

15. WICKSON INSPECTS YOLO COUNTY SITES

After getting his charge to inspect all sites, Wickson set out immediately to comply, but the task evidently took longer than expected, as he did not arrive in Davisville until December 24—a Sunday—and Christmas Eve no less!

In his account below, “PROF. WICKSON WAS HERE,” Scott explains that Wickson’s unexpected arrival time was due to

being “delayed up the valley beyond his expectations.”

However, the Promotion Committee was on hand to greet and feed him prior to touring the sites, which included the Sparks property.

Scott reports that “the Professor seemed well satisfied.”

But no decision yet!

Davis Enterprise Report of Wickson's December 24th Visit

By all accounts Wickson was a very thorough and diligent worker. He even visited the Sparks site again on a Sunday that was Christmas Eve!

George Pierce's journal entry dated "Sun 24 Dec 1905" reads: "Prof. E. J. Wickson came as soil expert to see proposed site for State Farm. showed him the Sparks site and he left on the 4 p.m. train."

In order to make the offer more attractive, second and third parcels were added, parcels that connected the "Sparks place" to the railroad station.

Called the "Hammel tract" and the "Wright tract," these strips ran along the south side of the railroad between what is now A Street and the train depot.

PROF. WICKSON WAS HERE

AND INSPECTED THE DAVISVILLE SITE OFFERED

On His Return From the Counties Farther Up the Valley, Concluded His Inspection of Yolo County Sites at Davisville Sunday.

Professor E. J. Wickson of the university, who was selected by the State Farm Commission to examine the various sites offered for the consideration of that body for the State Farm, was an arrival Sunday about noon. He came at a rather unexpected time, as he had been delayed up the valley beyond his expectations. However, the committee was on hand to receive him and entertained him at luncheon.

After luncheon the party was driven in carriages over the lands offered for the farm here, which includes the lands of Mr. V. Sparks, with the recent addition of the H. Hamel and Orin Wright tracts, making in all nearly 800 acres, and with the Wright and Hamel lands the tract is continuous to the S. P. right of way adjoining Davisville on the south and within a few rods of the depot. The lands were carefully examined. The Professor seemed well satisfied with the general quality of the soil and the general lay of the land for irrigation purposes, etc; it being noted that there was but one depression that might be termed a swail, the position and extent of which could practically be of no detriment to the general contour of the surface. The party was also driven to a point on the Putsh creek bank, where the water recently made a cut in the soil, exposing to view a face of the soil to a depth of nearly twenty feet of continuous loam.

Another feature noted by them was that there was not seen a single gravel streak or other detrimental composition of soil on the entire farm. In fact it seems that the entire plat is of rich loam to a depth of from fifteen to twenty feet at least. Mr. Wickson asked many questions relative to the advantages and features of the site. However, he was at once inquisitive, apparently interested, courteous, but diplomatic and non-committal, as, of course, is befitting his position.

The committee was very much impressed with the learned gentleman and feel that all who have sites to offer will receive just consideration at his hands. He stated that he had the sites of five counties yet to visit before his report would be formulated for the commission.