

crest of an isolated mountain range, which stands bold and clear among the plains, 1,000 feet in height. From appearances, one would be led to suppose that this ridge crossed the valley at one time, when this was an inland sea; and when the waters escaped from the lower valley, those confined above cut a portion of the ridge down level with the plain, and escaping, left a beautiful valley above.

From the summits of their bald peaks a fine view can be had of a great portion of the Sacramento Valley, including MOUNT SHASTA, away to the northward, 220 miles distant, in latitude 41 deg. 30 min., an isolated and lofty volcanic mountain, over 14,440 feet high. It is covered with perpetual snow, and is the head and source of the Sacramento River. (See ANNEX No. 43.) To the northwest, in the Coast Range of mountains, can be distinctly seen Mts. LINN, ST. JOHN and RIPLEY. On the south, Mt. DIABLO, in the Contra Costa range, while on the east, from north to south, is the long range of the Sierra Nevadas, as far as the eye can reach.

Returning to Marysville, we again start on our journey. One mile north of the city we cross the track of the Oroville railroad, pass several cemeteries on the right, also a race track; then, bear away to the left—northwest—and cross the Feather River on a long trestle bridge. Along this river, live oaks and sycamore trees abound by the million.

LOMO—a flag station, comes first from Marysville, 6.8 miles. Here are wheat lands which continue, with an occasional clump of trees, 3.9 miles, to

LIVE OAK—another side track, in the centre of some thousands of acres of young live oaks, and manzanita shrubs. Passing along with the broad valley of the Sacramento on the left, which stretches away as far as the eye can reach, and the Feather River Valley on the right, beyond which are the lofty Sierras, we reach

GRIDLEY—which is 6.5 miles further north. This station has several hotels and stores, a dozen residences, and a large grain warehouse, and one flouring mill, as, be it remembered, we are now in one of the great wheat sections of the State. The station was named for a Mr. Gridley—maybe it's "Old Bob Gridley"—who knows?—who owns somewhere about 35,000 acres of land adjoining the station, much of which he has worked by farmers on a division of crops. Live oaks, big ones

are numerous all the way for 3.4 miles to

BIGGS—This is a lively town of about 1,200 population, in the midst of fine wheat lands, with extensive warehouses for storing and handling wheat in nearly all seasons. This cereal is a large and sure crop. Biggs has a weekly paper—the *Register*—several hotels, chief of which is the Planters, and a stage line to Oroville, twelve miles east; fare, \$1.00.

The place was named for a Mr. Biggs, who, like the Mr. Gridley, is troubled with about 30,000 acres of this wheat land, much of which yields, when properly farmed, 50 bushels to the acre. Leaving Biggs we cross the big canal of the Cherokee Company, which is 18 miles long and 400 feet wide; the water is used for hydraulic mining, and then for irrigating purposes.

After a run of ten miles, all the way through wheat fields, we reach

NELSON—composed of about a dozen buildings, surrounded with wheat, wheat, all wheat. These fields extend far away in every direction.

Passing along, we cross Butte Creek, and 6.6 miles from Nelson, come to

DUNHAM—Here is about a dozen buildings, in the midst of a broad plain studded with occasional oaks. A flouring mill and large warehouses are near the station. Continuing on 6.1 miles, and we stop at the beautiful town of

CHICO—It is 43 miles from Marysville, 25 miles northwest from Oroville, and five miles east of the Sacramento River, situated in the Chico Valley, Butte county, in the midst of as rich a farming section as the State affords; population 5,000. The city is lighted with gas, has ample water-works situated near the depot, and has several banks and hotels, chief of which are the Chico House and the Union; one daily paper, the *Record*, and one weekly, the *Enterprise*. To the eastward looms up the Sierra Nevada Mountains, covered with a dense forest of timber, in which are many sawmills, the lumber from which is floated down to within three miles of the city, in a "V" flume, 35 miles in length. The streets are lined with shade trees, groves of oaks, and orchards and gardens are on every hand. Near the town, General Bidwell, the old pioneer, has an extensive ranche—or farm, as it would be called in the Eastern States—which is in a very high state of cultivation, producing abundantly all kinds of fruits and plants of the temperate and semi-tropical climes.