property in Atwater. He was naturalized in Merced in 1905, and as a Republican has fulfilled the duty of a loyal American citizen. He has been secretary of the U. P. E. C. for four years and he belongs to the Buhach Council No. 32, I. D. E. S. He was married in Merced to Mary C. Vincent, a native of Oakland and daughter of Fred Vincent of Atwater. They have two sons, Charles V., who is married and has a daughter; and Arthur. Mr. Alves is highly respected for his integrity and strict attendance to his own affairs. He has been an eye-witness of the growth of Atwater from a population of less than 100 to over 1000 at the present time.

ALAN B. MARTIN

As superintendent of the J. G. Ruddle orchards and vineyards, Alan B. Martin is demonstrating his knowledge of horticulture and viticulture, gained through experience and first-hand information. He is a native son of Merced County, born on December 10, 1892, in the city of Merced, a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Martin, of that city, natives of New York State, and Snelling, Merced County, respectively. His father and his grandfather Boss were well known civil engineers in California. Alan B. attended the Merced Grammar and High Schools, and after two and one-half years in the latter, left school to enter the employ of the old C. M. F. Store, remaining with them three years.

In August, 1918, he went into the U. S. Army, in the 12th Infantry, and trained at Camp Fremont, was transferred to Camp Mills, and received his honorable discharge at the Presidio, San Francisco, March 21, 1919. He had worked with his father on railway survey work, and he did surveying and engineering work with the troops while in the army. On leaving camp and returning to civilian life, Mr. Martin engaged in the ranching business, and in 1920-1921 he farmed in the Amsterdam district, on what is known as the Boreland ranch, also having charge of a twenty-acre peach orchard at Buhach, belonging to his father. In the meantime he resided on the Merced River, and when the fruit development work on the Ruddle farm was started, in 1921, he was the man who did the first planting, setting out forty acres to vineyard, and he has since that time remained in charge of the work. The Ruddle ranch now being in a high state of cultivation and development, the property devoted

to horticulture and viticulture embraces 1290 acres, of which 650 acres are in Thompson seedless grapes, from one to three years old, and 640 acres set to peaches and apricots.

An extensive nursery was built up to root the vines, and until 1923 was kept up; it consisted at one time of 1,340,000 vine cuttings, and to get a better idea of the magnitude of the plantings, the work was done on so extensive a scale that if the plantings had been strung out in single file, they would have reached from the Merced River to Stockton, seventy miles as the crow flies. The value of this show place of fruit cultivation to the future development of Merced County is inestimable, for the Ruddles are giving a concrete example of what can be done here in horticulture on a large scale, and are spreading the fame of the fertility of Merced soil to the far corners of the earth.

JOE A. RODGERS

A man who is rapidly advancing to a competency by his keen perception and the improvement of opportunities, Joe A. Rodgers deserves the credit of all who have witnessed his progress. The third of eight children, he was born near Sonora, Tuolumne County, on July 31, 1891. His parents, Antone A. and Anna (Jacobs) Rodgers, were both natives of Flores, in the Azores; the father came to America a poor boy and worked in the mines of Tuolumne County, saved his wages and bought land and stock and accumulated considerable wealth before he died in Merced on August 3, 1920. The mother still lives at Atwater, where they settled in 1892.

Joe went to the Franklin school and grew up on the farm, taking up the dairy business and alfalfa growing at Buhach. Near Chowchilla he was also associated with his parents in ranching on an extensive scale until the death of his father. With his share of the property left by his father he engaged in fruit raising and did a thriving business with watermelons and sweet potatoes. In 1919 he succeeded F. Valadon in a retail meat business on Front Street, Atwater, beginning in a small way, and by putting every effort into the business, he has made rapid strides and built up an excellent trade. In October, 1923, he opened a first-class shop on Broadway in Atwater. He owns the lot and building, 150 ft. by 25 ft. with fixtures, modern and complete as any retail shop in the Valley. He is joint owner of 113 acres, and a dairy and forty-five head of dairy cattle. Mr. Rodgers has accumulated his holdings by a judicious use of the money left him by his father and by his own efforts.

Mr. Rodgers was married in Atwater to Mary Furtado, a native of El Nido, Merced County. Her parents have been farmers in Merced County since 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers have four children: Edna, Gilbert, Merle and Mary. The three oldest are pupils in the Atwater Grammar School.

He is a member of the Great Republic Life Insurance Co. since 1919. He is a Republican in politics and belongs to the Woodmen of the World and to the Atwater Pentacost Club Association, both in Atwater.

JOHN T. ALLEN

The name of John T. Allen is well known to the citizens of Merced County and is synonymous with prosperity, thrift, honesty and integrity. From 1891 to 1918 he engaged in farming on a sixty-eight-acre ranch under the Miller & Lux canal. This property he sold in 1918 and put the money into an apartment house in Gustine and since that time has made his home in town. In 1922 he purchased seventy acres eight miles southwest of town and is developing it to walnuts; he has installed a six-inch pump with a sixteen h. p. gas engine for power, thus insuring an abundance of water for irrigation.

A native of California, John T. Allen was born at Sacramento on July 9, 1868, a son of John and Alice (Carroll) Allen, natives of Iowa and Montreal, Canada, respectively, the latter of Scotch descent. His father came across the plains to California and the mother via the Panama route; and they were married in Sacramento. John Allen, the father, was a teamster, hauling supplies to Shingle Springs, Sonora, San Andreas and other mining towns in early days; later in life he engaged in stock-raising and farming, first in Contra Costa County, and then in San Joaquin County near Banta. In the fall of 1881 the family moved to Merced County and located about eighteen miles south of Hill's Ferry, where the father homesteaded a quarter section of land upon which he farmed the balance of his life, passing away at the age of eighty-two years; the mother passed away at her home in Oakland, Cal., aged eighty-one years. Five children were born of this union, namely: John T., our subject; James J., deceased; Alice, wife of Joseph Pfitzer; Barbara, married Antone Pfitzer; and Mrs. Ella Parker.

John T. Allen attended the Occidental Grammar School in Merced County and was with his parents until 1891, when he leased a farm on his own account. He soon purchased a half section of land in the Cottonwood district and with his brother James J. as partner, engaged in farming; after the dissolution of the partnership, Mr.

Allen purchased thirty acres under the Miller & Lux canal, subsequently thirty-eight acres were added and farming was carried on with good results. In 1918 he sold out and moved to the city of Gustine, where he built an eight-apartment building.

At Oakland, Cal., October 21, 1896, Mr. Allen was married to Miss Clara Belle De Mont, born at San Leandro, Cal., daughter of George and Caroline (Potter) De Mont, both natives of Michigan; her father is of French descent and accompanied his parents to California during the gold rush of 1860; the mother came to California when five years old and the parents were married in Oakland. In 1881 the De Mont family removed to Dutch Corners, Stanislaus County, and there farmed a quarter section of land; here the father spent the balance of his life, retiring about eighteen years ago. He and his wife now make their home at San Leandro, aged seventy-four and seventy-two years, respectively. There were eight children in the De Mont family: Joseph; Mary and John, twins; Clara Belle, the wife of our subject; Carrie; Claudia; Vivian; and Byron, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are the parents of two daughters: Jeanette, Mrs. F. F. Latta, who has two daughters, Monna Star, and Nedra Marie; Elma, Mrs. T. S. Latta, who has two children, Verne Claire and John Thomas. Mr. Allen is a Democrat in politics and has served as trustee of the Gustine High School; with his wife he is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Gustine.

DON P. CROOKHAM

A business which was established at Atwater in 1918 and keeps up with the steady growth of the town, in fact keeps ahead of it by anticipating the wants of the people, is the Atwater Plumbing and Sheet Metal Works owned by Don P. Crookham. He employs two men in the conduct of his business and has unbounded faith in the future of the town as a good place for his business.

The eldest of four sons, Don P. was born in Phillipsburg, Kans., on April 28, 1884. The other boys are, Earl; Warren, who has been with our subject since he started his business; and Roe. Earl and Roe are also residents of California. The father, Perry J. Crookham, in his younger days was a school teacher, but for over forty years he has been a successful contractor and builder in Kansas and Missouri. During the World War he was engaged in building dry docks on the Atlantic Coast for the United States government. His wife was Olive King, born in Iowa; she died in April, 1904. Don P. was educated in the public schools and grew up to learn the trade of car-

penter with his father. At the age of eighteen he had charge of a crew of twenty men and was engaged in railroad work for six years. In 1908 he came West to Los Angeles and spent four years in the traffic department of the Los Angeles Electric railroad; then he was foreman for the Richard-Neustadt Construction Company, and was also employed by the Selig Polyscope Company, spending two years altogether with these concerns. In 1915 he was interested in a twenty-acre ranch at Winton and came north at that time. He was employed by the California State Highway Commission in the bridge building department in Mariposa County, only to leave them to engage in business for himself at Atwater.

Mr. Crookham was married in 1905 in Norton, Kans., to Miss Margaret Rodell, the eldest of three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rodell, now of British Colony, Merced County. She was reared in Kansas and was a school teacher in that State. They have seven children: Russell, in the Merced High School, class of 1925; Paul, in the class of 1926; Doris and Mildred, grammar school pupils; and Helen, Wayne and Norma Lee. Mr. Crookham is a charter member of the Atwater Camp, Woodmen of the World; also of the Atwater Pentacost Club Association, and of the Atwater Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Atwater volunteer fire department and is a supporter of all public movements to keep Atwater on the map.

GUST T. PAPPAS

As far as lies in the power of any one individual Gust T. Pappas illustrates in his life the dominant characteristic of the ancient and honorable race from which he sprung. "He who does the best his circumstances allow, does well, acts nobly; angels could no more." It is no small achievement for a foreigner, unacquainted with our language, to come here with limited means and in a few years establish the leading business in his line in a thriving city like Merced and win general respect and honor for his public spirit and interest in every movement that promises to make for the progress and welfare of the community.

Gust T. Pappas, proprietor of the French Grocery Company, in Merced, is a native of Greece, born in May, 1888. His parents, Theodore and Asfacia Pappas, are still living in their native land. The father was in the grocery business but is at present retired. That the son should follow the business of his father might be expected, but it was not until after he had encountered varied experience in various places. His early education was acquired in the public

schools, after which he was employed in a drug store in Constantinople. As a foreigner, under the Turkish law, he was not permitted to extend his business outside of chemicals. After five years he returned to Greece to go into the grocery business. The lure of the great West was drawing him as it has so many of his countrymen, and 1907 found him in the State of Washington, where he found occupation in various places until 1910, when he went to San Francisco and engaged in a grocery business under the name of The French Grocery Company, until 1919, when he came to Merced and established a branch of the San Francisco store in company with P. Krekos, whom he eventually bought out; he is now the sole owner. It is one of the finest stores of the kind in California.

Mr. Pappas married Miss Anna Etchegaray. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Lions Club. As a loyal American he is a Republican. He is devoted to his business and to the interests of Merced City and County.

BENNETT M. JOHNSTON

A young man who occupies a prominent position in society in Atwater, and who is highly esteemed for his enterprise and business integrity, is Bennett M. Johnston, the youngest child of W. H. and Clara Johnston, whose sketch is given in another place in this book. He was born in Berryessa Valley, Napa County, on May 17, 1898, and was educated in the common schools and in the Merced High School. He was reared on the ranch near Atwater. Soon after leaving the school room, in 1918, he engaged in the dray and transfer business and made a splendid success of it, developing the Atwater Transfer Co., and operating a fleet of five motor trucks and employing five men steadily. He dealt in hay, coal and wood, and his trucks made bi-weekly trips to Stockton with produce, returning with freight for local merchants. In January, 1925, Mr. Johnston sold his dray business to devote his time to the office of peace officer of Atwater, to which position he had been elected in 1922.

Bennett M. Johnston was married on January 17, 1923, to Miss Margaret Howard, daughter of Anne Howard, of Arbuckle. She was born in Winters, Yolo County, and was in charge of the Arbuckle public library. Mrs. Johnston is one of the charter members of the Atwater Women's Club. Mr. Johnston is owner of valuable realty holdings in Atwater. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E., both at Merced; and of the Atwater Booster Club.

HAROLD OSTERGARD

A by-product of the dairy ranch that is now being produced in large quantities is powdered milk, which is shipped all over the world and is used extensively in making cakes, ice cream and confections of many kinds. One of the largest plants in the world for producing powdered milk is that owned and operated by the Golden State Products Company at Los Banos, this being only one of their twenty plants in the country. The officers of the company are: C. E. Gray, president; B. T. Tognazzi, vice-president, both of San Francisco; and T. E. Day, of Oakland, general superintendent of plant operations. The Los Banos plant is a \$200,000 three-story reinforced concrete structure, equipped with the most modern machinery and operated by electric power, with three boilers, each of 150 horse power, to produce the steam necessary for sterilization, etc.; and there is one auxiliary turbine generator in case the electric power fails. The daily output of the factory is 12,000 pounds of powdered milk, and 1500 gallons of sweet cream. The plant never closes, but runs twenty-four hours a day. \$28,000 is paid annually for transporting the cream to its various destinations; the monthly payroll for employes is \$6000; and to the dairymen \$100,000 is paid out. This plant is conceded by experts to be the most complete and modern milk separating plant west of the Rocky Mountains.

The manager of the Los Banos plant is Harold Ostergard, a native of Denmark, where he was born in Jutland, August 21, 1875. He was reared in a dairy country and learned that business thoroughly, following that and merchandising in Copenhagen until 1905, when he came to California. He was first employed in the Danish Creamery in Fresno, and later worked in Portland, Ore., in the same line of work. He then became manager of the Colusa Butter Company; and still later of the Golden Creamery Company, in Siskiyou County. From this place he went to the Grizzly Bluff Creamery, in Humboldt County, as buttermaker. Being now thoroughly grounded in all branches of the business, Mr. Ostergard organized the Siskiyou Creamery Company, in Scott Valley, Siskiyou County, he being one of the owners and continuing there until selling out in 1918, to become the manager for the California Central Creameries, in Los Banos, operating a plant leased from the Miller and Lux interests. The business grew under the supervision of Mr. Ostergard; this company was taken over by the Golden State Products Company and the business grew until the company was handling 100,000 pounds of milk daily in a small separator plant erected in 1919. Chemical laboratory tests are made of all milk and cream products under the supervision of expert chemists. The personnel of the Los Banos

plant consists of the following: Harold Ostergard, manager; Carl Hultgren, field manager; H. J. Preddy, chief engineer; and W. H. Roberts, office manager.

Mr. Ostergard married Elizabeth M. Sacry, a native Californian, and they have a daughter, Iris. Mr. Ostergard belongs to Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M., of which he is a Past Master, and he is a member of the Eastern Star. He is a director of the Bank of Los Banos, which financial institution has been of untold assistance to the ranchers and business men of Los Banos and vicinity.

FRED K. GROVES

Among the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Merced, Fred K. Groves holds a position of prominence and influence. A man of superior talent and business ability, he has been a dominant power in advancing the agricultural interests of this section of Merced County, and by intelligent effort and wise thrift has come to independence. Mr. Groves first came to Merced County to look after the interests of his clients and found here such a promising outlook that he settled here permanently. A son of F. K. and Mary E. (Hull) Groves, he was born at Brookfield, Ohio, June 17, 1878. The mother was a granddaughter of Isaac Hull, commander of the Constitution, "Old Ironsides," in the War of 1812. The father, F. K. Groves, was engaged in the mercantile business in Ohio until 1886, when the family removed to western Kansas and there he engaged in the real estate business until 1901, when the family came to California. The father, who retired to Pasadena, Cal., passed on March 1, 1924, aged eighty-three years; the mother passed away in 1900.

Fred K. Groves attended the public schools in Kansas, then entered Knox College at Galesburg, Ill., from which he was graduated in 1901. Soon after finishing his college course the family came West to California and located at San Francisco, where Mr. Groves found employment with the Examiner, remaining with this newspaper only a short time; he then became connected with the International Commercial Agency and for seven years sold law books in the northwest. He resigned his position and removed to Los Angeles, and with his father engaged in the real estate business, specializing on farm lands. In the course of their business transactions they sold considerable land in Merced County to their clients, and also invested their own money in this section. In 1916, Mr. Groves removed to Merced to look after their property and was on one of their ranches at Snelling for a time. On account of having had mili-

tary training at Knox College and considerable work in athletics, he enlisted for service as athletic director during the World War and went overseas with the First Division; he drove a truck over 10,000 miles and his service extended over a period of about ten months. Returning to his home in Merced he again resumed his real estate business, which affords him a comfortable competence.

The marriage of Mr. Groves united him with Miss Sibyl Josephine Morrison, of Minnesota, and they are the parents of one son, Fred K., Jr. Mr. Groves was the first president of the local real estate board and is now a director of the State Real Estate Association. He is independent in his political views. Fraternally, he belongs to the Elks. He is a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Merced Rotary Club.

CONRAD JONGEWAARD

It is in youth that the life of a man is marked out, his future course decided upon and his choice as to good or evil made, and to the work of instructing and guiding the boys of Merced and vicinity, Conrad Jongewaard is devoting his time, energies and thoughts. As the conscientious and capable secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., Mr. Jongewaard is accomplishing an outstanding work among the boys and young men of the community. During October, 1919, State representatives of the Y. M. C. A. were in Merced and held a conference with several of the local citizens and outlined the advantages of having a Y. M. C. A. for the boys and young men of the city and environs. The men became so interested in the proposition that within a few days sufficient funds were subscribed to cover the budget for two years. After a board of directors had been chosen the next thing to do was to employ a secretary. Conrad Jongewaard, who had formerly been a Y. M. C. A. secretary in Chicago, and only recently had been discharged from the Navy, was making a visit in the State and he was secured as secretary, taking up his duties November 1, 1919. The Y. M. C. A. has found a definite place in the community to serve. It seeks to supplement and strengthen the home, the church, the school, and the municipality in their relations to the social, recreational, educational, moral and spiritual life. The Association has become a clearing house for community cooperative work.

There are certain activities which are carried on through which it seeks to accomplish its purpose for existence and to make the largest possible contribution to the welfare of the boys. The Y. M. C. A. is ever challenging the constructive forces of the community to a co-

operative attack on all that prevents the highest expression of community life. Mr. Jongewaard is peculiarly fitted for the responsible position he is so admirably filling; he is endowed with more than ordinary intelligence, gifted with sound judgment and a frank and genial disposition that appeals to boys and young men; all in all, Merced is to be congratulated on their choice of a Y. M. C. A. secretary.

Mr. Jongewaard was born in Sioux Center, Iowa, January 17, 1890, a son of R. C. and Jennie (Ver Ploeg) Jongewaard. The father, R. C. Jongewaard, was a stock-raiser and cattleman; he is now deceased, while the mother is still living.

Mr. Jongewaard completed the grammar and high school courses in his native State; then he entered Hope College in Holland, Mich., and after his graduation he entered the University of Chicago, and for two years trained as a Y. M. C. A. worker and previous to the outbreak of the World War was engaged in this work. On December 13, 1917, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and after seven months of service was promoted to ensign; he was discharged from the service on July 12, 1919, and the following November took up his work as secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Jongewaard united him with Miss Lydia De Mots, a native of Iowa; they were playmates in their childhood. Mrs. Jongewaard was killed in an automobile accident when her mother, two uncles and an aunt met their death. Mr. Jongewaard is a Republican in politics and belongs to the American Legion of Merced.

CHARLES RUFUS THOMPSON

Since 1920 Charles Rufus Thompson has been an active factor in the material development of Merced County. He first came to the county as superintendent of construction for the California Packing Corporation on their 4000-acre ranch at Tuttle; later he went into the general contracting business for himself. His father, Charles Thompson, was a native of Scotland and was married in Detroit, Mich., to Miss Annie Eliza Deering, a native of Massachusetts, and together they came to California in 1867 and settled in Tulare County, where their son, Charles Rufus, was born on August 13, 1874. The father engaged in farming all his life and passed away February 14, 1923; his wife preceded him in 1907.

Charles Rufus Thompson received his education in the grammar and high schools of Tulare County; he then assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty years old, when he learned the carpenter's trade. Later he moved to Exeter and was there in business for

eleven years, during which time he built many business blocks, homes and packing houses, being one of the pioneer contractors of the town. As above stated he located in Merced County in 1920, where he has since resided and now enjoys a lucrative business. He erected the John Muir grammar school building and many of the finer homes in Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Thompson united him with Miss Mabel Scoggins, one of California's native daughters; her father is a native son of California and is still living at the age of seventy years. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of three children: Pauline is now Mrs. Albert Hall, of Sacramento; Charles D. married Miss Cleo Parr and resides in Merced; and Evelyn Adell. Mr. Thompson is a Republican in politics and while residing in Tulare County served as justice of the peace. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of Merced.

WALTER A. MILLER

Numbered among the intelligent and respected citizens of Merced County is Walter A. Miller, a man of unlimited energy and perseverance, who, mainly by his untiring industry and wise management, has succeeded in building up a fine dairy business as the proprietor of the Sanitary Milk Company. He owns his own ranch, on which he has 170 milch cows, and employs fifteen men in handling the output; he makes delivery of his products by auto truck. Mr. Miller was born in Germany on November 2, 1883, a son of Walter and Josephine Miller, both natives of the same country. The family came to the United States in 1884, when our subject was only six months old; the father was in the dairy business in Pennsylvania; later the parents returned to their former home in Germany.

Walter A. Miller received his educational training from private teachers and at an early age assisted his father in the dairy business. When his parents returned to Germany he came to California and worked on a dairy in Fresno County; and later went into business for himself at Lindsay, Cal., and was thus engaged until 1918, when he came to Merced County and established his present dairy which has greatly prospered under his able direction.

The marriage of Mr. Miller united him with Miss Florinda Souza and they are the parents of one daughter, Dorothy. Fraternally, Mr. Miller is identified with the Eagles and Moose of Merced and politically he is a Republican.

GEORGE H. BLOUNT

As proprietor of the Stevinson Hotel and of the Stevinson-Turlock auto stage line, the latter operated under the regulations of the State Railroad Commission, George H. Blount of Stevinson, Merced County, is making his influence felt for the good of his adopted county and is reaping a benefit for himself as well. A native of Canada, he was born at Trenton, in the Province of Ontario, on July 10, 1875, a son of Josiah C. and Rebecca (Losie) Blount. The father died, in 1911, in the Stevinson Colony, aged seventy-three years, and the mother married again and is now the wife of Otto Heinze, of the Stevinson Colony. The Blount family went from the Province of Ontario to Saskatchewan, and from there came down to Wisconsin in 1891, where the father became a citizen of the United States.

George H. Blount is the fifth child in a family of nine, six of whom are still living, and he was educated in the public schools of Canada and Wisconsin, attending only one winter in the last-named State. He came with the family, upon their removal to California in 1893, and settled at Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County; later going to the Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County, thence to Lompoc, and from there to Mendocino County, where he remained for eight years. Then he accompanied the family to Contra Costa County, where he engaged with the Standard Oil Company as a pipe fitter. In 1908 he came to the Stevinson Colony and here he has been an active factor in helping to build up the locality. Besides operating the hotel and stage line, Mr. Blount also owns and runs the two school busses that carry the pupils to and from the Stevinson Colony to the Hilmar Union High School at Hilmar.

The marriage of George H. Blount with Miss Lelia Finley was celebrated in Lompoc on March 23, 1898. Her parents were the well-known pioneers A. W. and Elmira (Hastings) Finley, natives of Missouri. The father of A. W. Finley, Asa Wallace Finley, was a veteran of the Mexican War. A. W. Finley's father-in-law, David Campbell, started for California with a train of covered wagons from Missouri, in the spring of 1846; at first it was a part of the ill-fated Donner party, but was separated from that train at Omaha, where David Campbell became the captain and brought the train safely through to the coast, being guided over the mountains by Kit Carson. Upon arriving in California the Campbells settled at Fort San Jose in October, 1846. The father of Mrs. Blount, A. W. Finley, was only two years of age when his parents came with the Campbell train and he is now making his home with his daughter and her husband. He is hale and hearty at the age of eighty-one. The town of Campbell, in Santa Clara County, was named for Benjamin Campbell of

this branch of the Campbell family. Mrs. Blount was born in Hollister, San Benito County and attended the public schools there. Mr. and Mrs. Blount have had nine children: Herbert and Charles both died in infancy; Ethel, married Gavin Wilson of Richmond, Cal., an ex-navy man who served in the World War, and they have one child, Elizabeth Ann; Glenna Ana, a student in the Stockton Commercial College; Georgia Isabel, wife of George J. Holm, an ex-service man, who is employed by the Shell Oil Co. at Crow's Landing; Vyren Darrel, William Vernon, Ruth Elizabeth and George Lloyd, all pupils in the grammar school. Mrs. Blount is the local correspondent for the Merced Sun-Star and the Hilmar Enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Blount are members of the Christian Church at Stevinson. Politically they cast their votes for Democratic candidates, and Mr. Blount served on the County Central Committee in 1924. For the past eight years Mrs. Blount has served on the election board.

CURTIS HARVEY CASTLE, JR.

The name of Curtis Harvey Castle, Jr., is held in high regard in Merced County, not only as the son of one of the best known and most highly esteemed physicians and surgeons of Merced and a man who represented his district in the 55th Congress of the United States from 1896 to 1898, but also for his own public spirit and deep interest in the progress of both the city and county of Merced. His father, Curtis Harvey Castle, Sr., is mentioned at length on another page in this history.

Curtis Harvey Castle, Jr., was born at Point Arena, Mendocino County, Cal., in December, 1883, and he was educated in the public schools of the State, attending the high school in Merced for three years. After leaving school he put in two years in Death Valley in mining; then he went to Dinuba, Tulare County, and purchased land and improved a vineyard, remaining for three years. His next move was to Los Angeles and for a year he was in the employ of Barker Brothers, furniture dealers. He then worked for the Southern Pacific Railway at Bakersfield for a year, but returned to his ranch and remained for six years. His next business venture was in Merced, where he bought an interest in the Merced Drug Company, but sold out after four months. He then went to Old Mexico and bought a hundred acres of land and remained there for twelve months, but came back to his Dinuba ranch, where he remained until 1915, when he returned to Merced and engaged in the manufacture of ice cream and did a retail candy business, operating under the name of The

Castle for six years. In 1919 he started the Castle Ice Cream Company, now known as the Acme Ice Cream Company, though he still retains stock in the concern.

Mr. Castle was united in marriage in Tulare County, with Mabel Pearl Brewer, born at Traver, that county; and they have a daughter, Virginia. Fraternally, Mr. Castle belongs to the Knights of Pythias; and he is a member of the Lions Club of Merced. Politically, he is a Democrat. He is indulging in one of his hobbies, that of raising high grade pigeons, and at his home near the edge of Merced has some fine birds.

SOREN HUSMAN

Although without means or influential friends, Soren Husman possessed the cheerful optimism of youth, and, when he had completed the common schools in his native country, started out for himself at the age of sixteen. He was born in Jylland, Denmark, on February 19, 1881, the son of J. C. Husman, who was twice married. By the first wife there were three children: Anders, Katherine (deceased), and Helena. Of his second union, when he married Sina Sorensen, there were ten children, viz.: Maria, Soren, Kirstine, Clara, Alfred (deceased), Julia and Alfreda, twins (deceased), Katherina, Alfred and Bror.

Soren Husman could well be spared from home and after he had earned enough money for his passage to America, we find him in Staplehurst, Seward County, Neb., in 1903, where he was employed at farm labor for a year. In 1904, he came to Watsonville, Cal., worked for a year on a ranch, then went to the Hawaiian Islands and was employed in a dairy there about a year. In 1906, he returned to California and found work with A. P. Miller, in a dairy north of Newman, Stanislaus County. He then worked for others, but came down into Merced County in the Clay district. By 1908, he had saved enough money from his wages to make a payment on a tract of forty acres in the Romero school district under the canal and here he carried on a dairy until 1923, when he engaged in raising turkeys. He owns a hill ranch of 480 acres in the Crittenden tract, a part of the Barnes ranch, capable of pasturing 100 head of cattle. He came to live on his ranch in 1908, leveled and checked it for irrigation and erected his house and farm buildings.

On March 6, 1913, Mr. Husman was married to Astrid Ebbesen, born in Jylland, Denmark, the daughter of Hans and Anna Ebbesen. The father was a native of Kalvslund, Denmark, and was a teacher in the schools of Stendrup. He could trace the Ebbesen

family back 400 years and some members of the family were occupying the same farm on which he was born, always farming, Hans being the only exception. The mother was Anna Hansen, and was born in Jylland. Astrid was the eldest child, the others being Helga Dagmar, Ebbe, Thyra, Jens, Einar, Axel and Gudron. Mrs. Husman received a good education and taught school several years prior to coming to California, in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Husman have six children: James, Hans, Alfred, Selma, Elmer and Irwin. Mr. Husman is independent in politics, voting for the best men and measures regardless of party. He has been a trustee of the Romero school for several years and is a man always to be relied upon for advancing the best interests of his adopted country.

EDWARD BICKMORE

Among the successful and enterprising professional men of Merced County, is Edward Bickmore, who has won an enviable reputation throughout this section as an able lawyer. The son of a California pioneer, he was born near Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, Cal., on July 27, 1876. His father, Thomas Bickmore, when a mere lad helped to drive oxen across the plains to California in 1852. The family settled in the vicinity of Los Angeles, at El Monte. When a young man, Thomas Bickmore came north through the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley to Watsonville, where later he farmed and raised fruit. In 1854 Miss Martha Cullumber left her home in Texas for California, and in 1866 she was married to Thomas Bickmore at Watsonville, and the home was established there. Thomas Bickmore was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the Union Army; he is now deceased; the mother is still living, residing at Hollister.

The public schools of Santa Cruz County furnished the early education of Edward Bickmore; this was supplemented by the study of law in a private office. In April, 1908 he was admitted to practice law by the State bar and opened an office and engaged in the practice of his profession in Watsonville; then for four years he maintained an office in Los Banos; and during 1913 established a law office in Merced, where he has since been engaged in building up a lucrative practice.

The marriage of Mr. Bickmore united him with Miss Alice G. Bourges, a native daughter of Monterey County, and one son, Thomas E., has been born of this union. Fraternally, Mr. Bickmore is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Native Sons of the Golden West, and

the Woodmen of the World. In line with his profession he is a member of the State Bench and Bar Association. While C. H. McCray was in the United States service in 1918, Mr. Bickmore served as deputy district attorney. He takes a keen interest in his profession and is a booster for Merced County. While not active in public affairs, yet he is intensely interested in the growth and advancement of his section of California.

HAROLD BONE

The genealogy of the Bone family is traced back to England and in Southampton, Harold Bone was born on December 26, 1886, a son of Frederick and Olive (Summers) Bone, both natives of England. The father was a gardener by trade and came to California in 1889, settling in Merced County, where he followed his calling. When our subject was a lad of four years the family left England and joined the father in California. The father is now deceased, but the mother is still living.

Harold Bone received his education in the schools of Merced. While still in his teens he was apprenticed to learn the plumber's trade, which he later followed for ten years; then from 1915 to 1921 he was engaged in the fire insurance business, winning success by his characteristic perseverance and industry. In 1922 he was appointed to complete an unexpired term as justice of the peace, occasioned by the death of F. H. Farrar, of Township No. 2, in Merced; he gave such thorough satisfaction that at the election that fall he was elected unanimously to the position for a term of four years. His nature is genial and his intelligence broad, substantial and helpful, thereby becoming not only a popular official, but one who can be thoroughly relied upon in all matters pertaining to his office. Mr. Bone has never married. Fraternally, he is a member of the Elks and the Woodmen of the World.

HENRY F. BURKE

From early youth to the present day, Henry F. Burke, who has the agency of the Paige and Jewett cars at Merced, has always been interested in and operating some sort of instrument or appliance for locomotion. The son of Henry F. and Frances (Bittell) Burke, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio, February 11, 1881, and attended the local public school until he was thirteen years of age, when he became a jockey for two years. He then served an apprenticeship as a ma-

chinent for three years, after which he went into the bicycle business, all in Cleveland. As an amateur rider he won two prizes, riding to Geneva and return, but when he sold these prizes he was rated as a professional, which he practiced for three years in connection with the bicycle business. He won a number of century medals for riding 100 miles a day. In 1889 he was engaged in working on the first Winton car built. After that he was in the Buick and the Packard factories, and in the Kissel factory in Wisconsin two years. Through the succeeding years he worked in various States, North and South. For a year and a half he was in business in Louisiana, and then went to Texas. From there he came to California and in 1920 located in Merced. He worked on a salary for a time and then engaged in business for himself. He started in a modest way on October 20, 1921, and now employs five men in his present location at 345 Seventeenth Street, with the agency of the Paige and Jewett cars.

Mr. Burke was united in marriage with Miss Emma Nelson, of Louisiana, who shares with him the high regard of many friends. Mr. Burke is not tied to any party; he votes for the men and measures which seem to be for the best interest to the greatest number. He is a member of the Moose fraternity. He is fond of outdoor life and motoring, and made the record from Merced to Yosemite Valley on June 1, 1923, driving in a blinding storm, in three hours and twenty-six minutes. Highly respected and public-spirited, he has won a place in the foremost ranks of representative citizens.

JERRY J. JIRSA

The well known contracting painter and interior decorator of Merced, Jerry J. Jirsa, was born in Bohemia, now Czecho-Slovakia, on March 25, 1877. He came with his parents to the United States in 1880, and located in Chicago, where he was educated in the public schools. He then learned the trade of painter, and after completing his apprenticeship, took up the painting business in Chicago and followed it there for a time. He then went to Idaho Falls, Idaho, and engaged in his work there for ten years.

In March, 1920, Mr. Jirsa located in Merced, and for the past two years has been engaged in business for himself, and has met with the success which always comes to a man who knows his work thoroughly and is interested in the artistic as well as the commercial side of it. He has painted the new gymnasium at the high school, the auditorium, and the cafeteria at the manual arts school, as well as a number of residences and apartments, and he specializes in interior

decorating, paper work, etc. During the busy season he employs a number of men, but does all the planning and laying out of the work himself, and his years of experience have made him expert in his line, getting the best results obtainable, and adding to the pleasure in life derived from beautiful surroundings.

The marriage of Mr. Jirsa united him with Miss Nellie Lymath, and seven children have blessed their union: Robert, Louise, Vera, Helen, Madalene, Leslie, and Mildred. Fraternally, Mr. Jirsa belongs to the Modern Woodmen and to the Eagles. He is deeply interested in Merced and Merced County, and shows his public spirit in supporting civic and moral advancement in his community, and is most highly esteemed as a citizen of real worth.

JOSEPH PATRICK ADAMS

Whatever of success has been achieved by Joseph Patrick Adams may be attributed to his own keen and capable judgment and his industrious application to business. For the past six years he has been dealing in washing machines; while making this his specialty he also sells the Eureka vacuum cleaner and the Grand Electric Ironer, manufactured in Detroit, Mich. His store is located at 409 Seventeenth Street, Merced, and here he is headquarters for hemstitching, pleating, button-making, etc. In Dublin, Ireland, he was born August 9, 1888, a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Ellis) Adams, both natives of the same country. Joseph was six years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States; they settled in Philadelphia, Pa., where he attended the Sisters' School. While still in his teens he became connected with Ringling Brothers Circus and remained with them for seven years, and for one year he was with Forepaugh & Sells Circus. In 1911 he came to California and located in Fresno, where he became an employee of the San Joaquin Light & Power Company, remaining for five years in their employ. In 1919 he engaged in his present business, in Merced, which has proven a successful venture.

The marriage of Mr. Adams united him with Miss Margaret Cook, a native of Kansas, but reared in Fresno, Cal. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Adams: Jesse is the eldest; then comes Jane, who is musically inclined and frequently appears in public in Merced; Kathryn is the third; and the youngest is Robert. Mr. Adams is prominent fraternally, being affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, all branches of the Knights of Pythias, and the Woodmen of the World, all of Merced; politically he is independent in his selection of candidates to hold offices.

CHARLES W. REUTER

Although a young man, Charles W. Reuter has become well established in Merced as one of the representative business men of the city. His birth occurred in Merced, November 17, 1886, a son of George and Margaret (Martin) Reuter. George Reuter settled in Merced County about forty years ago, and operated one of the leading tonsorial parlors in the City of Merced for many years. Both parents are now deceased.

Charles W. Reuter received a public school education in Merced and after his school days were over he learned the carriage trimming and furniture business and followed it for eight years; then for three years he was in the garage business and gradually worked into his present line. At first he established a vulcanizing business, then put in a stock of automobile accessories and at the present time carries the largest stock in this line in the city and employs the services of five men.

The marriage of Mr. Reuter united him with Miss Julia Collins and one child, Catherine, was born of this union. Mrs. Reuter is now deceased. Mr. Reuter is a staunch Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Elks, the Native Sons of the Golden West, and the U. P. E. C. He is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce.

L. C. GARDNER

A progressive business man of Merced is found in L. C. Gardner, more familiarly known as "Rube" Gardner, a nickname acquired during his fifteen years of active connection with the baseball leagues of our nation. He first engaged in professional baseball in 1904, and, with the exception of two years, continued with decided success until 1919, when he engaged in business in Merced. First he conducted an auto service station at the corner of Sixteenth and M Streets for three years, then moved to his new location on Seventeenth and M Streets, where he carries a complete line of service supplies and automobile tires. He was born in Huntington, Tenn., on November 5, 1883, a son of Daniel and Mollie Gardner, farmer folk. The mother is now deceased, while the father is still living.

L. C. Gardner was reared on the home farm in Tennessee and attended public school in Huntington; he was also engaged in the grocery business in his native state for a time. At the age of twenty-one he took up professional baseball and for four years played with the southern league; then he went to Panama as United States deputy

collector of customs and remained in this capacity for two years, when he again took up baseball, coming to the Coast League in 1912, and was with the Oakland Club until 1919. His career as a baseball player was distinguished by marked ability and he won an enviable reputation as a successful player. Mr. Gardner employs the most modern methods in the operation of his business, which is growing steadily under his capable supervision.

The marriage of Mr. Gardner united him with Miss Emma Story, a native of Savannah, Tenn., and they are the parents of one son, Jack, born at Panama in 1909. Mr. Gardner is a public-spirited citizen who supports men and measures calculated to advance the prosperity of his community. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias; and he belongs to the Merced Chamber of Commerce.

HUGH K. LANDRAM

Among Merced's native sons is attorney Hugh K. Landram, a man endowed with a large amount of vim and energy, who has won for himself a notable position among the lawyers of this prosperous city. He is a son of an esteemed pioneer family. His father, Carter Landram, was a prominent citizen of Merced, born in Macon County, Mo., April 13, 1840. After a long and useful life he passed away on March 2, 1924. The mother of our subject passed away in 1896.

The birth of Hugh K. Landram occurred on January 1, 1885, and he was reared and educated in Merced. After completing the grammar school course he entered high school, from which he was graduated in 1903; then he went to Lebanon, Tenn., where he attended the Cumberland University, from which he was graduated in 1907, with the degrees of B. S. and LL. B. He took one year of postgraduate work at the University of Michigan; then returning to Tennessee he took the bar examination and was admitted to practice in July, 1908. The following fall he returned to California and was admitted to the bar of California in October of the same year. It was but natural that his thoughts turned to his native city in which to begin the practice of his profession, and in Merced he became associated with F. G. Ostrander. The association was carried on successfully until 1912, when Mr. Landram, on account of failing health, retired and discontinued the practice of law for three years. In January, 1915, he again opened offices in Merced and one year later became associated with J. J. Griffin; this association was terminated at the death of Mr. Griffin in December, 1921. On July 1, 1919 Mr. Landram was appointed district attorney of Merced County to com-

plete the term of C. W. Croop, who resigned, and this appointment covered a period of two and a half years.

The first marriage of Mr. Landram united him with Miss Rubye Keck, a native of Tennessee. She passed away in 1912. In 1919, Mr. Landram was married the second time, Miss Charlotte Stockird, a native of Merced, becoming his bride. Fraternaly, Mr. Landram is a member of the Masons and the Elks; he belongs to the Chamber of Commerce and to the Rotary Club. Since 1919 he has served as a trustee of the Merced High School. Mr. Landram actively supports all measures that advance the interest of the people of his native county.

WILLIAM E. BAILEY

As the proprietor of a cement contracting business in Merced William E. Bailey has built up an important trade in his line. The business was inaugurated by Elton F. Bailey, the father of our subject, in 1911, and one year later William E. took over the active management of the business, which has steadily increased with the passing of the years. His birth occurred in San Francisco, Cal., on May 12, 1885, a son of Elton F. and Emma (Conklin) Bailey. The father is also a native son, born in Placerville, Cal., and a son of a very early pioneer, who located in that section of California. Both parents are still living, Elton F. being associated with his son in the cement works.

William E. Bailey attended public school in San Francisco and, as his father before him was a cement contractor, he began to learn the business at an early age and has grown up in it. During the World War he was employed as a mechanic in merchant marine work; after the war he returned to Merced, having previously located here in 1912, and resumed his cement contract work. He had the contract for the cement work on the Doyle Garage, the Gateway Garage, the postoffice building and the building adjoining, the warehouse of the Merced Hardware Company, the Merced Creamery building, the Galen Clark School, the Keystone Hardware building, the John Muir School, and the Livingston High School. He did the cement work on the cafeteria, the manual arts building, and the auditorium of the high school, and the creamery floors at Atwater. Mr. Bailey guarantees all of his work to be first class in every particular and employs only high grade workmen.

The marriage of Mr. Bailey united him with Miss Pauline Miller, a native of Ohio. Fraternaly, he is affiliated with the Fraternal Brotherhood of Merced and in politics votes the Republican ticket.

THOMAS BURTON STRIBLING, JR.

Agriculture has been the life occupation of Thomas Burton Stribling, Jr., for he was only fourteen years old when he determined to make this line his life's work. In 1911 he established the Stribling Nursery which he operated alone for ten years; then in 1921, he became associated with Ivan Lilley and the firm now operates under the name of Lilley & Stribling Nursery, and they have succeeded in building up a prosperous business. Mr. Stribling was born at Granite Spring, Mariposa County, Cal., on August 28, 1895, a son of Thomas Burton and Mary Lavina (Halstead) Stribling, both natives of California, and still living. The grandparents of our subject crossed the plains to California in an early day.

Thomas Burton Stribling, Jr., attended the public schools in Mariposa, Merced and Stanislaus Counties, with three years in high school. During vacation periods he worked in a nursery and started his own business in 1911 in Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Stribling united him with Miss Eugenia Inez Cabral, and they are the parents of three children: Willis Anthony, Burt Lee and Ivan LeRoy. Mr. Stribling served for three months during the World War and is a member of the local American Legion Post; he is also affiliated fraternally with Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. Elks, and the Red Men of Le Grand; he also is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau. In politics he is independent.

MISS IVA E. TRUMBELL

That the credit for progress and the amelioration of the condition of humanity is due to the male sex entirely has never been for a moment conceded, even by the most prejudiced. In some lines it must be admitted that the work of women has far overshadowed anything that man has been able to accomplish. One of those lines is nursing and caring for the sick, and one who is a worthy exponent of that line is Miss Iva E. Trumbell, proprietor of the new Mercy Hospital in Merced.

The daughter of Charles and Alpha (Brooks) Trumbell, she was born on July 9, 1893, on a farm near Belmont, Iowa. Her father was a farmer and is now living in Stockton, Cal. Her mother has passed away. Miss Trumbell's education began in the public schools of Iowa and was completed in the Iowa Methodist Hospital Training School for Nurses in Des Moines, from which she was graduated in 1917. Afterward she was night superintendent of the same insti-

tution from 1917 until June, 1919. She then did post-graduate work in the Teachers' College of Columbia University in New York. From there she was called to Iowa as the superintendent of the Congregational Hospital in Des Moines, where she remained until 1922, when she came to California and for ten months conducted a hospital at Oakdale. On November 20, 1923, she came to Merced to take charge of the newly constructed Mercy Hospital.

This building was erected by the people of Merced and is most modern in construction and is equipped with every up-to-date appliance for the care of its patients and the convenience of the attending physicians and nurses. The heating, lighting and cooking are all done by electricity. The hospital has eleven private rooms and four wards and has a total bed capacity of thirty-five. There are six graduate nurses besides the other attaches of the place. The building is located in a square of ground comprising four blocks and overlooks the new park. With its fine lawn and surroundings it is ideal in its location and a very valuable adjunct to the city.

Miss Trumbell is a member of the American Nurses Association and the National League of Nursing Education, which has its headquarters in New York City. She is also a Red Cross nurse and a member of the Rebekahs of Merced. Politically she votes the Republican ticket.

MANUEL T. CUNHA

Bereaved of his father when eleven years of age, and of his mother when four, Manuel Cunha had a hard row to hoe but he has hoed it well and has arrived at a comfortable competence and commands the respect of his fellow citizens. He was born in St. George, in the Azores, on December 25, 1872, the son of Manuel and Anna (Betten-court) Cunha. The father was a clerk in a store in St. George, came to California in the fall of 1875 and settled at San Rafael, Marin County, where he carried on a farm and dairy business. At the early age of thirty-three he passed away and his wife died at twenty-four. Manuel had one brother who is at Petaluma. Manuel attended the grammar school until his father died, then he started out to work for himself, taking odd jobs at first till he got steady employment on a farm near Millbrae, where he worked three years in gardens and at general farming. The dry goods business was his next venture, and he followed it for ten years in San Rafael. Upon selling out he came to Gustine, Merced County, in 1910, and for six years was manager of the dry goods department of Miller and Lux's store in Gustine. In 1916 he became manager of the Gustine Creamery, holding the posi-

tion for two years. In 1919 he engaged in the insurance business with the New York Life Insurance Company for six months, and then with the Reliance Life Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, with which he still remains.

In September, 1911, Mr. Cunha married, at Stockton, Mrs. Frances Fernandes, widow of Manuel Fernandes. Her maiden name was Frances Rose, and she was born at San Rafael, the daughter of Manuel and Isabella Rose. Her father was a native of the Azores Islands, who came to California as a young man and engaged in the dairy business, and later in brick making. Mr. Cunha's family consists of five children: Anna Fernandes, a stepdaughter; Nathalie, Margaret, Frances and Milton. In politics he is a Republican. He is a director of the Bank of Gustine and is corporation secretary of the Gustine Creamery. Mr. Cunha owns an alfalfa ranch of twenty-seven acres near Gustine; and his home, which he bought in 1918 in Gustine.

IVAN W. LILLEY

Prominently identified with the best interests of Merced County is Ivan W. Lilley, an enterprising and progressive nursery man and horticulturist, residing in Merced, where he is engaged in the nursery business. The business was established in 1920; later he formed a partnership with Thomas B. Stribling, Jr. and they specialized in commercial fruit trees, putting particular stress on fig trees, a fruit which is admirably adapted to Merced County climate and soil. They also handle ornamental trees and shrubs. Lilley and Stribling maintain their nursery at Le Grand, Merced County, where they grow their stock. They handle about a million and a half fruit trees annually, employing fifteen men during the planting season. Their stock is of the very best to be obtained, and they sell throughout the State.

Ivan W. Lilley was born in the State of New York, on June 6, 1895, the son of Dr. W. E. and Mabel (Crosgrove) Lilley, whose sketch may be found in this history. He was brought to Merced in 1899, and was graduated from the Merced High School in 1913, then entered the University of California, from which he was graduated with the degree of B.S., in 1919. He took up horticulture, and for one year worked as field man with the Peach & Fig Association in Fresno. He then engaged in contract pruning until he established a nursery business in Merced County, which has expanded rapidly under the joint management of Messrs. Lilley and Stribling.

The marriage of Mr. Lilley united him with Miss Inez H. Youd, a native daughter of Merced. Mr. Lilley's interest centers in Mer-

ced County, which he considers one of the most fertile portions of the State, and he takes an active part in the development of its resources. He is a member of the Merced Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau. He is a member of Alpha Chi Chapter of the Kappa Alpha college fraternity. In politics he prefers to vote independently of any party lines.

JAMES McCUE

While James McCue is among the more recent accessions to the business ranks of Merced he is none the less deservedly popular and successful in his line, that of contract plastering, in which he usually employs six men. Among the outstanding contracts he has handled was the plastering of the gymnasium of the Union High School building, the new Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and many of the finer residences where A-1 work was required. He was born in Erie, Pa., on July 13, 1872, a son of Thomas and Helen (Flannigan) McCue. The father, Thomas McCue, was a machinist by occupation and lived and died in Pennsylvania.

James McCue received his education in the public schools of Buffalo, N. Y. Reaching young manhood he learned the plasterer's trade and for a number of years followed it successfully; he also ran a grain elevator in the East before coming to California, about 1900, and made his home in Oakland, although he worked around the Bay district. It was not until the summer of 1922 that he located in Merced, and by his integrity and exceptional grade of work he has taken the lead in his line of business.

At Oakland, Cal., Mr. McCue was married to Miss Bertha White, one of California's native daughters. In politics Mr. McCue prefers to select the candidate best fitted to serve the public rather than be confined to strict party lines; fraternally he is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose at Merced.

A. A. LEWIS

Although a resident of Merced only since 1922, A. A. Lewis has won for himself a place among the successful business men of the city as the agent for the Studebaker automobiles. Besides carrying a full line of cars he has a large stock of parts and supplies, all of which is housed in a concrete, fireproof building erected by the company at 842 Seventeenth Street. The business has steadily grown from month to month under his management. His birth occurred in

Sierra County, Cal., on March 29, 1884, a son of David and Leah (Davis) Lewis, both natives of England, who came to California in 1871. The father, David Lewis, spent the greater part of his life in placer mining, but is now living retired with his wife in Plumas County.

A. A. Lewis finished the grammar and high school courses, then took a business course; later he took a mining course in the Van der Nailen School of Mines in San Francisco, and for twelve years thereafter followed mining. From 1907 to 1910 he operated the old Virginia mine at Coulterville. From 1911 to 1912 he resided at Coalinga, Cal., where he was engaged in the oil business; then he returned to his mining operations and spent the following seven years in the quick-silver mines of Northern California. In February, 1919, he returned to Coalinga, where he was associated with Mr. Fluetsch in the Pioneer Garage and Machine Works, which they operated until 1922, when Mr. Lewis came to Merced and established his present business.

The marriage of Mr. Lewis united him with Miss Eula McKeehan, a native of Warrensburg, Mo., and a graduate of the normal school there. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis: Leah Lillian, Artajean, Richard Kenneth and James William. Mr. Lewis is satisfied to make Merced his permanent home, where he takes a good citizen's part in all measures looking toward its prosperity and advancement. He is independent in his political views.

FRANK J. DUNCAN

A notable instance of one who has risen to a responsible position by his own unaided efforts and who commands the respect of his fellow citizens, is presented by Frank J. Duncan, deputy sheriff of Merced County. A record of his career takes us back to his birth in Denver, Colo., September 2, 1884, when he entered the family of William T. and Elizabeth (Terrill) Duncan, who lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. The father, now retired, was an attorney-at-law who came to Denver about 1849. The mother came from Virginia.

Frank J. Duncan was educated in the public schools and was graduated from the East Denver High School, to which foundation he added a business course in the Denver Modern School of Business. At the age of nineteen, in 1903, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Philippines for six years. Altogether he was fifteen years in the army and was promoted to first lieutenant; his later service was in California. On January 1, 1919, he resigned his com-

mission and went to Yosemite as a ranger. While on a vacation in Merced he was appointed city marshal, which position he held from November, 1919, to April, 1922. He then resigned to accept the position of State inspector with the Motor Vehicle department until January 1, 1923, when he was appointed a deputy sheriff.

Mr. Duncan is happily married to Miss Beatrice H. Nelson, daughter of Henry Nelson, a California pioneer. He is a Republican in politics. His popularity and wide influence are betokened by his many stanch friends and well-wishers. He is a thirty-second-degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner, and is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

JOHN E. OUST, JR.

A citizen and business man of much worth and character is John E. Oust, Jr., who, though a comparatively recent accession to the business life of Merced, has made his influence felt in the best interests of the place and in the progress and development of its resources. His birth occurred in Norway, October 5, 1883, a son of John E. and Anna N. (Olson) Oust, both natives of the same country. Our subject was six years old when his parents came to California and settled at Merced, where the father was employed with the Crocker-Huffman Company for many years; he is now living retired; the mother passed away in October, 1922.

John E. Oust, Jr., attended grammar and high school in Merced; then he entered the University of California, where he pursued the electrical engineering course, finishing in 1906. He then returned to Merced, where he entered the employ of the Merced Falls Gas & Electric Company; after some time spent in their employ he went to Chile, S. A., where he remained for eighteen months. Then he located in Sonora, Mexico, for nine months, when he removed to San Francisco and for the following two years was employed with the Westinghouse Company; then for three years he was with the telephone company in San Francisco. Mr. Oust then returned to Mexico and after being there for five months, the revolution broke out and he was obliged to return to his own country, where he became an employe of the Half Moon Bay Light & Power Company and while in this locality was city engineer of Burlingame. After remaining with this company for some time he entered the employ of the U. S. Government and had charge of the electrical work at the various coast fortifications. In July, 1923, he returned once more to Merced, where he established his present business of electrical engineer and contractor. He has completed the electrical work on the following

buildings: the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Christian Church, the manual arts building of the high school, the manual arts building of the grammar school, the motors and wiring of the Cody apartments and many of the handsome residences in and around Merced.

The marriage of Mr. Oust united him with Miss Adele Louise Johnson, a native of Alameda, Cal., and they are the parents of two children, Jack E. and Signa D. Mr. Oust is a Republican in politics and fraternally belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World of Merced. He is highly esteemed and respected by all who know him.

WILLIAM M. GRIFFIN

By virtue of his integrity and progressive spirit, added to those qualities which have distinguished the Griffin family in their residence in this section, as well as by his business ability, William M. Griffin is named among the representative citizens of Merced. As the junior member of the firm of Welch and Griffin, funeral directors and undertakers, he had an opportunity for the display of his executive ability and judgment in its successful management. Mr. Griffin was appointed county coroner in 1917, to fill a vacancy, and he was elected to succeed himself. He was one of Merced County's native sons, born on the old Duggan ranch about five miles from Merced, on April 19, 1872, a son of Patrick and Catherine (Townsell) Griffin. Patrick Griffin had immigrated from Ireland to Australia in an early day and in 1871 came to California and located in Merced County, where he engaged in business until his death in 1882; the mother died in 1875.

William M. Griffin received a public school education. He clerked in a grocery store until he became a clerk in the El Capitan Hotel, his employment there covering a period of four years. In 1896, he went to the Klondyke and spent one year, meeting with only fair success and encountering many hardships. He returned to Merced and went to work for G. E. Nordgren, a furniture and undertaking firm; when Mr. Nordgren sold to Welch & Company, Mr. Griffin came into the company and later, when he bought a half interest in the business, the firm name was changed to Welch & Griffin. The parlors are maintained as a thoroughly modern undertaking establishment and are located in the Masonic Building in Merced, where every consideration is given to their clients.

The marriage of Mr. Griffin united him with Miss Lulu Knisley, born at El Dorado in Eldorado County. Mr. Griffin died February 6, 1924. In politics Mr. Griffin was a Republican, and fraternally

was a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Woodmen of the World, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Columbus. At his passing, the city and county lost a worthy citizen and supporter of their best interests. The firm still remains Welch & Griffin, Mrs. Lulu K. Griffin succeeding her late husband in the conduct of the business.

ANDREW EARL MONTGOMERY

Having passed thirteen years of his life in Merced County and having made a special study of properties and their real worth, Andrew Earl Montgomery is a recognized authority on land values. His special work has been the developing of fig orchards, vineyards and dairies and disposing of them; thus his efforts have contributed to the growth of Merced County in a very substantial manner. His birth occurred on his father's ranch in western Kansas, on July 1, 1889, and he is a son of W. C. and Delia (Kelly) Montgomery; W. C. Montgomery was engaged in farming all his life, and is now deceased. At one time he was a member of the Kansas State legislature. His widow makes her home in Los Angeles.

Andrew Earl Montgomery received his preliminary education in the grammar and high schools of his native state; after the family came to California, he entered St. Vincent's College in Los Angeles, from which he was graduated in 1910, with the degree of A. B. After finishing school he went to Mexico, where he spent two years in prospecting and mining, then returned to Los Angeles and engaged in the real estate business. Through having charge of a tract of land in Merced County, he became interested in this section of California, and in 1911 located in Merced permanently. He purchased a dairy ranch and after eight years of successful management sold out and devoted his attention to the development of a fig orchard. He now owns two bearing fig orchards and one vineyard in the vicinity.

In 1917, Mr. Montgomery was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Josephine Iler, one of California's native daughters, born at San Rafael, and they have two children: Marjorie Ruth, and Andrew Earl, Jr. Fraternaly, Mr. Montgomery is affiliated with Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E., of Merced. He has served as temporary secretary and a director of the Chamber of Commerce, of which he is an active member. Mr. Montgomery had charge of the campaign of putting over the irrigation pageant in Merced, a great undertaking, which was wisely handled and which proved a great factor in advertising this productive section of California.

JOHN LESTER QUAIL

The possession of superior business qualifications has enabled John Lester Quail to rise to prominence in his chosen line of work. He located in Merced, Cal., in 1920, where he became assistant county agricultural agent of the extension service, holding this position until July, 1923, when he was appointed county agricultural agent, and his determination to win in this position has brought him the confidence and good-will of the entire community in which he resides. He is one of California's native sons, born at Stockton, on August 6, 1894, a son of F. E. and Salina Jane (McCleary) Quail, both natives of Ohio. The family came to California in 1890 and settled at Stockton, where the father has been county engineer of San Joaquin County for five terms. Both parents are living, making their home in Stockton.

John Lester Quail spent twenty years of his life in his home city, and completed the grammar and high school courses there; then in 1914 he entered the University of California, from which he was graduated in 1920, with the degree of B. S. During the World War he was a commissioned officer in the air service, being second lieutenant aerial observer. He completed his service in fourteen months and received his honorable discharge, then returned to his home and assisted his father until December, 1920, when he located in Merced, which has since been his home.

The marriage of Mr. Quail united him with Miss Violet M. Hamilton of Amador County, and they are the parents of two sons; John Lester, Jr. and Donald Eugene. Mr. Quail is liberal in politics, preferring to support the candidate best fitted for office rather than hew to party lines. In his fraternal relations he is identified with the American Legion and the S. A. E. Fraternity. He is an enthusiast on wholesome outdoor sports and is particularly interested in the growth and prosperity of Merced County.

ROBERT CLARK CUNNINGHAM

A deservedly popular citizen, Robert Clark Cunningham is numbered among the representative men of Merced who have labored zealously for its upbuilding and the development of its resources. During the twelve years of his residence in Merced he has witnessed many changes. He was born in Sidney, Ohio, on September 6, 1892, a son of J. F. and Molly (Clark) Cunningham, both parents of pre-Revolutionary ancestors. The mother is now deceased, while

the father makes his home in Merced. Robert Clark Cunningham finished the grammar and high school courses in Ohio; then in 1912 he came to California and settled in Merced. For six years he served as deputy county tax collector. During the World War he was chief clerk on the Merced County exemption board; after this he became bookkeeper and cashier for the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, serving in this capacity for two years. His next position was as bookkeeper and salesman for the Cullen Motor Car Company, his services covering a period of one year; then for two years he was chief clerk for the San Joaquin Light & Power Company. On February 1, 1923, he and an associate engaged in the public accounting business and the following November Mr. Cunningham became sole owner of the business.

The marriage of Mr. Cunningham united him with Miss Lucille Clough, born in Merced, and they have one daughter, Barbara. Mr. Cunningham is a Republican in politics, and fraternally belongs to Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; and Yosemite Lodge No. 30, K. of P., of which he is a Past Chancellor. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a past president of the Lions' Club of Merced.

ULYSSES GRANT FOUGHT

A retired citizen of Merced County now making his home in Los Banos is Ulysses G. Fought, who was born in Paulding County, Ohio, on December 2, 1867. His parents were Elias and Eliza Fought, both natives of the Buckeye State, the former a blacksmith by trade and a farmer who had settled in Kansas in its frontier days. In their family were eight children, viz.: Fred (deceased), Mollie, Henry, Lucinda, Edward (deceased), Ulysses Grant and W. S., twins, and Ella.

Mr. Fought was taken to Kansas when six months old, where he grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools. At the age of twenty, in 1888, he came to California and was employed in San Diego and in San Bernardino, for a short time. In 1889 he came to Merced County and located in Los Banos when that was but a struggling village. When he was able he purchased a quarter section of land, leased other tracts and raised grain with moderate success. He also was road overseer of the fifth supervisory district in Merced County for twelve years. He is now living retired from active participation in business affairs, only looking after his personal investments, which include a five-acre tract on the edge of Los Banos which he has subdivided into building lots.

On April 30, 1889, Mr. Fought was united in marriage with Miss Susie Watkins, daughter of John and Harriet Watkins, who came to California about 1888. Of this union there were five children: Clyde, Charles, Walter, Cecil and Hazel. Mr. Fought is a Democrat in his political convictions, and fraternally, belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Los Banos. Of late, he has spent considerable of his time in Santa Cruz on account of the health of Mrs. Fought, but he retains his interest in the city where he is so well known.

GLENN H. KINNEY

The changing vicissitudes of life brought Glenn H. Kinney into an intimate acquaintance with various localities before he established a permanent home in Merced County. The son of W. P. and Alvira (Lewis) Kinney, he was born in the State of Michigan, on January 15, 1889. The parents were both born in Michigan. The father was a farmer but is now living retired with his wife, both enjoying the best of health. Glenn H. is the third in order of birth of four children, viz.: Grace, Mrs. Bruce Hutchings, and Hazel, Mrs. Fred Wilson, still reside in Michigan; Glenn H.; and Clyde, of Montana. Glenn was educated in the grammar school and had one year in high school, then in 1912 he went to Portland, Ore., and from there went to Trout Creek, Wash., where he was employed for six months. Then he came down into California and worked one winter in a box factory at Sonora, Tuolumne County; from there he came to Dos Palos and for three years was employed out on the plains. Mr. Kinney then leased a ranch and engaged in farming on his own account. He finally bought thirty acres north of town, which he sold and invested the proceeds in three acres on the edge of Dos Palos. Since 1923 he has been the distributor at Dos Palos for the Union Ice Company.

On January 17, 1915, Mr. Kinney was united in marriage with Miss Margaret John, born in Oklahoma, the daughter of A. D. and Rilda (Sears) John. When Margaret was a babe the family came to California and settled at Dos Palos, where her father farmed, also worked at the carpenter trade; and he was later engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Dos Palos and is now living retired. There were four children in the John family: Albert (deceased); Ira; Margaret, Mrs. Kinney; and Alva. Mr. and Mrs. Kinney have three boys: Hugh Erwin, Holon Oliver, and William Daily. In politics Mr. Kinney is a Republican and he is a member of Santa Rita Lodge of Odd Fellows in Dos Palos.

RUFUS P. COVERT

A successful business man who has won the esteem and confidence of all who have had business dealings with him, is Rufus P. Covert of Merced, whose transfer and storage business has been carried on for the past thirteen years. He has contracts with the United States government for carrying mail; also with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company; he is also engaged in a local transfer business, and also does long distance hauling, using four trucks in his business. His birth occurred in New Brighton, Pa., on March 8, 1881, a son of Charles and Margaret (Phillis) Covert. In 1893 the family came to California and located in Merced, where the father engaged in business. He and his wife are now living retired in Oakland, Cal.

Rufus P. Covert was educated in the public schools of Merced; then after a two years' business course he entered the employ of John R. Graham and for the following five years was foreman and bookkeeper for this firm. Then he became the superintendent of ice agencies for the National Ice Company; later he tried farming for a couple of years. In 1913 he established his present business, which has brought him independence.

Mr. Covert was married to Miss Hattie Whealan, a native daughter of Merced County, Cal., and to them have been born seven children: Sherwood, Calvin, Grace, Lester, Margie, Carroll, and Jackie. Mr. Covert is a Republican in politics and fraternally is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World. He belongs to the Chamber of Commerce in Merced.

CYRUS WILLIAM CROOP

Among the native sons of California conspicuous for their ability, enterprise and worth, is Cyrus William Croop, of Merced, who is actively and successfully engaged in the practice of law in his native city. He was born January 22, 1891, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Croop. Both parents are living retired in Santa Cruz, Cal., whither they removed in 1920.

Cyrus William Croop first attended grammar school in Merced, then spent two years in the Merced High School, and when the family removed to Santa Cruz he attended high school there. After graduating from high school he entered the University of California, from which he received his LL. B. degree in 1913. He returned to his native city and was associated with his father in the practice of law until January, 1919, when he was elected to the office of district attor-

ney of Merced County; after one and a half years in this position he resigned and became associated with the Simonson-Harrell Abstract Company in the capacity of legal adviser; he also enjoys a lucrative private practice.

The marriage of Mr. Croop united him with Miss Tolbert Ford, also born in Merced, the daughter of the late G. W. Ford. Mr. and Mrs. Croop are the parents of one son, Cyrus William, Jr. Mr. Croop is prominent fraternally, being member and Past President of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W.; Past Exalted Ruler of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.; and a member of Yosemite Lodge No. 30, K. of P.; Merced Lodge No. 208, I. O. O. F., and Woodmen of the World.

LEWIS R. JOHNSON

As a real estate and insurance broker, Lewis R. Johnson is adding his share to the business life of the city of Merced, where he ranks among the representative citizens. On September 27, 1878, he was born in Niles, Mich., a son of Hiram R. and Almeda (Simms) Johnson. Hiram R. Johnson was a railroad man and passed away when our subject was fourteen years old; the mother is still living, making her home in California. Lewis R. Johnson attended school up to the tenth grade, in Niles, Mich., then took a business course, after which he became bookkeeper for the Ohio Paper Company in his native city, where he remained for six months. Then he volunteered for service during the Spanish-American War, and was a member of Company I, 33rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry. His service covered the period from May, 1898, to January, 1899, and he was in action at Santiago de Cuba, West Indies; while in service he contracted an illness and was sent home to recuperate, which required about one year. He then entered the employ of the New York Central Railroad Company; for the first five years he was a fireman, then for two years an engineer.

In the fall of 1905, Mr. Johnson came to California and located at Merced, where for two years he succeeded as a truck gardener. He then took the civil service examination and when rural route No. 2 was established he was put on as carrier; during this time he was elected and served as chairman of the Republican County Central Committee. In the fall of 1909 he was elected auditor of Merced County, was reelected in 1913, and served two terms with marked ability and satisfaction to the voters of the county. After completing his term of office as auditor he removed to Stockton, Cal., where for a year and a half he was in the tire business, which he later sold

and returned to Merced and engaged in his present business, which has gradually increased since its inception.

The marriage of Mr. Johnson united him with Miss Edith E. Pickard, of Indiana, and four children have been born to them: Lonetta, Leonore, Frances and Harold. Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican and fraternally is identified with the Woodmen of the World and the U. P. E. C. of Merced.

LUTHER QUINTIN HUTCHINS

The life history of L. Q., familiarly known as "Gus" Hutchins, is one of unusual interest. He was born in Ripley, Tippah County, Miss., on August 17, 1887, the son of Walter and Jennie (Hensley) Hutchins, the fourth in order of birth of seven children, namely: Alfred F., Erastus C., Leland E., Luther Q., Maggie, Velma and Wilhelmina. The father migrated to Covington, Tipton County, Tenn., when his son was twelve years old.

Gus Hutchins was educated in the public schools and remained with his father until he was twenty years old. He then went to work on farms in Sumner County, Kans., and became a foreman on a large estate. From there he went to Spokane, Wash., and in 1909 came to California and for a short time was in the Sacramento Valley, but he was unsettled and soon returned to Kansas and then went to Oklahoma. Mr. Hutchins came to California again in 1912, and was employed with the Standard Oil Company at Calexico for three years. From there he went down into Lower California and was a foreman in a development project of a large tract of land.

When our country entered into the World War he responded to the call and enlisted on October 3, 1917, at El Centro, was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington, and enrolled in Company K, 364th Infantry of the 91st Division. With this regiment he served in the major offensives and defensives until September 27, 1918, when he was twice hit by bullets from a machine gun, once in the knee and once in the hand, and became a casual. The bullet in the hand remained and caused him much annoyance until it was extracted after he had been out of service three and a half years. He received an honorable discharge as corporal on April 26, 1919, returned to California and was engaged in cotton growing on the west side of Fresno County on land leased from Miller & Lux. He was sent by this same company, as superintendent of the Bloomfield ranch near Gilroy for a short time, and then came to the Dos Palos Colony where he has since farmed the ninety-six-acre ranch of Mrs. James Mitchell. In 1924, he purchased fifty-six acres of land which he is developing.

On June 3, 1920, Mr. Hutchins was married to Evelyn Mitchell, daughter of James and Gertrude E. Mitchell, born at Oroloma, Fresno County, but reared and educated at Dos Palos. Her father was born at Antioch, Cal., and her grandfather was one of the pioneers of California. James Mitchell acquired a ranch of ninety-six acres in the Dos Palos Colony, which he left to his widow upon his death, at the age of sixty-five. Mrs. Hutchins is one of a family of five children, namely: William H., Evelyn (Mrs. Hutchins), James Jr. (deceased), Gertrude (Mrs. Hansen of Kerman), Amy (Mrs. Ashley of Oakland). Mr. Hutchins carries on general farming on the Mitchell ranch which lies about two miles northwest of Dos Palos. He is not tied to any political party, voting for the best man and issues at stake. He served during 1921-1923 as a deputy tax assessor of Merced County. He belongs to Dos Palos Post No. 86, American Legion.

IRA S. HART

A man who has in many ways proved a valuable citizen of Dos Palos, Merced County, is Ira S. Hart. The movement that has placed him in high regard by his fellowmen is his activities to obtain a larger irrigation district for the West Side, taking in some 208,000 acres of land not now covered by canal. The son of John and Mary (Jolliff) Hart, he was born in Blackford County, Ind., on September 22, 1873. His parents were both natives of Indiana, where the father was a farmer. Later he moved the family to Kansas, where the children were reared in Morris, Pratt and Cherokee Counties; later the father took up a timber claim in Nebraska. There were eleven children in the family, viz.: Ira, Alice, Jacob, Henry, Anna, Rachael, Katherine, Lee and Dora (twins), James, and John.

Ira S. Hart was only three years old when he was taken to Kansas. At the age of eighteen he went to work in the mines at Galena, Kans., and for the following sixteen years he prospected in Kansas and Arizona. In the fall of 1907 he came to California and worked on construction work near Willows for a couple of seasons, then in 1908, he bought a ranch in the Dos Palos Colony in Merced County, about one mile east of Dos Palos. It was an improved ranch of twenty-two and a half acres on which he raises alfalfa and vegetables and where he set out eight acres to Thompson seedless grapes.

On December 9, 1894, Ira S. Hart was married in the Shawnee Reservation, Indian Territory, to Miss Mary Price, a native of Clay County, Mo., and daughter of Robert and Mary (Stephens) Price, both being natives of Missouri, where her father was a farmer and

merchant in Rich Hill. The daughter, Mary, was one of five children, namely: John, Lee, Fannie, Anna Belle and Mary. There is one child, Viola, in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Hart. Mr. Hart is a Democrat in politics. He served as a deputy marshal in several strike uprisings in Kansas. He is a mechanic and has done considerable constructive work on large buildings in Los Banos, and he ran threshing machines in the grain and rice fields on the West Side. When young, he enlisted in Troop K, 3rd U. S. Cavalry, and trained at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, but was discharged on account of physical disability.

PETER C. HANSEN

Among the men who have contributed to the development of Merced County, Peter C. Hansen occupies a conspicuous place, for he possesses the characteristic traits of his countrymen upon which material success is founded. The son of Chris and Egidia (Peter-sen) Hansen, he was born in Ero, Denmark, November 2, 1867. His father was a farmer and spent his life in Denmark, dying at the age of sixty-eight. There were three children in the family: Hans, Bodil, and Peter C. With but an elementary schooling secured in his native place Peter C. began to make his own way at the age of fourteen, working around on different farms until 1887, when he came to America and landed eventually at Hill's Ferry, Stanislaus County. He first found employment as a ranch hand, and later worked in the lumber yards at Newman, and after working for wages for four years, began to farm on his own account, leasing a grain farm west of Volta, Merced County. For many years he raised grain on 700 to 800 acres of land leased from Simon Newman. His next move was to the Agua Fria, also known as the Hoffman ranch, of 800 acres and leased it for four years. He gave up the lease and in April, 1902, bought the ranch of forty acres he is now occupying, two miles south of Los Banos, which is under the old San Joaquin-Kings River Canal and is devoted to alfalfa and a dairy.

On January 18, 1903, in Los Banos, Mr. Hansen was married to Nellie Wright, a daughter of William W. and Corinne (Jones) Wright, the former a native of New York State and the latter of California, of Kentucky stock. Mr. Wright came to California when quite a young lad and has been a sheep grower for years and owns considerable property in the hills sixteen miles out from Los Banos. Mrs. Hansen was educated in the Mendezable district school of Merced County and they have eight children: Walter C., William B., Margaret B., Helen E., Peter C., Nell Virginia, Lucille E.,

and Mary Belle. Mr. Hansen is a Democrat. Fraternally, he is a member of Orestimba Lodge No. 354, I. O. O. F., of Newman, and of the Woodmen of the World, of Los Banos. Mrs. Hansen is a member of Los Olivas Lodge of Rebekahs and of the Eastern Star of Los Banos. Mr. Hansen has been chairman of the Los Banos Center of the Merced County Farm Bureau for two years and is now a director of the same.

JOSEPH WILLIAM SPAGNOLI

Distinguished as the son of a pioneer family of worth, Joseph William Spagnoli is well deserving of representation in this volume. He is now actively engaged in the contracting and building business in Merced, an occupation which so readily marks the wealth and prosperity of the community. His birth occurred in a mining camp in Mariposa County, on September 13, 1875, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Jane (Simmons) Spagnoli. Joseph Spagnoli, the father, came by boat from his native country of Switzerland to California in the early fifties, and mined in the mountains of Mariposa County, where he became a successful mine owner and was one of the pioneers of Mariposa County. Miss Elizabeth Jane Simmons was born in England and when a small child accompanied her parents to Australia, and was still a young girl when her parents came to California. She was married to Joseph Spagnoli at Hornitos, Mariposa County, and is still living, having reached an advanced age. The father passed away in 1915.

Joseph William Spagnoli received a grammar school education in Mariposa County. Following in his father's footsteps he turned to mining pursuits and for seventeen years was thus occupied, the greater part of which was spent as a hoisting engineer in the mines. He had also learned the carpenter's trade, and, when he located in Merced, in 1909, he turned his attention to this line of occupation, and for the past five years he has been successfully engaged in the contracting and building business.

Mr. Spagnoli was united in marriage with Miss Rose May Peard, also born in Mariposa County, Cal. Her parents were also pioneers of California, her mother, Martha Branson, crossing the plains with ox-teams in early days, while Mr. Peard came from England. Mr. and Mrs. Spagnoli have two children: Iva, Mrs. Shirley Parsons, and Donald. In politics, Mr. Spagnoli is a Democrat, and fraternally belongs to the Lodge, Encampment, Canton and Rebekahs of the Odd Fellows. For the past six years he has served as a trustee of the grammar school in Merced.

JAMES C. IVERS

No citizen of Merced County is more highly honored and respected than James C. Ivers who, since 1914, has capably filled the office of county recorder. He has ably demonstrated his ability to handle the affairs of this office and has borne his part in the growth and advancement of his locality. He is a native Californian, born in Napa, on October 21, 1867, a son of Richard and Margaret (Tobin) Ivers. Richard Ivers came to California from Virginia in 1865, and at San Francisco, Cal., was married to Miss Margaret Tobin. They then settled in Napa County where Mr. Ivers engaged in farming until 1868, when he removed to Merced County, where he spent the remainder of his life. Both parents are now deceased.

James C. Ivers received his education in the schools of Merced and assisted his father in ranching, and also farmed independently until 1903, when he became a deputy sheriff under John Swan and served for four years; then for the next four years he was engaged in ranching. He returned to the sheriff's office, where another four years were spent, and in 1914, he was elected to the office of county recorder and since that time has been re-elected twice.

The marriage of Mr. Ivers united him with Miss Margaret Sullivan, a daughter of Joseph Sullivan who came to Merced County with the father of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Ivers have an adopted daughter, Anna M. Mr. Ivers is a Democrat in politics, and fraternally is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Native Sons of the Golden West. He belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. His interest centers in Merced County, where he has been instrumental in forwarding the advancement of his community and where he has won and holds the esteem of the entire section.

KNUD LAURITSEN KNUDSEN

It was on the Isle of Ero, in Denmark, on August 13, 1875, that Knud L. Knudsen was born, the son of Knud L. and Anna Marie (Albertsen) Knudsen. The father was a farmer, who lived all his life in Denmark, and died at the age of eighty-one. There were seven children in the family, namely: Albert and Erik, both still in Denmark; Hans, in British Columbia; Margaret, who died in 1898; Knud Lauritsen, our subject; Jens C., of Los Banos; and Louis, at Winton, Cal.

Knud L. started out for himself at the age of fourteen and did odd jobs until 1902, when he left his native land and set out for the

land beyond the sea where so many of his countrymen had gone to make their fortunes. He did not stop until he had reached the western shores and he settled in Los Banos, Merced County, got a job on a dairy farm and worked three years for wages. He then leased twenty acres, and later forty acres, and farmed on leased land for seven years. By this time there was enough surplus of money to his credit to enable him to buy twenty-five acres two and a half miles south of Los Banos, where he has since carried on a dairy.

On March 1, 1905, Knud L. Knudsen was married to Anna Margaret Petersen, a native of the same neighborhood from which he came in Denmark, and the daughter of Hans C. and Christina Petersen, farmers in Ero. The daughter was one of six children: Anna, Maria, Sophia, Peter, Hansina, and Erik, and she was educated in Denmark and came to California in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen have six children: Emma, Margaret, Louisa H., Emmett, Helen, and Winifred. Mr. Knudsen is a Democrat in politics, is a trustee of the Center school district of Merced County, and is a member of the Woodmen of the World of Los Banos.

WALTER KING NIELSEN

A notable instance of the sterling worth which overcomes all obstacles and creates its own opportunities is presented in the career of Walter K. Nielsen, proprietor of the Arena Garage, two and one-half miles east of Livingston. A popular young man, and an engineer and machinist of ability, his personal appearance and agreeable ways win for him many staunch friends. The garage, 125x54 feet, which he built in 1919, is equipped with machinery and up-to-date appliances for all modern work, overhauling, vulcanizing, etc., and in the work of repairing, tractors, trucks and automobiles he employs three men besides himself.

Mr. Nielsen was born in San Francisco on November 4, 1896, the son of J. J. Nielsen, a native of Denmark, who is a prominent concrete contractor in the Santa Clara Valley. He built the Morgan Hill High School building and nearly all the concrete bridges in the Santa Clara Valley. The mother, Catherine (Kling) Nielsen, was also born in Denmark and died in 1918, aged sixty-one years. While yet a youth of fifteen Walter started to work for the Union Iron Works of San Francisco and since that time he has made his own way. After four years and four months in the Union Iron Works he enlisted in 1917, in the U. S. Navy, where he made a very excellent record as assistant engineer on a dozen torpedo boats and naval craft,

among which may be mentioned, the U. S. S. Chew, U. S. S. Kermanshaw, a freighter; U. S. S. George Washington, a transport. He served in the Mediterranean and on the Atlantic during the war and went to Constantinople, Turkey, and was in the Black Sea. He drove the first torpedo boat of the U. S. Navy which passed through the Dardanelles after the Turkish surrender. He was honorably discharged at Mare Island on September 27, 1919, having served altogether two and a half years.

Walter King Nielsen was married in San Jose, October 28, 1919, to Miss Gertrude Hatch, a native of New York City, and they came to Arena the night after their marriage. He is a member of the American Automobile Association of Garage Owners. He is a Mason, belonging to Turlock Lodge No. 395, F. & A. M. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen are Protestants. They reside in their home Mr. Nielsen built near his garage and dispense a kindly hospitality.

FRANK SILVA

Born in 1871 on the Island of St. George of the Azores group, Frank Silva is the eleventh child in a large family of children born to John Silveira and Mariana Silva, both born on St. George Island. The father was a farmer and spent his entire life following this occupation in Portugal. The names of the children are as follows: John, Antone, Joseph, George, Fostino, Manuel, Joaquin, Mary, Mariana, Katherine, Frank, and Peter.

Frank Silva acquired a very limited education, for very early in life he helped with the support of the family. He was only a lad when he landed in Boston, Mass., where he remained until 1886, when he came to California and located in Marin County, where for two years he milked cows for his board; after that he received ten dollars per month for his services. He also worked at San Rafael, Point Reyes and Spanish Town. His next move was to San Francisco, where he was delivery boy for a retail milk company for eleven years. During these years he saved some money and bought an interest in a dairy at Redwood City. During the panic of 1897, the partners sold the stock and with the proceeds Mr. Silva paid his debts and again began working for wages, milking cows at a dairy in San Mateo. Later he drove a milk wagon at San Bruno and during these years again saved his money. With this money he bought and sold cattle until 1906, when the conditions around San Francisco were not so good as could be hoped for and Mr. Silva shipped several carloads of cattle to the San Joaquin Valley and sold them.

Coming to Merced County he bought ninety-five dairy cows and put them on 170 acres of land which he had rented about three miles southwest of Gustine. He continued to buy and sell cattle, and later, when he removed to a neighboring farm, he had a herd of 250 cattle. He paid off all he owed and rented 300 acres of land on which he maintains a dairy. Mr. Silva built a house on this place and a first-class dairy barn; later he built another barn and planted the land to alfalfa. Mr. Silva also runs three other ranches in the same vicinity, one of 173 acres, another of 116½ acres, and the third one of 240 acres, all planted to alfalfa with modern milking and feeding barns. Mr. Silva's dairy business is a partnership affair and the dairy herd now numbers about 700 cattle.

At San Rafael, in 1901, Mr. Silva was married to Miss Mary Cabral, born at Bolinas but reared at Arcata, Cal.; she is a daughter of Joseph and Mary Cabral, natives of St. George of the Azores. Her mother died in 1919, but her father is still living, having returned to his native country. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Silva: Frank, Jr., Angie, and Howard. Mr. Silva is a member of the U. P. E. C., the I. D. E. S. and the Eagles, all of San Rafael, where he maintains his home, but most of his time is spent in Merced County looking after his large dairy interests. Mrs. Silva met her death in an automobile accident at Dublin, Cal., on September 30, 1924, and is buried at San Rafael.

MRS. ELVEZIA TONOLLA

No object lesson could be presented to the student of history more striking than the progress of civilization and especially of California in the last twenty years. It was about that time that Miss Elvezia Pedrazzini, a native of Canton Ticino, Switzerland, came to California. Since her arrival she has seen more new inventions that are now in common use than were made in a hundred years previously. Her father, Fedele Pedrazzini, was an attorney at law, who went to Australia and died there leaving his family in Switzerland. The daughter, who remained with her mother, Celestina (Traversi) Pedrazzini, was educated in the grammar school in Switzerland and taught school there. She was the youngest of five children, namely: Adelaide, Pauline, Flamina, Carmelo and Elvezia.

Miss Pedrazzini came to Pescadero, San Mateo County, and was married in Redwood City, on December 3, 1903, to Venanzio Tonolla, a native of Canton Ticino, Switzerland, the son of Antonio and Martina De Grigioni, and reared on his father's farm. When nineteen

years old he came to California and worked in hotels, dairies and as a ranch hand. After his marriage he remained on ranches in San Mateo County. Later they moved to Merced County and he leased the S. A. Smith ranch and ran it for nine years. In 1916, he bought the Louis Bambauer place of thirty-seven acres, one and a quarter miles south of Los Banos and carried on a dairy there. He died there, on January 17, 1918, leaving a family of three children: Ida, Oscar, and George. Mrs. Tonolla is a Democrat in politics. Mr. Tonolla was a member of the Druids of Santa Cruz.

MANUEL SOUZA

While a young lad living in the Island of St. George, in the Azores, Manuel Souza often heard stories of America, and California in particular, and he was fired with the ambition to cast in his lot and see if he could not make a fortune where his brothers Antone and Joseph had already made a good beginning. The opportunity came when he was eighteen years old and ever since that date he has resided in the Golden State. He was born in 1865, a son of Joseph O. and Anna (Brazil) Souza, who also had a daughter, Marie, besides the three sons, and being poor people the son had no chance to go to school. Upon arriving in California he stopped in Watsonville and soon found employment at ranch work among his countrymen who had ranches in the section and ever after he has been engaged in that kind of work and has made a success of it. He is a practical dairyman and knows how to make a dairy pay.

Mr. Souza married Josephine Pimentel, born in Flores, in Watsonville, Cal., and the young couple set out together to make a home and found a fortune. In 1903, they moved to the West Side in Merced County and leased the Jameson ranch near Los Banos; two years later they moved to the McCarthy place and farmed there two years. The next move took them to the Simonson ranch where, with a partner, Mr. Souza ran three strings of dairy cows. The profits he made enabled him to buy eighty acres of his own in the Cottonwood district and here he erected a house and barns and developed the ranch to alfalfa and runs a dairy.

Mrs. Souza was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Pimentel and came to California with her brother when she was sixteen years old. The twelve children in her father's family are: Delphine, Mary, Joseph, Antone, Flora, Joaquin, Frank, Anna, Josephine, John, Amelia and Marion. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Souza three children were born, and the only one now living is Josephine, who

married Frank Tosta of Patterson, in January, 1921, and is the mother of two children, Gerald and Aldine. Mary married Joseph Olivieira August 30, 1912, and died, aged twenty-one. Joseph married Mary De Gregori on November 30, 1914, and they had two children, Clinton and Vernon. Joseph died November 7, 1923, aged thirty-two. His widow lives in a house he erected on the home ranch where, during his life, he helped his father with the ranch work. Manuel Souza became a citizen of the United States at Santa Cruz, Cal., and is a Republican. He is a member of the U. P. E. C. and the I. D. E. S. societies.

CARL EDWARD OLSON

The assistant superintendent of the canal system on the West Side with a territory extending from Mendota to Crows Landing, a distance of seventy-one miles, is Carl Edward Olson, residing on his ranch one mile southwest of Los Banos. A native of Sweden he was born in Oland, on January 28, 1870, a son of Ole and Christina (Pearson) Olson. His father was a corporal in the Swedish Navy and was in the service until he was retired. He came to California in October, 1913, and now resides in Turlock, and is eighty-four years old. The wife and mother died at the age seventy-four. They had seven children: Peter, of Turlock; Amanda, deceased; John, of Los Banos; Carl Edward, our subject; Ida, of Turlock; Hilda, in Hilmar; and Albert.

Carl Edward Olson had but little opportunity to get an education and when he was sixteen he began earning his own living, working about in his native country until 1889. He decided he could better his condition by coming to the United States and California was his goal. For a time he stopped in San Francisco, then came to Dos Palos in Merced County and secured employment with Miller and Lux as a ranch hand. He knew little of the English language, but was alert and picked up a practical working knowledge as he went about his daily tasks. He was next in the employ of Crocker & Huffman, on the Merced River, for a time; and as a diversion he spent four seasons hunting game for the markets of the bay cities, and it paid very well. He worked in the harvest fields in the summer. In 1895, he went to work for Hans Albertsen, in the hills on the Newman ranch, and for four years was steadily engaged; then he spent fifteen months in the employ of the San Joaquin-Kings River Canal and Irrigation Co.; later, after a harvest season for Albertsen, he took a trip back to his native land, spending six months visiting among friends and relatives. Returning to California Mr. Olson

worked for Mr. Albertsen, for two years, then for John Olson, and in 1904 he again entered the employ of the San Joaquin-Kings River Canal and Irrigation Co., beginning at the bottom and gradually working his way through the various positions with the company until he is now the assistant superintendent over seventy-one miles of ditches. In 1922, he bought a part of the Midway ranch consisting of twenty acres and makes that his home.

On August 2, 1903, Mr. Olson was married to Miss Anna Lena Albertsen, a native of Ero, Denmark; and this union has been blessed by the birth of a son, Ray Olson.

JEAN B. ERRECA

A very representative business man of Los Banos who has earned the respect of his many friends is Jean B. Erreca, drayman of that city. He was born in the Basque province in the Pyrenees, in France, on May 26, 1874, and attended the public schools in his native land; in the meantime he was reared in the sheep business. When he was old enough to make up his mind as to his future he embarked for America and landed in New York on January 1, 1893, and made his way to California and we find him first in San Diego County herding sheep on the Ensenada for the next few months. He then came to Los Angeles and worked in a butcher shop for Charles Gasen and Simon Meyer; later he went to Williams, Ariz., where he had charge of the sheep on the Welch ranch until in September, 1902, when he came back to California and herded sheep with his brothers, on the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley. He had learned the English language and had saved his money, so he was now able to become a property owner in his own right and bought a lot 150 x 150 feet at the corner of Sixth and K Streets in Los Banos, which he still owns. Here he established a feed yard and dealt in hay and grain and also erected a brick residence. As he prospered he bought the Robert Miller livery stable and ran that for four years. Then he erected a garage, at a cost of \$45,000, the finest in the valley and known as the Sicho Garage. Mr. Erreca owns and operates a five-ton Pierce-Arrow truck and has built up a fine draying and hauling business.

Mr. Erreca married Marian Laxague and they have three boys, Martin, Peter and Emil. They have reared one adopted daughter Marcelin Menta. Mr. Erreca belongs to the Woodmen of the World and is a member of the San Francisco Hospital Association. He became an American citizen in 1905 and supports the best men and measures at all elections.

WILLIAM MAZZINA

An active rancher, William Mazzina is well-known in Merced County as one of the progressive men of Los Banos. He was born in Milano, Province of Sondrino, Italy, on May 30, 1880, and attended the schools of his native land and worked at various occupations until 1900, when he went to South America, arriving at Bonasario. Two years later he arrived in New York City with one-hundred dollars in his pocket, and from there he made his way to San Francisco and found employment in dock construction. It was hard work and his faithfulness was rewarded with promotion and he stuck to it for three years. He saved his wages and was able to take up ranching in Napa County, which he followed for two years. In 1908 he came to Los Banos and was engaged in the liquor business up to the passing of the war prohibition in 1917. During this time he bought a dairy ranch of seventy-five acres, six miles from Dos Palos, where he is engaged in ranching and in the dairy business. In 1920 Mr. Mazzina took a trip to his old home in Italy and was gone six months. He was made a citizen of the United States February 14, 1911.

Mr. Mazzina married Faustina Arburua, a native of Spain, and there are four children of the union: Mary, Tony, Ellen and Theresa. Fraternaly he is a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and of the Druids.

FRANK M. OSTRANDER

An old and prominent family in Merced County, is that represented by Frank M. Ostrander, the junior member of the law firm of Ostrander & Ostrander, of Merced, Cal., where he was born on January 13, 1890. His father, Frank Merced Ostrander, was the first white boy born in Merced County. His grandfather, Harvey J. Ostrander, was a pioneer of 1850 and he spent the remainder of his life in Merced County. The father was also an attorney by profession and he was the first Republican to be elected to the office of district attorney in Merced County; he passed away in 1890, the year our subject was born. The mother, who in maidenhood was Georgina Bain, is still living.

Frank M. Ostrander attended public school in Palo Alto, Cal., also the Hitchcock Military Academy and the Leland Stanford, Jr., University, where he completed his law course. He was admitted to the bar of California in 1920 and immediately began practicing in Merced. On November 1, 1923, he became associated with his

uncle in the firm of Ostrander & Ostrander and their efforts have been rewarded with gratifying success.

The marriage of Mr. Ostrander united him with Miss Frances L. Reesor of Oakland, who was born in Montana. Mr. Ostrander enlisted for service during the World War and spent one year overseas at Base Hospital No. 30; he was a sergeant, first class, when he was discharged from the service. In his fraternal relations he is a Mason, a member of the N. S. G. W., and the Moose. He belongs to the Merced Post of the American Legion. Mr. Ostrander is actively identified with the public life of Merced and his aid in promoting measures for the public good has been of vital importance to the community in general.

NIELS LARSEN

The life story of Niels Larsen has been one of toil and ceaseless endeavor since early boyhood. His father, Jorgen Larsen was a carpenter and cabinet-maker who lived his entire allotted time in Denmark, dying at the age of sixty-eight. His mother, Marie (Nielsen) Larsen, died there at the age of forty-nine. They had fifteen children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living to grow to maturity are: Lars, Hans, Margaret, Niels, Christina, Anna, Thomas, Christian, Ingaborg, Theodore, Johanna, Jens, and Laura.

Niels was born at Sjeetland, Denmark, on October 9, 1871, and was educated in the schools of his native land. When he was nineteen he came to the United States, in 1890, and soon after his arrival made his way out to Douglas County, Neb., where he secured employment for three years on a farm, then he undertook to farm some land on his own account, leased 160 acres on the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers and raised corn, cattle and other stock. The lure of adventure and the possibility of making more than he could make on a farm, decided him to go on a whaling expedition in 1907. He was gone eight months in the north Pacific and five whales were brought back to San Francisco. His percentage of the profits was one dollar net for the eight months' work. In 1908, he first came to Los Banos. Returning to Nebraska he worked a year and went back to Denmark. In 1909, he was back again in Nebraska and worked there until 1911, when he came to California and followed carpentering for a short time. He next worked a year on the canal and then undertook a dairy which he carried on for five years near Los Banos. In 1917, he went to work for the San Joaquin-Kings River Canal Co. and has been on that job ever since. He is foreman of the Los Banos Outside Division of this canal.

On May 6, 1909, Mr. Larsen was married in Fremont, Neb., to Miss Inga Jensen, a native of Sjeetland, Denmark, and daughter of Jens and Sine (Sivensen) Jensen, born in Denmark and Sweden, respectively. She was the eldest of five children, the others are Sven, Carl, Alma and Apel. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen have had four children: Laura (died in infancy), Laura, Margaret, and Evelyn. Mr. Larsen is a Democrat. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America in Fremont, Neb.

RANSE R. SISCHO

Although somewhat of a recent acquisition to the ranks of Merced's attorneys, Ranse R. Sischo has won a name for himself and today ranks among the successful lawyers of the county, as well as representative citizens of the locality. He was born in Shelton, Wash., on August 1, 1892, a son of Abel and Frances (Willie) Sischo. The parents were married in New York and removed to Iowa; then in 1870 went to Missouri, from there to Nebraska, and in 1872, settled in the State of Washington, where both parents passed away.

Ranse R. Sischo completed the grammar and high school courses in Long Beach, Cal.; then he took up the study of law in a private office and in November, 1921, was admitted to practice law in the State of Nevada. In 1922, he came to California and settled in Merced, and having been admitted to the bar of California on March 17, 1924, he opened and maintains a law office in that city.

Mr. Sischo was married on January 4, 1925, in Los Banos, Cal., to Miss Ethel L. Riedeman, of Santa Cruz. Politically he gives his influence to the Republican party; fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge at Long Beach. Mr. Sischo has become an enthusiast on the resources of Merced County and his public spirit and activity for the prosperity and welfare of Merced has won for him many friends and a well-established law practice.

CHARLES WILLIAM DEMPSEY

One of the busiest and most enterprising men of Merced is Charles William Dempsey, contractor and builder, architect and designer. In many ways he has proved a valuable citizen of his county, contributing to its growth, fostering its enterprises and promoting its welfare. At Washington, D. C., on October 20, 1885, he was born,

the son of William Daniel and Elmira (Chilton) Dempsey, who have both passed away. The father was a carpenter by trade and the son, after what education he was able to get in the public schools of Washington, learned the trade from his father, which he followed in the capital of our country up to 1906, when he reached his majority and struck out for himself. Houston, Texas, was his first landing place, where he spent two years at his trade. Various cities in the State of Washington were where he followed his trade for the next four years. In 1912 he came to Merced, and since 1917 has been contracting for himself. He specializes in residences, remodels buildings and also designs new buildings, employing eight men. Among the seventy fine houses which he has built in Merced the homes of E. S. Hass and Charles Crossland may be mentioned as evidence of superior workmanship and design. He also built the wholesale house for the Richfield Oil Company.

The changing vicissitudes of life brought Mr. Dempsey in contact with Miss Emily Scofield, a lady who was brought up near Merced. An intimacy was formed which resulted in marriage and two children, viz.: Thomas and Thelma. As a public-spirited man, he is deeply interested in the progress of Merced. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias; and is the Worshipful Master of Yosemite Lodge No. 99, F. & A. M., of Merced, and is highly respected.

MAURY CURTIS

The genealogy of Maury Curtis, is traced back to Scotland and England, his ancestors being among the American families who settled in Virginia in an early day. He was born on his father's farm in Virginia, on May 18, 1885, a son of A. M. and Roberta (Hume) Curtis, both natives of Virginia. A. M. Curtis served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; after the war he engaged in farming for the balance of his life and passed away in 1901. The mother is still living.

Maury Curtis began his preliminary educational training for his life's work in the public schools of his native state; after graduating from the high school he entered the academic department of the Washington Lee University at Lexington, Va., where he remained one year; subsequently he entered Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated with the degree LL.B., in 1910. He then became connected with the solicitor's office, in the United States Department of Agriculture. On January 1, 1912, he left Washington for San Francisco to become

assistant to the solicitor of that department, and remained in that position until April 15, 1914; he then spent one year in private practice in San Francisco. In 1916, he went into the United States Department of Justice and was thus occupied until 1917, when he removed to Los Angeles, where he became clerk in the United States District Court under Judge B. F. Bledsoe. On August 15, 1920, Mr. Curtis removed to Merced to become assistant district attorney of the county, where he has since resided. Mr. Curtis is a single man and takes great delight in all outdoor sports, especially baseball and football. No trait is more noticeable in his character and life than that of energy, and he deservedly ranks among the enterprising and resourceful citizens of Merced.

JOHN M. SILVA

Among the many immigrants from the Azores Islands who have contributed towards the development of Merced County is John M. Silva, who possesses those traits of character upon which material success is founded. He was born in St. George, of the Azores on June 7, 1886, the son of Joseph M. and Barbara Silva, and was the second of six children as follows: Germania (deceased), John M., Rosa (deceased), Antonio, Joseph and Manuel. He came to America in 1904 and stopped for a short time in Boston, Mass., came to San Luis Obispo where he secured employment as a milker on a dairy ranch for four years. It was the first round of the ladder on which he hoped to climb toward a business for himself. With the wages he saved he was able to enter into partnership with J. M. Diaz, in a dairy of 100 cows on a ranch of 700 acres, five miles from San Luis Obispo, and after running the dairy five years they moved fifty of the cows to Merced County and settled on the Henry Pfitzer place five miles southwest of Gustine. Here John M. Silva has sixty-three acres in alfalfa, having bought the land the same year he came here. In March, 1925, he bought out his partner and is now running the business alone.

On September 9, 1914, J. M. Silva was married to Mary Azevedo in San Luis Obispo. She is the daughter of Manuel and Minnie (Perry) Azevedo and was born in San Luis Obispo; her parents were both natives of the Azores, the former of Pico and the latter of Fayal. Her father came to California in 1889 and was married in San Luis Obispo, where he is still dairy farming near that place. Mrs. Silva is the eldest of six children, namely: Mary, Ida, Manuel, William, Louis, and Mabel. She attended school in the Los Osos

and the Santa Fe districts, both of San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Silva is a member of the U. P. E. C. and of the I. D. E. S. of Gustine; also a member of the Foresters of America and Knights of Columbus of Newman. Mrs. Silva is a member of the S. P. R. S. I. of Gustine and of the U. P. P. E. C. of Newman.

PATRICK J. THORNTON

An official of Merced County who has proven his worth and ability in the discharge of the duties of his office, is Patrick J. Thornton, the county clerk. He was born on March 27, 1872, within a stone's throw of the limits of the city of Merced, a son of the late William and Julia (Whelan) Thornton. William Thornton owned and operated a large ranch in the McSwain school district. He was born in Ireland, came to California across the Isthmus of Panama in 1865, and settled in Merced County in 1867. He was married in San Francisco in 1869. His wife was also born in Ireland, and came to California in 1866. Of this union ten children were born, all in Merced County: Daniel W., who died in 1898, at the age of twenty-six; Patrick James, of this review; Mary A.; Margaret M.; John J.; Hannah T., now the wife of M. S. Maddux; Julia B. who died unmarried; Rose M., who married W. H. Wegner; William W.; and Joseph F., who died in early boyhood. William Thornton, though a staunch Democrat, never aspired to official honors. He was a man of excellent judgment and common sense. He died at the age of sixty-nine; but his widow survived until 1919, dying at the age of seventy-two. She was an active member of the Catholic Church and liberally contributed to the fund for the building of the new edifice.

Patrick J. Thornton attended the McSwain district school and grew up to farm work. He became a student at St. Mary's College, Oakland, graduating from its business department. He entered the court house in the capacity of deputy county clerk, under W. B. Croop. In 1906 he became a candidate for the office on the Democratic ticket and was elected, being returned to the office of county clerk in 1910, 1914, 1918, and 1922.

On May 19, 1920, Patrick J. Thornton was united in marriage with Miss Agnes Ryan, a native of Ireland but a resident of California since 1917. The family home is located at 1030 L Street, the house having been erected in 1921. The Thornton ranch of 740 acres has been divided among the living children, who still own it. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton are members of the Catholic Church in Merced. He is a member of Merced Lodge No. 1240, B. P. O. E.;

a Past Grand Knight of the Merced Council, Knights of Columbus; and a member of Yosemite Parlor No. 24, N. S. G. W., and of the local Chamber of Commerce. By virtue of his office, during the World War Mr. Thornton was a member of the County Council of Defence. He gives his whole time to his official duties.

LOUIS PETER TAGLIO

A prosperous dairyman of the Gustine section of Merced County is found in Louis Peter Taglio, who resides on his twenty-acre home place south of the city limits of Gustine; he operates a milk route in Newman and Gustine and is fast developing his property to walnuts. His birth occurred in Salinas, Cal., on January 16, 1894, a son of P. L. and Nellie A. Taglio, whose sketch may be found on another page in this history.

Louis Peter Taglio attended public school in Salinas and Gonzales, with a partial high school course in Gonzales. From young manhood he was associated with his father in ranching on the home place near Gustine. When his father retired and moved into town, Mr. Taglio and his brothers ran the place until 1921, when our subject purchased his present place.

At Gustine on June 28, 1919, Mr. Taglio was married to Miss Rosalie M. Bizzini, born at San Lucas, Cal., daughter of Charles and Delphina Bizzini, farmer folk in the Gustine section, where Mrs. Taglio was reared and educated in the grammar and high schools. Mr. and Mrs. Taglio have two daughters: Rosalie, and Lorinne. Mr. Taglio is a trustee of the joint telephone companies, namely the Bunker Farmers line and the Sturgeon line. In politics he is a Democrat, and fraternally, is a member of the Woodmen of the World, and is a charter member of the Knights of Columbus of Newman.

JOSEPH S. PANCOAST

In Merced are located some of the most energetic and enterprising young business men of Merced County, men who have been successful in their undertakings, and whose efforts through life thus far, by their own perseverance and activity, have brought ample returns. Among this number is Joseph S. Pancoast, proprietor of the Pancoast Battery Works. A native of California, he was born on February 19, 1897, in San Francisco. His father, Mulford Pancoast,

was born in Virginia and came to California about thirty years ago and was married to Miss Rose Ingham, a native of San Francisco, Cal. The father is now deceased, but the mother is still living, residing in San Francisco.

Joseph S. Pancoast completed the grammar school course and was in his second year in high school when his father passed away. He was then obliged to leave school and go to work and chose the automobile game. His first job was with the Howard Auto Company; then he worked as an instructor for the Studebaker Company for one year. He then took up the battery business. This was before there were battery stations, and he advanced until he was put in charge of the battery department of several large shops. Then he spent two years selling life insurance, which further equipped him for operating his own business. In December, 1921, he came to Merced to deliver a policy, and he was so favorably impressed with the possibilities of the town that he rented a small space and opened a battery works. In September, 1923, having bought a site, he built his present modern shop, where he manufactures his own batteries, and in addition, carries a full line of accessories for all makes of automobiles.

The marriage of Mr. Pancoast united him with Miss Peggy Kimball, a native of Maine. Mr. Pancoast is a Republican in politics. For recreation, he enjoys motoring through the mountains.

HENRY P. GREEN

Public-spirited, enterprising and progressive, Henry P. Green has, for the past nineteen years, given substantial aid to the growth and development of the city of Gustine, where he has helped to build most of the homes and continues to be active in the upbuilding of this section, and also finds time to cultivate his home place of two acres within the city limits, where he makes his home. His birth occurred in Schuyler County, Mo., May 22, 1883, a son of John Henry and Margaret (Kirkland) Green, both natives of the same state. His father has spent his entire life in Missouri, where he is engaged in farming. He was county treasurer of Schuyler County for a couple of terms. There were ten children in this family, nine of whom are now living: Ona; Irvie, resides in western Kansas; Myrtle; Henry P., the subject of this review; Cordie; Gracie; Buella, deceased; Anna; Nellie; and Velma.

The education of Henry P. Green was obtained in the grammar schools of his native county. He spent twenty-two years of his life

at home; then he came to California and located at Gustine, where he learned the carpenter's trade and for several years has been a building contractor.

At Gustine, February 27, 1913, Mr. Green was married to Miss Leslie Hollingsworth, daughter of J. E. and Lucy J. (Drummond) Hollingsworth, both natives of Illinois and both pioneers of the San Joaquin Valley. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Green, J. Q. Drummond, came to California in 1852 and was a prominent and respected citizen of Merced County, where he engaged in farming near Ingomar. Her father, J. E. Hollingsworth, engaged in farming and dairying in Merced County and lived to be sixty-five years old. Her mother, whose sketch will also be found in this history, still makes her home at Gustine. Of this union there were four children: Ruby; John; an infant deceased; and Leslie, the wife of our subject. Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Green: Leland Henry and James Lester. Mr. Green is a staunch Democrat in politics, fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Gustine and is a past grand of this order; with his wife he is a member of the Rebekahs; he also serves as a member of the city council of Gustine.

GEORGE ROBERT HULEN

When the lure of gold was drawing thousands to California in the early fifties, among the hardy and adventurous argonauts who crossed the plains in 1854 was Andrew Jackson Hulen. With the cheerful optimism of youth he began the quest for the precious metal at Chinese Camp and Downieville. Of how much gold he found, there is no record, but it is recorded that he found something a great deal more precious, a faithful wife, Mary Ida Lewis, to whom he was united in marriage on September 2, 1873, in Contra Costa County, where he turned his attention to freighting among the farmers and merchants. He had filed on a quarter section in Merced County, but he gave that up and settled at Volta in 1894, and rented 100 acres of Uriah Wood; he also leased 800 acres and went in for grain farming. He finally bought ninety acres near Volta, where he spent the balance of his life, dying in 1917, at the age of eighty-six; his good wife is still living and is sixty-seven years old. Of this union there were born ten children: Lee A., deceased; John S., born April 13, 1876, who was married September 14, 1913, at San Rafael to Nettie Jeffers, born at Volta, Merced County, a daughter of Benjamin and Eliza (Knight) Jeffers, both born in 1843, the former in Jones County, Iowa, and the latter in Columbiana County, Ohio;

George R.; Margaret A., Mrs. A. C. Shafer of Manteca; William F., deceased; Lewis; Alice, Mrs. Smith Acker of Merced; Edna, Mrs. Weisman of Modesto; Frank; and Woodson, familiarly known as "Jack."

George Robert Hulen was born on February 16, 1879, near Lakeport, Lake County, Cal., was educated in the Santa Nella district school and remained with his father until 1904, when he went out and worked for wages as a ranch hand. He was frugal and saved his money and in eight years was able to acquire some stock, and in 1912 he came to his present location four miles west of Volta and bought eighty acres devoted to alfalfa on which he runs a dairy of sixty cows. He also owns thirty acres five miles south of his home. This is also under the canal and devoted to alfalfa. He is an independent in politics, voting for the best men and measures regardless of party. He is a member of the Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F.

ANDREW F. SILVA

Within the city limits of Gustine on the southwest lies the small ranch of six and a half acres, which for the past ten years has been the home of Andrew F. Silva. His birth occurred at San Lorenzo, Cal., August 4, 1885, a son of Andrew Silva and Mary (Cardoza) D'Souza, both natives of the town of Fayal of the Azores Islands, who came to the United States when young and were married in Boston, Mass. In 1871 they came to California and settled at San Lorenzo, where the father worked for wages on farms until 1903. They then removed to Gustine, which at that time was a flag station on the railroad, and here a farm of sixty-six acres was purchased and the father engaged in the dairy business for the balance of his life. He was fifty-three years old when he died. The mother makes her home at Newman, aged sixty-eight years. There were eight children in this family, namely: John, Rose, Mary, Alice, and Anna, all deceased; the surviving members are Manuel, Joseph and Andrew F.

Andrew F. Silva attended the public schools in Alameda County and was associated with his father in the dairy business at Gustine until his father passed away; he then bought the home place, which lies east of town about three-quarters of a mile, continued to run a dairy for several years, and then sold the cows and rented the land and moved onto his present home place, where he has built a substantial residence and necessary farm buildings.

At Oakland, Cal., December 12, 1909, Mr. Silva was married to Miss Mary Rodrigues Silva, born at Fayal, Azores Islands, daughter

of Antone Silva, a pioneer gold miner of California, who later returned to his native country, where he still lives. Mrs. Silva received her education in her native city. Three children constitute this family: Manuel, Antone, and Mary, the wife of our subject. Besides farming the home place, Mr. Silva writes life insurance for the Western States Life Insurance Company of San Francisco. In politics he is a Republican.

JOSEPH MACHADO SOARES

While Joseph M. Soares was growing up in his native land such glowing reports were continually coming from many of his countrymen, who had migrated to California and were making money, that it was quite natural for our subject to have a desire to see this country himself. He was born on December 21, 1888, a son of J. M. and Rosa (Azevedo) Soares, and grew up and went to school in his native land. His father was a farmer and also a mechanic and lived at Pico, in the Azores. There were nine children in the family: Manuel, Joseph M., John, Frank, Mary, Julia, Angelina, Seraphim and Rose. At the age of eighteen Joseph landed in Boston, Mass., coming directly to California and on arriving in Napa Valley, he found employment on a dairy farm, where he worked five years at twenty-five dollars a month to start with. From there he came to Newman, Stanislaus County; in the summer he worked at baling hay around Pleasanton, and in the winter time in the dairies in Stanislaus County. In due time he had accumulated funds enough to get into business on his own account, so we find him in partnership with his brother, John, and M. S. Machado, in a herd of 160 cows on the Crittenden ranch; this partnership continued for nine years when he sold out and bought sixty-eight acres in the Romero school district, a part of the old Menzel ranch, and here he built his house and farm buildings and raises alfalfa hay.

On October 8, 1917, J. M. Soares was married, at Gustine, to Theresa A. Luiz, born in San Rafael, Marin County, the daughter of Frank and Mary (Bernard) Luiz, both natives of the Azores, the former of St. George and the latter of Fayal. Frank Luiz was brought to California about sixty years ago, when a young lad, by his uncle who was a captain of a whaling vessel. He became a dairy rancher in Marin and Colusa Counties, and died at the age of sixty-nine. Mrs. Soares was the twelfth in a family of fifteen, as follows: Antone, Mary, Frank, Emily, John, Joseph, Belle, Madaline, Mildred, George, Henry, Theresa, Rose, Olivia, and Catherine. Mr. and Mrs. Soares have five children: Joseph, John, Edwin, Alice and

Erwin. Fraternally, Mr. Soares is a member of the U. P. E. C. and the I. D. E. S. Lodge of Gustine, also of the E. S. E. S. of Gustine. Mrs. Soares is a member of the S. P. R. S. I. of Gustine. Mr. Soares took out his naturalization papers about three years ago, and is a Republican.

JOHN PAUL GIBBONS

The son of a pioneer couple, and a well-known man in Merced, John Paul Gibbons, more familiarly known as Paul Gibbons, is the foreman and chief trouble-shooter for the Ford Garage operated by R. Shaffer at Merced. A son of John Wesley and Helen (Leslie) Gibbons, he was born at Merced Falls on April 29, 1890, and grew to manhood on his father's ranch and attended the common schools of his locality. In 1906 he came to Merced. Always being interested in machinery of various kinds, he entered the machine shop of the Yosemite Valley Railway and served an apprenticeship. He then became a locomotive engineer in 1907, serving seven years on the Yosemite Valley Railroad, running from Merced to El Portal.

The marriage of Paul Gibbons at Richmond, Cal., on June 6, 1911, united him with Miss Margaret Thornton, daughter of the late Michael Thornton, a prominent rancher of this county. Mrs. Gibbons is the twelfth of a family of thirteen children. She grew up in the county and attended the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons have one child, Paul. In 1913 Mr. Gibbons erected their home at 1010 Seventeenth Street, Merced.

After leaving the employ of the Yosemite Valley Railway Mr. Gibbons entered the employ of Lounsbury and Shaffer as an automobile mechanic. When Mr. Shaffer took over the Ford agency on Sixteenth Street, in 1922, Mr. Gibbons went with him. He is a competent mechanic and ably fills his responsible position. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. Politically he is a Democrat.

JULIUS BONTA

The life which this sketch outlines began in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, on November 26, 1871, when Julius Bonta was born to Carlo and Maria (Cesalina) Bonta. The father is still living in his native country at the age of ninety; the mother died at the age of forty-four. Julius has two brothers, Placido and August, in California.

His father was a farmer and stockman. As Julius grew up he went to the common school and helped his father at home. When he came to that period in life when a boy begins to think what he is going to do in the world his thoughts were turned to that country across the sea whither so many of his countrymen had gone, and as soon as he reached his majority, in 1892, he bade good-bye to his native land and embarked for the New World. He had no capital or trade, but had learned about caring for stock from his father, and he naturally sought for work on a dairy ranch when he reached Salinas, Monterey County, Cal. After working there six years he came to the West Side of the San Joaquin and worked on ranches fourteen months near Newman. By this time he had saved enough of his wages to go into business on his own account. Entering into partnership with George Stewart, he carried on a dairy of 120 cows for five years, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Bonta carried on the business by himself, with two strings of cows, for five years. His next venture was the purchase of 100 acres of land eight miles south of Gustine in 1908, part of it in alfalfa and part undeveloped; but he has brought it all into a high state of cultivation and carries on a dairy of sixty head at the present time.

On March 4, 1909, Julius Bonta was married in Switzerland to Elvira Guzzi, a native of that country, and daughter of Clement and Celeste Guzzi, farmer folk, and they have two children, Emile and Daniel. Mr. Bonta received his naturalization papers in Monterey County and votes for the best man and measures regardless of party. In 1924, Mrs. Bonta made a visit to her home in Canton Ticino.

SILVERIO P. SILVA

The success which numbers Silverio P. Silva among the prosperous business men of Gustine has been entirely the result of his own efforts, for he came empty-handed from Portugal, where he was born August 4, 1876, and with the energy and perseverance characteristic of the natives of Portugal has gained a competence in the face of many difficulties. He is the son of Jacintho and Joaquina Maria (Alves) Silva. Jacintho Silva was a blacksmith and followed his trade all his life in Portugal. There were nine children in this family, namely: Maria; Jose; Lucina; Antonio; Felizarda; Benigno, deceased; Silverio P., our subject; Quiteria; and Neves, who died in infancy. The father passed away at the age of sixty-five years, while the mother is still living, having reached the advanced age of ninety-one years.

Silverio P. Silva received a common school education, and when only thirteen years old he took a position as clerk and from that time on has made his own way in the world. He worked as a clerk in various stores for fifteen years, when he came to the United States and directly to California, locating in San Francisco, where he worked for wages. In 1903 he located in Merced and for the following three years worked on farms. In 1906 he removed to Gustine and worked for two years for John V. Azevedo, and on September 1, 1913, established his own general merchandise business and within six years had accumulated sufficient means to build his own store building, which is 50 x 125 feet.

At Merced, in February, 1914, Mr. Silva was married to Miss Mary Rose, a native of Marin County, Cal., daughter of Manuel and Isabelle Rose, early settlers in Marin County. Mr. and Mrs. Silva have one daughter, Zelma. Fraternally, Mr. Silva belongs to the U. P. E. C., and for the past twelve years has served as secretary of the I. D. E. S. Lodge of Gustine; politically he is a Republican.

DALTON E. HALES

Possessing executive ability of a high order, Dalton E. Hales has won well-merited success by his honest and upright dealings with all with whom he has business relations and has gained the respect of the community. He is the local representative, with his office in Gustine, of the Western States Life Insurance Company of San Francisco. Since becoming identified with this company, Mr. Hales has become an honorary member of the sales force and is one of the first fifteen salesmen of this company in a force of 600.

One of California's native sons, Dalton E. Hales was born at Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz County, September 8, 1893, a son of Elisha and Edith (Maddocks) Hales, both natives of California. Dalton E. Hales attended school in Gustine and later took a course at Heald's Business College in San Francisco. In 1910 he started in business for himself as a retailer of milk and continued in this business for a few years; he then engaged in the dairy business. When he located in Gustine he worked for Chappell and Reuter, remaining with them until he went to San Francisco, where he took his business course; then he went to work for the Pacific Hardware & Steel Company in that city. He next removed to Los Banos where he worked in Miller & Lux's store. From Los Banos, Mr. Hales went to San Jose and conducted a business in East San Jose for one year, when he again returned to Gustine and for eight months was engaged in the

dairy business, when he sold out. In 1920 he engaged in the general insurance business, which has since occupied his time and attention. He is the special agent at Gustine of the Western States Life Insurance Company of San Francisco.

On September 26, 1914, at Gustine, Mr. Hales was married to Miss Florence Pearce, born at Ingomar, Merced County, a daughter of J. L. and Flora Pearce, pioneer farmers of Merced County. Mrs. Hales was educated in the grammar and high school at Gustine and the Modesto High School. Mr. and Mrs. Hales are the parents of two children: Athol Merrill and Dalton Eugene. Mr. Hales served as deputy constable for four years; in 1923 he was elected justice of the peace of township No. 6 of Merced County. He is a Republican in politics and fraternally is Past Grand of the Romero Lodge No. 413, I. O. O. F., at Gustine.

PETER E. PETERSEN

As a natural result of his thrift and industry Peter E. Petersen has become a prosperous citizen of Gustine, Cal., which has been his home since 1909. His birth occurred in Aro, Denmark, on January 7, 1888, a son of Hans Peter and Maria Catherine (Smith) Petersen, both natives of Denmark, where they still make their home, the father being seventy-two years old and the mother sixty-seven years. There are six children in the family: Alfreda P., Mrs. C. L. Smith residing at Turlock; Peter E., the subject of this review; Jorgen; Hans P., deceased; Johannes; and Nora.

Peter E. Petersen attended grammar school in his native country and learned the blacksmith trade in Aro with his father. In 1907 he came to the United States and almost directly to California, where he worked for his brother-in-law, C. L. Smith, for a year and a half. He then followed his trade with James R. Jensen in Gustine for three years, when, on March 29, 1912, he bought a half interest in a blacksmith business with A. Andersen, and the firm became Andersen and Petersen, and in 1914 they built a garage building; in 1919 he sold his interest in the garage to Gilbert Kerr and in 1923 took over the entire blacksmith end of the business. Mr. Petersen is also interested in agriculture, owning a fifth interest in a 131-acre farm, known as the Gustine Orchard Company, which is devoted to almonds, grapes, walnuts and figs.

At Gustine, July 15, 1916, Mr. Petersen was married to Miss Lillie Hansen, born at Ingomar, Cal., a daughter of Hans and Christina (Smith) Hansen, whose sketch will be found in this history.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Petersen: Hans Peter and Eleanor Marie. Mr. Petersen is Past Grand of Romero Lodge No. 413, I. O. O. F., and has served as trustee of this order for many years; he is also a member of the Dania Lodge of Gustine. In politics he is a Democrat.

JAMES C. AUSTIN

A deservedly popular and prominent citizen, James C. Austin is numbered among the representative men of Gustine. Since arriving at this place in 1920, he has labored zealously for its upbuilding and the development of its resources. A native of Scotland, he was born in Edinburgh, October 2, 1882, a son of James C. and Mary I. (Jenkins) Austin, both natives of Scotland. The father, James C. Austin, was a wholesale tea and wine merchant during most of his active career; he passed away in 1920, never having left his native shores.

James C. Austin received his education at the George Watson's College in his native city. In 1900 he joined a volunteer contingent and served during the Boer War in South Africa for two years. After a visit to his boyhood home in Edinburgh he went to Canada and for the next ten years was identified with two of the leading banks of that country. Later he removed to Montana and opened a bank at Coburg, and when he came to California he established a bank at Lemon Cove. Then he took a trip to Honolulu and was connected with the Bank of Bishop & Company, Ltd., as accountant. In February, 1920 he located in Gustine, where he has since remained as the capable and efficient cashier of the Bank of Gustine.

At San Francisco, on August 14, 1922, Mr. Austin was united in marriage with Miss Mabel Hansen, born at Gustine, a daughter of Hans Hansen, an early settler of Merced County and an extensive land owner. Mr. Austin supports all public matters and measures that will advance the interest of the people and county.

WILLIAM H. GILBERT

The success achieved by William H. Gilbert, since identifying himself with the agricultural interests of Merced County, furnishes another proof of the opportunities offered by this section of California to men of persevering industry. Since 1907, Mr. Gilbert has been associated with various creameries in this section of California and

for the past three years has been manager of the Gustine Creamery. He is a native of England, born June 4, 1882, a son of Henry Gilbert, also a native of England who owned and operated a hotel in that country.

William H. Gilbert attended public school in his native country and in 1894 went to Ontario, Canada, where he attended the Kingston Dairy School; after finishing school he was identified with milk association work in Kingston, Canada, for eleven years. When he came to California he settled at Lathrop where, for a time, he was connected with the Oakwood Stock Farm; he then removed to Ceres and for two years worked in the Ceres Creamery. In February, 1910, he located in Gustine and for the following eleven years he worked for the Dairy Delivery Company as butter maker and tester; two years of this time he was manager of the company. In 1921 he became manager of the Gustine Creamery, which has an output of 1,500,000 pounds of butter in one year. This creamery sells to the San Francisco and Oakland markets, and is also associated with the Challenge Cream & Butter Company of Los Angeles; they also supply the local trade of Gustine, Newman and vicinity. There are thirty people employed in this creamery collecting milk and cream from Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

Mr. Gilbert is associated with Dr. Stagner in a fifty-acre peach and walnut orchard near Wheatland, Yuba County. Fraternaly, he is a member of Romero Lodge No. 413, I. O. O. F. in Gustine; he belongs to Leeds Lodge No. 201, A. F. & A. M.; Leeds Chapter No. 132, R. A. M., both at Gananoque, Canada; is a charter member of Modesto Commandery No. 57, K. T., and belongs to Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. in Oakland.

ORSON B. CARD

No more satisfactory example of the self-made and substantial business man can be found than Orson B. Card, proprietor of the Card Garage at Arena, Cal. He was born in Potts County, Pa., on September 25, 1882, the youngest of three children born to Orrin and Louisa (Haskins) Card, the others being Oscar M., who married Maimie Havens and had two children, Ernest and John, who are now living with their maternal grandparents, their father and mother having met an accidental death in an auto and electric car accident at Boise, Idaho; and Carrie A., who married J. P. Berlin and lives at Livingston; she has two sons. The mother died at Nelson Run in 1900, and the father, who was born at Oswego, N. Y., resides at

Yountville, Cal., and is eighty-two years of age. He was a Civil War veteran, and after the war he farmed and had a sawmill at Nelson Run, Potts County, Pa., where he made shingles and lumber.

Orson B. Card was reared in Potts County, Pa., and attended the public schools till he was fourteen, when he began to assist his father on the farm and in his sawmill, becoming familiar with machinery at an early age. He was the first member of the family to come to California. Before he landed in this state he was engaged in lumbering near Idaho City, Idaho, and in mining at Deadwood, that state. In company with his uncle, C. S. Card, he owned the Dewey mine and they brought in the first stamp mill, which weighed 5500 pounds, through almost impassable mountains. He sold his interest in this silver and gold prospect to his uncle in 1916. When war was declared our subject was classified as A 1 for war service and was called just as the armistice was signed. Coming then to California, he developed a forty-acre Malaga vineyard from a wheatfield near Livingston, selling out to Clara M. Myhead in 1923. He then erected his garage, fifty by sixty-four feet in dimensions, and established a Ford agency, handling also the Fordson tractor. He has a full line of accessories, gas, oils, tires and tubes and does all kinds of repairing, employing one and sometimes two men, and is building up a good business in his district, where he is known as an experienced mechanic. In politics he is a Republican.

FRED H. CRONWELL

A successful business man of Los Banos who is now serving his township as justice of the peace is Fred H. Cronwell. A native of Illinois, he was born in Rockford, Winnebago County, on September 9, 1884, and attended the public schools of his city until he was eighteen, when he made up his mind he would strike out for himself and see something of the West. He arrived in San Francisco in 1902 and soon secured work as a clerk in the Russ House; thereafter he followed hotel work for several years in California, Oregon and Washington. He finally located in Healdsburg, Cal., and engaged in the tailoring and cleaning business, later removing to San Francisco where he carried on the same kind of business until 1916, when he came to Merced County and located in Los Banos. Here he opened a tailor shop and also deals in men's wearing apparel and furnishings, and does a cleaning and repairing business in connection, being now accounted one of the leading business men of the town.

Mr. Cronwell was united in marriage with Miss Nell Jones, of Healdsburg, and they have a daughter Ida May. Mr. Cronwell is

a member and ex-president of the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce. Fraternally he belongs to Mountain Brow Lodge No. 82, I. O. O. F. and to Los Banos Lodge No. 312, F. & A. M. Mr. Cronwell was appointed by the board of supervisors to the office of justice of the peace to fill a vacancy and at the regular election in 1922 he was a candidate to succeed himself, was elected by a good majority and continues to fill the office to the satisfaction of his many friends.

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