

Letter from California

O. L. Fogderud Writes an Interesting Letter from California Telling About Conditions in the Sunshine State.

The editor of The Enterprise is in receipt of a very interesting letter, under date of Jan. 29th, from Ole L. Fogderud, a Griggs county pioneer who is now located at Fairmead, Calif. We take the liberty of passing on to our readers extracts from Mr. Fogderud's letter:

The time passes very rapidly and we have now spent another winter in our new home. The summers here are dry and warm, but the nights are cool. A cool wind always blows from the high snow-capped mountains, so that the heat does not become oppressive, as is sometimes the case during the summer months in North Dakota.

This winter has been a little colder than last winter was. Through December and January the ground was frequently covered with frost, but the grass and the fields were just as green as ever. The leaves have fallen off the trees, but spring is at hand, as many trees have already started to bud in preparation for next summer's fruit. We are getting ready to plant trees. Last winter we planted a few, and this winter we are going to plant five acres with fig trees and seedless grape vines. It takes three or four years before we get any fruit, hence much money will have to be spent before there is any income. We are also going to sow more alfalfa. This is a good paying crop provided you have the right variety as it can be cut six or seven times during the summer, and it sells for about \$12 per ton. We have several cows so we feed them all the alfalfa we raise.

The farmers who are cultivating large tracts of land are now seeding barley. They have been at it for over two months, and will probably be at it for another month. There are usually twelve mules hitched to each rig and the plowing, harrowing and seeding is done at one operation. They do much more per day than what we are used to in North Dakota. A farmer here who has between two and three thousand acres of land usually has only three hired men, and when the harvest and threshing season comes, they use a combination harvester and thresher to which 30 to 40 mules are hitched. One man drives the mules, another man tends to both the harvester and the thresher, and the third man fills and ties the grain sacks and lets them slide to the ground. In that way it takes only three men to do work that would require a dozen in North Dakota. The sacks are gathered up from the field and loaded onto two wagons to which are hitched eight mules, and about one hundred sacks to each wagon constitute a load. The loads are hauled to town where the sacks are unloaded—a process that requires much heavy work.

On our farm there is not so much heavy work although there is plenty to do for everybody who wants to work.

We have traveled extensively during the time we have been here. With a good automobile a person can travel far in a day, as the roads are in such excellent condition. We live close to the Lincoln Highway. On this road people are not allowed to exceed a speed limit of 30 miles an hour, but frequently we have seen cars that go 40 to 50 miles per hour, in spite of the fact that they are often caught and fined.

The most interesting trip we made this summer was a tour into the mountains; we saw what is claimed to be the world's largest pine trees, any one of which, when sawed into lumber, would make several car-loads. One tree is so large that the road goes right through it and there is plenty room for automobiles to pass through.

Our colony does not grow very fast but will in a few years be one of the most beautiful places in California, as it lies in the middle of the well known San Joaquin valley. Here practically everything a person wishes to plant will grow if given sufficient water. In time a ditch will be built which will carry water to the land from the large river that runs through the valley.

This is not a colony of Scandinavians, as there are only a few from those countries. There are, how-

ever, people from practically every European country but neither negroes, Chinese nor Japanese.

At present there is considerably dairying done in this district, but there will be less of that when the fruit trees commence to bear fruit. The Swiss and Portuguese are the best dairymen. Our neighbors are all kind people and we never hear of any disagreement among neighbors.

The colony is only four years old, and most of the settlers did not have much property when they located here, and have not succeeded in acquiring much since, and consequently there is no class distinction at all. Most of the houses are very poor—they would not do at all if we had winters like those of North Dakota. Soft coal costs \$14 a ton, and cord wood \$14 a cord, but oil is used more for fuel than either of these. Oil is a little cheaper here than up North.

Wallac Sinclair has erected splendid buildings the past summer. He now has the best farm buildings in the whole colony, and everything on his place is up-to-date.

Land here is expensive, but it is still more expensive in other parts of the state. Here unimproved land sells for from \$100 to \$200 per acre, but a good fruit farm will bring up to \$2000 per acre.

With best wishes and greetings to all friends, we are,

Respectfully yours,

O. L. Fogderud

Urged to Support the Creamery

Unfair discrimination against North Dakota creameries by the big centralizers in the Twin Cities has been discovered by Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor John N. Hagan and the new dairy commissioner, J. J. Osterhaus. They held a meeting at Hannaford last week. It was found that these outside concerns are paying three to four cents per pound more for butterfat there than the market price of butter in the Twin Cities, while at towns within a few miles of Hannaford, where there is no co-operative creamery, the price is several cents lower than here, where the farmers are struggling to build up a local industry.

This is one of the reasons, Mr. Hagan says, why the creameries of North Dakota are paralyzed, and why so many well equipped little plants in centers where there is plenty of cream are standing closed to-day. Both the new officials urged the farmers to stand by the local association, and urged the business men in the audience to support it by buying its product, and no other. It was found that the creamery is getting only about half, or possibly less than half, the cream produced in a region easily accessible to the farmers, while the cream stations of the outside centralizers are paying more than the cream is worth for the purpose of putting the farmers' company out of business.—Non-Partisan Leader.



TIMME SISTERS QUARTET

The Timme Sisters Quartet have been the subject of much newspaper and editorial comment aside from their musical ability. Each one a talented musician and of pleasing personality, they have surrounded themselves with friends and admirers on every hand. Miss Marguerite Emmeline has a winning soprano voice of grand opera calibre, plays the cello, and reads. Ruth Eda plays the piano and violin and also sings. Irene Magdaline plays the string bass, and also the piano. Ethyle Cohagan has a contralto voice and is a gifted monologist. Their programs are made up of costumed trios, quartets, vocal and instrumental solos, readings, pianologues, and orchestra numbers.

The Timme Sisters will show in Hannaford, Tuesday, Feb. 13.