

steamboat plies regularly, for the transportation of freight and passengers for the regular coast steamboats that stop at this point.

We are now running along, over and beside a salt marsh, inhabited by cranes, pelicans, ducks and mud-hens, with peat-bogs and stagnant pools for immediate surroundings, while to the left, a half-mile away, is high rolling prairie, covered with cattle and sheep, beyond, the long range of the Gabilan Mountains, while to the far right an occasional glimpse can be had of Old Pacific.

A run of 10.3 miles from Pajaro, and the train stops at

CASTROVILLE—one-half mile to the west of the railroad; population about 800. The town is situated at the northern end of Salinas Valley, in Monterey county, one of the most productive in the State. It is recorded in the Agricultural Bureau in Washington, that the largest yield of wheat ever known was grown in this valley, in 1852, being 102 bushels to the acre. That year whole fields averaged 100 bushels to the acre; an ordinary crop is from 40 to 50 bushels. In 1876, Monterey county produced 800,000 bushels of wheat, 400,000 bushels of barley, 70,000 bushels of oats, and other productions in proportion. Sheep and cattle in large numbers are raised. The wool-clip for 1876 amounted to 1,500,000 lbs.; butter, 360,000 lbs.; cheese, 120,000 lbs.; average value of land, \$8 per acre. The lands in this valley are mostly "safe lands," i. e., will raise a crop without irrigation. Emigrant, *this* is a good place for you to come to.

To the east, beside the mountains, can be seen, at certain points after leaving Castroville, the little villages of Natividad and Sodaville, also the Alisal race-track.

As we proceed southward, the valley widens and appears more beautiful.

SALINAS—is 7.9 miles south of Castroville, situated to the right of the road, and on the east bank of Salinas River, with a thriving population of 3,000, and many fine stores, hotels, and private residences. The Abbott House is the principal hotel, and the *Index* and *Democrat* are two papers published here weekly.

Stages leave daily for New Republic, east, three miles; Natividad, northeast, six miles; fare, ten cents per mile. From Salinas a railroad extends nineteen miles west to

MONTEREY—This place is situated on the southern extreme of the bay of Monte-

rey, the most capacious on the Pacific Coast, 136 miles from San Francisco by rail, and about 100 by steamer. Immediately to the westward of the city is Point Pinos, jutting out to the northward four miles, to meet Point Santa Cruz, another long promontory extending from the north, between which and the main land—land-locked as it were—is the broad bay of Monterey. This bay was first discovered by Cabrillo in 1542. In 1770, the site was occupied by the Jesuits, under the leadership of Padre Junipero, who, June 3d of that year, held the first mass. The bell which called the faithful together was hung from a tree, the location of which is now marked by a cross, erected on the centennial day of its celebration, bearing the legend, "JUNE 3d, 1770." On the hill, near this cross, are the ruins of an old fort, near a Mexican fort of later date; and higher up the hill is where the American fort of 1846 was built, when the Americans seized the country.

Monterey is a quiet, sleepy old town, where every person seems satisfied with himself, apparently believing the world is completed; living on in the dreamy self-satisfied consciousness that the spirit of progress is at an end; a present tangible heaven of eternal sunshine. It is a glorious place to spend a few weeks; having done so, the pleasurable memories of the sojourn will ever remain a ray of soft sunshine, while plodding through the cares, trials and perplexities of an active business life. Monterey—as one might well suppose—is a favorite resort in the summer for the better classes of citizens of the State, as well as for tourists, who find ample accommodations.

Returning to Salinas, and starting once more for the south, we find this to be the widest portion of Salinas Valley, which is about 90 miles in length, with an average width of eight miles. The valley is situated between the Gabilan Mountains, to the eastward, and Santa Lucian Range on the west, about 20 miles from the Pacific Ocean, from the winds of which it is protected by the mountain named.

CHUALAR—is the next station, 10.9 miles from Salinas, and consists of several stores, hotels, saloons, and a dozen or more residences. Here are cattle pens and shutes, indicating that we are in a country where cattle are shipped to market; the same might be said of GONZALES, a station six miles further, only there are a few more