

2/10/1883

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mills

and plenty of good Redwood lumber for all sorts of building & finishing purposes at about five or to 15 dollars per thousand according to quality.

There is a saw mill two miles from my place where we can get all the lumber we want at any time all fitted for building purposes - it is owned by the Groners from Skowhegan, Maine.

Land is very high here cannot buy in desirable location for less than fifty dollars per acre I have 60 acres for which I must pay \$3000<sup>00</sup> we are about 1/2 mile from the Bay or Ocean which we can see very plainly I have on my place a good wood lot also a small orchard mostly Apples - but have Prunes Peaches Plums &c enough for family we had about 125 bushel Apples last year.

There are many things like -

Soquel Santa Cruz  
Feb 10 1883

Friend Richards

Your letter of Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> is at hand In reply I will do the best I can in answer to your questions.

We like our change very much and would not like to go back to Maine. For a young man with or without means I should say come to California in preference to Maine. It costs a great deal for for a family to make a change from Maine to California but the change once made and with a little means to get a start again I cannot help believing would be satisfactory to any one who wants a pleasant home and pleasant & healthy climate. I will send you a book and map of Cal.

Santa Cruz



Mr A. S. Richards  
Maple Grove  
Brookston Me  
Maine

That will give you much information on the most of the questions which you have asked. Of course you must make due allowance for exaggeration as the book is got up in the interest of the State I suppose - and you know how it is with newspaper writing in the interest of Maine as a whole. The best side is usually told. I am about 85 miles south of San Francisco. River side is in San Bernardino County about 450 miles south of this place it is a small valley between mountains and is devoted entirely to raising semi-tropical fruits (Oranges, grapes, lemons, limes, peaches &c) Apples do not do well there - land is very high but less than 300 or 400 dollars per acre for unimproved. Climate good but not so even as here having more wind and hotter weather and as cold

even colder sometimes than here.

We are directly on the sea coast or more properly Monterey Bay and have but very little climatic change it is I think and according to statistics the most even temperature in Cal.

This winter we are having more frosts than common and also very dry weather yet my cows are getting their own feed in the pasture and have not been under

cover this winter - we never have it very hot or very cold extremes from 30° to 80° above zero. Never have to travel for fruit or any kind of crop here on the coast - the heavy rains through the winter wetting the very deep soil with the coast dews in the summer insure as a fair crop.

The country is hilly and broken with plenty of ~~small~~ saw

Om Ellis to  
Almon -  
Come to Cal.!

2 5  
-attention to fruit raising here on the  
coast which has not been considered  
the best location for that business -

but there are now some of the  
first orchards of cherry pines  
grapes <sup>peaches</sup> &c &c in the state. The best  
of these are back from the coast up  
in the hills or mountains especially  
vineyards.

one is about 3/4 mile from the  
post office where is a small village  
with two general stores hotel &c  
5 miles from the city of Santa  
Cruz with I think about five  
thousand inhabitants and quite a  
place for summer resort for people  
from San Francisco and other places  
it is directly on the coast where  
you may see lots of bathers all though  
the summer season -

C

but I will not write any more  
at this time I will send the book  
in which you can get information  
much better than I can write it.

To day is very pleasant and  
warm - I have 30 acres of oats down  
for hay all looking very well but  
are beginning to need rain as we  
have had no heavy rains this  
winter yet - have 5 acres sowed  
for corn it seems odd to an eastern  
man, but it is a fact that we  
must not plant our corn until  
the rains are all over for the season  
and we do not want to see any more  
until after harvest. do not plant  
corn until April or May and then  
plow it in dropping in every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>  
furrow

Mrs. Ellis joins with me in  
kind regards to your self & family

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and with wishes that you may  
conclude to come to California  
and settle, especially in Santa Cruz.  
Yours truly  
J

Q. M. Ellis

I would like to have you let  
Mr. A. C. Bay look over the book  
when you have the opportunity

By the way - we keep quite  
a flock of hens & eggs have never been  
less than 1 1/2 ct per doz since I have  
been here and ranging from this price  
to 50 ct per doz chicken & hens from  
4 to 6 dollars per doz at your door  
have sold 45 dollars worth of  
chickens & eggs since last July when  
I commenced keeping them

Q. M. E.

we are in sight of Rail Road which  
runs along near the shore