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"The engine doing service on the Visalia railroad is one of the most novel arrangements we recollect to have seen in railroading. It has engine, tender and car all aggregated together, will carry 10 or 15 passengers and baggage, and can doubtless be run at half the cost of an ordinary stage coach.

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Visalia often offered such ~~attractive~~ attractions that they go no further. At one time about 25 of these miners practically took ~~possession~~ possession of the town. Wide open and in full blast, the attractions were kept going, night and day.

This crowd had among them a tall and lanky Missourian named Biggs Ben ~~Biggs~~ who could play the fiddle and, that his talents might be exercised in a manner calculated to attract the most attention they purchased a jackass for him to ride and were accustomed to march around the town, halting in front of the different saloons, treating all by-standers while the fiddler played lustily. The musician was paid \$60 a month by the miners.

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Among others whose bodies were laid to rest here and later removed to the new cemetery were Jack Lorenz, Mrs. Thomas Baker, Mrs. Nathan Baker and a man called Salty.

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The application was not received, the land office claiming there was no evidence that the supervisors were the agents of Tulare county. The matter was dropped until 1867. The Visalia Land District had been formed and one George Garish appointed receiver. Discovering the lack of title on the town site, he made applications for the lands. This aroused the people and steps were taken to perfect the title to the county for the lands. The issue had to be taken before the land commissioner at Washington but it finally was adjusted to the satisfaction of the people.

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"This region, including the town, is little more than a
labyrinth of crooked creeks, ditches, fences, brush, weeds, etc.
A quarter of a mile out of town is the wilderness to all intents and
purposes.

"Streets are straight and ~~xxxxxx~~ square as far as they go
but they don't go and it takes a ~~xyzkzxvi~~ very uncommon owl to
get to his regular roost in the burg after dark. Wonder what the
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Dr. Webb^{was} ~~who~~ ~~was~~ ousted from his \$500 a year position as county physician and manager of the county hospital in ~~1871~~ 1871 and was replaced by a man to whom the supervisors voted an annual salary of \$2000.

The following card appeared in the Times of November 11, 1871:

"Rev. James A. Webb to the perjured supervisors of Tulare county:

"Perjured villains, rebel devils and fools:

"While unscrupulous and perjured rebel devils hold ~~sway~~ political sway in our demented rebel county no honest man or christian can expect any favors from their nefarious hands.

"I would be glad to keep the county hospital for \$500 a year, but because I am a union man, and not a perjured rebel devil, you will rob me of my only means of support and give my hospital to rebel traitors of your own kind for four times the price for which I offer to keep it.

"Therefore, I, the only true physician in Tulare county, California, and the only true Gospel minister in Tulare county, and the only Bible poet in Tulare county, and the only Advent prophet in Tulare county, and the only Christian patriarch in Tulare county; therefore, in the name ~~of~~ and service of the Great Jehovah, I offer my services to God and Him only to continue my 50 years Bible task.

"What is your oath of office? Oh, yet perjured democratic demons. Where is your conscience, you ungodly devils? Have you any reason why I should not damn you all together?"

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W.J. Ellis, county assessor of Tulare county in 1870, submitted, as was the custom in those days, a statistical report to the state surveyor general showing the numbers of live stock, areas devoted to different cultures, quantity of different productions, etc.

In that year there were 108 orange trees in the county, butter production was 8150 pounds, there were 28,604 head of stock cattle and 158,631 head of sheep.

In all, there were but 30,000 acres of enclosed land, 20,000 of which was cultivated.

Ellis, in a letter to the attorney general looked forward to seeing ~~"Tulane"~~ "the plains of Tulare county covered with beautiful farms, nice farm houses, waving fields of grain. The locomotive's whistle then will be heard."

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Precautions not necessary in these days were taken in the pioneer days of Visalia to keep prisoners secure against their day in court, it would seem from the following orders issued by the Tulare county board of supervisors, the first on ebruary 4, 1868, and the second on September 8, 1869:

"The following claims were audited and the auditor directed to draw warrants on the county treasurer for the respective amounts payable to the parties out of the funds indicated: Thomas and Hedges, services for cutting off and putting irons on prisoners, \$14."

"The following claim being on file and examined and allowed, the auditor is directed to draw his warrants on the county treasurer for the same in favor of the following person and out of the funds indicated: J.N. Thomas for services putting on and removing shackles from prisoners at the county jail."

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Newspapers of early days did their bit for civic progress even as they strive for improvements today.

The following article appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of December 3, 1859:

"Our streets are in a bad condition this rainy season, having no drainage whatever; consequently the water is standing in great pools around the artesian well and in the middle of the street. Central between three of the principal stores is a large log lying across the center of the street, making it dangerous for stages coming in in the night. Whose business is it to move it, Wells and Sweet, Mitchell and Co., or Jordan and Co.?"

In the Delta of March 31, 1864, the following appeared:

"Our streets, in many instances, present the appearance of what, in the western states, is called a "clearing." The trees have been felled and the logs and brush impede the progress of travel, and in many instances are a nuisance, especially to the fair sex, with their 'sweeping trails,' which follow their footsteps.

"We earnestly invoke the aid of our friend Greely in having these obstructions removed so that our town may present the appearance to visitors that it is inhabited by a civilized and not a savage race."

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