

Pence acting as Captain, and hung. The company went on until they found a camp of about thirty warriors, and heroically attacked them. The Indians had nothing but bows and arrows, and could do but little damage. Fighting, behind trees, was continued during the forenoon, and in the afternoon reinforcements arrived, and the whole band of Indians captured. Twenty-five of the redskins were killed in this fight. During the fall of the same year the Indians killed ten Chinamen on the west branch of Feather River. Pence was again summoned and chosen as Captain of a company of thirty whites and thirty Chinese. The Indians were found and from forty to sixty sent to the "happy hunting-grounds." At various times since then many depredations and even murders have been committed by the red savages.

In 1863 an organization of white men was effected, under N. H. Wells, of Yankee Hill, who proceeded to remove the Indians from Butte County to a reservation; but in 1865 some of them returned and committed further depredations. The principal raids by the Indians were headed by a brave named Bigfoot.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE COUNTY.

Since 1850 to this date (May, 1890) a gradual change has been wrought in all parts of the county. Tehama, Lassen and Plumas counties have been organized, leaving Butte with an area of 1,764 square miles, about equally divided between valley and mountain lands. Mining was the all-absorbing interest in 1850, but now it is of third or fourth importance. The great stock ranges have been transformed into grain fields and orchards. Along the foothills where the mines were in 1850-'60, are small farms, orchards and vineyards. Higher up in the mountains are large lumber mills. Mining yet continues in favored localities, of placer, quartz and river-channel mining, ranging in importance from the lone miner with his pick, shovel and rocker, to the immense company whose operations run up to millions. Fruit-growing has within the last ten years become a

leading industry and is rapidly on the increase. On the Rancho Chico there are about 1,600 acres of orchard and vineyard of raisin grapes. Within a radius of five miles around Chico there are perhaps 4,000 acres of orchard. Around Oroville and along the Feather River, adjacent to Biggs and Gridley, extensive orchards are being planted.

Stock-raising has also made a great growth. From extensive cattle ranges and sheep pastures the tendency is to the rearing of more select varieties. The finest stocks of horses and cattle have been introduced. Alfalfa fields have been planted, and stock-raising been elevated from a mere matter of herding to the most thorough and scientific breeding.

MATERIAL RESOURCES.

Butte County has been most abundantly blessed by nature with material resources of every kind. The western half of the county is a vast agricultural plain of rich alluvial soil, skirted by the Sacramento River, into which flow the Feather River and numerous large creeks and smaller streams. The eastern half is a gradual mountain slope, rising from the valley in gentle slopes and spreading out a vast region of valuable forests, small farms and mines. Water power is abundant, and facilities for irrigation are sufficient to accommodate ten times the area. While nearly all the industries common to the Pacific coast are already established here, there is unlimited opportunity for their increase and further development. Estimating the present population at 25,000, there is every reason to expect that the near future will bring a doubling and quadrupling of that number, and yet have ample opportunity for growth and increase. When people settle down to use nature's resources for the legitimate purpose of "making a living," there will be universal prosperity; but so long as all are striving to "get rich" there will be overreaching and oppression and want. Nearly all the large "rancho" grants spoken of on a previous page remain to this day unbroken, covering