

rection, and orchards, gardens, vineyards, and well-cultivated fields are to be seen on every hand. Visalia is the center of the rich section once known as the "Four Creek Country."

The town boasts of a \$75,000 court-house, some good stores, gas-works, several big saw-mills, six hotels, three weekly newspapers—the *Delta*, *Times*, and *Iron Age*—one bank, a flouring mill, a normal school, and a number of public schools, and churches of various denominations. Stages run from Visalia to Glennville, 65 miles.

From Goshen, Visalia is entirely obscured from view by the tall oaks that abound in this section of the country on every side. These oaks are old and ragged, many are fast decaying, and when gone, the country will be nearly bare, as there are few young trees growing to take their places.

At Goshen, is the end of the Visalia division of the "Central," and the commencement of the Tulare Division of the Southern Pacific—operated under a lease by the "Central" company. Although *this* is the nominal end of divisions, all changes, usual at such stations, are made 10.5 miles further at

Tulare—This is a new town, as it were, built up under the stimulating influences of a railroad point where are located extensive shops, round house, ware houses, and station buildings, incidental to its being the end of divisions. The town contains about 500 population, and is situated in the midst of a broad plain about 20 miles east of Tulare Lake, and is a thriving town. It is a point from which large amounts of freight are shipped on wagons, to the adjoining country, and where wool in great quantities, is brought for shipment to San Francisco.

The company's shops and grounds at this place—as is the case in some other localities—are surrounded with rows of beautiful trees, chief of which is the "blue-gum." These trees, from a distance, give the place more the appearance of grounds surrounding some palatial residence, than where several hundred men are employed manipulating iron. These grounds are also covered with green sward, which is watered when necessary, by long hose connected with the works.

Soon after leaving Tulare, we cross Deep and Tulare creeks, both narrow streams with steep banks, rich soil, and lined with trees; the land is covered with a thick growth of

short grass. Passing the neighborhood of these creeks, the country seems to suddenly change, and at

Tipton—10.4 miles from Tulare, presents a barren appearance. To the right, left and front, sheep abound, but not a tree or shrub. Five miles beyond Tipton, are groves of eucalyptus trees, immense numbers of which are on both sides of the road. The lands here, that are irrigated at all, are supplied with windmills. Twelve miles from Tipton comes

Alila—just after crossing Deer Creek. **TULARE LAKE**, is about seven miles west of this station, and is a body of water covering an area of about 7,000 square miles, is nearly round, or 30 miles long by 25 miles in width, in which fish in great varieties abound, as do ducks, geese, and other water fowl.

OWENS LAKE—another large sheet of water, but not as large as Tulare by about one-fourth—is 78 miles from Alila, in a northeasterly direction.

Passing on over White River, 8.3 miles, we come to **DELANO**, a place of a half-dozen buildings, just in the edge of Kern county. The country along here is treeless and not very inviting. From Delano it is 11.8 miles to Poso, and 11.8 miles more to

Lerdo—To the southwest, about 40 miles, are located the Buena Vista Oil Works, in a section of country where great quantities of oil are found in holes and ditches in the ground, where it is now waiting for enterprise to sink wells, build tanks for saving and marketing, when it will yield immense returns. This oil region is about eight miles by three in area.

Passing on about nine miles, we come to Kern River, which we cross on a long trestle bridge. This river is one of the largest flowing from the Sierras, and even in a dry season, carries a large amount of water.

Summer—is the next station reached, 12.4 miles from Lerdo. This is a very busy place of about 250 population, it being the distributing point for a large amount of freight. To the westward, one and a half miles, and connected by "buses" hourly, is

BAKERSFIELD—This town is the county seat of Kern county, and contains a population of about 800. It is situated at the junction of the two branches of Kern River, has a \$35,000 court house, a bank, several hotels, a flouring-mill and two weekly