

THE LAND OF PROMISE.

[From San Diego Sun.]

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS OF THE PENINSULA
ETERNAL SUMMER—BRIGHTLAND PROS-
PECTS, ETC., ETC.

Mr. Charles A. Wetmore chartered the yacht Restless, Captain Niles, on Sunday, and, accompanied by Dr. T. C. Stockton, Mr. Fred C. Bauer, and Robert H. Campion, proceeded to make a scientific exploration of the Peninsula, with a view to its immediate colonization. The first landing was made on the northern "island," where samples of the soil were procured to be forwarded to the University of California for analysis.

The grant known as the Peninsula, and sometimes as "the Islands," lies immediately opposite the city of San Diego, forms the bay, and including nearly five thousand acres of land, extends from the head of the bay to the mouth, a distance of about twelve miles. At the former place is a body of about eight hundred acres of good arable land, and at the latter are two bodies of land, almost Islands, connected by a narrow sand dune. On the bay side and lying between the two islands is Spanish Light, a body of land about one mile long and one-third mile long and one third wide. The grant from opposite the city to the entrance of the bay comprises the entire water front to ship's channel. It is the only Spanish grant ever made and patented to ship's channel. Along the coast of the two islands opposite the city, the channel runs very close to the shore and wharves could be constructed with little cost, to accommodate the

SHIPPING OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

The northernmost of these so-called islands contains about one thousand, five hundred acres of good land, and the next, or southern, about one thousand. The altitude of the land above high water mark ranges from about eight to twenty-five feet, apparently. The soil throughout is uniformly of a reddish, sandy loam, which has growing on it all kinds of shrubs that are common to the coast and mesa land, but in greater luxuriance than on the main land, the vigor and density of vegetation and brush indicating, apparently, that the sandy loam contains sufficient food to sustain plant life. While the soil appears to be very sandy, yet it is found to be mixed everywhere with shells, which accounts for its great fertility. No wells have ever been sunk on the premises, except very near the edge of the bay, and the water was very brackish. It is probable that if a well was sunk further from the beach, better water might be obtained at a depth of from fifteen to twenty feet. If, however, the surface water should prove to be too brackish for domestic purposes, no one doubts the practicability of obtaining good fresh water by boring from one hundred to two hundred feet. Many believe that

FLOWING ARTESIAN WELLS

Could be easily obtained on these lands, and, to sustain this opinion, they point to the presence of two fresh water springs flowing from the sand on the ocean side, which, they think, indicates an artesian flow of water under the bay, which may be tapped by boring on the islands. Underlying the land there appears to be no gravel or cobble stones, so far as any present explorations can be made. In traveling a distance of five miles, we found only one small pebble, weighing half an ounce. The consistency of the soil, while very sandy, was still quite compact and firm, showing that it contains enough loam and vegetable matter. In examining the banks along the ocean and bay, the small roots of wild plants and bushes were seen to penetrate everywhere to a considerable depth; the small surface roots filled the soil from a depth of from three feet to five feet, while the larger roots, undoubtedly going deeper, were not apparent at the banks. The consistency of the soil is such, that where the banks were worn away by the sea and waves, the roots remained standing perpendicular. No hard pan was to be found anywhere, the same character of sandy soil

continuing to the surface water, but being more mixed with loam and vegetable mold near the surface.

Several attempts have been made in past years to cultivate small portions of the land, with varying success. Only crops of barley and potatoes have been attempted, to our knowledge, both of which have sometimes given profitable results, but at other times, owing to dry seasons, failures have been recorded, as every where else.

MESSRS. WETMORE AND WEST,

who have repeatedly examined the islands, are of the opinion that grape vines would grow and bear luxuriantly, without irrigation, and that these varieties should be selected, which are known to succeed best near the sea, such as Bordeaux claret grapes, which in the Medoc, near Bordeaux, are cultivated in the sandy loam, on a narrow peninsula having salt water on both sides, and where they are constantly subjected to a sea coast climate, far more harsh than is ever experienced in San Diego. Moreover, so far as climate is concerned, and the influence of sea breezes, we have only to look at the vines growing at the La Punta and in the Juana Valley, far more exposed to the sea winds than they could be on the islands, where there is a certain protection caused by the elevation of Point Loma, toward the west and northwest. It seems, therefore, that varieties of vines, properly selected, could not fail to succeed well, on these lands, and every analogy of soil and climate points to this peninsula as the true

MEDOC OF CALIFORNIA.

If these predictions should prove correct, San Diego may look in future to this peninsula, to make the wine trade of Southern California famous, and to produce a revenue not less than half a million of dollars annually. Experience shows, also, that the lemon succeeds best near the sea, in this State and county, so also the guava. With these as staple products, the cultivation of these islands might be made to add largely to the wealth and population of San Diego. There would be no slight reason to doubt the practicability of obtaining by boring all the water that may be needed to irrigate the lemon and guava, and to enable those who might reside there to surround themselves with tropical, as well as semi-tropical verdure. There would be found less frost than even on the mainland, where we now successfully grow and fruit the banana. Should these islands at some time become settled and cultivated, as we have suggested, the most attractive homes in America might be created there, surrounded with everything that would tend to prosperity and a life of true pleasure. With these islands well cultivated and populated lying, as they do immediately opposite this commercial port, it would require but a small flight of fancy to imagine the placid waters of our beautiful bay rivalling the Egyptian delights, the air gladd with laughter, and the scenery emerald with the eternal

VERDURE OF THE TROPICS.

Again, added to those agricultural and home advantages, would be the facilities for transportation, which the location affords, the ocean steamers being enabled to lie peacefully at the very edge of the vineyard, and under the lee of a winery.

Dr. F. C. Stockton, who was with the party, was the first to discover the immense advantage that might be realized by utilizing the tidal flow within the Spanish Light, which divides the two islands. Here is a tidal flow of from three to five feet in depth, over an area almost land locked, one and a half miles in length and one-third mile in width. The entrance showing only five feet of water at low tide, facing upon the placid bay, free from all surf and protected from all storms, could therefore be easily dammed and its powerful waters thoroughly controlled. Situated as the Spanish Light is, next to the ship's channel, the opportunities for successful manufacturing could not be found better or more economical anywhere in the world. Dr. Stockton is to be therefore credited with having suggested a plan that is sure to be profitable and will pour fortunes into the lap of San Diego.

This property has long been controlled by capitalists, whose only thought was the immense value the land would realize if purchased by the government as a naval station near the city of San Francisco. It is certain that a portion of the

northern island lying opposite Ballast Point will be needed by the government for the erection of fortifications and the establishment of barracks. Moreover, for the complete protection of this harbor, no doubt, there will be required also

SEVERAL BATTERIES

To be located along the ocean side of the peninsula. But notwithstanding these military advantages, only a small portion of land will be needed for government uses, and we hope sincerely that some capitalists will appreciate what we have said, purchase the property and devote it to the purposes it seems to have been made for.

After the exploration the party re-entered the Restless, and after indulging in a beautiful lunch, a trip to Ballast Point and back was indulged in, and thus ended a very pleasant day which those present will long remember.

VITICULTURAL REPORTS.

There are now ready for distribution to the vine-growers of California, three appendices to the Second Annual Report of the Chief Executive Viticultural Officer, Mr. C. A. Wetmore, which appendices—being translations from the French—are printed in three separate pamphlets, as follows:

APPENDIX I—The Chaire system of pruning and conducting the vine. APPENDIX II—Practical manual of pruning, as practiced near Bordeaux. APPENDIX III—Different methods of grafting the vine.

These appendices have been printed by the State and are profusely illustrated with wood cuts.

Any of these appendices may be had by applying to the Commissioner or Inspector of your district, or by addressing the Secretary of the Viticultural Commission, No. 111 Leidesdorff street or the MERCHANT Publishing Company, inclosing postage stamps to the amount of two cents for each Appendix required.

One mill alone, the Pacific Mills, in Massachusetts, has a floor area of over forty acres, giving employment to more than 5,000 persons, with a monthly pay roll of \$160,000. Hence we believe that we will have proper protection.—*Idem.*

RIPARIA CUTTINGS.

The superiority of California grown Riparia Cuttings over those imported from the East can be proved, and demonstrated to the satisfaction of anyone who may call at our nurseries. Whereas a 15 to 20 inch imported cutting will frequently have only two or three buds, those raised here, which we offer for sale, have from five to seven, and the wood is also better ripened. We do not hesitate to assert that

1000 of home raised Riparia Cuttings are worth 5000 of those imported,

and we can prove it from our own experience, and that of others.

We have now about 250,000 made, which are heeled in every day as they are cut, and have more to make. Our expenses in obtaining these cuttings (from the 3 year old vineyard of Judge John A. Stanly) are very great; but we offer them at the low rate of \$4.50 to \$7.50 per M., according to size. References given if desired.

COATES & TOOL.

NAPA, CAL.

SEASON OF 1884!

VINES and VINE CUTTINGS

I take pleasure in informing my patrons that I shall be able to furnish, if called for soon, limited quantities of

GENUINE CUTTINGS

Of the following rare varieties:—FOLLE BLANCHE, COLOMBAR (Sauvignon vert) MATARO, CARIGNAN, GRENAQUE, PETIT PINOT (Crab's Black Burgundy) CHAUQUE NOIR, TROUSSEAU, MEUNIER (same as the so-called Franc-Pinot of Mr. Scheffer—mismand), CHARBONO, FOLLE NOIRE, MALBECK (same as Lefranc's so-called Cabernet-Malbeck) MOSELLE RIESLING, WEST'S WHITE PROLIFIC, MUSCAT of FRONTIGNAN, SEEDLESS SULTANA, etc.

The prices of the foregoing are capricious and some of the varieties, particularly MATARO, MALBECK, CARIGNAN, MEUNIER and WEST'S WHITE PROLIFIC, are nearly all engaged at the present time.

Price lists will be forwarded to those inquiring, as circumstances vary them.

Also, All the Well Known Varieties such as ZINFANDEL, RIESLING, CHASSÉLANS, CHAUQUE GRIS, BERGER, MUSCATS (Gordo Blanco and Alexandria) FLAME TOKAY, etc., etc.

ROOTED VINES.

Particular care will be taken in respect to rooted vines to guard against infection by diseases. I can furnish rooted ZINFANDEL, MALVOISIE, VERDAL, FEHER ZAGAS, CHARBONO, etc.; at varying prices, according to the demands of different purchasers.

Also a few thousand CALIFORNICA SEEDLINGS; RIPARIA SEEDLINGS all engaged.

RIPARIA CUTTINGS.

Having made necessary arrangements, I am prepared until January 15th to offer fresh RIPARIA CUTTINGS from the forests of Nebraska—car load already arrived in better condition than ever before received in this State, as follows:

36 INCH CUTTINGS at \$10.00 per M.

42 " " " " \$12.00 " " "

Ten per cent off for cash within 10 days after receipt and acceptance of orders.

For those who desire shorter lengths I will furnish

10 to 15 inch cuttings at \$3.50 per M.

15 to 20 " " " " \$5.00 " " "

18 to 20 " " " " \$6.00 " " "

But I advise purchasers to take the long cuttings and prepare them to suit themselves. This is the cheapest offering of Riparia cuttings ever made in California.

SEED.

I have fresh Riparia seed (from Nebraska) to offer at

\$2.50 per lb. for less than 5 lbs.

\$2.00 " " " " 5 lbs. and more.

Also, Fresh California Seed at \$1.50 per lb. for less than 5 lbs.

\$1.00 " " " " 5 lbs. and more.

CIRCULARS

will soon be ready to explain the importance of certain of the rarest varieties and will be furnished on demand.

Address

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No. 321 Montgomery St., or
No. 111 Leidesdorff St.,
San Francisco, Cal.

P. O. Address
No. 111 Leidesdorff St. S. F.