

The *Butte Record*, the first newspaper in the county, was started at Bidwell's Bar, November 12, 1853, by C. W. Stiles & Co. In 1856 it was moved to Oroville, and in 1874 to Chico, and this year it started a daily edition.

In 1866 C. G. Lincoln started the *North Californian* in Oroville. He added a daily the next year, naming it the *Butte Democrat*; but after the ensuing election it was absorbed by the *Record*. In July, 1859, the *Butte Democrat* appeared in Oroville, with A. M. Wyman as editor and proprietor. In 1860 the material was purchased by Mr. Wentworth, who changed the name to *Oroville Weekly Union*. Mr. Langmore bought the material in 1863, moved it to Susanville and published the *Sage Brush*.

Edward Augustus Farwell, a Boston printer and sailor, came in 1842 from Honolulu. In 1843 he was naturalized, and the next year obtained the grant of Arroyo Chico rancho, Butte County. In 1845 he went East overland, seeking relief for his weak eyes, returning in 1848, and next for a time was in charge of Sutter's launch, running on the Sacramento. He died in San Francisco, in January, 1849.

The Mexican land grants for Butte County, which have been confirmed by the United States, have been: Esquon, 22,194 acres, to Samuel Neal in 1860; Farwell rancho, 22,194 acres, to James Williams and others in 1863; Fernandez, 17,806 acres, to D. Z. Fernandez and others in 1867; Llano Seco, 17,767 acres, to C. J. Brenham and others in 1860. In Butte and Sutter counties: Boga, 22,185 acres, to T. O. Larkin in 1865. In Butte and Tehama counties: Bosquejo, 22,206 acres, to Peter Lassen in 1862.

The Rancho del Arroyo Chico, of 22,000 acres, is the finest in the county. The first house erected here was built in 1849 by John Bidwell, the present owner of the place. It was burned in 1852, at which time the old adobe was built which stood for many years. For a long time the land was used exclusively for stock-raising on a large scale. In time the

land became too valuable for pasture, and then several thousand acres were sown to wheat and barley. An average of forty bushels to the acre was not uncommon. Ordinary farm crops being diminished, Bidwell began farming it on the Eastern plan, with satisfactory results, having the most productive ranch in the State. In 1852 he set out the first fruit-trees. The present elegant mansion was built in 1865-'68, at a cost of \$60,000. There are more than fifty-five buildings on the ranch, including many barns and residences. The observatory and water-tower is 100 feet high. A large fruit-drying establishment is on the estate. Most of the ground is now in orchard and vineyard, and great attention is paid to the cultivation of flowers.

August 14, 1859, Chauncey Wright, working at Dogtown for the hydraulic company, consisting of Phineas Willard, Ira Wetherbee and Wyatt M. Smith, piped out a chunk of gold weighing fifty-four pounds and worth \$10,690. The same day \$3,000 in smaller lumps were taken out by the same company. Placer mining of gold has been the most useful perhaps of all in this part of California, much more important than quartz mining. In May, 1864, a miner found three Cherokee diamonds, named after Cherokee Flat, where they were found. Soon two more were found. Value of the five diamonds, \$375. About sixty have been found since, many of them worth \$50 to \$75.

Manoah Pence, on New Year's eve, 1851, hospitably entertained six or seven Indians at his house, but with suspicions. Next morning he found the Indians slipping away with all his cattle. Pursuing them, he succeeded in wounding the chief, but not so as to disable him. Some time afterward the chief was caught and hanged without process of law, in order to save Pence's life, which had been threatened by that villainous savage.

In 1853 the Tiger Indians stole cattle from Clark's ranch. The chief, "Express Bill," was caught by a company of seven men, under

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