

sembling a prairie dog town, only much larger, and without the hole in the top.

From Sycamore it is 9.8 miles to

**Fresno**—the county seat of Fresno county, a county the most diversified in the State, where land can be purchased for from \$3.00 to \$10 per acre. The town of Fresno has a population of about 800, has a \$60,000 court-house, some good business blocks, two weekly newspapers—the *Expositor* and *Review*—and is a thrifty, growing place. The soil about the town is largely clay, producing well when irrigated, and never a seed without.

A most beautiful view is here to be obtained of the mountains on the left; the principal peaks rise from 12,000 to 14,000 feet above this valley, covered with snow the year round. Planted timber appears at places, and some of the private residences are surrounded by trees, mostly eucalyptus.

A stage line runs to Centreville, seventeen miles east. Several schemes are in hand for building large irrigating canals, taking the water from the San Joaquin and King's rivers, which, when completed, will be of great benefit to this people.

To the southwest, three and a half miles, is located the California Colony of about 125 families. The colony's land is regularly laid out for a town, with 40 acres of ground for each family. The canal that supplies water to the colony is crossed about five miles after leaving Fresno. Little of the land along here lying near the road is cultivated, but when the irrigating canals spoken of are completed, they will all be found occupied and yielding large crops.

From Fresno it is 9.6 miles to

**Fowler**—a small station where trains seldom stop, there being only half-a-dozen buildings—so we roll on 10.5 miles further to

**Kingsbury**—where there are several stores, and about one dozen buildings.

All along this valley numerous wind-mills are in operation, for irrigating and domestic purposes, that raise abundance of good water from a depth of from fifteen to forty feet. Soon after leaving Kingsbury, the road is built on an embankment which extends to King's River, which is crossed on a long trestle bridge.

This river rises in the high Sierras, to the northeast, and after reaching this valley, has a broad, sandy bottom, is very crooked, its course being marked, far

above and below, with trees and willows which grow thickly along its bank. King's River, where the railroad crosses it, is the boundary line, beyond which lies the county of Tulare.

Sheep ranches, fenced fields—some very large—are now noticeable extending to the right and left—well we don't know how far, as the valley hereabout is full 40 miles in width, and sheep and fences, and fences and sheep, extend as far as the eye can distinguish the appearance of the land, the soil of which is clay and sand, in places somewhat alkaline. Cattle are also raised to some extent in the foot-hills, and pens and shutes for shipping are to be seen at many of the stations on the road.

The next station is CROSS CREEK, 8.1 miles from Kingsburg, and 5.8 miles from

**Goshen**—Here we come to the Southern Pacific railroad—Goshen Division—the track of which could be seen on the right, just before reaching the station. This division is only completed 40 miles, and is designed, eventually, to connect with the line extending towards it from Gilroy, which is now completed to Trespinos 100 miles south of San Francisco, referred to on page 231.

The stations on the Goshen division are: HANFORD, 12.9 miles from Goshen; LE-MOOR, eight miles further; HEINLEN, 1.6 miles, and 17.5 more to

HURON—whole distance, 40 miles from Goshen, distance from Huron to Trespinos, 100 miles. This division runs through what is known as the "Mussel Slough" country, a section where the land is very rich, adjoining Tulare Lake, on the north, where the yield of all kinds of crops is marvelous. Reports say some of these lands have yielded as high as \$250 per acre in a single year; that five crops of Alfalfa a year is common, and vegetables—well, we will never tell you—the yield is IMMENSE! two hundred pound pumpkins, eight feet in circumference; potatoes twelve pounds in weight, and cornstalks 20 feet high, are some of the figures. The price of land ranges from \$20 to \$100 per acre.

At Goshen, a track branches off to the left, on which cars are run seven miles to

VISALIA—the county seat of Tulare county. It contains about 1,600 inhabitants, and is situated in the midst of the most fertile land in the State, and on the Kaweah River. The country round about presents to the eye a beautiful appearance. Large oaks cover the plain in every di-