

ITINERARIES

ITINERARIES OF ROUTES THROUGH THE ISTHMUS OF TEHU-
ANTEPEC, NICARAGUA AND PANAMA.*From the Atlantic side.*

From New Orleans, crossing the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, to the port of Ventosa on the Pacific, 956 miles; time, 46 days.

From New Orleans, crossing the Isthmus of Nicaragua, to the port of San Juan del Sur, 1,430 miles; time, 7½ days.

From New Orleans, crossing the Isthmus of Panama, to Panama, 1,458 miles; time, 6¾ days.

From New York, via Tehuantepec, to La Ventosa, 2,053 miles; time, 9½ days.

From New York, via Nicaragua, to San Juan del Sur, 2,182 miles; time, 10½ days.

From New York, via Panama, to Panama, 2,045 miles; time, 9½ days.

From the Pacific side.

From the port of La Ventosa, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, to San Francisco, Cal., 2,118 miles; time, 9¼ days.

From the port of San Juan del Sur, in the Isthmus of Nicaragua, to San Francisco, Cal., 2,670 miles; time, 11¼ days.

From Panama, Isthmus of Panama, to San Francisco, Cal., 3,210 miles; time, 14 days.

ROUTE NO. 1.

From the City of San Antonio, Texas, to the City of Mexico, overland in 1866.

From San Antonio several roads lead to the City of Mexico, but they have more or less inconvenience, and many of them are scarce of water and forage at long intervals between the towns, haciendas and ranches situated along the routes. The writer of this itinerary will describe those which he has found the best and

safest at all times of the year, having made the trip several times with one companion and two servants.

The route by way of Eagle Pass is good, but is much longer than by way of Laredo. It was preferred during the rebellion for trains and travelers because all the streams along that route are fordable, and having good grass and also safer from robbers and Indians than the Laredo route.

From San Antonio to Eagle Pass, passing through the towns of Castroville, Dhans and Uvalde, it is 145 miles, over a good road with abundance of water and grass, and stores and hotels along the road where the traveler can find all he desires.

At Eagle Pass, which is situated opposite the town of Piedras Negras, in the State of Coahuila, in the Republic of Mexico, the Rio Grande is crossed in a good ferry-boat. The first thing the traveler has to do is to repair to the custom-house, and either pay the duties on his outfit or give bond to return the same at the custom-house where he took the permit within sixty days or return a certificate from any other custom-house in the Republic, showing that he has recrossed into the United States with the same outfit that he took into Mexico. [By outfit is meant the ambulance or conveyance and animals with which one travels.]

The next thing is to procure a passport from the authorities, with permission to carry the weapons necessary for the defense of the party; to obtain this, no impediment is thrown in the way of the traveler, if any respectable citizen will answer for his good behavior.

The road the writer traveled to Monterey and Saltillo is the one described here as route number one. There are several others, but I will only describe one or two.

ROUTE NO. 2.

From Piedras Negras, in the State of Coahuila, to the town and old presidio of La Punta de Lampasas, in the State of Nuevo Leon.—Distance by way of the Alamo de Los Borregos, 134 miles.

The distance from Piedras Negras, in Coahuila, situated opposite the town of Eagle Pass, in Texas, to the agricultural town of Nava, where forage, lodging and good water can be had,

is twenty-six miles. From the town of Nava to the old town and fort of Peyotes, it is eight miles. From the town of Peyotes to the San Diego cave and ranch, on the arroyo (creek) of the same name it is thirteen miles.

From San Diego, where the desert is reached, to a stopping place known as El Potrillo, is distant forty-two miles; here water is scarce, but seven miles further the river Sabinas is reached, and forded at the *passo del coche*, a short distance below a small village; total distance, forty-nine miles.

From the *passo del coche* to the large hacienda del Alamo de los Borregos, on Alamo river, it is about ten miles. At this place lodging, forage and good water can be found.

From the Alamo to the arroyo of el Saus, where the water is generally bad, it is distant thirteen miles. The road is level to the city and old fort of La Punta de Lampasas; distance, fifteen miles.

Lampasas has some irrigable lands. A mine of some value was formerly worked in its vicinity. In former times it was established as a frontier post, where a company of Spanish troops were stationed. The soldiers used a sort of armor called "*escopilla*," which was entirely arrow-proof. Some years ago many of these accoutrements could still be seen, as they were preserved as curiosities. The people of Lampasas manufacture good Mexican blankets. Opposite this town is the (table) Mesa de los *Cartuhanes*, a plateau that rises about two thousand feet above the surrounding plain. On this plateau there is good water, good grass, and timber is found; its extent is about twenty miles from north to south, and fifteen from east to west, and is only accessible from one point. In old times it was an Indian hiding place. It is now the property of Don Patricio Milmo, a rich merchant and proprietor, of Irish descent, who is transforming it into one of the finest stock ranches in this part of Mexico.

ROUTE NO. 3.

From San Antonio de la Punta de Lampasas, in Nuevo Leon, passing through Laredo. — San Antonio to Laredo, 170 miles; Laredo to La Punta, 79 miles; making together 249 miles.

From San Antonio to Laredo, in Webb county, plenty of water, good grass, and stores where supplies can be procured, are

found on the different roads; its distance being 170 or 180 miles. The best road is by crossing the Medina at the old Presidio crossing or above, and taking the Castroville and old Fort Ewell road. By this road you avoid the sand. The Frio has a good ford near the Waul pasture, and from thence rolling hills to Fort Ewell where the Nueces is forded or ferried according to the season. Here is a little village and store provided with everything the traveler needs. From here to Laredo it is seventy miles, mostly through an open country.

New Laredo is situated opposite Old Laredo, of which it formed a part before Texas was separated from Mexico. It is also improving very fast, as some large foreign importing houses have established depots for their goods at this place.

From New Laredo to the Aguaje of Las Habras del Maiz, fifteen miles; from Habras del Maiz to the Aguaje la Lomeria, road good between hills, the Peyotes chain; distance, fifteen miles; Aguaje la Lomeria, road level through a bottom of *huisache* to the Rio Salado; distance, fifteen miles. From Rio Salado to Rancho la Barranca of Mogina, road over a prairie to the ranch; distance, thirteen miles. From Mogina to the town of La Punta de Lampasas, crossing this side of the town, the San Matias river, partly covered with mesquites, is distant eleven miles. In dry seasons water and grass are more scarce on this route than on that from San Antonio to Monterey by way of Piedras Negras, particularly the distance from Laredo la Punta.

ROUTE NO. 4.

From the town of Lampasas to Villa Aldama, Salinas and Monterey, distance, 103 miles.

From the town of La Punta de Lampasas to the ranch of Golondrinas the road is rough. Here are pens for animals, and a good well and tank. This rancho is a stock farm formerly belonging to the Hacienda del Carrizal. It is twenty-one miles from Lampasas, and six miles further is the rancho of Lagunillas, formerly belonging also to the Carrizal, where good water and forage can be had. Here comes in the straight road from El Sauz through the town of Santiago de Valladares, leaving the town of Lampasas to the right. From the Lagunillas to Villa Aldama it is ten miles.

Villa Aldama, formerly known as Boca de Leones, is a town of some importance owing to the mines situated near it, which were formerly of great profit. To-day a large amount of lead silver is extracted from these mines, also containing silver. The mineral is galena. At this place was located a hospital used as a resting place for the Franciscan Friars and other priests, who attended the missions of Texas while traveling between Mexico, Guadalajara and Texas. Its population is mostly descendants of Spaniards. About two leagues north-west of this place is the town of Tlaxcala, also known as San Miguel Aguayo, and presently as Bustamente, settled by people from the original Tlaxcaltec tribe. It is a pretty little village where cultivated gardens could produce all kinds of fruit and vegetables. From this village a good road through the Gap of Tlaxcala leads to the Bajan well. The distance from Villa Aldama to Las Cuevas, a stopping place, is ten miles.

From Las Cuevas to the Hacienda de Palo Blanco the road is through a palm forest, not bad, but heretofore considered dangerous on account of Indians; distance, fifteen miles. At this large ranch, water and forage can be procured.

From Palo Blanco to the pueblo of Los Morales, passing through a forest of palm trees, is the pass of La Gacha, a noted place for Indians in former days, and further down the valley is Los Morales, where forage and water can be had. This road is eight miles.

From the rancho of Los Morales, over rolling prairie to the town of Salinas Victoria, it is seven miles.

The town of Salinas Victoria, situated on the river of the same name, has a fine church, well-paved streets, a good square, and presents a neat appearance. Its people cultivate the soil, raise stock and work the silver mines in the cañon de Saliñas. The metal is galena and is easily smelted; population, about 4,000 people. Orange trees were formerly cultivated here in the open air.

From Salinas to the City of Monterey the road is very good, and six miles before reaching the city the road passes the village of La Etanzuela, a beautiful place shaded with a stately forest and fruit trees. From Salinas to Monterey the distance is twenty-six miles.

Monterey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon (formerly the New Kingdom of Leon) is situated $25^{\circ} 40' 6''$ north, and longitude $0^{\circ} 49' 0''$ of the City of Mexico, on the river of the same name, which is

sometimes called Rio de Santa Catarina. It is $602\frac{3}{4}$ miles distant from the City of Mexico, and 1,626 feet above the level of the sea. It is probable that this portion of Mexico was conquered by the celebrated Spanish Gen. Francisco de Urdinola, surnamed "El Viego" to distinguish him from his son who was also a distinguished warrior. It was probably thirty years after the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, that Urdinola conquered this portion of Mexico from the Chichimecas (the Spaniards were in the habit of calling all wild tribes of Indians, Chichimecas); no exact date is, however, fixed for the foundation of Monterey. It was first named after Santa Lucia, a beautiful spring situated in the heart of the city. It is well known from the archives that in 1569, that portion of the country was known as the New Kingdom of Leon, that it had a Governor, etc. In 1569, Don Luis de Carvajal, was Governor at the City of Leon (now Monterey), then the capital of the New Kingdom, and in 1596 Don Diego de Montemayor solemnly founded the metropolis of our Lady of Monterey, the present city.

Monterey is built mostly of stone, has several fine churches, a good hospital, a college, a convent of sisters of charity, a spacious city hall, several well paved squares ornamented with shade trees and stone benches; it has several good hotels, and one of the best populations in Mexico. Its people seem to be more industrious than their neighbors. Among the noted buildings is the Bishop's palace, which is situated on a hill west of the city, on the right of the Saltillo road. The Black Fort is situated north of the city, and was intended for a cathedral, but has been used as a fort, and since the downfall of Maximilian this property has been donated to meritorious soldiers. The convent of San Francisco is now used as a jail. The Governor's palace, now stands where the Jesuits formerly had a church and school.

Monterey has a good market, and fine gardens where the orange tree grows indigenous without any attention. Its climate is warm, but is much tempered by the breeze that comes through the valley of Juahuco, situated between the Sierra Madre Mountains and the mountain of La Silla, the saddle mountain. Population, 40,000 souls.

To Santa Catarina, the road to Saltillo, after following the main street of the city, leads to the foot of the hill where the Bishop's palace is situated, leaving the Monterey River to the left.

and a high ridge of hills situated south of it. The road is good but a little rocky. Beyond the Bishop's palace hill is another hill called Independence Hill, upon which it is said the American army in 1847 mounted a gun that commanded the Bishop's palace and finally caused it to surrender; the gun, I believe, was under the command of Lieutenant, now Comander-in-chief of the United States army, W. T. Sherman. The road then follows the beautiful Cerro de la Mitra, a high mountain, rich in galena, silver, marble, alabaster and plaster of Paris. To the left, about eight or ten miles, is the Sierra Madre, which looks as if it was within reach. The next place is the Molino of Jesus Maria, one of the largest wheat mills in the country. A little further on the road passes an important cotton factory, which was established by an American called Steel, one of nature's noblemen, who, through friendship to Gen. Trevino, was killed in some revolutionary engagement, fighting on Gen. Trevino's side. At a short distance further is an aiameda, the road being surrounded by fields as far as the town of Santa Catarina. Distance, four leagues from Monterey. The road is very good, being an inclined plane of pretty heavy grade. One passes the rancho of Carabajal, to reach a point called El Alto, where is found a pretty good Mexican hotel, and forage for animals. From this point the road still leads down the valley of the hacienda de la Rinconada, leaving the hacienda to the right, and turning to the left is a point situated on a high hill between the mountains, called Los Muertos, and another of the Sierra Madre Mountains. It is said that the Mexican Gen. Ampudia intended to stop Gen. Taylor's advance at this point and had begun fortifying it. It can be added here that a few determined men with artillery could stop a whole army, but it has a great disadvantage as it could be easily turned, first by the pass of Santa Catarina to the left, and by the pass leading to Pesqueria on the right, and was therefore abandoned by the Mexicans. Los Muertos is the dividing line between the States of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila. It has always been considered a dangerous point for robbers and Indians. The road leads down hill to a poor little rancho called los Muertos, and from there it rises; you reach the hacienda of San Gregorio, where forage and accommodation can be had for travelers. This place is twenty-one miles to Saltillo. The straightest road being by way of el Jarral. Another good road is by the hacienda of Santa Maria.

ROUTE NO. 5.

From Piedras Negras by way of Monclova, leaving out Santa Rosa and traveling the straightest and best road, where water and forage are found at all seasons of the year—170 miles. From Monclova to Saltillo, 134 miles.

From the town of Piedras Negras, opposite Eagle Pass in Texas, over a good road crossing the Rio Escondido and one creek with good water, it is thirty miles to the town of San Fernando de Rosa, known at present as Saragoza. The town has a good church soldiers's quarters; it is principally built of stone, and adobe houses with flat roofs; has very good irrigable lands, and cultivates, with profit, wheat, corn, sugar-cane and beans. Its population is about 6,000 people.

From Saragoza to the Cabecera Springs, passing the rancho of La Sorra, it is about ten miles. From Cabecera Springs through the plains of San Jose to the town of San Juan de Sabinas it is forty-two miles; a little further on Alamo River is crossed. A little this side of the Alamo River a road to the right leads to Santa Rosa, about 13 miles distant from the Alamo.

From San Juan de Sabinas to the village of La Aura, the road is good. Distance, twenty-four miles.

From the village of La Aura to the stock rancho of Lampasitos it is twenty-one miles. From Lampasitos to the hacienda of Hermanas it is thirteen miles. This was a rich grain and stock place at one time.

(Santa Rosa was made headquarters of the military department of the eastern international provinces, after the decree of the court of Spain ordering the international province of New Spain to be divided in two separate departments, had been carried out, in the year 1788. The province of Tejas formed a part of this military department, and Colonel Don Juan de Ugalde was appointed its commanding general. This officer having concentrated his forces which consisted of the presidio troops, militia and a few auxiliaries, made a successful campaign against the Indians in the year 1789, which ended in a complete destruction of the combined forces of the wild Indians in the cañon de Uvalde, Uvalde Co., Texas (this has by mistake been altered, and should be Ugalde, as the cañon

was named after the distinguished Spanish officer). This great success so completely demoralized the Indians that they kept at peace with the Spaniards until the revolution broke out. Santa Rosa was almost entirely washed away by a great freshet that took place about the beginning of this century. It is now a large town, and the silver mines situated in its vicinity, and which are now developed by American capital and industry, will give it greater importance.)

The distance from Hermanas to the springs known as Ojo Caliente, which are famous throughout the country and are recommended for rheumatism and syphilitic diseases, is three miles. From the Hot Springs to the Salado River it is about four miles. From the Salado River to a point called Los Adjuntas it is ten miles. Thence following the margin of the Rio de Monclova to the city of Monclova, it is thirteen miles.

From the city of Monclova, formerly the capital of Coahuila to the village Castano, the road, although broken, is good. Distance, thirteen miles.

From Castano to the Estanque del Marquez, level road, over an open country, covered with scattering mesquite. Distance, thirteen miles.

From El Estanque del Marquez to the rancho de Bajan, good road. Distance, fifteen miles. Forage doubtful. Here is to be found a good well of fresh water. This point in the desert has become celebrated on account of it being the place where Padre Hidalgo, the Generalissimo of the Insurgents and leader of the first Mexican struggle for independence, was captured with all his retinue, after having lost the battle of Puente de Calderon, and while making his way to the United States, by Colonel Elisondo, the same that was afterwards defeated at the battle of the Alazan, one mile from San Antonio, in 1813. This important event—the capture of Hidalgo, took place on the morning of the 21st of March, 1811. The remainder of Hidalgo's army was dispersed, 893 prisoners taken, and 40 killed; 24 pieces of artillery and 3 swivels, and over half a million in silver taken, besides many officers and all the leaders of the revolution—Hidalgo, Allende, Jimenes, Aldama, Ballezo, Abasolo, Camargo, Lanzagorta, Mariano Hidalgo, brother of the curate, who was Treasurer-General of the Insurgents, and many

others. This important capture virtually ended the revolution of Hidalgo.

From Bajan to Anhelito, the road is good, one and a half miles to the hills, then over a level prairie, ten miles, then about eight miles through a huisache thicket, to la punta del Espinazo (the point of the spine, which is the end of a spur of high mountains), where there is a small rancho and a tank of water; here a fork of roads leads to the city of Parras. It is a disagreeable place on account of of three gaps in the different ranges of mountains; high winds prevailing all the year around.

From La Punta the road is good, having the mountains of Espinazo to the south; for twenty-five miles it is level to la punta de Anhelito; from la punta to the rancho of Anhelito it is six miles over a good road.

Anhelito has a fine tank, some good buildings, and is a grain country where large quantities of oats are raised. Distance from Bajan to Anhelito, fifty miles and a half.

From Anhelito to the rancho of Mesillas, good road for seven and a half miles to the hills (cerrito), where there is a small rancho called Los Cerritos; then two and a half miles to the arroyo del Barreal, and from there seven and a half miles over a good road to Mesillas. Distance from Anhelito to Mesillas, seventeen and a half miles.

From Mesillas (aguaje) of la cuesta del Cabrito, three miles level road and seven miles of broken, rough road to la Cuesta. Distance from Mesillas, ten miles. At this point Don Francisco Guilbeau was attacked by a band of robbers from Saltillo, which he succeeded in driving off with his brave Mexicans from San Antonio. It was about the year 1848. This place has been considered dangerous from Indians and robbers.

From La Cuesta del Cabrito to the city of Saltillo the road leads up the Cabrito hill, and is good to the hacienda de Capellania, four miles. A very pretty place, where Dr. Hewitson, many years ago, erected a cotton factory. This place used to be General Taylor's favorite ride at the time he was in Saltillo. Then four miles to the rancho de los Bosques, which is situated between two little peaks. This is also a pretty place. Then over a level road six miles to the city, making the whole distance from the Cuesta del Cabrito to Saltillo fifteen miles.

From Monclova to Saltillo, 121 miles. Over this road, when the season is good, grass and water are found, but in dry times it is a hard road to travel. General course of road, south $\frac{1}{4}$ degree south-east.

ROUTE NO. 6.

From the City of Saltillo, the capital of the State of Coahuila, to the City of San Luis Potosi, capital of the State of the same name, 266 American miles.

Saltillo.—The City of Saltillo, the present capital of the State, formerly province of Coahuila, to which Texas was at one time attached, is a well-built city with paved streets, situated on the slope of a ridge that crosses the whole valley coming from Monterey: after leaving the hacienda of San Gregorio you have it in sight. In the valley of Saltillo several important cotton factories have been established for the manufacture of unbleached cotton goods, and are doing well. This city is situated $25^{\circ} 25' 15''$ north latitude, and longitude $1^{\circ} 31' 30''$ west, from the City of Mexico; its population is estimated at 17,000; it has several hotels, and stores supplied with all kinds of goods. A considerable trade in goat and sheep skins is carried on here, and the country about produces wheat. Saltillo has a fine parochial church fronting on its main square; the church of the convent of San Esteban a convent for the sisters of charity, who keep a school for girls, with its chapel situated on the main street; an abandoned church used at present as a soldiers' barracks (this latter was built by the Jesuits); there is also a fine amphitheatre for bull fighting, situated on the square of San Esteban. The beautiful alameda is one of the prettiest parks of the kind in Mexico. On the hill to the southward of the city, is a small fort built during the empire.

NOTE.—This city and its surroundings afford much entertainment for travelers or tourists. Its gardens, its maguey plantations, and a hundred other objects, are equally interesting to the stranger.

Buena Vista.—From Saltillo to the hacienda of Buena Vista the road is good for four miles and then rough to the hacienda. Passing Angostura, the traveler reaches La Encantada (enchanted ranch). This is the place where the American army, under Gen.

Taylor, was encamped, at the time of the approach of Santa Ana with his army of 25,000 men. Previous to the battle of Buena Vista, Gen. Taylor, not finding this position a good one, fell back and took position at Angostura, the narrowest point of the valley. This pass lies between two ridges of mountains, five or six miles apart, which approach to the north-east until at Angostura the space is not more than two miles; the eastern range is much the highest, rising more than 1,200 feet above the plateau; the western range is about half that height. The plateau from the eastern ridge extends about a mile or half way across the valley, where it drops off abruptly to the first or alluvial plain. In this plain runs a small rivulet, which takes its rise at Encantada, but at times, after heavy rains, it becomes so large that it has cut for itself a deep bed, with perpendicular banks of thirty to forty feet deep; this bed is quite inaccessible from above, except in a few places. These deep gullies or ravines are called "barrancas," and peculiar to the country; the tenacity of the soil prevents it from crumbling except at the base where the water washes it away, the portion projecting until it becomes so much undermined that it cannot sustain itself, and breaks off, leaving perpendicular walls. These barrancas extend for more than a mile above and below the narrow pass of Angostura, and also intersect at various points in the flat, rendering it impossible for a body of troops to traverse it. Hence all the operations of the battle were confined to the plateau above, which extends to the eastern range of mountains; the battery of Col. Washington was stationed between the barrancas and a spur of the plateau forming a narrow pass of some sixty or seventy feet in width. (This is the substance of a description of the battle-field as given by J. R. Bartlett, and the correct one.)

At La Encantada, the road to Parras forks to the right. From Monterey to this point, a distance of about seventy-six miles, the traveler rises 4,478 feet, as Encantada, according to Dr. Wislizenas, is 6,140 feet above the sea. Over a rough road you reach the hacienda of Agua Nueva, distant from Saltillo twenty-one and a-half miles. At Agua Nueva plenty of good water can be found, and comfortable rooms in the buildings of the haciendas; forage, corn and large corrals for animals. In good times this place could accommodate six or eight hundred animals. Beyond the hacienda is the pass of Agua Nueva, where Gen. Taylor had his advance

guard; the road up the pass is very good and leads down to a valley about two miles wide to another pass called Puerto del Carnero.

This has been a point celebrated for the exploits of robbers and Indians, and here a battle was fought between General Jimenes, commanding the revolutionary forces of Mexico, and Colonel Cordero, Governor of Coahuila, on the 9th of January, 1811. Most of Cordero's forces having passed over to the so-called insurgents, he fled towards Messillas on the road to Mexico, was captured and well treated by Jimenes. Three days after this battle, a royalist force that came to reinforce Cordero, consisting of 700 men from Zacatecas and four pieces of artillery, commanded by Colonel Ochoa, found Jimenes occupying the pass with 8,000 men; a battle ensued, which terminated in the retreat of Ochoa.

From this pass the eye reaches far away, as the country is open; the road is good. Passing a point called Messillas you reach Tanque la Vaca, where plenty of good water is found in the tank. This stock ranch was abandoned on account of Indians. It is now the town of Gomez Farias with a population of 400 souls. It is said that in its neighborhood are very rich silver mines that have never been worked. Distant twenty-one and three-quarter miles from Tanque la Vaca is the hacienda de la Encarnacion.

In this place lodging can be had for several hundred people, plenty of forage, also well-water and a good tank. The population of the hacienda is over 200 people; it is a large stock ranch.

At Tanque la Vaca the road forks, the left-hand road goes to the ranch of Jesus Maria, situated eight miles east of Encarnacion, and to that of La Ventura, a small stock ranch about six miles this side of the San Salvador rancho comes into the direct road from Encarnacion to San Salvador; it is a plain good road; course, south $\frac{1}{4}$ south-east; distance, twenty-six miles. La Ventura has been made a fine hacienda; it is now the property of Gen. Trevino.

San Salvador is also a stock ranch, whose population is about 1,500 hundred souls. Here is a well and a tank of sweet water. San Salvador to the little rancho of San Miguel, which consists of only two houses. Here is a good well but nothing else; it is eight and a-half miles to the hacienda del Salado, one of the largest estates in Mexico, as it contains over 885,600 acres of land, all well adapted to stock raising, and over one-half well adapted to the raising of small grains; cotton could also be raised with advantage.

This vast estate is covered with natural productions such as the maguey (*agave Americana*), the *lechuguilla*, the *pita*, the *solomandoque*, the *zotol* and other plants whose fibre, if properly exploited, would bring an immense income. Water and grass abounds all over the estate. The various cordilleras that run from south to north on the lands of this estate are covered with innumerable metallic veins rich in silver, lead copper, gold and other metals. At this place, which will hereafter be a railroad centre, good accommodations can always be found.

From El Salado to Las Animas the road is good, through a vast plain, mountains in view in the distance; general course, south, south one-quarter west; distance, eighteen miles. Las Animas is a stock ranch belonging formerly to the hacienda del Salado; there is good enclosure; water not plentiful, and very salty on account of the quantity of nitrate of potash it contains; forage plentiful. Las Animas to La Punta de Vanegas: general course of the road, south, south-west; road good, through plain covered with palm trees. At this point the road to San Luis Potosi, forks, the shortest is to the right by way of San Cristobal, hacienda de Guadaloupe, El Canicero, and that of Laguna Seca, leaving the mountain of Catorce that rises several thousand feet above the plain to the left; and the other route, which leads to the left by the hacienda of San Juan de Vanegas, the mining towns of Cedral, Matchuala and hacienda de Solis, and leaving the mountain of Catorce to the right, coming into the other road at Laguna Seca. I will describe the shortest by way of San Cristobal:

La Punta de Vanegas is a good ranch, belonging to the hacienda of the same name; it has a fine tank of good sweet water; and contains about twenty houses. Three miles further on is the hacienda of San Juan de Vanegas; distance, from Las Animas, twenty-one miles.

San Juan de Vanegas is a very large hacienda where ore from the Catorce mines is worked both by smelting and by patio, or cold amalgamation process. It raises large crops of grain and all kinds of stock; there is a beautiful bath about half a mile from the hacienda; it is a bountiful spring that comes out of a grotto hollowed out of the granite; the water is clear and beautiful and possesses no mineral taste although it comes out of the Catorce Mountain which is one of the richest in Mexico.

From San Juan de Vanegas to San Cristobal, the road lies over small hills covered with brush and palm trees to a place called Las Ratas (the rats) where there is a house and a good well. From there the road is over a large plain, the mountain of Catorce to the left, and a range of mountains to the right, in the distance; general course of road, south, south-west; distance, sixteen miles. San Cristobal consists of about twenty small houses, inhabited by about a hundred poor people; they generally get their forage from San Juan de Vanegas or the Real de Catorce. Nothing can be had here but kids or sheep; there is a well and a tank, but the water is bad.

From San Cristobal to the hacienda of Guadalupe el Carnicero. Half a mile takes you to the hacienda of San Miguel, where minerals from Catorce are smelted; its buildings are good. You pass the rancho of San Rafael and of El Refugio, insignificant places, the latter distant eight miles from Guadalupe. The road is through a large plain to the hacienda, general course of road south; distance, twenty-one and one-third miles. This hacienda is also a stock ranch; it has a little chapel and a population of 150 souls; has good enclosures and good lodgings; forage can be had here. From this place a road leads to the city of Catorce, a Mexican Leadville in former days, situated in a depression on top of the Catorce mountain, and containing 20,000 inhabitants; it is about eighteen miles from this hacienda to the city. The wealth of its mines was such that at one time a mint was established at that place; one of the principal miners is a wealthy Spaniard, Don Santos de la Massa.

From Guadalupe el Carnicero to the hacienda of Laguna Seca, road hilly for some distance to the pass of Messillas, where there is a ranch consisting of twelve or fifteen houses, and an enclosure of stone about 500 yards in length. To the left of the road, about half a mile further on, is the rancho of Mata Pulgas (kill fleas). At one time an old friendly Indian kept the only house in the place, and would graciously furnish the traveler with a good meal and a glass of mescal. Road through a vast plain, small hillock to the right of the road; to the ranch of El Berendo, where there is a tank of good water; road south-west, with a small chain of hills to the left, leaving a tank to the right. A mile further on you reach the hacienda of Laguna Seca, distant from Guadalupe el Carnicero fifteen miles. Laguna Seca was at one time one of the richest haciendas of the State of San Luis; it was celebrated for

its good horses; it has good buildings; lodging and forage can be obtained here; population, about one hundred.

From hacienda de Laguna Seca to hacienda de los Charcos, road with stone wall sometimes to the left and sometimes to the right for a long distance, and finally the wall to the right and hills to the left to Charcos, fifteen miles. Charcos has a church; forage and lodging can be had; this was at one time a large grain hacienda.

From the hacienda de los Charcos to the city of El Venado. Leaving Los Charcos, the road runs between a stone wall to the right and within gunshot, a range of hills for about eight miles, when the rancho of Laborcillo is reached, which consists of one good house, situated in an open plain, and commands a good view of the country; for three miles the earth is very white, to the rancho del Troncon, where there is a good house. Here we begin to enter the cactus country; course of road south-west to the rancho of San Sabino, a village of huts; a mile and a half further on, crossing a stone bridge over a ravine in which flows a small stream, the city of El Venado is reached; distance from Los Charcos, thirteen miles. The city of El Venado is situated in a hollow surrounded by hills; it is a paved city, has two large churches and a cotton factory. I estimate its population at 8,000 inhabitants; the people cultivate the soil and manufacture very good blankets.

From the city of El Venado to La Hedionda, sometimes called Montezuma, course of road south-west one-quarter west, level, passing through a large "potrero" (pasture) enclosed by a stone wall, the ranch del Garatillo is reached; then over hills to the town of La Hedionda.

The little stream that the road crosses before entering the town is so impregnated with sulphur that it is disagreeable to drink. This place is surrounded by shade and fruit trees; it is really a beautiful place, an oasis in the desert; forage abundant; population, about 3,000; its people are mainly engaged in cultivating the soil; distance, thirteen miles.

From la Hedionda to Bocas, a large hacienda, the road is generally good; passing through maguey hedges, then up hill to the hacienda de la Monterilla, about six miles from la Hedionda; about three miles further on, a lone hill is seen to the left of the road; a short distance from the road, to the right, is a large grange

(troja), where there is a good well of water, then over plain to rancho del Colorado, which is about half way between la Hedionda and Bocas; course, west-south-west, up a pass the road becomes rocky to the huisache rancho; then over hill to the rancho de las Sartenegas; then over a plain covered with cactus and maguey, crossing the bed of a dry creek about 600 yards from the hacienda, Bocas is reached; distance, twenty-one and a half miles.

The hacienda de Bocas was one of the richest in the State of San Luis; it is built of rock on a small plateau; it has a square surrounded by substantial buildings; a neat church, a (meson) hotel with good rooms and large court yard well paved; it has a fine orchard surrounded by high walls; an alameda of large trees leads from the hacienda to the "huerta" (orchard) and to the dam, which is a fine piece of masonry, closing the outlet of a creek as it comes out between two hills. It is several hundred yards long and about fifty feet high, forming a beautiful lake, from which the water is taken to irrigate the large fields of the hacienda; on the right hand of the dam is a pretty little chapel. During the Mexican revolution the owner of this hacienda mounted and equipped a squadron at his own expense, to sustain the cause of the King of Spain. It was, until a few years ago, the property of the Countess of Perez Galvez, one of the descendants of the Vice-Roy Galvez, and was almost ruined by the different factions that took possession of it; at present it is in good working order.

From Bocas to the hacienda del Penasco. Leaving the hacienda the road is rocky and up hill through the Tinajeula pass, when the high plateau of Anahuac is reached; from the rancho de Tinajeula to the hacienda del Penasco, quantities of maguey and cactus are found. Passing several houses on the way, in a little plain before reaching the hacienda, is a curious formation in the shape of a lone hill formed of balsatic columns, hence the name, "Penasco." The hacienda has a population of about a thousand people; good buildings and its fields enclosed by stone walls. Large crops of grain and extensive plantations of maguey are its principal resources. Distance from Bocas, eighteen miles.

From the hacienda del Penasco to the city of San Luis the road is good and settled, passing through maguey and cactus of all kinds. About six miles this side of the city a fine causeway is

reached, which is shaded by stately trees all the way to the Indian town of Tlaxcala, a suburb of San Luis Potosi.

San Luis Potosi is seen in the distance as soon as the plateau above Bocas is reached, for at least twenty-five miles; it presents, with its eighteen domes and towers, a beautiful appearance, looking in the distance like a Moorish city. The city of San Luis Potosi, capital of San Luis Potosi, is situated on the east side of the grand plateau of Anahuac, in a valley extending from north to south about forty-five miles, in latitude $22^{\circ} 8'$ north and longitude $1^{\circ} 40'$ west of the city of Mexico. Its streets, although narrow, are straight and intersect at right angles. Among the principal buildings are the city hall, the granary, the market block and the theatre. This city possesses churches that rival any in Mexico; among them may be particularly cited: "San Francisco," "El Carmen," "San Augustin." La Merced, the colleges of Loreto and San Nicolas, the hospital of San Juan de Dios, the chapel of El Rosario and of los Remedios, the Alameda, and the sanctuary of Guadalupe, are all very interesting to visit on account of their architecture and the fine paintings some of them still possess. I suppose that the population of the city, with the suburbs of Tlaxcala, San Juan de Guadalupe and San Miguelito, reaches to about 60,000 souls. This city, by its situation, when a railroad reaches it, will be one of the greatest commercial centres of the Republic. It carries on a great trade in groceries and home manufactures, such as leather, shoes, saddlery, roping, bagging, cassimeres, hats, blankets and grain. In its vicinity is situated the great San Pedro mine, out of which was taken the largest piece of solid gold found in America up to that time; it was sent to the King of Spain as a present, and in return the King presented the cathedral with a beautiful clock, where, to this day, it strikes the hours. The pillars of this mine having been cut away and the mine has caved in. Competent engineers who have carefully examined this celebrated mine say that by an expenditure of two millions, from twelve to fifteen millions could be taken out of it.

ROUTE NO. 6.

From the City of San Luis Potosi, capital of the State of the same name, by way of San Miguel de Allende, to the City of Queretaro, capital of the State of Queretaro: 160 American miles.

From the city of San Luis Potosi to the city of Queretaro, capital of the State of Queretaro, level road to Los Posos: six miles.

From Los Posos to the town of San Francisco, a place of about 5,000 inhabitants, the road is good; distance, twenty-six miles.

From San Francisco to Ojo dei Gato, road stony and hilly; three miles.

To Rancho de las Russias, partly hilly and partly level; distance, five miles.

To the hacienda del Jaral, road level, through a forest consisting principally of "huisache" and "arbol del Peru," a species of mesquite; distance, eight miles.

El Jaral was at one time probably the largest estate in Mexico, as it worked or owned twenty thousand peones. It has a fine church and a chapel of red granite, where the remains of the family of the Marquez del Jaral, Count of Moncada, are buried. It is a grain and stock farm; it was renowned for its horses, and when the revolution of Hidalgo broke out, in September, 1810, the Count of Moncada raised, mounted and equipped from his estate one whole regiment of cavalry, of which he was the Colonel, in favor of the King's arms; he greatly aided with his men, money and influence General Calleja, the Spanish commander, at San Luis Potosi, in quelling the revolution and re-establishing the King's authority. Afterwards, when Mina, with 300 men, invaded Mexico, having marched from Soto la Marina to el Jaral, he levied heavy contribution on this hacienda, where he found in specie alone the sum of \$180,000.

The road runs between adobe and stone walls of this hacienda for nearly thirty miles. Between El Jaral and La Russia is the dividing line between the State of San Luis and that of Guana-

juato. From El Jaral to San Bartolo, partly through a forest before reaching the hacienda, seven and a half miles.

Road a little rough, up the hill of San Bartolo, for six miles to the town of San Felipe, a place of about 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants.

From San Felipe to the hacienda de la Quemada, road level through rich cultivated fields of wheat and corn. In this portion of Mexico two crops are raised annually, mostly by irrigation. The water, during the rainy season, is gathered in large tanks and used in the dry season. The mountains to the right of the road are among the richest in silver in the Republic. At La Quemada a stage hotel is kept for the entertainment of travelers. Before reaching the hacienda you cross the dry bed of the Cubo River, which, during the rainy season, runs a mighty torrent. Distance from San Felipe, 10½ miles.

From ranch La Quemada to the ranch de Laborcilla, road broken near La Quemada and broken before reaching the ranch; distance, three miles.

From the ranch de Laborcilla to the hacienda de Trancas, good road; distance, ten miles.

From the hacienda de Trancas to the city of Dolores Hidalgo, the road crosses the pass of el Gallinero, where there is fine quarries of mill and "metate" stone, a stone used by the Mexicans to grind corn for their *tortillas*, a kind of corn pan-cake, their principal article of food; distance, ten miles.

The city of Dolores Hidalgo has become celebrated on account of having been the parish of Padre Hidalgo, and the place from which he gave the first cry for the independence of Mexico, on the 16th of September, 1810. A Mexican chronicler says that "Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (that was the name of the hero of the first revolution) addressed the people from the balcony of his house." The misfortune is that the Padre's house being of one story, has no balcony; it must be inferred that it was from the window: in fact, I was told this was the case by an old corporal who was among the few soldiers that were in that city at the time and was sent as a courier to carry the news to the city of San Miguel. The old corporal then belonged to the Queen's dragoons, a corps in which Allende, another hero of the revolution, was a

captain, and had been in 1865 installed a keeper of Padre Hidalgo's house by the Emperor Maximilian, where I met him.

From the city of Dolores Hidalgo to the hacienda de la R, road level; distance, five miles.

From hacienda de la R to Atotonilco, road over barren hills; distance, seven and a half miles.

The town of Atotonilco is an Indian town, where there is a church with curious fresco paintings.

From the town of Atotonilco to the fine city of San Miguel de Allende, the road is over barren hills; just before arriving at the city the road crosses the bed of a river; distance, seven and a half miles.

San Miguel de Allende is a city of about 20,000 people; its streets are well paved; there are fine churches, a college and several squares, and the city presents a very neat appearance. It is situated on the declivity of a high hill and can be seen almost from Atotonilco.

From San Miguel el Grande, as it was called before the Mexican independence, to the ranch de los Ricos, the road is level; distance, fifteen miles.

From Rancho de los Ricos to the town of Santa Rosa the road is hilly and stony (bad for robbers); distance, ten miles.

From the town of Santa Rosa to the city of Queretaro the road is rough and hilly; distance, thirteen miles.

Queretaro, capital of the State of Queretaro, was founded by the Aztecs in 1445 or 1446. It was conquered by the Spaniards under Don Fernando de Tapia, a lieutenant of Cortez, in July, 1531, and converted to the Christian religion by the Licenciado Don Juan Sanchez Alaniz, a celebrated secular priest. Its climate is temperate; it is surrounded by gardens. This city has very fine churches and convents; it is noted among the cities of Mexico for the great religious devotion of its people. Among the principal edifices the convents of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Antonio, Santo Domingo, San Augustine and El Carmen are to be noted, also the hospital of la Merced.

Although the city has irrigation ditches, water is brought to it by an aqueduct from the neighboring hills, some of the arches of which are ninety feet high. It was certainly a great piece of masonry at the time it was built, in the last century; it cost

\$124,000, most of which sum was paid by Don Juan Antonio de Urutio y Arana, Marquis del Villar del Aguila, whom the Queretanos consider to this day the benefactor of the city. A statue of the Marquis exists on one of the squares. The city also boasts a fine Alameda.

Near the city is the factory of "Herculus," one of the finest in the world. No traveler should pass Queretaro without visiting it. In 1866 it was the property of Don Francisco Rubio. It cost \$4,000,000. It was worked by water, steam and horse power. It turned out 1,500 pieces of unbleached cotton daily, and at night run a large number of mill stones, grinding principally wheat. It has probably the highest overshot wheel in the world. The buildings of the factory are of stone, and are surrounded by fine gardens, with artificial ponds, after the European style. Among the statues that adorn the grounds is that of "Herculus;" it cost in Italy \$15,000. The superintendents are very polite and have always a clerk at hand to show the stranger about this beautiful establishment.

There are several hotels in Queretaro; among the best is that of the "Red Eagle;" the city has also a fine theatre.

It was in this city that Maximilian sustained a siege against the liberal forces under Gen. Escobedo, which resulted, through the treachery of his bosom friend, Colonel Miguel Lopez, of the Empress' regiment, whom he had just made a general, and who betrayed him, in his surrender to Generals Palacio and Escobedo, on the 19th of May, 1867. Maximilian was subsequently tried before a drum-head military tribunal, and shot, with his unfortunate companions, Gens. Miramon and Mejia, at the foot of the "Cerro de la Cruz," on the 19th of June, 1867.

The delicious climate of Queretaro, the abundance of fruits and flowers, the country produces, makes it a delightful place.

ROUTE NO. 7.

From Queretaro to the City of Mexico, the capital of the Republic, 134 1-2 miles.

From Queretaro to the hacienda de la Noria, the road leads up a hill, called "Cuesta de China." There are very large

cactus of several varieties on the road-side, among them the "organos." Distance, five miles.

From La Noria to the hacienda del Colorado, road up hill through thickets, dangerous for robbers; distance, five miles.

From El Colorado to Arroyo Seco, level road; distance, seven and a-half miles.

From Arroya Seco to El Sauz, five miles.

El Sauz to las Trojas Mocha, good road; here road forks more direct to San Miguel Allende by way of Chichimequillas, and crossing a river over a good stone bridge, the City of San Juan del Rio is reached; distance, six miles.

San Juan del Rio has been, and will be again, a large commercial centre, on account of its situation, as it is from this point that all roads to the interior branch out. It was, in former times, one of the greatest manufacturing cities of Mexico, renowned for its woolen textures. Its streets are wide and well paved, and at one time it had 20,000 inhabitants.

From San Juan del Rio to hacienda de Palmillas, six miles.

From Palmillas to San Antonio, a small town on a high plain, road rolling; distance, seven and a-half miles.

From San Antonio to Ruano, ten miles.

From Ruano to Encinillas, down hill; distance, five miles.

From Encinillas to the hacienda of Arroyo Zarco; the limits of this estate is the boundary line between the State of Queretaro and Mexico. It is a large grain estate, has a fine hotel and spacious yards for animals, also a fine cotton mill; distance, four and a-half miles.

At this place two stages meet daily—one coming from Mexico and the other from Queretaro; they are large Concord coaches, carrying twelve passengers inside.

From the hacienda of Arroyo Zarco the road goes up hill to the highest point reached on this route than Queretaro to Mexico, which is 9,675 feet above the level of the sea.

This road runs through stunted pines, then goes over a road down hill to the village of San Miguelito de Capulalpan. This portion of the road is noted for robbers, so much so that the Mexican Government formerly sent an escort along with the stages. San Miguelito is a small Indian village, and is celebrated not only on account of the robberies committed in its neighborhood, as on

account of the battle of the same name, fought between the liberal forces commanded by Gen. Ortega, and the reactionists commanded by Gen. Miramon.

From San Miguelito to San Francisco, Soyaniquilpan, a large Indian village, the road is over a rough hog-wallow prairie; distance from Arroyo Zarco, thirteen miles.

From San Francisco Soyaniquilpan to the hacienda de la Canada road is a little rough, then down hill; a small rivulet is crossed over by a stone bridge to the hacienda, which has good buildings; it is a grain plantation; distance, ten miles.

From the hacienda de la Canada to the large town of Tepехi del Rio, six miles. This place is located between a hill and the river of the same name; has good buildings, fine gardens and stately shade trees.

From the town of Tepехi del Rio to San Miguel you cross the Tepехi River, which is a fine mountain stream, crossed by a good stone bridge; distance, nine miles.

From San Miguel, a small rancho, to the large town of Cuatitlan the distance is eleven miles.

This place seems to be a very active business place; its population may amount to 12,000 or more people. Going towards Mexico you pass a stone bridge over a river of the same name. It is said that Cortez entered the valley of Mexico at this point. Some years ago a rock on the left-hand side of the bridge, going towards the city, was still standing upon which was an inscription to that effect. Here you enter the beautiful valley of Mexico; flowers and fruit abound.

From Cuatitlan to the hacienda of la Lecheria (which is said to have been purchased by Maximilian at one time), distance, about three miles.

From la Lecheria to the large Indian town of Tlalnepantla, distance, seven and a-half miles. This is a very pretty place, shadowed by stately trees.

From Tlalnepantla to the City of Mexico the distance is seven and a-half miles.

You enter the city by the causeway of San Cosme, and pass the house built by Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico; this house is to the left of road before passing the city gate, and which but few people have noticed. It should be visited.