

across the head of the ravine, so constructed as to allow the floating of timber thirty feet in length. The terminus of the main canal, five miles east of Placerville, will have an altitude of more than twelve hundred feet above Shingle Springs, the present terminus of the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad. A chute or V flume, can be constructed from the main canal via of Diamond Springs and Mud Springs to Shingle Springs, the length of which would be thirteen miles, with a fall from seventy-five to one hundred feet to the mile, which would insure success for transporting cord wood, and timber also, if the flume be of proper size.

A chute, to be profitably used for timber, would require to be constructed of two inch plank, twenty-four inches wide, which would be eight feet to the foot—board measure—trussle-work or support of the flume, about four feet of lumber to the foot, in all twelve feet of sawed lumber to one foot of flume, or about sixty-four thousand feet of lumber to the mile, worth 2 cents per foot, \$1,280 per mile, or a total cost per mile of \$2,300. A chute thus constructed, with the use of seventy-five inches of water, would transport 300 cords of wood or 300,000 feet—board measure—to Shingle Springs or other points on the line, every twenty-four hours, at a cost of \$20 for motive power. Inch boards cannot be carried through a V flume. A chute for the transportation of cord wood only could be constructed for a much less sum. If the Placerville and Sacramento Valley railroad should soon be completed to this place, which our citizens are very anxious to have done, a five mile chute would be all that would be required. With the railroad terminus at this place, Placerville would become an important point for the burning of charcoal and the shipping of wood and lumber. Charcoal could be loaded into cars and transported in bulk and deposited in the machine shops or mills at Sacramento with but one handling. This center route by the El Dorado Water and Deep Gravel Mining Company canal commands one half, if not two-thirds of the timber and cordwood in the country

On the north side of the Georgetown ridge and southern slope of the Middle and North Fork of the American river, chutes can be constructed from the California Water Company's canal near Georgetown, and from the North Fork ditch in Placer county, both of which would terminate at or near Folsom; that on the Grizzly Flat ridge by chutes from the Consumnes river

to Shingle Springs or Latrobe. Thus at a comparatively small outlay of capital Sacramento can be supplied with cheap fuel and lumber for all manufacturing and domestic purposes, from El Dorado county, and the supply cannot be exhausted in the next fifty years. In the vicinity of Diamond Springs, Placerville, Kelsey and Georgetown, where lumbering was carried from 1850 to 1856, the large trees cut down, and since that time autumnal fires prevented, which, before the occupation of the country by white settlers, destroyed the young trees and undergrowth, a dense forest of luxuriant growth have sprung up and now cover the hills and most of the uncultivated land. Those young pines are from ten to fifty feet in height, and from three to twelve inches in diameter, and when cut and seasoned in summer, make excellent firewood or charcoal. Such wood is much used now by families here.

If Placerville had direct communication with tide-water, she might be a formidable competitor with Sacramento or Chico for the rolling mills. Her water power is cheap, and equal to anything of the kind in the state, and besides her wood and timber facilities we have excellent beds of iron ore, one about one mile from town, with another some distance from here which is almost pure metal, and in vast quantities. I am informed by parties who have tested it, that in a common blacksmith's forge they have worked it for horse-shoes.

Oxford.

#### Effects of Hard Times in London.

The sales of plate and jewelry in London this spring will exceed the ordinary displays in this branch of costly decoration. Early in March a casket of jewels of rare magnificence, belonging to a lady, will be offered for sale. Added to these are a gold vase, more than 100 ounces in weight, chased and enamelled in colors, and studded with 1,700 precious stones; an Eleanor cross in silver, a grand piece of old Venetian work in silver, enriched with gems, representing the "Triumph of Maximilian," and large camel by Girometti and other famous Roman workers. Following these sales, in April, comes, notwithstanding the accession of King Alfonso XII., the sale of the jewels of Dona Ysabel de Borbon, which had been announced some time before the recent change in Spain. Some articles have been withheld, but at present the directions given to sell remain in force. Among the collections of old plate, which will enable the virtuosi in this favorite walk to enrich their cabinets, is that of the late Mr. Klockman, a German merchant of London, which is to be sold in May