

# When San Jose Was Young

A Series of Interesting Articles of An Historical Nature Prepared Especially for The News by a Well Known Author and Journalist.

## NO. 73      REVOLUTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

The first Mexican revolution in California was announced in 1822 by Father Fernando de San Vicent. The Spanish governor, Don Pablo de Sola, refused to serve under the new government and left Monterey with a few royalist soldiers.

Don Luis Arguello was appointed temporary governor. California was declared a territory and a legislature was established. Don Jose Noriega, captain of the presidio at Santa Barbara, was sent as deputy to the general congress at Mexico, but the congress refused to receive him.

Then Lieutenant-Colonel Jose Echegarai, the first Mexican governor, was sent. He was very popular, but for the fact that he appointed alcaldes and superintendents for the Missions, and he sought to oust the Franciscans.

Another revolution occurred in 1830, when in the absence of the governor at San Diego, Paymaster Don Vicente Ferrera induced the unpaid troops at Monterey to revolt. The governor came back and order was re-established. The governor punished Father Martinez and Father Sanchez, president of the Missions, who had refused to take the oath of allegiance.

Lieutenant-Colonel Don Manuel Victoria was the next governor. He was very unpopular in San Jose, and there was revolt against him here, as well as in San Diego and Los Angeles. When he left California he was wounded, and two prominent young Californians, Jose Avila and the other Romualdo Pacheco, father of the late Governor Pacheco, died as the result of a combat in which Victoria was engaged. Avila and Pacheco had been great friends, having been married on the same day.

After Governor Figueroa and Governor Gutierrez had come and ruled for a time there appeared Governor Chico. A few months later Gutierrez overthrew Chico.

In 1836 a party sprang up which declared California to be for Cali-

fornians. Don Bautista Alvarado headed the movement which started at San Juan. Bautista Alvarado marched to Monterey and seized the battery. With sixty-six men Gutierrez shut himself up in the presidio. Although Alvarado had no ammunition, Thomas Larkin and Captain Hinckley supplied powder. Gutierrez was abandoned by his soldiers and he surrendered.

Then the provincial legislature was established with Alvarado as governor, Vallejo as military commander and Jose Castro, prefect, at Monterey. It was to be a free and independent state with the privilege of being a member of the Mexican confederation if the Federal system was re-established. At Santa Barbara Alvarado met Andres Castillero, who afterwards discovered the quicksilver mines at New Almaden. A conference between Alvarado and Castillero was held. Alvarado decided to recognize the supremacy of the Mexican government, and Castillero was to go to Mexico as a deputy to the congress from California with a salary of three thousand a year.

Castillero went to Mexico, and on the 17th of August, 1837, on hearing how great was the wealth of the missions, the government placed them under the supervision of governors.

On the first of November, 1837, Don Carlos Carrillo was sent as governor of California, but Alvarado refused to surrender the office. Mexico acknowledged Alvarado.

In April, 1840, the Anglo-Saxons in California tried to stir up a revolt against Alvarado, but he eviled them and put down the revolt.

In 1842 Micheltorena came as governor to take the place of Vallejo. Alvarado and Castro, but Micheltorena failed to get possession of the office. Instead he found a war and he left. It was easy enough to obtain an appointment as governor of California, but it was quite another matter to get into the governor's seat after landing in California.