

and skipping youthfully for very joy, dropped gifts rich and rare from the basket swinging madly on her arm.

To the gifts that nature has generously conferred upon man, man has nobly added. It is with no false pride that Southern California boasts of her towns and cities, for it cannot be that there are anywhere in the wide world communities whose housings are so neat and sweet, and graceful as these. The styles of architecture, whatever the material they are expressed in, are tasteful and original, and for the most part, the houses, themselves beautiful, are beautifully hedged round about with neat grass plots in the midst of which there often flourish symmetrical orange trees that not only beautify the surroundings but by their produce enrich the tables of their possessors, proving themselves to be both aesthetically and Socratically beautiful. Everything in short, seems to indicate that people of genuine taste have fallen heirs to this land where tastelessness would soon produce disheartening discords between nature and art.

If one were to be asked what is the circumstance connected with this country that prevents it from becoming the "earthly paradise," he would if at all acquainted with the prevailing conditions, reply "the uncertainty and irregularity of the rainfall." Southern California is not a manufacturing country and cannot fall back on manufacturing industries when other resources fail; it is a country whose prosperity is based on the fruits of the earth, and when the earth is but sparingly watered, industrial pressure is soon experienced. The way in which this difficulty is at present partially combatted, the way in which it will soon be met on a much greater scale, is by the conservation of all available water in great natural or artificial reservoirs, and its subsequent distribution over land by ingenious systems of irrigation. A feature of Southern California scenery that always interests the traveller is the excellent irrigating systems with their picturesque run-ways in vogue in the finer fruit districts, as for example at the town of Riverside. So precious is the water in certain dry seasons that it actually becomes profitable for unscrupulous persons to steal it from the trenches by siphoning it over the banks into their farms and orchards. It is also a well-known fact that many planters have been obliged to mortgage their farms in dry seasons to raise enough money to pay the water bill.

While there are other crops upon which irrigation can be fruitfully employed, its main purpose at present is to bring sustenance to the orange and lemon orchards. Upon the beautiful aspect presented by hundreds upon hundreds of acres of these comely trees one might well expatiate at length, but it may prove more interesting in the end to glance at the interesting economic phenomenon presented by orange farming when it is engaged in by a capitalist and therefore upon a large scale. It forms an extraordinarily interesting chapter in the discussion of the possibilities to which the principle of the division of labor may be pushed.

The capitalist purchases his land, which must of course be accessible to a water-system, and decides to set it out in orange trees. Soon there appears upon his acres a force of planters, men whose sole occupation in life is to set the young trees in the ground and surround them with properly compounded fertilisers. As the winter season progresses, grasses and weeds of all sorts begin to spring up between the trees; these must be removed in order that the trees may obtain *all* the sustenance, and accordingly men whose sole business is to plow orchards in such a manner as to spare the roots of the trees are called in to contribute their share in the work of production. When the picking season (about January) begins, small armies of

specialised pickers are hired who strip the trees of their fruit, and thus succeed their co-operators in the work of this particular industrial process. The oranges are then removed to the packing house from the orchard and placed in an ingenious machine which brushes the coat of the fruit and sorts it at the same time into various grades of size automatically. Beside this machine packers (girls) are at work, each one of whom packs one special size of fruit only. Beyond them again are men whose business is entirely that of knocking together the boxes in which the oranges are packed, and the skill they have acquired by their specialisation is simply amazing. Outside the house there are the men who make a particular department of packing the boxes into the cars that will ultimately bear the "golden gain" to the eastern markets. There can be no doubt but that this high specialisation of labor insures the best of results to both producers and consumers, but the monotony of some of the branches seems appalling to the casual observer.

As to the profits of this industry one hears statements so radically different that it is very hard to get any just conception of the real truth of the matter. Yet after talking on the question with men in all sorts of industries and professions, I have reached the conclusion that in a good year the profits of the business are as high as 20 per cent. or 30 per cent., but that there are so many stretches of indifferent years that the average annual return in the form of a percentage may be very small indeed. Though in many industries including those of an agriculture nature, production on a grand scale is both desirable and profitable, it would appear that in the orange industry a moderate sized plantation may pay better because of the greater individual attention that each tree can receive at the hand of the producer. Certain it is that the orange industry affords no opening for the poor man; improved land runs as high as \$1,200 an acre, and it would cost nearly that to improve it for one's self.

But, after all, the great industry of Southern California is catering to the tourist travel. The extensive advertising of the railway companies together with the really great natural attractions of the country has turned a stream of travel in that direction which is simply enormous. This tourist element supplies support for transportation facilities of course, and more especially for hotels and lodging-houses of all sorts, which in their turn demand the existence of an agricultural population to produce animal and vegetable supplies. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that "climate" is the great resource of the south, for it is the climate that attracts the Eastern visitor and it is in attention to the wants of that visitor that the permanent population finds its support. The consequence is that the observer in the south of California receives but a poor impression of the stability or permanence of its industries. He forms the conclusion by a rapid and yet not unlogical induction, that the country is supported mainly by a feature which may perhaps in ten years cease to be commercially valuable—I refer to the tourist travel which changes by the merest whim oftentimes, and may be just as rapidly diverted to some other part of the world as it was to California some years ago. The men of the South support him in that conclusion by making no secret of the fact that tourist travel has time and again been the sole salvation of the country.

But, it will be urged, there is the orange and lemon production, amounting last season to 20,000 carloads, to be exhibited as a stable industry. To this it may be replied. (1) that the circumstances of production are extremely uncertain, being so largely dependent upon natural causes over which at present man has no control,