

The map my group chose was published by the Northwestern Pacific railroad company in 1913. I believe it was intended to promote industry and settlement in Northern California, between San Francisco Bay and Humboldt Bay. It shows the rail lines passing through areas with various resources and industries: timber, dairy, fruit, farming, and poultry. It shows towns and cities, wagon and stagecoach roads, mountain ranges, the populations of the various counties, and proposed rail lines. The most prominent feature is the railroad line.

Surveying technology was used to create this map, and it appears to be fairly accurate. The colors are a little bit difficult to differentiate, it's hard to know how much they have faded.

My only complaint with this map is that it makes some big generalizations about the resources. Forested areas with timber are probably represented accurately, and that industry was probably the railroad's best customer. You cannot grow grapes or berries anywhere you'd like, but you could raise poultry throughout most of this region. These generalizations are useful but potentially misleading. For example, "General Farming" is something that people have traditionally accomplished almost anywhere where there is water, though some places are much better suited for it.