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county schools edition
by T.R. Nickel,
Superintendent Tulare County Schools.

Growth of schools and the number of pupils has not been phenomenal but it has been steady and healthy as has the growth of the county and its industries since the county was chartered in 1852.

I have been unable to unearth figures from the very start of the county as a unit but records disclose that the number of pupils from 4 to 18 years of age in 1858 totaled 287. The year 1859 showed an increase in number of the ~~same~~ same ages to 574.

In 1861, there were 284 pupils in the Visalia school district, 124 in the Elbow district, 152 in Woodville district and 85 in the Persian district.

In the Visalia Delta of January 8, 1863, we read:

"Tulare county reports 822 school children and receives from the state \$739 as her semi-annual share of the school funds. By prudent management, the trustees in this district have got the school out of debt and now have ~~tax~~ idle cash on hand."

By 1866, there were 13 school districts and the total number of pupils reached 861. Today we have 864 teachers!

It is interesting to ~~make~~ compare the number of pupils in the respective school districts in 1866 with the number in the same districts today (~~the~~ latter from report of 1938):

ad one county schools

District	1866	1938
Cottonwood	37	11
Deep Creek	79	65
Elbow	33	79
Elbow Creek	32	44
Kaw eah	56	58
Outside Creek	55	103
Packwood	50	131
Kings River	21	171
Union	50	61
Tule River		
Farmers (now Porterville)	149	1493
Venice	40	57
Visalia	220	1515
Willow	39	43

There were 14 school districts in 1867 and 1023 pupils which showed a considerable increase over 1866.

By 1868, there were 17 school districts. In that year there were 44 pupils in the Tulare district as against 1478 for 1938; in Farmersville, 79 as against 194; in Oak Grove 91 as against 71, and on Rockford 46 as against 88.

By 1869, there were 18 school districts with 1227 pupils.

Today, there are in Tulare county (1938 census) ~~20,657~~ 20,657 pupils and if the kindergarten children and junior college students were added the total would be 21,395.

There is general public interest in teachers' institute and I am offering the following *facts concerning* ~~the Institute of May, 1868:~~ the Institute of May, 1868:

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ad two county schools

Deputy C^onty Superintendent Noah Flood ~~xx~~ presided. Important parts were taken in the Institute by Rev. J. Edwards, Rev. L. Hopkins and Rev. G.H. Kinke ~~ae~~ l. Rev. Snell gave an address on "School Government." Rev. J.W. Conwell was elected vice-president of the Institute and spoke on "The Advantages of the Public School System."

Lines of thought of the period are reflected in the following subjects which were discussed during the Institute:

"The Use and A^use of Corporal P^unishment."

"Are Public Examinations and Exhibitions Adviseable?"

"The Mode of Explaining Equations of Payments and the Longitude and Time."

"Can Teaching be Reduced to a Science?"

"Resolved, that Drawing is a Good Mode of Obtaining a Thorough Knowledge of School Geographies."

"Should Priveleges and Awards be Offered for Superiority of Scholarship?"

In 1866, the county school superintendent of schools had greater authorit y over use of funds than he has at the present time. He handled the school funds exclusively and when one district was short of funds, it was legal for him to transfer here and there as he saw fit.

Comments ~~xxxxxx~~ of C^onty Superintendent W.P. Kirkland in 1879, made ~~after~~ concerning various school districts are recorded in the ~~Kixsitz~~ Delta as follows:

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ad three county schools

Cave School District: "The school in this district is in charge of Mr. L.A. Rockwell who is making a success in this, his first attempt at peda doguing. It is, in fact, the most satisfactory school ever taught in this district. The school is orderly, attentive and industrious.....The library is small and of little value."

Antelope: "The school is above average. The library consists of 14 volumes, one of which is valuable and the remainder serve to show how successful the book agent was in disposing of his worthless books."

Stone Corral: "There are 38 pupils enrolled where Miss Maggie ~~Todd~~ Tod holds the rod."

Y okohl: "The building and furniture are in a delapidated condition and no water on the premises, all of which was promised the attention of the trustees. The library consists of 18 well bound volumes. There are 18 scholars in attendance and I regret to say that I cannot speak approvingly of the management of the school and respectfully call the attention of the trustees to the same."

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a d four county schools

County school superintendents since and including 1855
follow:

1855--J.B. Hatch, W.G. Russell.

1858--J.R. Kenney.

1859--O.K. Smith, J.C. McGahey.

1861--John Cutler, J.B. Taylor, T.O. Ellis.

1863--A.J. Atwell, M.S. Merrill.

~~1864~~ 1867--T.J. Brundage, J.W. Williams.

1869--S.G. Creighton.

1873--R.P. Merrill.

1878--W.P. Kirkland.

1879--W.J. Ellis.

1882--C.H. Murphy.

1890--S.A. Crookshanks.

1894--J.S. McPhail.

~~1892~~ 1898--S.A. Crookshanks.

1902--C.J. Walker.

1910--J.E. Buckman.

1934--Roy L. Driggers.

1938--T.R. Nickel.

promotion for Monday, ~~Apr~~ May 1, and Tues a.m.

Many present day residents of Visalia and Tulare county ~~an~~ express abhorrence when told of the rabbit drives of early days which occurred in ~~all parts of~~ many sections of the San Joaquin valley and in Tulare county in particular. These moderns are prone to call the drives "brutal" but the old time residents will affirm, with considerable vehemence, that they were necessary to clear the plains of a most destructive rodent.

An account of the early drives will be among the features of the Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which will be published on May 24, just prior to the annual Homecoming Day and Visalia Rodeo.

As many as 8000 rabbits have been reported slaughtered in the drives and counts of 4000 to 6000 were not unusual, it is stated. The county in that period paid a bounty for the scalps of the beasts although some of them were shipped to market in San Francisco.

The Anniversaries Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, known in the early days as the Board of Trade.

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promotion for Tues., May 2, and Wed. a.m. ART

The "horse and buggy days" are not so far back as some present day politicians and editorial writers would have the general public believe.

There are plenty of residents in Visalia today whose memories date back to the period shown in today's photograph and published in connection with the forthcoming Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia newspapers, slated for publication on May 24, just prior to the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

Many of those who owned horses and "rigs" did not wish to be bothered with caring for them on their own premises and "boarded" them at one of the many Visalia livery stables for about what it would cost today to store an automobile in a safe garage.

In addition, the stables of the period rented buggies, surries and saddle horses by the day and it was a common Sunday custom for young men to take their favorite ladies riding. A trip as far off as Tulare was not unusual but to go as far as Lindsay or Hanford was something else again.

"Whip light and Drive slow" was the slogan of most livery stable owners.

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promotion for Wed., May 3, and Thurs. a.m.

Pictures of what was and what is will be among the many features of the Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Visalia Morning Delta which will be published on May 24, a short time before the opening of the ~~annual~~ annual Visalia Rodeo.

Some of these photographs show scenes in Visalia and other sections of the county as early ~~th~~ as the 1860's and others were taken but recently to contrast with the earlier ones. Corners which once were occupied by shacks or nondescript brick buildings now are occupied by modern brick buildings with modern merchandising shops.

Men's and women's styles of dress will be contrasted in the early pictures. In the early days of Visalia, despite the dusty dirty sidewalks and streets, women wore long skirts which swept the dust in the summer and dipped into the mud in the winter.

The Aⁿniversaries Edition will mark the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the ~~founding~~ chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia C^hamber of C^ommerce.

Orders may now be placed for ~~extra~~ additional copies of the Edition at the office of the newspapers. The edition will cost 25 cents, postage paid to any address in the United States. All subscribers to the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta will receive copies of the Edition without charge.

promotion for Thurs., May 4, and Fri. a.m. ART

Members of the Visalia Fire Department always were active in celebrating the Fourth of July and when there was nothing especially slated for Visalia, members of the department would participate elsewhere.

Such was the case in the case of the members of the old Volunteer Department when they went to Hanford to take part in the celebration there. The photograph was submitted in connection with the forthcoming Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which will be issued on May 24, just prior to the annual Homecoming Day and Visalia Rodeo.

In these early day celebrations, ice water and even ~~many~~ "pink lemonade" often were placed in barrels for free consumption by the public while fairly large glasses of beer were retailed at five cents.

The early day celebrations, staged before the "safe and sane" Fourth campaigns of recent years, generally were climaxed at night by a "super" display of fireworks, mostly under the ~~expert~~ direction of an expert from San Francisco.

Many a celebration was interrupted for the fireman by grass or more serious fires when resplendent uniforms were wrecked by fire or water.

The ^Anniversaries Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

promotion for Fri., May 5, and Sat a.m.

Visalia of the early days was not a city surrounded by some of the richest orchards, vineyards and alfalfa fields that one sees today.

Much of the territory was covered by swamp land which was drained before it could be put to practical use. Other property in the county was "little better than a desert," according to an article to be published in the Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta, to be published on May 24 just prior to the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

While the potential value of land in the immediate city of Visalia was recognized early, it took years of labor on the part of the pioneer residents to bring it to its present high state of development. There were differences, too, between stock men and sheep men and between other industries that impeded progress.

Accounts of the early days will be featured in the forthcoming Edition which will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, and the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

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promotion for Sat., May 6, and Mon. a.m.

It has been said that the dairying industry started in Tulare county started when the first settler arrived with a cow tied to his covered wagon but the bed of the early day dairyman was not a bed of roses, states an article that is to appear in the forthcoming Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which is to come off the presses on May 24, just prior to the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

First two attempts to establish the industry were failures, states the article, and progress later was impeded when ranchers considered fruit and grape production far more profitable--and more according to the dignity of a land holder of any proportions.

How the industry was developed will be described in the Anniversaries Edition as will the progress of other industries in the county.

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do you remember ed page, Mon. May1, and Tues. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Austin Grant, "when Malloch's brewery stood at the corner of Main and Bridge streets? At the same time, the Sheep Herder's hotel stood across the street--this was in the latter part of the 1870's."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, December 24, 1859:

"The ~~new~~ new bridge across Mill creek on Church street is progressing rapidly toward completion."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, January 21, 1860:

"The Steamboat 'Visalia,' just completed for navigating the San Joaquin river between Sotckton and Fresno City, started on her trial trip this week."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, February 18, 1860:

"It is a fact that we have a milk wagon now running through the streets of Visalia. Mr. E. Smith will deliver milk to the citizens of the town every morning and evening. This astonishing enterprise in a 'cow county' should be encouraged."

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do you remember ed page, Tues., ~~April~~ May 2, and Wed. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Mrs. Clark Ferguson, "when the old Tulare-Visalia railway, which later was wrecked and abandoned, ran down South Court street? I remember it well because my mother used to punish me when I ran away from our home ~~xxxxxx~~ on South C^hurch street to watch the train go by. The punishment did no good as the train simply was too fascinating."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, February 25, 1860:

"The Baptist church will hold divine services every fourth Sunday and Saturday previous in the Methodist Brick church when not otherwise occupied."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, March 3, 1860:

"Mr. Smith has commenced another term of his dancing school and will hereafter occupy the court house instead of the hall, as formerly."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, December ^{15,}~~27~~ 1860:

"There are four religious denominations here organized: two Methodist ~~Baptist~~ churches, north and south; a Baptist church and a Church of C^ristians."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, July 14, 1860:

"There will be three days of racing over the new Visalia course, about one and a half miles from town, commencing on the firstday of August next."

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do you remember ed page, Wed. May 3, and Thurs. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Mrs. Robert R. Williams, "when buggies and surries were tied to rings along the curbs in front of stores in Visalia? I believe a few of those rings still remain. Do you remember one night years ago when three livery stables were destroyed by fire? When I first came to Visalia, in 1899, I rode with my parents in a surrey pulled by two horses from Dudley, Calif. It took us two days to make the trip."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, December 29, 1860:

"We will puff and patronize the first business man and his business who will make a gravel crossing on Main street at some convenient point. One made and there will be others, the necessity of which it is not necessary to ~~point out~~ speak."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, December 29, 1860:

"During the late rains the court house settled--some say three inches--and some say but one--whether it be three or one, it matters not, as it shows that structure is not founded on a rock "and when winds blow and rains descend,"it may sink and in other words "go to pot."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, March 16, 1861:

"Our county jail which has been for a long time without a tenant is now occupied by a John Chinaman who is held in ~~the~~ 'limbo' until the next term of the court of sessions to answer to the charge of grand larceny. John stole a rope with a horse attached."

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do you remember ed page, Thurs. May 4, and Fri. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Roy P. Grant, "when the old dummy gray horse stood on the sidewalk in front of Fred Uhl's Gray Horse Harness Shop at the corner of Church and Main streets; when the negro boy hitching post stood in front of Kellenberg's shoe store in the same block, and when Joe Sherman carried a large part of the daily mail arrivals from the old East Main street post office on a bicycle?"

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, February 9, 1861:

"A petition is in circulation asking the passage of an act of the legislature appropriating the fines which may be collected in this county for the next five years, for the establishment of a public library, for the use and benefit of the citizens of the county."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, February 16, 1861:

"Steam engines will shortly supersede hand engines in San Francisco. Even in that up-and-down hill city, they are found to work well. Three such engines are now in use there."

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do you remember ed page, Fri. May 5, and Sat. a.m.

"Do you remember when, in the 1870's and the 1880's, log fences enclosed several ranches northeast of Visalia?," asks H.R. McGee of Dunlap. "These ranches were in the vicinity of the C_hatten, Patterson and Cutler holdings along the river bottom. These fences were constructed partly from the logs redwood, pine and oak logs which were washed down from the mountains during the flood of 1867. Dick Chatten, in 1880, offered me half of a parcel of log-covered land if I would clean it off. I thought the land not worth the effort!"

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, April 6, 1861:

"For the information of the antiquarian correspondent of the Tuolumne Courier, we are requested to state that ~~the~~ old Nat Vise spells his name V-i-s-o, so his version of the orthography of Visalia is incorrect."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, July 4, 1861:

"The court house in this county ought to be finished internally. It comes nearer the resemblance of an old dilapidated bastille than a court house where Americans assemble to adjudicate their rights and wrongs."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, July 25, 1861:

"The primary election held in this place on Saturday last went off harmoniously and quietly. One hundred and sixty-nine votes were cast."

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do you remember ed page, Sat., May 6, and Mon. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Roy P. Grant, "when a decrepit hitching rack surrounded the court house; when the Palace hotel was an imposing hostlery owned by Dan Overall and managed by Frank Stousland; when a refractory horse, drawing a bakery wagon, belonging to Grant's bakery, ran wild on Main street, finally landing, wagon and all, inside the old Bank of Visalia?"

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, September 26, 1861:

"The schools in town seem prosperous. The Academy, Rev. B.W. Taylor, principal, has about 50 students. The district school, D. Wood, teacher, has about 58. These are mostly from this region which speaks well for the interest felt in the cause of education here."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, November 7, 1861:

"The upper part or gable end of the house of Mr. Townsend fell down Monday night. The building lately built was not quite completed and the ~~town~~ tumble was owing, doubtless, to imperfection of the material. As no one was about at the time of the falling, no one was hurt."

3m

From the Tulare C^Unty Times, January 2, 1869:

"We are much pleased to note that a post office has been established at Farmersville. P.L. Pearson, we understand, is postmaster."

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water edition

Tulare county, being at the base of some of the mightiest mountains in the nation from which descend a never-ending supply of life-giving water, is geographically favored as are few other sections of the country. Her rivers have their sources at the bases of the loftiest peaks of the country, some of which are snow-capped throughout the year.

These mountains and the deep valleys and chasms at their bases catch the snows in winter in huge quantities and store it until the warm spring ~~sunshine~~ and summer suns cause it to melt and flow into the valley through the various rivers and smaller streams, providing life for the agriculture of the county.

Electric power and irrigation development, of course, are closely linked and a separate article on the development of power appears elsewhere in the Anniversaries Edition. Another article in the Anniversaries Edition by Attorney W.R. Bailey touches upon irrigation development in the Kaweah Delta area.

Early Tulare county pioneers were struck by the rich growth of tree and plant life in territory adjacent to the streams and were impressed equally with the apparent dryness of the outlying plains which received their only water supply, except in occasional flood seasons, from rainfall which averaged about 10 inches a year.

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a d one water

The sun absorbing a large portion of this rain water, the remaining supply was inadequate for practical use. Early topographical surveys were discouraging as to the agricultural possibilities of the area including Tulare county, except for the area now occupied by Visalia and vicinity. It was represented as little better than a desert and "incapable of cultivation."

Early residents naturally sought fertile areas and started their homes and thus the first irrigation ditch ever dug in the San Joaquin valley had its source in the Kaweah river. This ditch was dug in 1853 ~~for~~ by Wiley Watson to convey water to his two-orthree-acre peach orchard which occupied part of the area now included in the Home Builders tract in Visalia. The first actual ditch ~~dug~~ built was dug at the instigation of Dr. Reuben Mathews, extending from Upper Mill creek which secured its waters from the Kaweah, to the Mathews Mill to be used as a mill race and to irrigate lands for gardens.

The Watson ditch carried water from the mill race from a point now designated as the corner of East and Acequia streets, and conveyed it west along Acequia street as far as Locust street, whence it angled southwest to the orchard.

In later years, the Jennings and one or two others obtained their water from the old mill race. The Persian ditch was built in 1854 by James Persian who is said to have planted the first wine grapes and to have manufactured the first brandy in Tulare county. Next came the Evans and Fleming ditches in 1858 and the Birch in the early 1860's.

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ad two water

By 1875, there were 18 irrigation canals diverting water from the Kaweah river. Development in other parts of the valley appears to have been somewhat slower.

The first recorded claim to water from the Kings river was dated July 28, 1863, but by 1875, most of the present canals diverting water from the Kings had been constructed. On the San Joaquin river, filings on water appear as early as 1857, but it is believed this supply was used for mining purposes.

Water, even for domestic purposes, came in the early days from ditches which tapped larger streams.

An indication that residents were beginning to realize the potential value of underground water is seen in article of the Times of December 5, 1868:

"Wilcox's steam water lifter will raise 500 to 1,000,000 gallons of water to any height. If it be true, as many tests seem to indicate, that a vast and permanent body of pure water underlies most of the San Joaquin valley, the most arid districts may be made fertile and valuable by means of these pumps at no unreasonable outlay of capital."

The Times of June 15, 1871, states:

"Mr. R.E. Hyde is now engaged in erecting the pioneer windmill in our town for the purpose of irrigating his yard and garden. We hope that Mr. Hyde's mill will be successful for the purpose for which he is putting it up, as it will influence the construction of others and do away with the entire dependence on ditches."

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ad three water

flowing

The first ~~xxxxxx~~ well in Tulare county was proven by the Southern Pacific Railroad company in 1872 at Tipton. At a depth of 310 feet, the drillers obtained a flow of half an inch. Six years later, Paige and Morton put down a well on their ranch four miles west of Tulare and at a depth of 330 feet obtained a flow of three and a half inches. Subsequently, many wells of this variety were put down in the portion of the county lying west of the Southern Pacific railroad as far west as the westerly line of Tulare lake.

From 1854 to 1870, numerous small ditches such as Dillon's and Swanson's, were located in the district south and southeast of Visalia, but in about 1870 all consolidated into one large canal called the Consolidated People's Ditch company. This canal, 20 feet wide, having its source in the Kaweah river about 12 miles east of Visalia and carrying during the summer season a flow of 300 cubic feet per second, watered the lands of a district 10 miles wide and 12 or 14 miles long.

The first real effort in successful irrigation in Tulare county was accomplished in 1872 by the Lower Kings River ditch in the vicinity of Lemoore, then in Tulare county and now in Kings. Among those interested were M.D. Bush, V.F. Geiseler and R.B. Huey. They incorporated in 1873 and extended their operations. Immediately after the opening of the Lower Kings River ditch in 1872, Daniel Spangler undertook to build a canal from Kings river to the Lone Tree district which later was completed as the Peoples Ditch company.

more

ad four water

It was in 1872 also that the Watchumna ~~kanal~~ began operations, cutting a ditch four miles long. Operations were halted by lack of proper financing and the Pioneer Water company was organized to carry water along the same course as the Watchumna. The Pioneer and the Watchumna later consolidated under the name of Watchumna, continuing to expand until 54 miles of canal had been cut. The Watchumna obtains its water from the Kaweah river about 20 miles northeast of Visalia and flows to a western terminus about 10 miles due west of Visalia, watering about 5000 acres.

In 1873, a large canal called the Last Chance ditch was organized and completed in one season, crossing the People's ditch of Kings river and irrigating lands on both sides of the latter. These two ditches, with the lower Kings river ditch, all coming out of Kings river, irrigated the entire Lucerne valley, or Mussel Slough district.

The Lakeside Ditch company was organized in 1873 but did not accomplish much until two years later when a canal 30 feet wide and three feet deep was cut from Cross creek, a branch of the Kaweah, to water lands in the vicinity of Hanford and to the east. The Settlers ditch, also cut from Cross creek, was built about the same time, supplying water to lands north of Hanford between Cross creek and Kings river, later selling its rights to the Tulare Irrigation district.

Among the ditches constructed to take water from the Kaweah and St. Johns rivers at this early period ~~were~~ and not previously mentioned were the Elbow ditch, built in 1860; the Uphill ditch, built in 1877; the Modoc ditch; the Cross Creek ditch; the Rocky Ford and Canal company ditch, 1875; the Kaweah canal and Irrigation company canal, 1877, and numerous smaller ones.

ad five water

In the ~~Tulare~~ Tule river section, the Pioneer Ditch company of Tule river organized in 1866, taking water out of Tule river well up in the hills and carrying it to Porterville to run a mill and thence to the ranch of J.B. Hockett. Later the stream was used for power to light the city of Porterville.

From 1866 to 1880, probably 20 small ditches were taken out of Tule river, some of which remain in use. About 1866, O. Wilcox cut a ditch through the south bank of Tule river above the Pioneer ditch to irrigate several ranches. ~~The Wilcox ditch, originally taken out of the north side of lower Tule river irrigating lands~~

Years of litigation followed the appropriation of water from the valley streams, ~~and~~ this litigation being covered in a separate article in the Anniversaries Edition.

Starting ~~rather~~ a gricultural results have been obtained in Tulare county by the development of the use of underground waters for irrigation.

When underground water first was used for irrigation it was believed by most residents that the supply was inexhaustible but as development proceeded and the draft on the supply increased, a lowering of the water table was noted in many areas.

Enactment of the Wright law by the California legislature in 1887, an act providing for the acquisition of water and other property and the distribution of water thereby for irrigation and other purposes, has meant more probably in the progress of agricultural development in the county than any other law with the possible exception of the "no fence" law.

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ad six water

Under the Wright law, residents of any locality may form and define an irrigation district, secure water rights, construct canals and reservoirs and carry on an irrigation business under elective officers. Organization of the district is carried out by formal legal ~~proceedings~~ proceedings and bonds may be issued for 20 years at interest not to exceed 6 per cent. ~~xxxxxxxtxxxxxx~~

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