



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF THE LOOP, TEHACHAPI PASS.

newspapers, the *Courier-Californian* and the *Gazette*. Kern Lake is 14 miles south of west from Bakersfield, and is about seven miles long by four wide. Six miles further is Buena Vista Lake, some larger. Around these lakes, and Tulare Lake, the land is exceedingly rich.

Kern Valley, in which Bakersfield and these lakes are situated, is one of the richest in the State, being composed almost wholly of sedimentary deposits. Vegetables grow to fabulous proportions, the soil being of the same nature as that in the "Mussel Slough Country" before named.

The irrigating canals are very extensive in this country, some over 40 miles in length, with a varied width of from 100 to 275 feet, eight feet deep, costing \$100,000. Besides the irrigating canals, there are many farms that are irrigated by wells and wind-mills. There is one ranche, nine miles from Bakersfield, that contains 7,000 acres, on which are two flowing artesian wells, of seven inches bore, one 260 and the other 300 feet deep. From these wells the water rises twelve feet above the surface, and discharges over 80,000 gallons per day.

On this ranche there are over 150 miles of canals and irrigating ditches, 32 miles

of hog-tight board fence; 4,000 acres are under cultivation, 3,000 of which are in alfalfa, from which four and six crops a year are cut. Nearer Bakersfield, the same party, Mr. H. P. Livermore, has another large ranche, with 500 acres in alfalfa, and 3,000 in wheat and barley. On these ranches are 8,000 sheep, 4,000 stock cattle, 300 cows, 350 horses, 100 oxen, 70 mules and 1,500 hogs. The same party makes all his own reapers, mowers, harvesters, plows, harrows, cultivators and threshing machines—everything in use on the place, except steam engines. He has one plow, the "Great Western," which is said to be the largest in the world. It weighs something over a ton, and is hauled by 80 oxen, cutting a furrow five feet wide and three feet deep, and moving eight miles a day. Another plow called "Sampson," is used for ditching, and requires 40 mules to work it.

Another party in the county has 40,000 sheep, 2,000 acres in alfalfa, and raises 60,000 bushels of grain. Another *poor* fellow raised, in 1877, 84,000 lbs. of pumpkins and sweet potatoes; some of the former weighed 210 pounds, and of the latter, some 15½ lbs. While attending to these *little* vegetables, he would occasionally