

# INYO COUNTY



APPLE TREES IN BLOOM

California

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC

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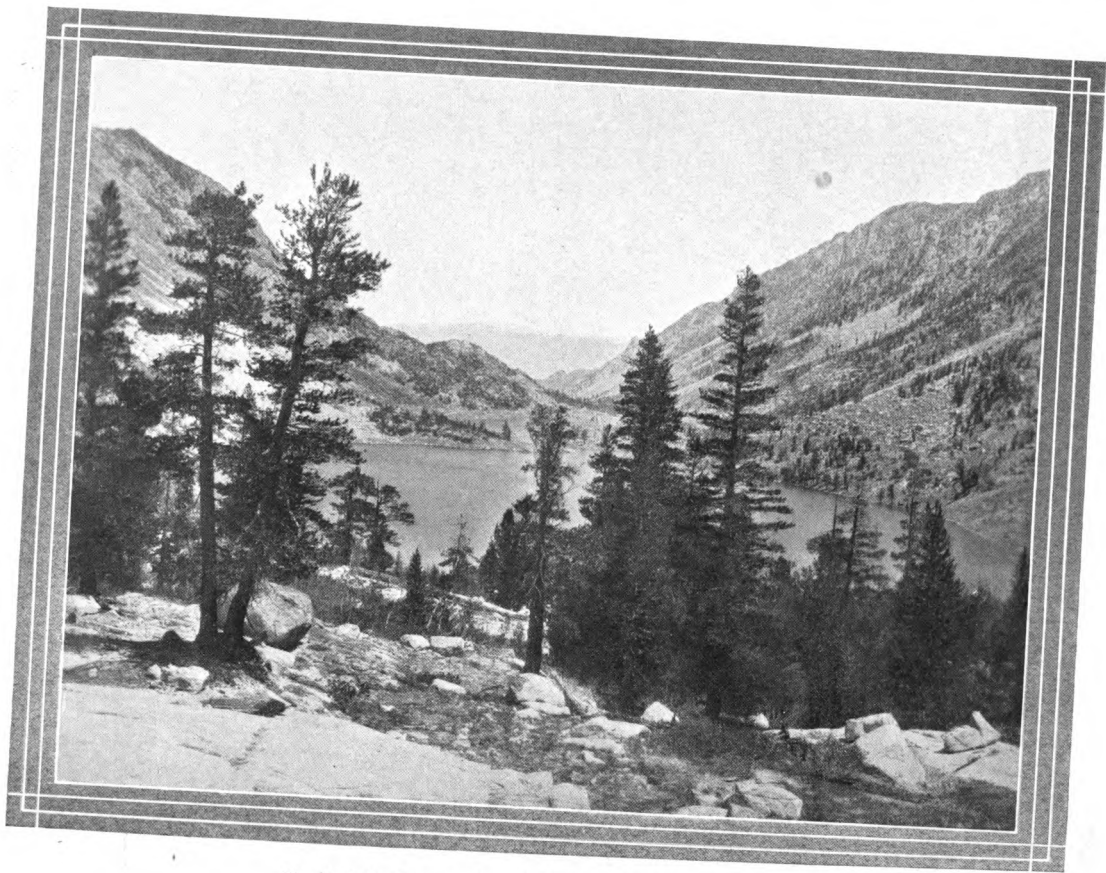
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# Inyo County California



*By* G. YOELL PARKHURST

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*Placid Lake Sabrina, Guarded by Its Sentinel Mountains.*



# Inyo County, California

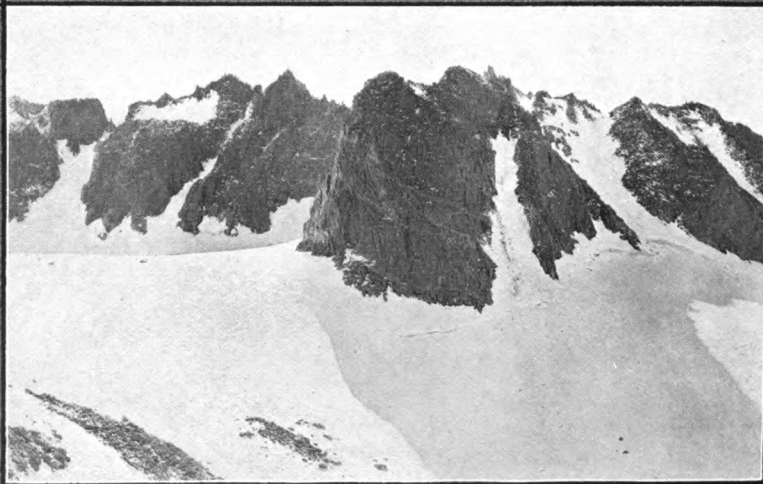
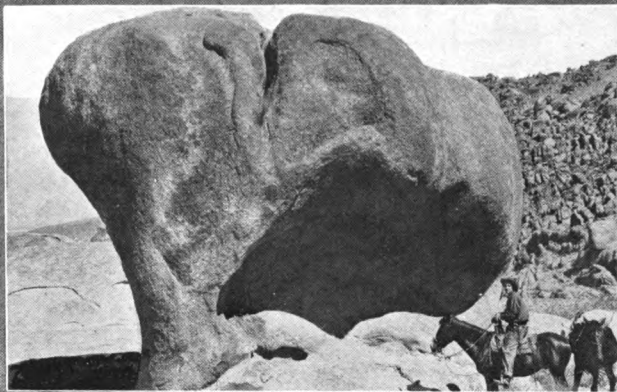
By

G. YOELL PARKHURST

**I**NYO is a land of superlatives. All of its attributes, physical and industrial, exist in the greatest degree. Within its boundaries are the highest mountain peak and the most depressed valley in the United States. Its mountain sides shed the greatest volume of water of any county in California, and its valleys have less rain; and, as a crowning boast, it may be said that its valleys are among the most fertile agricultural lands and its mountains more highly mineralized than any equal area in the state.

Situated in the southeasterly part of California, it is bounded on the north by Mono County, on the west by Fresno and Tulare, on the south by Kern and San Bernardino counties, and on the east by the state of Nevada. Next to our largest county, it is about one hundred and eighty miles long, and from fifty to one hundred and forty-five miles in width. The Sierra Nevada Mountains reach their greatest altitude in Inyo, for Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the United States, is fourteen thousand five hundred and two feet above sea-level, while numerous others within easy range pierce the clouds at a height of over ten thousand to twelve thousand feet. Through the center of the county, from north to south on a parallel with the Sierra Nevadas and divided from them by Owens Valley, runs the White Mountain Range, with its two divisions, the White and the Coso Mountains. In the southern part, east of the White Range, are the Slate and Panamint Mountains, with Panamint Valley nestling between them, while farther east still are the famous Death Valley, at a depression of four hundred and twenty-two feet below sea-level, and the Funeral Range. In the lower and western portion of Owens Valley, crouched at the foot of the Sierras, are the Alabama Hills, said to be the oldest geological formation in the world. With its headwaters in Mono County, the Owens River and its numerous tributaries irrigate the entire Owens Valley, emptying, after a journey of over one hundred and twenty-five miles, into the lake of the same name.

JUN - 8 1912



*Elephant Rock, Near Lone Pine, Amid the Alabama Hills—Oldest Geological Formation in the United States. Glacial Action at 14,000 Feet Elevation, Showing Inexhaustible Water-supply.*

**FAMOUS OWENS VALLEY**

This valley, which extends along the eastern base of the Sierra Nevadas for one hundred and twenty miles, is indeed a paradox—a land of little rain and great fertility. Although its annual rainfall is little over five inches, its farmers by economical use have had sufficient water for all requirements—one of the many reasons why, in the last few years, it has sprung into prominence as an agricultural district of both great promise and fulfillment. This physical inconsistency is easily explained however: the ranges between which the valley lies are of such height that the clouds break up before reaching the valley, depositing upon the ridges and in the crevasses an inexhaustible supply of snow, which, melting, feeds the river and its tributaries the year round. Because of this the Inyo farmers' crops never fail.

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Lands  
for Wealth**

Owens Valley, including also its subdivisions in the northern part of the county, Pleasant and Round valleys, stands for all that Inyo County means to the agricultural world. It is one vast sweep of tillable land, only one-fourth of it as yet being under cultivation, the remainder holding forth immense opportunities to homeseeker and farmers great and small. The cause of this percentage of settlement has been the past inadequate transportation facilities. The only railroad operating in the county has been a narrow-gauge line running from Mina, Nevada, down to Keeler, but now the Southern Pacific is completing a broad-gauge line which is to run its entire length, connecting it with Los Angeles and San Francisco by way of Mojave, and with the eastern world via Hazen, Nevada, giving its farmers the advantage of the shortest route to Los Angeles and the Eastern markets. Thus far, all of their produce has found a ready market either at home or in the Nevada mining-camps, principally Goldfield or Tonopah.

The stronghold of the valley and the metropolis of the county is the incorporated town of Bishop, with a growing population of over one thousand. It is five miles from the railroad station at Laws, and is the center of great farming, water-power, and mining activity. There is a greater area of tilled land in this vicinity than in any other part of the county, all of which is irrigated by Bishop Creek and by canals from the Owens River. It can boast of well-built schools and churches, three thriving hotels, two newspapers, fine business blocks, an electric power and lighting plant, a municipal water system, and a rural delivery. The Woman's Improvement Club has done much towards the town's advancement. A musical and a literary society have also done much towards promoting social activity in this prosperous and up-to-date community.

Big Pine, about sixteen miles from Bishop and two miles from Alford on the railroad, has, with its surrounding vicinity, a population of seven hundred and fifty, and is the trading point for thousands of acres of farming land. It has good schools, a fine water system, a quaintly pretty church, and several women's clubs that have done much towards its advancement. There are many pretty homes on its quiet, shady

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*The Town of Bishop Can Truthfully Boast of Some Beautiful Home Places.*



streets, two comfortable hotels and a number of thriving commercial enterprises. The farms are irrigated by the waters of Big Pine Creek, Baker Creek and canals from Owens River.

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Between Bishop and Big Pine the county owns and maintains what is known as the County Home and Farm. This comprises an eighty-acre tract of fine land with good buildings and modern appliances where the unfortunate ones are made to feel that they are going home, rather than "over the hills to the poorhouse."

Independence, five miles from Citrus station, with a population of five hundred, is the county-seat, where the courthouse, land-office, and weather bureau are situated. A mile and a half away is Fort Independence, one of California's historic safety guards against the early Indian uprisings. There is a great deal of arable land in this section irrigated by Independence Creek; the small portion of it that has been settled affords a good example of prosperity. Like all of the county's towns, it has good schools, a church, pretty homes, hotels, and a good water system and beautiful scenery.

Lone Pine, sixteen miles from Independence and a short drive from Mt. Whitney station, has a great future as a summer resort, for it is situated at the base of Mt. Whitney, one of America's scenic wonders. It is here that our American Alps may be seen in all their magnificence and grandeur. There is a comfortable old-fashioned inn, where in the balmy days of spring and summer one may sit on the veranda and look up to lofty snow-capped peaks and pine forests sentinelng radiant meadows; an hour's ride will take one up into their midst, to placid lakes and limpid streams, and farther up, amid everlasting snows, glacial and erosive action is constantly taking place.

Besides its communion with the beautiful, Lone Pine affords *ample opportunity* for industry. It is a great sheep and cattle country; in fact, farming in all its branches has here been carried on with great success.

Keeler, at the end of the valley, and on the eastern shore of Owens Lake, is the terminal of the narrow-gauge line. It is a mining town and the site of a smelter and two large soda factories. A larger quantity of soda ash is manufactured from the highly mineralized waters of this lake than from any other similar deposit in the world. It is claimed that over one-half of the soda consumed in the United States is a product of Owens Lake.

## OTHER VALLEYS AND TOWNS

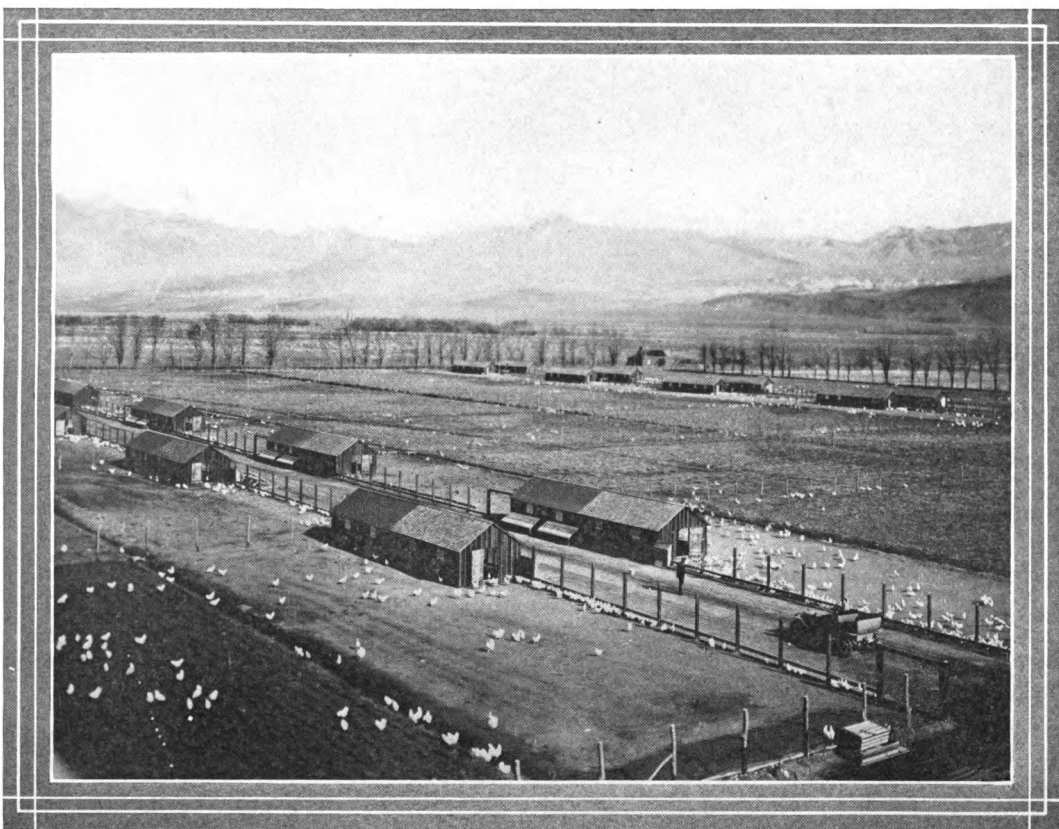
Round Valley and Pleasant Valley, in the extreme northwestern corner, are but slightly more elevated parts of Owens Valley; in them are many thriving farms, with room for many more.

Darwin, a town in the southwestern part of the county, is the center of a large and profitable mining section in the Panamint, Coso, and Argus Mountains.

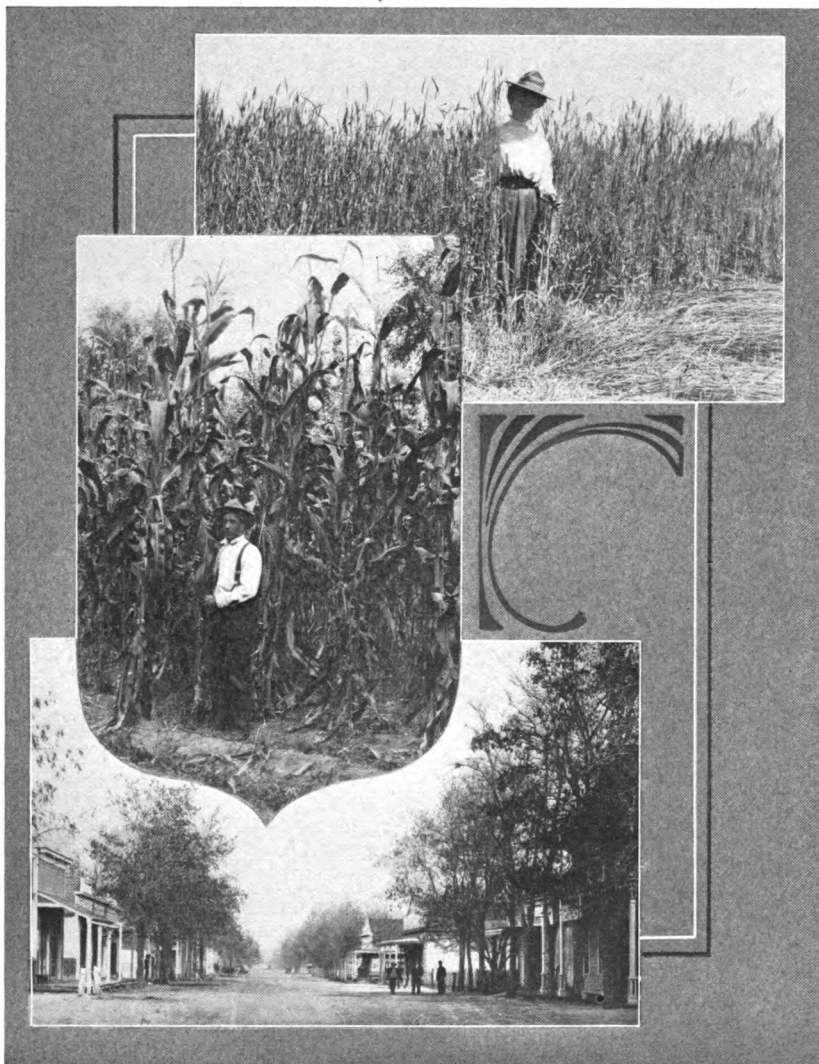
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Coso Hot Springs, not many miles south of Darwin and but eight miles from the Southern Pacific station at Little Lake, is a resort whose

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*A Thriving Chicken Ranch Near Big Pine.*



*Rye and Cornfields Near Lone Pine. Street Scene in Independence.*





waters are beneficial to the health-seeker, for sulphur, lime, and many other curative minerals are contained in their composition.

Little Lake, Haiwee, and Olancha, are towns on the Southern Pacific branch from Mojave to Keeler.

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## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In speaking of the agricultural aspects of Inyo County, it might be said that practically all of its fertile land is contained in Owens Valley. Here all kinds of hay, grain and fruit thrive, and bear large and profitable crops; in fact anything that grows and produces well in a temperate zone receives encouragement from this well-irrigated arable land.

## ALFALFA, HAY AND GRAIN

It would be difficult anywhere to surpass the quality of hay grown on the alfalfa lands around Bishop, Big Pine, Independence and Lone Pine. It is of such a high grade that the cattle and horses that feed on it do not require oats or any other stimulating grains.

Two or three cuttings are harvested yearly, producing from six to eight tons to the acre. Owing to the clemency of the climate, the stacks may be left in the fields all through the winter, where the cattle and sheep are turned out to graze at will, and are fed from the stacks when necessity requires.

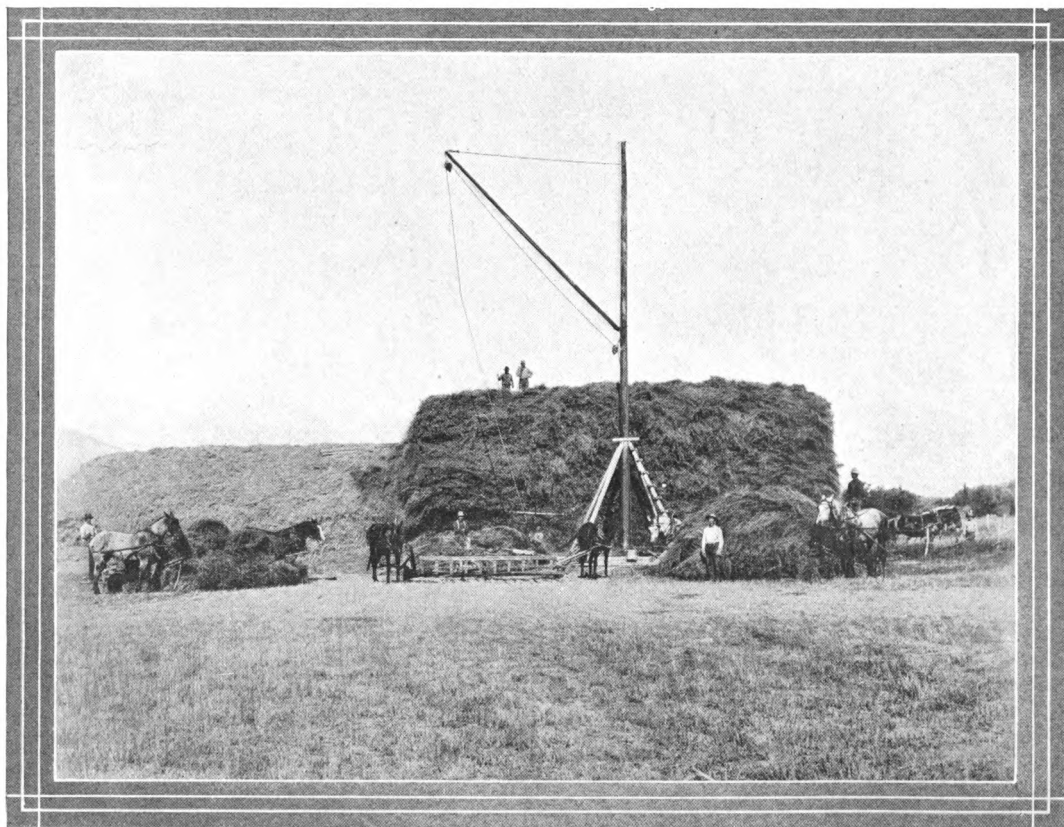
It might be well to digress here to speak of the beauty of Inyo County farms. Their houses are nearly all modern and those that are not are kept clean and newly painted. Instead of the conventional country rail fences, barbed wire is strung on good substantial posts, and shade trees of different varieties line the ranch divisions and roadsides.

Wheat and oats throughout the valley yield from thirty to forty-five bushels an acre; corn, both Indian and Egyptian, from one and a half to two tons, and redtop and timothy hay about two tons to the acre.

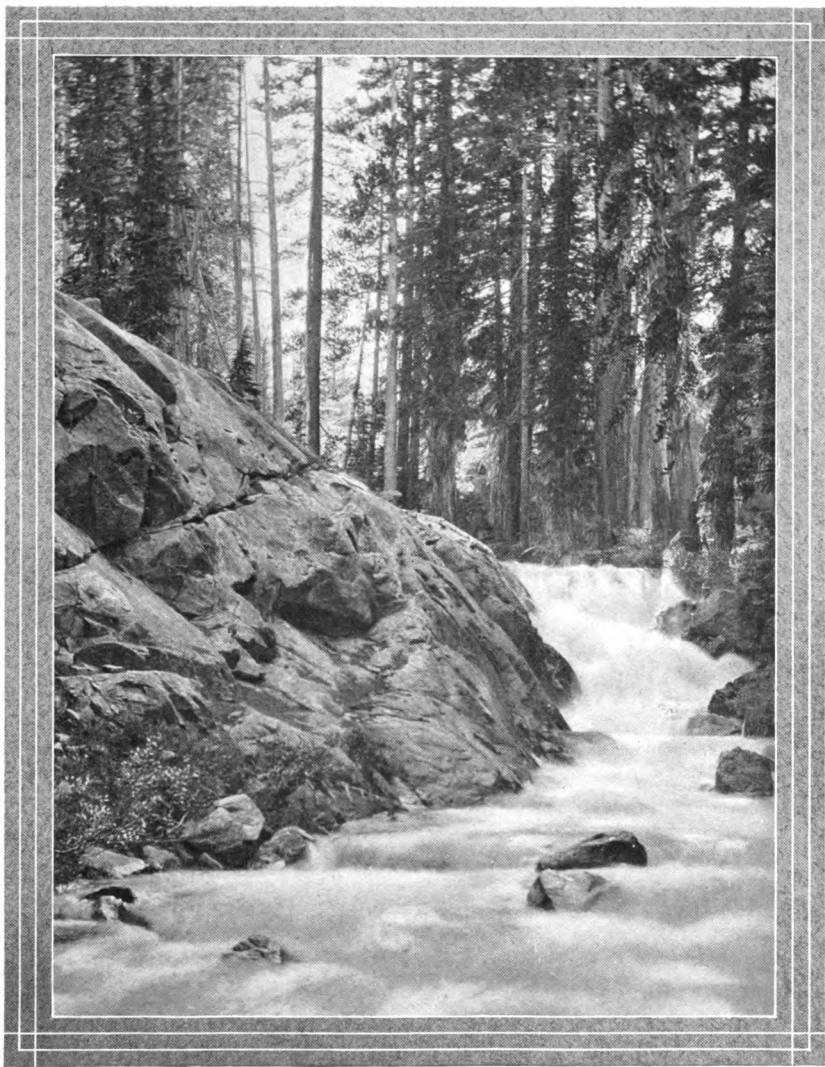
## POULTRY

The farmers around Big Pine and Bishop are rapidly forging to the front in the poultry line. There are several very successful small chicken ranches near Bishop, and at Big Pine, on the Fred Eaton Ranch, there has lately been installed a chicken plant which promises to be the largest in the state. Its total acreage is three thousand five hundred, some of which is given over to orchard and hay and grain land, but the majority of it is devoted to the culture of twenty thousand white Leghorn chickens, which Mr. Eaton expects to increase to sixty thousand within a very short time. Altogether \$100,000 has been spent upon the ranch's improvement. Twenty-four henhouses 12x24½ feet have been erected, with that many more in course of construction. The brooder is seven hundred feet long, and besides there are many outhouses, including a machine house and a granary. Water is procured from Big Pine Creek and an electric plant is about to be installed, the power to come from the same source. The eggs and chickens have sold at both the

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*Stacking Alfalfa Hay in the Owens Valley.*



*Big Pine Creek, With Its Never Ceasing Water-supply.*



*Harvesting Salt in the Famous Saline Valley. One of the Many Inyo County Apiaries.*



Nevada and the Los Angeles markets at top-notch prices. It speaks well for the land when a man of fortune is willing to make such an outlay upon it.

Turkeys are raised in large flocks upon many of the ranches and bring from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound.

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### APPLES

It would not be unwarranted to prophesy that within the next few years thousands of acres of now uncultivated land will spring into one immense apple orchard running the length of Owens Valley. While there has been little systematic apple culture thus far, many farmers with a few acres planted in this fruit have made splendid profits, the Inyo apple bringing one cent a pound more than any other upon the Los Angeles markets. The great altitude and the crisp air combine to produce a fruit that rivals that of Oregon and Colorado. In fact a Bishop grower who sold his fruit to a Los Angeles dealer afterwards discovered that they were retailed in boxes marked "Colorado apples." Of late a prominent Southern California real estate firm has bought a tract of land between Bishop and Big Pine, and also between Independence and Lone Pine, and is cutting them up into parcels of ten and twenty acres to sell for apple land. The varieties that thrive here are the Winesap, Pearmain, Rambo, Baldwin, Northern Spy, Spitzenburg and others.

### APIARIES

Bee culture has also proved a very remunerative venture. The honey is of a very high grade, as the bees feed almost entirely on alfalfa blossoms. Honey from apiaries near Bishop took first prize at the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco and also at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland. A stand of bees seldom brings less than five dollars income and some apiaries have averaged even a higher profit.

### DECIDUOUS AND SMALL FRUITS AND GRAPES

Apricots, peaches, cherries, pears, plums and all kinds of berries produce abundantly and are of fine flavor. Figs and walnuts have also been grown successfully by many of the settlers. The Muscat, Flaming Tokay, Black Hamburg, and the Rose of Peru have been the favorite varieties of grapes that have brought large yearly returns.

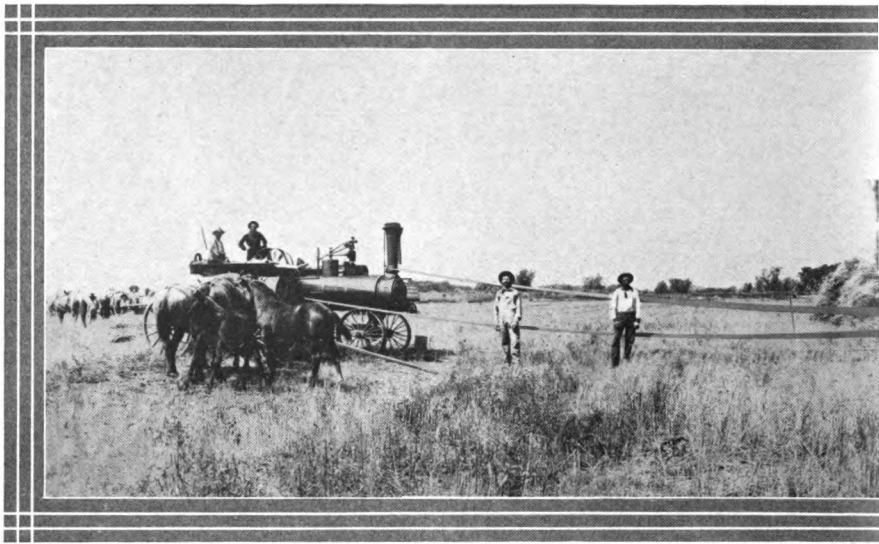
Particularly on the foothill lands deciduous fruit has been found to produce abundantly, as the slope of the hills protects it from frosts.

The White Mountain Ranch, five miles east of Big Pine, which comprises twenty-two acres, twelve of which are planted in cherries, peaches, apples, plums, figs and grapes, last year netted \$2000 from this small orchard.

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### POTATOES AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes mature quickly and are of a fine keeping quality, returning good dividends to the grower. Cauliflower, cabbages, tomatoes, beans,



*Threshing Grain Near Independence. One*

onions, in fact all of the hardier garden truck, do well and find a steady sale in the home markets and also at the Nevada mining-camps.

## STOCK-RAISING

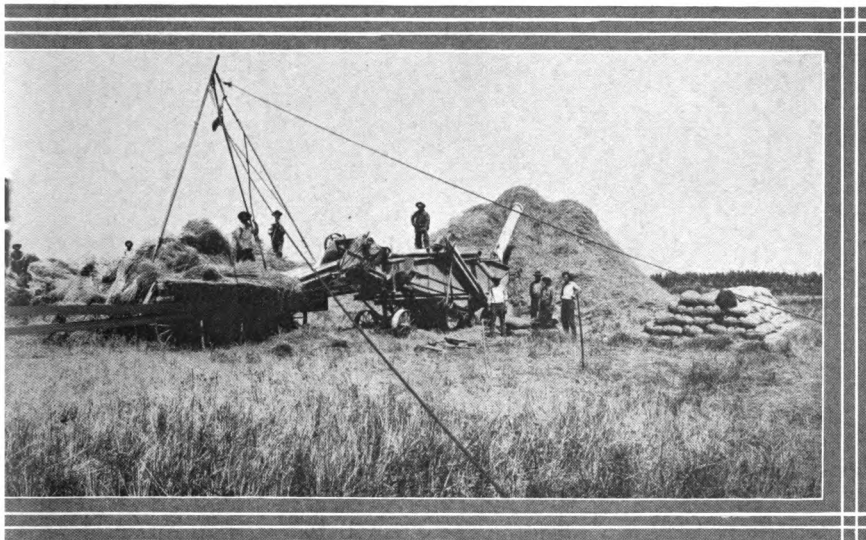
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Stock-raising is one of Owens Valley's most promising industries. The fine quality of the alfalfa and other grasses here grown, favorable climate, with mountain range for summer use, together with altitude, pure water and air, guarantee to the stock-raiser that perfection only obtained under most favorable conditions and warrants the high prices that are obtained for Owens Valley grown cattle, horses and other stock.

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The wool from the sheep demands a higher price than any on the market except the Mendocino wool, often bringing as high as twenty-three cents a pound on the spring shearing. Thousands of head of sheep from Kern and Tulare counties pass through the valley on their way to the summer range, stopping for the shearing in order to command Inyo prices, and in the fall on their return buying fall feed and hay from the farmers.

Hogs also are not the least profitable of the many investments open to the Inyo County settlers.



*of Inyo County's Profitable Industries.*

## DAIRYING

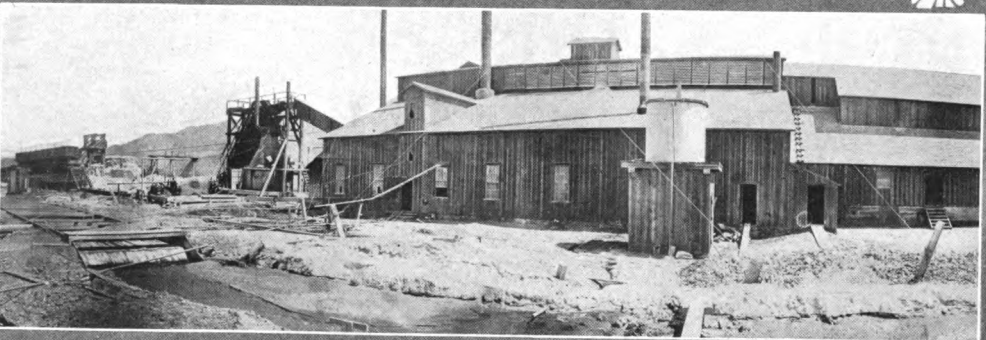
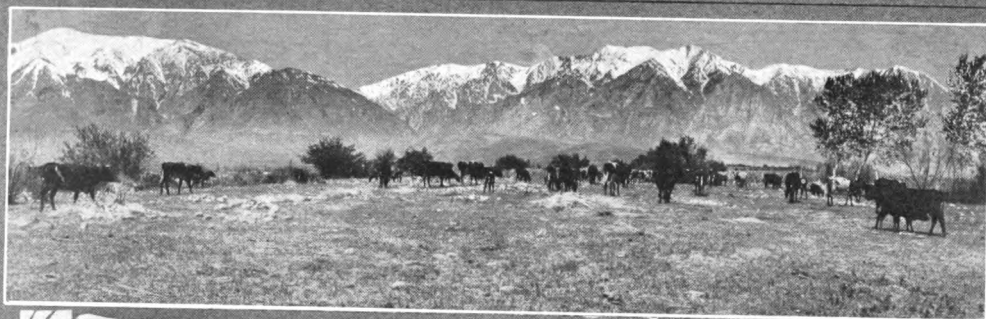
Dairying has proved a paying industry, the nearby mining-camps taking all the output at remunerative prices. Several large creameries are located at different points in the valley to which the farmers either haul their milk or cream after extracting at the home dairy, there being many who own separators. With the completion of the new railroad to Los Angeles, a new market will be opened that will mean an unlimited demand for all the products of the dairyman.

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## IRRIGATION AND WATER-POWER

The amount of water both for irrigation and power has made this a land to be conjured with by the empire builder, both eastern and western. All of the streams that head along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevadas from eighty miles south of Mt. Diablo base line are tributary to the Owens River, which rises in Mono County and runs the entire length of Owens Valley. The main part of this watershed is above Fish Springs, six miles from Big Pine. The largest stream feeding the river is Bishop Creek, upon which, a few miles above the town, the Nevada-California Power Company has three plants in operation carrying light and power to Bishop, and to Tonopah, Goldfield and

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*Fertile Round Valley. The Snow in Distance Shows Water-supply. The Soda Works of the Inyo Development Co. at Owens Lake Are Shown Below.*



many of the southern Nevada mining towns. It is the intention to install more plants and more reservoirs so that the plant's entire capacity will represent thirty thousand horsepower and one million cubic feet of water. The mountain streams offer many opportunities for power sites.

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The building of these storage reservoirs, thus saving the flood waters and equalizing the flow of the stream, has been of great assistance to the farmers who use the waters of Bishop Creek for irrigation. An organization known as the Bishop Creek Water Association has a membership of about ninety water users and by intelligent management and cooperation always have ample water for domestic and irrigation purposes, at an expense of about five cents per acre per season.

The other streams which feed Owens River are Big Pine, Division, Independence, Lone Pine and Cottonwood Creeks, all of which in turn are fed by melting snows and myriad lakes tucked away in the canyons and crevasses of the mountains.

Los Angeles has taken up twenty thousand inches of water upon Owens River which it intends to carry by aqueduct into that city from a point above Independence, known as Aberdeen, a distance of two hundred and forty miles—the greatest project of its kind undertaken in modern times.

On Big Pine Creek a reservoir is conserving the water, which is taken to the ranches and town of Big Pine.

Artesian wells have been bored successfully near Independence, artesian strata varying from twenty-five to five hundred feet in depth, the water flowing in a steady stream. So there can never be any cry for water in this section of California.

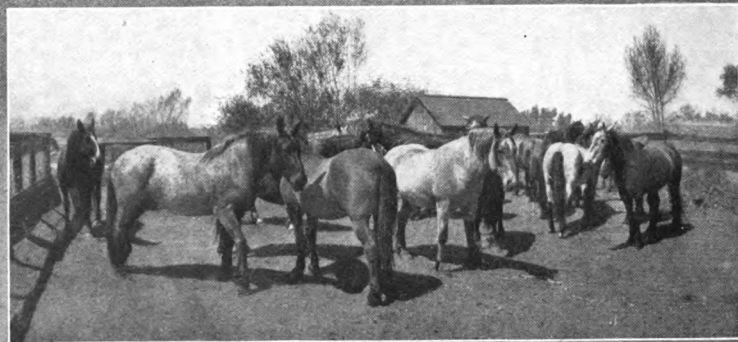
### MINING

Beginning with the Sierra Nevadas on the west and going eastward through the White, Argus, Panamint, Slate and Funeral Ranges, the mountains of Inyo County are one and all immensely rich in gold, silver, copper and lead. In the past, millions of dollars in gold and silver have been taken from these mountains, and an incomprehensible wealth still remains to be delved for in the years to come. Some of the richest deposits in the early history of the state were discovered and worked here, but, owing to the lack of adequate transportation, they were abandoned to be opened again of late and mined with even greater success than formerly.

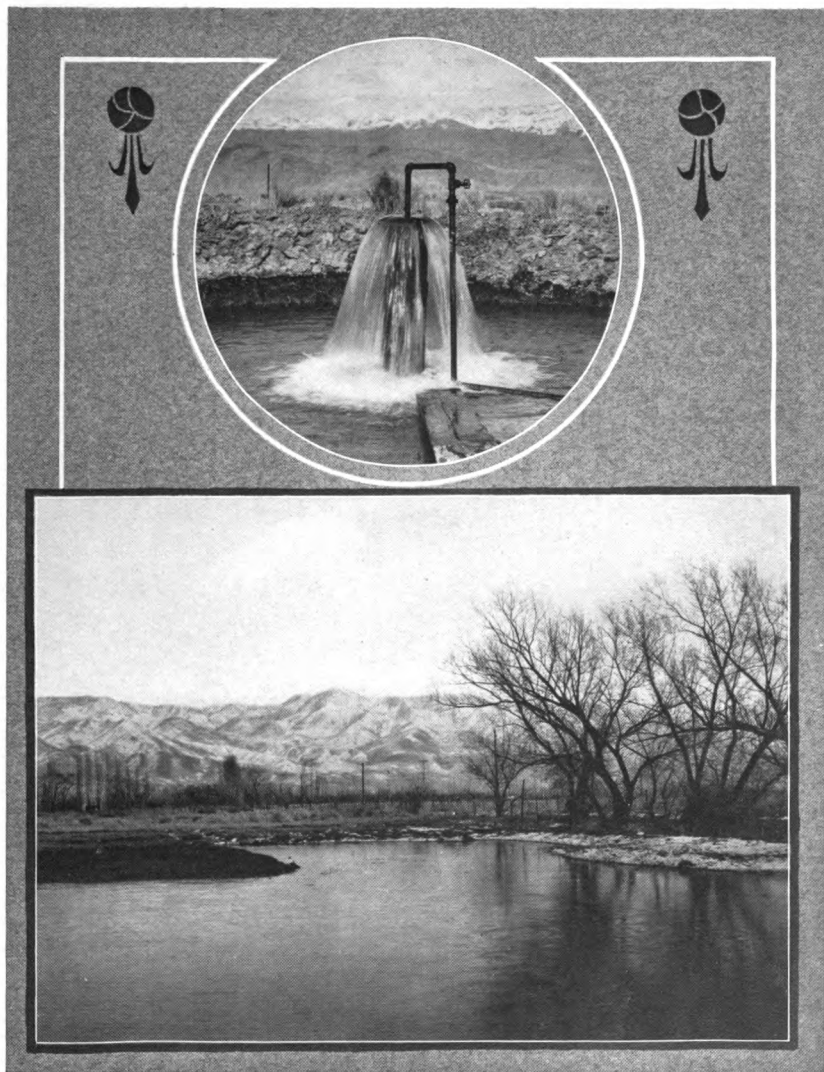
The Bishop Creek Gold Company is developing a large low-grade gold ledge above Bishop Creek. This company is controlled by Mr. Gaylord Wilshire, the socialist editor and one of New York's financiers, whose unbounded faith in the mine has been rewarded by a vein of pay ore at a depth of two hundred and ninety feet, which is from eight to fifteen feet wide and assays \$17 a ton. The ore is a sulphide, which yields readily to cyanide treatment, with a high percentage of extraction and low consumption of cyanide. Over \$200,000 has been expended

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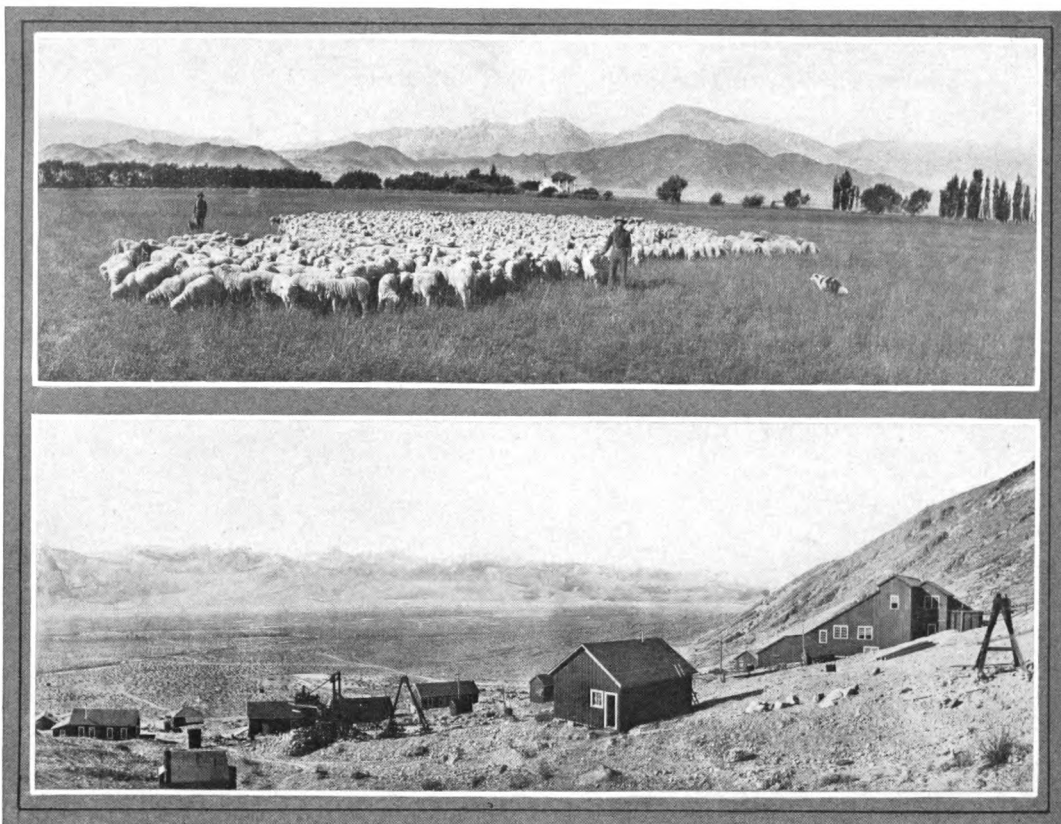
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*Some of Inyo County Money-makers—Cattle, Hogs, Horses.*



*An Artesian Well Near Independence, and an Irrigation Canal in Owens Valley.*



*Sheep en route to Market. Below Is Seen the Keane Wonder Gold-mine in the Funeral Range.*

on its development, and with water-power right on the ground for the economical handling of the ore, it bids fair to become one of the country's really great low-grade gold-mines.

The Buckeye Mining Company is developing a claim south of Big Pine in the Sierras. It is both a gold and silver prospect. A roller-mill and an electric plant with power from a neighboring stream have already been installed and the mine is now working towards success.

The Alabama Hills are of a porphyry and granite formation with a quartz ledge underlying. In past years much gold was taken from them, but in latter days little prospecting has been done there.

The Cerro Gordo mines, in the southern part and western slope of the White Mountains, have turned out \$17,000,000 worth of silver and lead in their better days. In recent years the Four Metals Company has renewed operations in the old camp, and its discoveries at greater depths than formerly worked promise to make Cerro Gordo as large a producer as ever in its history. Its ore is now said to be clearing \$80 a ton above expenses.

Near Darwin, in the Argus and Slate Ranges, are many good properties. The "Lucky Jim" is in a slate and lime formation and under the management of the New Coso Company is producing gold and silver at a paying rate. The Defiance is one of Darwin's noted mines, and has its own smelter.

In the Panamint Range the O Be Joyful and the Skidoo mines are in operation, the latter netting from \$15,000 to \$30,000 a month.

Ubehebe, farther north, is an extensive copper deposit. Some development has been carried on, but sufficient only to demonstrate that there lies one of the greatest copper fields of the West. Its great drawback is lack of transportation—a condition which may be remedied by Eastern capitalists who are interesting themselves.

The Green Monster, an old-time copper claim which has shipped much ore, the Reward, one of the oldest mines of the county, in late years provided with a full modern equipment, and many others, might be enumerated without completing the list of large mineral promises held out for discriminating investors.

At this writing the newest sensation of the Inyo mining world is Burgess, a camp of remarkably rich surface showings, sustained to the depth so far attained.

The Keane Wonder, over in the Funeral Range near Furnace Creek, is making large monthly shipments of bullion.

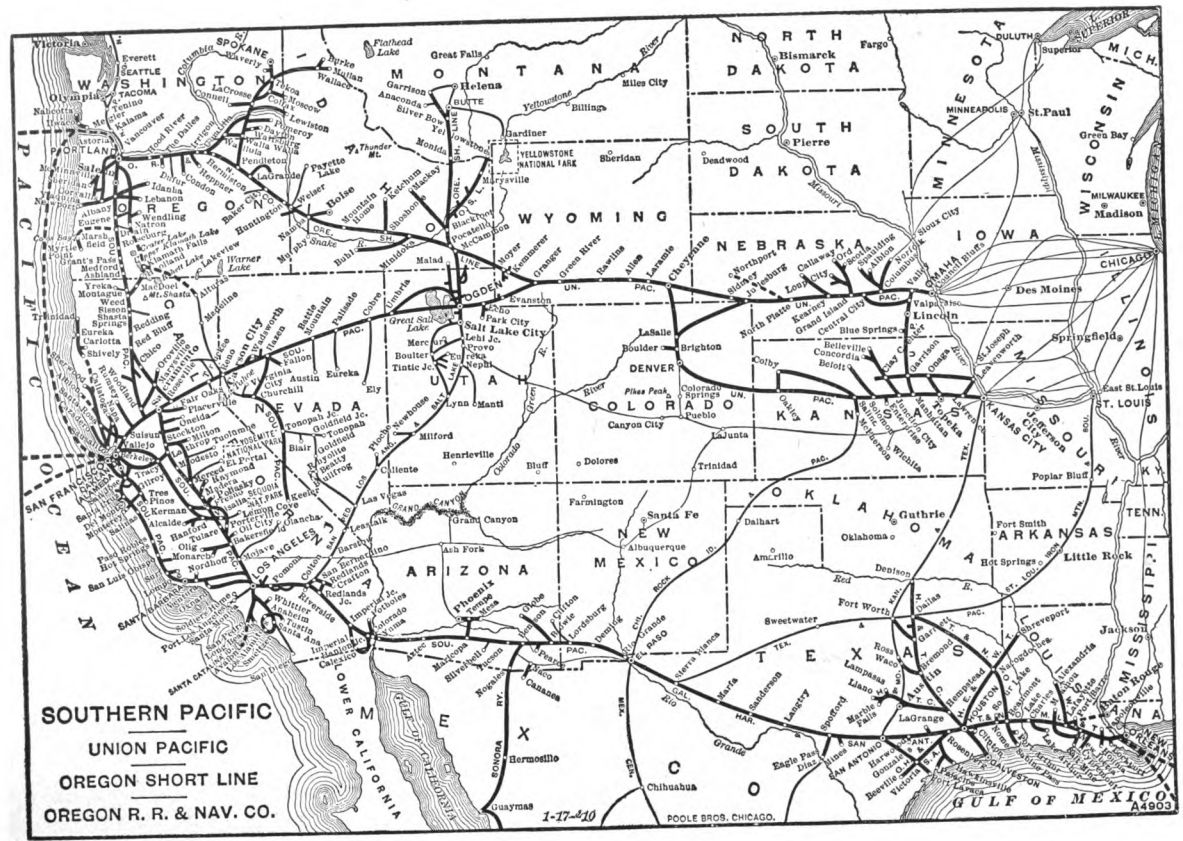
These are but a few of the successful mines in the county. They have been named, not as an attempt to advertise any particular corporations but to give tangible evidence of what is being done by a few and what may be accomplished by many in this very highly mineralized region.

### INYO MARBLE

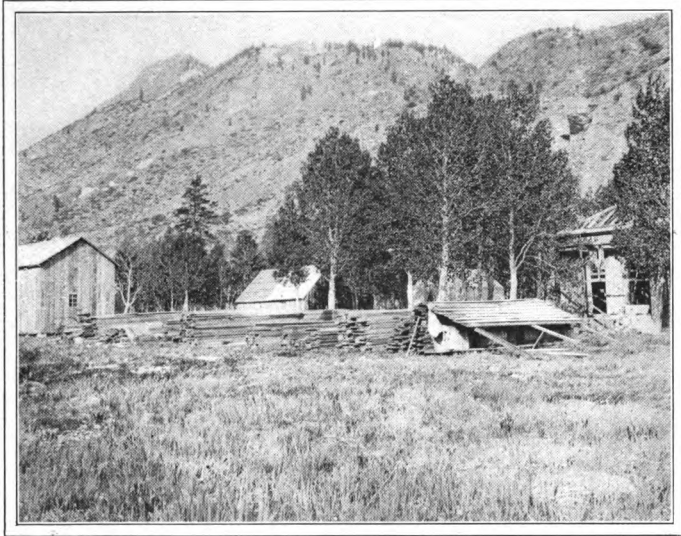
In the western slope of the White Mountains, between Lone Pine and Keeler, is a quarry whose marble rivals in beauty and quality that of

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*Bishop Creek Gold Camp.*

Italy. It varies in color from black, through deep orange to pale yellow and white. All of the marble used in the construction of the Mills Building in San Francisco, before the fire, was from this quarry. Although it has not been worked for some time, now that transportation facilities are assured, there is a probability of renewing operations.

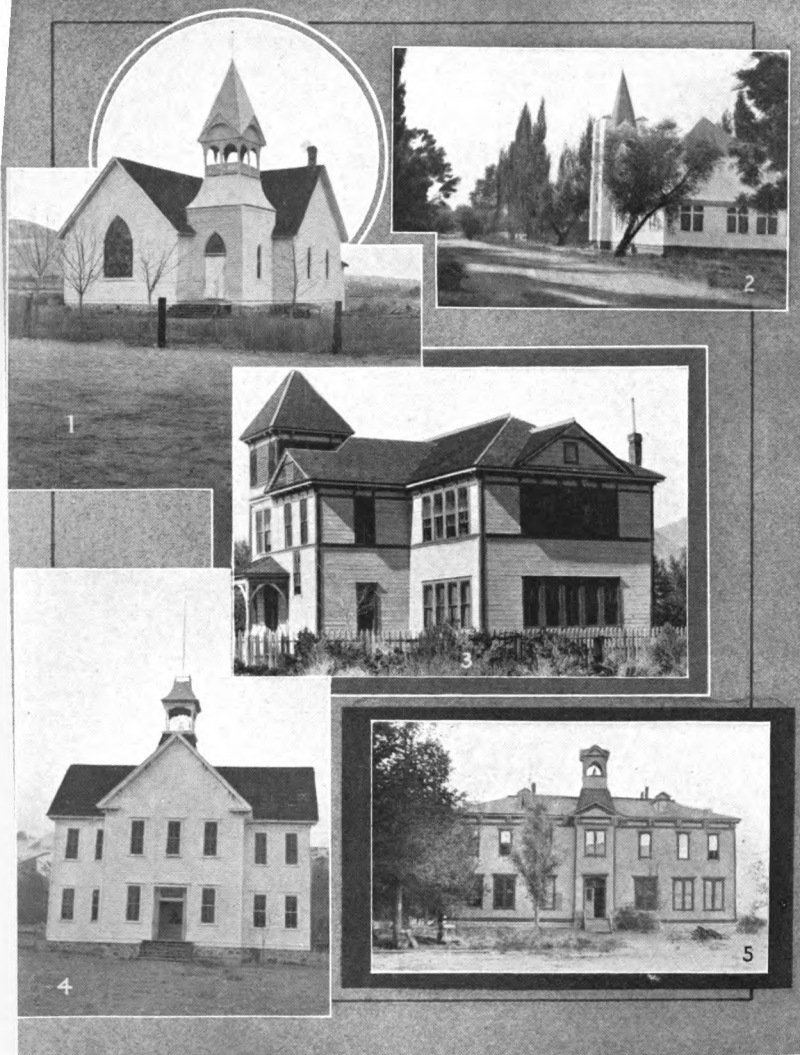
### **SALINE VALLEY**

A very unique industry is a salt "farm" in Saline Valley, situated between the White and the Panamint Ranges. The deposit extends to a depth of seven feet and is worked with water and scrapers. It renews itself every year, with the result that thousands of tons of salt can be shipped annually and put directly upon the markets, and it is more nearly pure, as gathered, than any other known, as proved by tests.

### **DEATH VALLEY**

This depression, over four hundred feet below sea-level, lies between mountain ridges ten thousand feet high and has long been told of in song and story as one of the wonders of the world. The temperature here sometimes runs to a hundred and thirty degrees, and many wan-

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1—Church at Big Pine. 2—Church at Bishop. 3—Schoolhouse at Lone Pine.  
4—Big Pine School. 5—High School at Bishop.

derers in search of treasure in the mountains beyond have succumbed to the intense heat while crossing this desert. However, the greater part of the danger is minimized by knowledge of several springs of clear water, and even the edge of it has succumbed to cultivation.

The Lila C., the largest borax mine in the world, is situated at its eastern edge. Here originated the "40 mule team" advertisement for "Borax." The mules are now out of commission, for the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad runs near the manufacturing plant at Death Valley Junction.

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**LAND VALUES AND CONDITIONS**

All of the spare land in Inyo, of which there are many thousand acres, is more or less grown with sagebrush. It has always been an acknowledged fact among farmers that where sagebrush grows the rankest there is the most fruitful soil, if water can be put upon it. As there is plenty of water, Owens Valley is an open sesame for all that can delight the heart and fill the pocket-book of a homeseeker. Over two hundred thousand acres of this splendid bottom-land, with neither sight nor sign of a tree upon it, has been put in the forest reserve, but of late settlers have been able to file upon it under homestead laws and forest reserve regulations. Several of the larger ranches near Bishop have been cut up into small plots and are selling for \$25 to \$125 or more an acre, with water rights, according to location and state of improvement. Apple land may be bought in any part of the valley for \$50 an acre. Good land set to alfalfa sells at about \$75 or \$100 an acre. There are many little farms of two to five acres that are affording a comfortable living to newcomers in the vicinity of Bishop. At George's Creek, eight miles north of Lone Pine, a thousand acres have been sold to Los Angeles capital. It is being cut up into apple orchards of ten and twenty acres and sold at fifty dollars an acre.

**ALTITUDES**

Mt. Whitney . . . . .	14,502 feet.
Mt. Williamson . . . . .	14,490 feet.
Mt. Tom . . . . .	12,000 feet.
Round Valley . . . . .	4,250 feet.
Bishop . . . . .	4,148 feet.
Big Pine . . . . .	3,960 feet.
Independence . . . . .	3,907 feet.
Lone Pine . . . . .	3,700 feet.
Keeler . . . . .	3,620 feet.
Death Valley . . . . .	422 feet below sea-level

**CLIMATE**

It may be truthfully said that the sun [shines] in Inyo County the year round, for while the winter snowfall upon its high mountain ridges is colossal, the average rainfall in Owens Valley is less than five

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*Beautiful South Lake, Bishop Creek.*

inches annually. Sometimes a slight snow occurs here, but after a few days of sunshine it disappears. The thermometer seldom goes below fifteen degrees above zero as the winter extreme, and in the summer, cool afternoon breezes temper the heat. Official records show lower summer temperatures each year than at many points west of the Sierras.

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### SCHOOLS

The public schools of the county rank with any in the state. There is a high school at Bishop, employing four teachers, and one at Big Pine, as well as primary and grammar schools wherever the population warrants it. The majority of the teachers are normal graduates and the buildings are well-equipped and comfortably built. Besides there are several Indian schools with cozy cottages attached for the teachers; these are supported by the Government.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Nevada & California Railroad connects at Hazen, Nevada, with the Southern Pacific trains both east and west-bound, and runs from Hazen to Mina, down through Mono County into Inyo as far as Keeler, touching at Laws, Alvord, Citrus, Mt. Whitney, and other way stations. This line, which is now the property of the Southern Pacific, is to be replaced by a broad-gauge line which will connect at Mojave with the north and south-bound trains to San Francisco and Los Angeles. It will be a through route and will be the quickest way of any between the Coast and the East. It is completed, all but a twenty-seven mile gap existing between Olancha and Keeler, which is now filled by a very efficient auto-livery service. Stage lines run from all of the railroad stations to the towns a short distance away from the railroad.

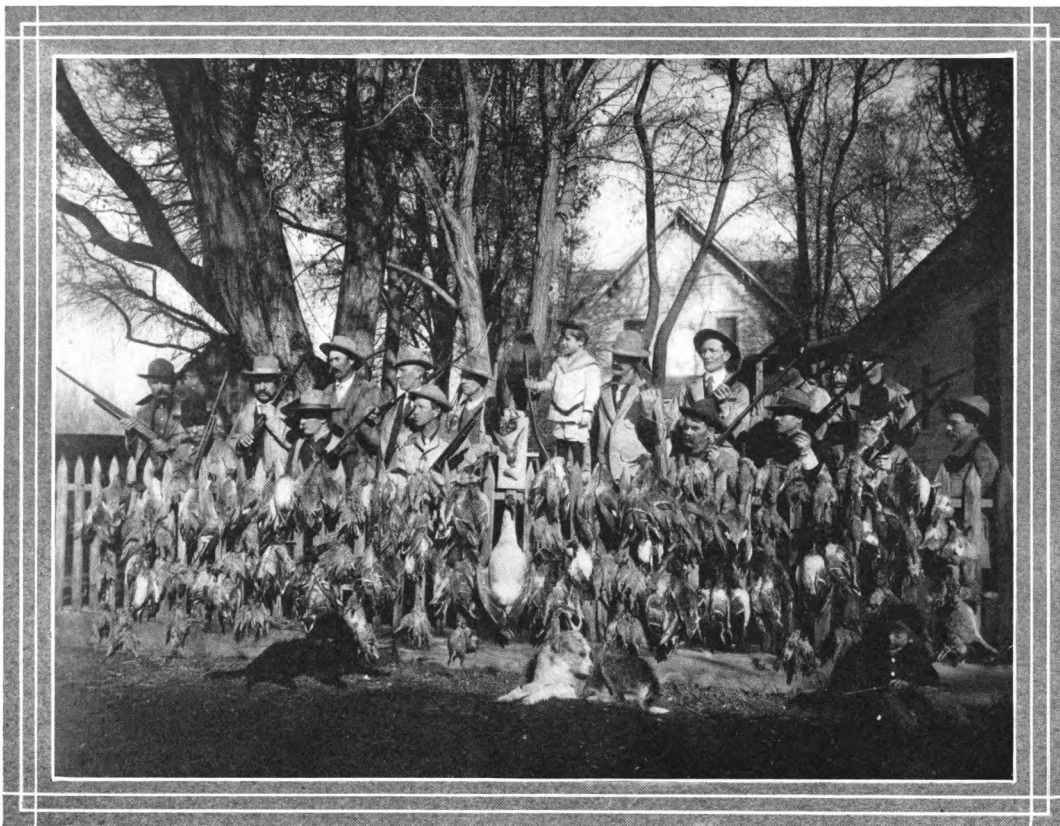
The Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad runs from Los Angeles up through San Bernardino into the southeastern corner of Inyo, with stations at Zabriskie, Shoshone, Evelyn and Death Valley, and then up through the Nevada mining-camps to Goldfield and Tonopah. Inyo County is also connected with Tonopah and Goldfield by the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad, connecting with the Nevada & California at Mina. Many of the county's wagon roads run through shady lanes, and road betterment is receiving attention. There are many well-tramped trails over the mountains into Kern and Tulare counties. There are trails from Inyo and Mono across the Sierras and over into the Yosemite through some of the grandest scenery to be found anywhere.

### SCENERY

And now must not be omitted a few meager words about the scenery, which is one of the county's greatest assets. The Sierra Nevadas, running its entire length, are a glorious fantasy of beyond-the-earth beauty. A short ride from the hotel at Lone Pine, is Mt. Whitney, where one may stand upon lofty pinnacles and gaze down, awe-stricken,

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*Just Returned From a Day's Hunt With a Record Bag.*



over glaciers in action and across a chain of myriad lakes, like the telling of glittering beads, to the horizon; where the pines, over-topping quivering aspens, shade dainty meadows starred with jewels from Nature's diadem, and where chiseled cliffs, spotless from their bath of melting snow, frame a picture of unreal grandeur, fresh from the hand of the Master Painter. And the Alabama Hills, older and more mystic than the pyramids, like mummied mastodons, salaam in adoration at the foot of this idol of the beauty worshiper.

In Big Pine Canyon crystal streams rush merrily through verdant uplands from their headwaters among placid flower-wreathed lakes, where health and contentment may be enjoyed by campers in the spring and summer.

Independence is within a few miles of Rae Lake Basin, another of earth's beauty spots overlooking model farms bordered by willows, Lombardy and silver poplars, cottonwoods and maples, and stretching out towards the shaggy White Mountains that look like folded purses containing hidden treasures.

Andrews Camp, west of Bishop, in the foothills, is a favorite camping ground for Inyoites, set in a confusion of beauty, among the lakes and streams, and it is but one of the many mountain shrines sought annually for summer outings.

In this stretch of the Sierras, called by former State Mineralogist Hanks, the Alps of America, and chosen by Beirstadt for some of his finest work, are views second to no other the continent can offer.

### FISHING AND HUNTING

In all the waterways, the delights of Nimrod may be tested, an ever-watchful Fish Commission receiving the hearty cooperation of the people in keeping them well stocked with all varieties of trout, bass and other fish. In the streams and lakes south and west of Lone Pine the rare golden trout disports himself, ready for the angler who knows where to find him. In many other lakes—one hundred and thirty-seven someone has counted—and in their tributary or emptying streams, are Loch Leven, Rainbow, Eastern Brook and cutthroat trout; in the lower streams of the valley black bass are making a good start.

And as for hunting, quail and wild fowl abound in the valleys, and the native small game is being given such new neighbors as ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian partridges, both of which are thriving since being imported. In the mountains, mountain quail, grouse and sagehens are found; the deer hunter's toil is well rewarded and occasional other wild animals give a variety to the exploration of the further recesses. Mountain sheep, now wisely protected by law, exist in numbers in the eastern mountain ranges, one of their few remaining haunts in the United States.

A puerile pen picture is all this, in comparison with the greatness of the subject of our California Wonderland—our Inland Empire of Inyo.

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# INYO COUNTY CALIFORNIA

## The Inland Empire

There are few regions anywhere that can equal the grassy plains and mountain meadows of this county for pasturage.

A bunch of 47 Inyo County young draft horses recently sold at an average price of \$225 a head for Los Angeles markets.

Thousands of dollars are made each year by turning cattle into mountain meadows in the Summer, and returning them to the valleys in the Fall, ready for shipment to the market. These pastures can now be secured by application and paying a small rental fee to the Government, and a large capital is NOT necessary to get a start. Look into the stock raising possibilities of Inyo County before investing. Ordinarily the dairy herd will offset current expenses, but you are not compelled to depend on your herd entirely, as all the fruits and vegetables are raised in abundance.

Unimproved agricultural lands sell for \$10 and up—improved tracts for \$50 per acre and up.

Inyo County honey is not surpassed anywhere, and was awarded the Gold Medal at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Portland, 1905.

*For further information, address*

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