



RIVER VIEW OF EL CAJON VALLEY.

In the short time that has elapsed since an earlier period the Aztecs cultivated it, a systematic effort was first made to familiarize the general public with the attractions of the El Cajon valley, it may be said to have acquired a national spot of the Italy of America, it was only requisite for its marvelous beauties to be made known, for it to call forth expressions of wondering admiration from the most base of globe trotters. Neither the famed Thessaly nor the lovely Arcadia, immortalized in classic song and story, could excel this Eden of the West either in beauty or fertility; and it has besides the merit of having been recommended by the best medical authorities in the world.

The valley derives its name from the El Cajon mountain which, in turn was probably named from its fancied resemblance to a chest or box. It is situated twelve miles from San Diego city in the county of the same name, of which it is one of the largest and richest valleys.

The valley land embraces 15,000 acres, and there is almost as much more mesa and hill land suitable for vineyards. The total area of the rancho is 48,000 acres. The scenery of the valley is marvellous in its beauty. From one commanding elevation near its center one may obtain a view which is perhaps unsurpassed for quiet beauty. Here the eye wanders up the Morena Valley, a section of the rancho a smiling tract of cultivated land framed in a circle of towering hills and mountains, or follows the San Diego river as it winds among its fruitful hills and meadows in its course to the sea, catching glimpses of several fine estates in the distance; while to the left stretches the main valley with its lake town uplands and smiling fields bathed in golden floods of ever lucent sunshine, and behind rise the rugged heights of El Cajon mountain.

Although as has been already said, it is only within a very recent period that any special effort has been made to advertise the El Cajon valley, its attractions have not been wholly unknown to white men since the Jesuit fathers first explored the shores of San Diego bay, more than two centuries ago; and even at an earlier period the Aztecs cultivated it, rich and tending soil, leaving remains of their presence which endure to this day. Then, too, even before irrepressible real estate agents began to sound its praises, many of its fruitful acres had been appropriated by cultured and wealthy people who had chanced to visit it, and had been so charmed by its charms of scenery, fertility of its soil, and the healthfulness and delightfulness of its climate that they had decided to make their homes hereafter in this sylvan retreat away from the stir and tumult of city life. Since the booming of the valley was first begun about one year ago, its population has largely increased and now numbers upwards of a thousand, many of them the very best class of people who are doing much to increase the resources, and spread the reputation of this already far famed region.

Every part of El Cajon valley is remarkably rich and productive. A town has been laid out upon the shores of a beautiful sheet of water known as Linda Lake, which has been called Lakeside, where a first-class hotel has been erected, surrounded by parks and boulevards which will make a charming resort for tourists. It is also proposed to locate near by a sanitarium for invalids which is to be supplied with all modern comforts and conveniences and placed in charge of a competent physician, the climate of the valley mild and yet invigorating having been found highly beneficial to consumptives and others who are unable to bear the dampness of the atmosphere always noticeable along the coast. The location of the town is most charming, since it is situated on a commanding plateau overlooking the limpid lake fed by pure mountain springs, and embracing a view of the valley on both sides of the San Diego river, with the high hill ranges and lofty El Cajon peak in the distance, a picture almost without equal in picturesque loveliness. A new mess road has been laid out from San Diego to Lakeside, fifteen miles, which is one of the finest drives in the vicinity of the city, it being comparatively free from dust, and running amid charming scenery. The streets and avenues of Lakeside are named from

Written Refs 1899

CREDIT TO:
EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OVER



LINDO LAKE, EL CAJON VALLEY.

to be planted among forest quality of table grapes are also raised their borders. The main avenue is eighty feet wide, all the others are sixty feet. There are now located in Lakeside beside the hotel, a store, post-office, with tri-weekly mail, harness shop, two blacksmith shops, a fine two-story school-house and a Presbyterian church with settled pastor.

The Cajon for years past has been the largest grain producing valley in the county, this being due to the exceptionally fine crops raised here in good years, and its convenience to the city. (rain farming is, however, now giving away to fruit culture. The raisins produced by this valley have been pronounced by leading New York importers superior to the very choicest Dehesias of Spain. The

part yield a good supply of water at a depth of from ten to sixteen feet. The San Diego Aqueduct Company is to run its line along the high ridge close to the lands of the El Cajon Company from which water can be taken to irrigate, if necessary the highest table lands of the tract. A railroad is assured in the near future.

THE BUILDING OF SAN DIEGO.

A REMARKABLE STORY OF FACTS, SHOWING THAT ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS IS NOW BEING EXPENDED FOR COTTAGES, MANSIONS, BLOCKS, AND HOTELS, AND THAT MORE THAN A MILLION FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS OF ALL KINDS.

No assertion is safer to make than to only in a few instances is an estimate to say that more improvement in the way given of building is going on in San Diego at the present time, than ever before. If each division of the city is given separately and its boundaries defined. The "real estate boom" continues, and it must be remembered that two-thirds of good second. The man who buys a piece of property shows faith; the man who proceeds to build, also shows belief.

In the compilation of the statistics here presented, personal inspection was made in nearly every instance, involving many miles of travel and several days of time. Reference to each building is necessarily brief, but where possible to ascertain, the name of the architect and builder is given in connection with owner, locality and cost. The figures of cost were generally obtained from the owner or builder, and

This, the original plat of the new portion of the city of San Diego, embraces

NEW SAN DIEGO.