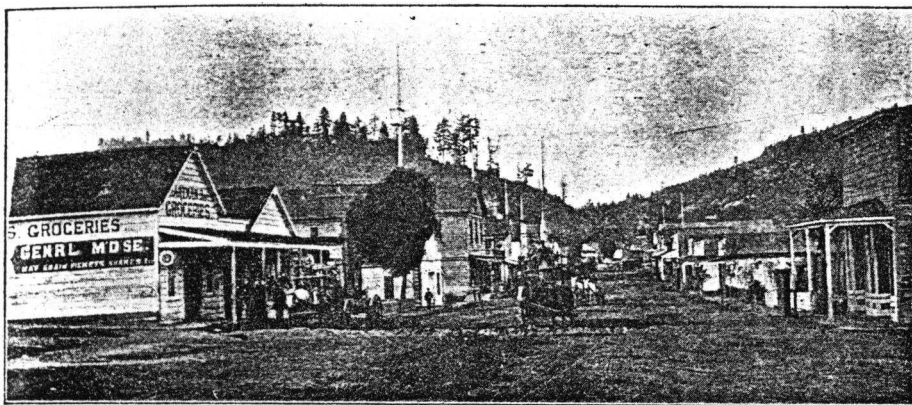


## Boulder Creek



Main Street Boulder Creek.

## FROM LUMBERING TO HORTICULTURE

A Study in Mountain Economics in Santa Cruz County.

THE United States is often spoken of as the experimental field of the world at large. In a great measure this is eminently true. There is scarcely an idea in politics, religion, education, mechanics or finance which has not been put to test in the United States either directly or indirectly. What is perhaps less perfectly comprehended in the United States itself is that California is in many respects one of the chief experimental stations of our own great country. This assertion will be found to hold good, it is believed, regarding the race problem, the question of finance, our relation to Pacific Coast and ocean history; the Pacific Slope, art and literature as well, will be moulded here—more even in the future than in the past. But for our particular purpose it is especially to be noticed that by as much as our State contains an epitomized edition of nearly every climate and soil of the continent at large, it is susceptible of reproducing, and does already in its varied divisions reproduce every agricultural, and especially every horticultural, product of commercial importance, both in the United States and Europe.

Some twenty-five years ago the writer witnessed with amazement the wholesale digging up and the total destruction of

vineyards in the level southwestern area of what is now a densely settled suburban district of Los Angeles city. These grapes were planted in a furor of grape-growing excitement only a few years previously. All of a sudden it was discovered that these rich, level valley areas were the most unsuitable lands obtainable for that purpose. Back of the city were high mesas, foothill slopes, etc. These, it was speedily ascertained, were the true grape lands, as well as fruit lands in general. It was a somewhat needless as well as exceedingly costly lesson.

Reference has been made already to the fact that our State is a field of concrete experiments in solving race problems, as well as answering a number of serious interrogation points in horticulture, viticulture, etc. By race problems it is not intended to enter upon a discussion of the hoary conundrums that brings up in San Francisco Chinatown. What is implied is that this State has proved itself to be not a mere asylum, etc., in the generally accepted sense of that word, but a duplicate homeland, arousing affection and sincere attachment on the part of nationalities as widely divergent as are those occupying the north shore of the Baltic, and those born on the isles