SEES SACRAMENTO

C. E. M'CLELLAN WRITES OF THE FAMOUS VALLEY.

A Very Prosperous Looking Country—Land Said to Be Worth $700 per Acre—Sacramento a Favored Town—How it Got Its Name.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 24.—Stone pavements become tiresome after awhile to feet that are more accustomed to the yielding earth, besides a person's view of California is apt to be a very lop-sided one if he spends all his time in 'Frisco, delightful as that town undoubtedly is.

The country between San Francisco and Sacramento is very much of a mixture. The railway runs for miles through orchards and vineyards, orange and lemon trees with the fruit still hanging on the branches, and the traveler is told that this fruit land is worth $700 an acre, un unimproved; he is also told some very fanciful yarns about its wonderful productive qualities.

Mark Twain was once standing on the water front at Sydney, Australia, and was told by one of the natives that the distance around the harbor, which only measured a mile across the entrance, was over a hundred miles. There are liars everywhere, observed the genial Mark, and it will probably be two hundred when you measure it, so when a man listens to some of the stories of the value and wonderful productiveness of this region, he is very apt to agree with Mark, that there are liars everywhere. But it is a very prosperous looking country in spots, well improved in the way of houses, barns and fences. The roads through the fruit districts are sprinkled with oil, that having been found more economical than water, which seems to speak volumes for the amount of dust that a good wind is capable of raising here sometimes.

Their Products.

Going from San Francisco to Sacramento by way of Stockton, parts of the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys are passed through and a passing glimpse is obtained of the various productive industries of this part of the state. Some of them are still experimental for the idea of this country that its mission in life was to raise grain was for a long time a deep-rooted one, but with the advent of cheap grain, experiments were made along other lines so very successfully, that the variety of products grown on one farm would make the average schoolboy dizzy to memorize. Here is one farm which raises apples, crabapples, pears, cherries, plums, prunes, peaches, apricots, nectarines, quinces, figs, almonds, chestnuts, pecans, walnuts, oranges, lemons, persimmons, pomegranates, loquats, mulberries, olives, grapes, currants, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, strawberries, besides an endless quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, green peas and other vegetables.

It takes five years for an orange orchard to mature, that is the planter may figure on five years steady outlay before any income is derived. The cost of planting and cultivating the orchard for five years is estimated at $212 per acre, so it will be seen that the orange grower needs to be a small capitalist to begin with. Grain raising has not been abandoned, however. Some seeding is being done now; many fields already seeded, in which the grain is not yet showing through the ground, and yet others where the grain is five or six inches high and seemingly much thicker on the ground than is found profitable in Eastern Oregon.

It has been very dry here all winter, farmers all over the state complaining of a lack of moisture for their work, but it started to rain yesterday and three inches of rain fell in two hours with the result that things generally on the upper end of the valley are afloat. It is still raining, and there is not likely to be any farther complaint of insufficient moisture for some time to come. This is the bright side of the trip; the other side is where the road runs through miles of swamp and tullies where the very roadbed on which the rails are laid is made out of rock and gravel hauled there for the purpose. Expensive railroading, perhaps, but Californians seem to think that the Southern Pacific is getting all back and through other miles of hardpan and rocky formation as barren looking as anything to be found in Umatilla county, and which recalls the Irishman's not wholly unnatural exclamation, "Be jabers, if I had been making this country, I could have made a better job of it."

A Favored Town.

The city of Sacramento, the capital of the state and the county of the same name, is situated at the junction of the American and Sacramento rivers, and to its inhabitants Providence seems to have been kind in a variety of ways.

Chinook salmon, weighing 60 pounds, are seen hanging in the butcher shops, caught at their very doors, and this morning, from the bridge two boys were seen with a skiff. They had a piece of telegraph wire fastened from one of the piers to a post on the shore, and to the wire a number of fish lines were attached. The boys were drawing in the lines and had a smelt on every hook. It does not seem to matter, though, how fair a country is or what the inducements are to tarry in it, there are always some for whom the temptation to immigrate are stronger and from this same bridge last night a man took a header into the river and departed from a country which to him, at least, seems not to have been kind.

Wonderfully Productive.

The land along the river is wonderfully productive and rents for $20 per acre annually. Here is one asparagus bed of 500 acres. The people along the river are independent of the railroad and can float their stuff down the river in any old kind of craft. The state legislature is in session here and are discussing, among other things, an appropriation of $100,000 for the stamping out of bubonic plague if it shall be found that it exists here, San Francisco papers having all along strenuously denied its existence, also a plan to extract two or three million dollars from the federal government which that institution has been owing to the state of California since some time in the sixties. Senator Shortridge, a gentleman of somewhat humorous tendency, was speaking on the subject and seemed rather inclined to advise the state to sell out its claim at a considerable reduction for cash if it got a chance, because, said the senator, "my experience with the state of California has been that it will put off the payment of its own debts just as long as it possibly can do so, and the reputation of the federal government in this respect is notoriously worse than that of the state of California.

Why Called Sacramento.

The Padres who first discovered this valley and the river running through it, were so impressed with its appearance that they named it the Sacramento, after the holy sacrament, and he who takes the trouble to climb into the dome of the capitol building and views the picture to be seen from that eminence, is not apt to dispute the correctness of the Padres' title, and what a picture of a prosperous city, of wide winding river, whose course can be followed for miles, of orchards, grain fields and mountains is spread out here, and how surely it recalls that other picture of the old hymn writer:

Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood,
Stand dressed in living green,
So to the Jews old Canaan stood
While Jordan rolled between.

C. E. M'CLELLAN.

For Sale—100 tons of alfalfa hay. R. J. Boddy, butcher, Athena, Or.