

## CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR

--By H. C. Bailey.

Arranged and Copyrighted by F. F. Latta, 1930.-1931

In writing California sketches, I have but two objects in mind--one to pass my time in a pleasant occupation, the other to prove true the claim of California's superiority along most if not all lines of advancement, as well as her superior equipments by nature to produce the highest types of vegetables, grain and fruit products the world had ever produced; to a higher and nobler civilization than had been or ever will be again.

Old California did more to establish and develop the brotherhood of man than all the world had up to the date of her settlement. I doubt if there ever was a civilization where the man and character stood so far ahead of money as in old California.

Nearly all had to start at the bottom. If one got ahead, none ever envied him. If the other failed he had his fellow's sympathy, not unfrequently something more substantial. They were men of deeds, not of words and loved fair play and a square deal well enough to fight for it to the last ditch.

With our home the center of a circle forty miles in diameter, in March, 1853, there were not to exceed four homes presided over by a mistress. Outside the town of Colusa there was not one with a floor, except the soil, or a glass window. Many were without even an apology for a door. There were but four grain growing ranches.

Most of the settlements were on the Sacramento river. The settlers lived in all kinds of camps, mostly cabins built of small cottonwood logs, and were wood choppers and charcoal burners for the Sacramento and Frisco market.

The country was wild and beautiful beyond description. The

## California Superior--Bailey.

people were the same, minus the beautiful.

The whole valley was a sea of most exquisite growth of beautiful flowers of very many varieties and all heights from four feet tall to the little creeper. It was surrounded on three sides by mountain ranges with perpetual snow in three directions, and made a panorama once seen, never to be forgotten.

Such were our pleasant, and alone some times delightful, surroundings, which were to give place in four years to a fairly well organized community with churches, public schools, permanently established roads and the other acquisitions which go to make up a thoroughly good and harmonious community.

How did California accomplish in less than five years what it took the settlers of the eastern frontier ten, fifteen and often twenty to accomplish?

I answer, the grit, push and determination of the Pacific, a new civilization that never halted at obstacles, in any and all propositions deemed worthy of tackling, brushed them aside and went on their way to success, rejoicing, How it was done will be told later.