

San Francisco Call -- March 11, 1895

Three large tanneries, make of Benicia the leading leather-manufacturing town not only in the State but the entire Pacific slope. The Benicia Pioneer Tannery, owned by McKay & Chisholm, employ seventy men at their extensive works, where they get out 2000 sides of leather per week. The extent of the work may be better understood when one item only is considered— that of the oak bark, which is to make the "tea" for tanning. Twelve cords a day is consumed at the Pioneer Tannery alone. This bark comes principally from Mendocino County and costs from \$10 to \$20 a ton. This firm sends leather as far East as Chicago. It is becoming generally known everywhere that the water and bark of California produces a better quality of leather, hence the demand on California, and Benicia in particular, for leather.

The Sumner Tanning Company's plant has not quite the capacity of the Pioneer, but turns out equally fine work. Charles Stewart, vice-president of the company, takes a cheerful view of matters. He says business is much better than a year ago. This is partially due to an extra de-

mand for saddle and harness leather, because of the war in the Orient.

Kullman, Salte & Co. also have a large tanning plant, with a capacity for 2000 sides.