

The upper portions of the valley, especially that which borders on Lake Tahoe, is excellent farming land. Between these two points—the meadows and the lake—but little meadow land is found, the valley being reduced to narrow strips of low land in the canyons and narrows, and broad, gravelly uplands in the more open country.

Salvia—a small side-track, comes next after Wadsworth, 7.25 miles distant. Soon we pass around a lava bluff, called Red Rock, on the right, and 7.55 miles brings us to

Clark's—in a round valley, surrounded by fenced fields, where good crops of vegetables are raised for market in mining towns to the south. From Clark's, it is 11.96 miles to

Vista—a small station situated on the northern edge of what is known as the Truckee Meadows. In early days these meadows were a noted rendezvous of the emigrants, who camped here for days to recruit their teams after crossing the desert. They have an extent of about twelve miles in length by about two miles in width, inclosing considerable excellent grass land. Vegetables and small grains are successfully cultivated on portions of the moist land.

Reno—is 7.64 miles from Vista; is the county seat of Washo county, and contains a population of about 1,500. It was named in honor of General Reno, who was killed at the battle of South Mountain. This city has rapidly improved within the last six years, and now contains five church edifices, two banks, a fine court-house, a number of good business blocks, a steam fire department, several small factories, two daily newspapers, the *Journal* and the *Gazette*, and is the distributing point for an enormous freighting business to the north, as well as the south. Some good agricultural land surrounds the town, as well as many herds of cattle and sheep. The State Agricultural grounds are located here, in which is a very fine race track. The Lake House is the principal hotel. Stages leave daily for Susanville, 90 miles.

The English works are near the town, affording excellent means by which to test the ores discovered in the neighborhood.

The greatest mining region in the world is reached via Reno. Virginia City, located over the mountain to the southeast, from this station is *only* 21 miles distant, by the old wagon road, but by rail it is 52 miles.

Before the completion of this road, Virginia City was reached by stage, over a fearfully steep zig-zag mountain road, but the difference between the "old and the new" is more than made up in the comfort of the passage if not in time.

At the time when these stages were running to convey passengers, a fast "Pony Express" was run for the purpose of carrying Wells, Fargo & Co.'s letter bags. This pony express was once a great institution. When it left Reno, the traveler could have observed that the mail express bags were thrown from the cars before the train had ceased its motion. By watching the proceedings still further he would see that they are transferred to the backs of stout horses, already bestrode by light, wiry riders. In a moment all is ready, and away they dash under whip and spur to the next station, when, changing horses, they are off again. Three relays of horses were used, and some "good time" was often made by these riders.

Let us take a run up and see this
Huge Bonanza Country.

Virginia & Truckee Railroad.

Principal office, Carson, Nevada.

D. O. MILLS... *Pres't*.....*San Francisco.*
H. M. YERINGTON....*Gen'l Sup't*....*Carson, Nev.*
E. NILES.....*Gen'l T. A.* ... " "

This road was commenced at Carson City, March 19th, 1869, completed to Virginia City in the following November, and to Reno in 1871. The length is 52.2 miles; the grade in places is 115 feet to the mile, and there are six tunnels, of the aggregate length of 3,000 feet; the shortest curve is 19 degrees—between Gold Hill and Virginia City.

The train for Virginia stands on the opposite side of the station building from the C. P. Let us step on board. From Reno, our course is east of south, crossing a portion of the Truckee Meadows, a few well-cultivated fields and greater quantities of sage and grease-wood. The first station on the bills is 3.5 miles from Reno, called

ANDERSON'S—but we do not stop. Crossing the river, we pass the first of a series of V-shaped flumes, which are constructed to float down wood and lumber from the mountains. The one we are now passing is said to be 15 miles in length.

HUFFAKER'S—comes next—after 3.6 miles, where another flume is passed, both of which are on the right, and land their