

whole length of the deep snow line on the dividing ridge. When we consider that along the summit the snow falls from 16 to 20 feet deep during a wet winter, we can imagine the necessity and importance of these structures. By this means the track is as clear from snow in the winter as are the valleys. The mighty avalanches which sweep down the mountain sides in spring, bearing everything before them, pass over the sloping roofs of the sheds and plunge into the chasms below, while beneath the rushing mass the cars glide smoothly along, the passengers hardly knowing but that they are in the midst of an enormous tunnel.

Where the road lies clear on the divide or level land, the sheds have sharp roofs, like those of any building calculated to withstand a great weight of snow. But where the road is built against the side of these bare peaks, the roof of the shed can have but one slope, and that must reach the mountain side, to enable the "snow-slides" to cross the road without doing harm to that or the passing trains. (See illustration, pages, 101 and 170.)

Fires sometimes cause damage to sheds and road, but seldom any delay to the trains, as the company have materials of all kinds on hand for any emergency, and, with their swarm of men, can replace everything almost as quick as it is destroyed; but, to further protect the snow-sheds and bridges from fire, and the more effectually to extinguish them, the Railroad Company have stationed the locomotive Grey Eagle at the Summit (with steam always up and ready to answer a summons), with a force pump of large capacity, supplied with steam from the engine. Attached to the locomotive are eight water cars, the tanks on which are connected with each other and with the tender of the engine, so that the supply of water will always be sufficient to check any ordinary fire.

The Summit House, located at the station, is one of the best hotels on the road and can furnish tourists with every accommodation required, while spending a few days or weeks exploring this very interesting region.

Passengers from the West, desiring to visit Lake Tahoe, can take a stage at the Summit House, which will afford them a fine view of Donner Lake, while rolling down the mountain and around to the north and east side of it, en route to Tahoe. Returning, those who choose, can take the

cars for the East, at Truckee, without returning to the Summit. Fare for the "round trip," \$6.00.

Leaving the Summit, we pass on through the long shed, and tunnels alternately, around the base of towering peaks, anon over high, bare ridges, then through grand old forests, for 5.77 miles to

CASCADE—Here we cross one of the branches of the Yuba, which goes leaping down the rocks in a shower of spray during the summer, but in the winter the chasm shows naught but a bed of snow and ice.

Summit valley, one of the loftiest of the Sierra valleys, lies to the west, a broad, grassy meadow, dotted with trees and lying between two lofty mountains, about two miles long by one mile wide. It is covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, affording pasturage for large bands of cattle, during the summer. It is all occupied by dairymen and stock-raisers, at whose comfortable dwellings the tourist will find a hearty welcome. It is a delightful summer retreat; a favorite resort for those who prefer the mountains, with their cool breezes and pure water. The valley is watered by many springs and snow-fed rivulets, whose waters flow to the American River.

This valley is becoming noted in a business point of view, as well as being a place of summer resort. It is becoming celebrated as a meat packing station, it having been demonstrated that pork and beef can be successfully cured here during any portion of the year.

SODA SPRINGS—are situated near the foot of Summit Valley, their waters uniting with others, forming the head waters of the American River. The springs are very large and numerous, and the water is pronounced to be the best medicinal water in the State. It is a delightful drink, cool and sparkling, possessing the taste of the best quality of manufactured soda water. The larger of the springs have been improved, and great quantities of the water are now bottled and shipped to all parts of the State. Near the Soda Springs are others, the waters of which are devoid of mineral or acidulous taste, and boiling hot.

In the summer these springs are much resorted to by people from the "Bay." There is a comfortable hotel at the Springs which is reached from the Summit by stage, and sometimes at a side-track, called "Soda