

houses, and a church, besides the princely residence of the owner. As for the interior of these haciendas, they are much alike,—a great stone building, which is neither farm- nor country-house, but has a character peculiar to itself, solid enough to stand a siege, with floors of painted brick, large deal tables, wooden benches, painted chairs, and whitewashed walls; one or two painted or iron bedsteads, put up only when wanted; kitchen and outhouses; the court-yard, a great square, around which stand the house for boiling sugar, whose furnaces blaze day and night, the house with machinery for extracting the juice from the cane, the refining-rooms, the places where it is dried, etc., all on a large scale. If the hacienda is a coffee plantation also, then there is the great mill for separating the beans from the chaff; and sometimes there are buildings where they make brandy. There are four or five hundred men employed, exclusive



FALLS OF JUANACATLAN.

of boys, and a hundred horses and mules. The property is very extensive, containing fields of sugar-cane, plains for cattle, and the pretty plantations of coffee, so green and spring-like, the latter containing, say, fifty thousand young plants, all fresh and vigorous. Besides there is a great deal of uncultivated ground, abandoned to the deer and hares and quail, of which there is great abundance. This hacienda or plantation is thought to be the place called "Miraflores" in Christian Reid's beautiful story "A Cast for Fortune."

The completion of the Mexican Central's branch from Guadalajara to Ameca has opened up a rich agricultural and mineral region to the outside world. Between La Venta and Orendain the road runs through a succession of hills, where some heavy work was done. At Metaconejo the Rio Salado is crossed on an iron bridge; on the right may be seen some fine sugar-cane. The next stop is Orendain, distant eight leagues from Tequila, a town of about six

thousand inhabitants, and the centre of the great Tequila industry. The famous hacienda of El Refugio belongs to Orendain Hermanos, of Guadalajara. The village of Tala, with its three thousand inhabitants, is about two miles south of this station. La Verga is the last station before reaching Ameca, and, no doubt, will be the most important one on the line.

From La Vega to Ameca the line runs through a beautiful valley lying between two ranges of mountains. Ameca, the terminus of the road, is an interesting place of some eight thousand people. The Ameca River, a wide and deep stream of water, flows through the town. A solidly constructed bridge of stone unites the two banks of the river. The principal industries of the districts are agriculture and mining.

That the arrival of the railroad has aroused Ameca from a Rip Van Winkle sleep there is no doubt. All the large and fertile valleys in every direction produce enormous quantities of corn, that can now be transported to market rapidly and cheaply. Coffee-growing has never been attempted to any extent, but with the coming of the iron horse attracting new capital, energy, and brains, it is only a question of time when the region is developed, thus adding to the wealth of the great state of Jalisco.

Etzatlan is a charming little town upon the shores of the Laguna de Magdalena, which lies in the hollows at the foot of the high mountain called the Cerro de Tequila. It is quite large, and is navigable. It is, in fact, navigated, for a small steamboat plies from Etzatlan on the south of the lake to Magdalena on the north. There are several fine beaches, and General Curiel, the governor, intends to make this a summer resort for the people of Guadalajara during the heated term, March, April, and May. The air is cooled by the evaporation of so great a body of deep water, and Etzatlan will be a sort of tourist's paradise, for it is within easy reach of the best meat and poultry in the republic, and the boats will bring tropical fruits from Magdalena, which is only six miles from Tequila, with an excellent wagon-road.

The Cerro de Tequila is bold and rugged, and a most picturesque feature of the landscape, and there is another huge mountain to the south. The ground is open toward the west in the direction of San Marcos, but otherwise Etzatlan is surrounded by high mountains. It is bowered amid semi-tropical vegetation, and is constantly cool, affording a most pleasing contrast to the city of Guadalajara during the hot months.

The Guadalajara branch of the Mexican Central has not only brought railway communication to one of the great cities of the republic, but has also made easily accessible an extensive and productive agricultural region. It is in this part of the country that the oranges are produced which have lately begun to be shipped to the United States. At present, however, it is not the cultivation of the orange, but that of coffee, that is attracting special attention. The possibilities of the western slope with reference to this product are but imperfectly determined, while on the eastern slope much progress has already been made.

Capitalists who seek a sure and productive investment for their money should take into account not only the richness of the soil, the mildness of the climate, and the thousand attractions offered by life in that zone, but also and principally the assured importance of Guadalajara as a railway centre of the first rank, with facilities for transportation at least equal, if not superior, to those of the city of Mexico, being able to send its varied products rapidly at low rates of freight not only to the principal markets of the republic, but also to those abroad, for which it will have seven or eight points of outlet.

One of those products which will seek speedy exportation will be the mineral wealth of Jalisco, which exists in great quantities, and which possesses a richness of which we assuredly have had but a hint as yet.



The mining districts at the present time are Mascota, Talpa, Hostotipaquillo, Tapalpa, Comanja, and Bolanos, with a total of more than two hundred and fifty mines, the greater number being of silver with some traces of gold, three or four of gold, some of copper, and others of quicksilver, iron, lead, and other metals.

The city of Guadalajara has had for many years a mint in constant activity, coining silver and gold from the mines of Jalisco, among which those that have sent the greatest amount have been the mines in the districts of Talpa and Mascota.

In spite of this, it may be asserted that mining in Jalisco is in its infancy, and awaits only the energetic and decisive action of companies with sufficient capital to astonish the continent with the fabulous riches of its veins, many of them as yet untouched.

And so it will be seen that, with all the modern progress and enterprise of Guadalajara, the resources of the great and important state of Jalisco are yet to be developed, and that neither



THEATRE DEGOLLADO, GUADALAJARA.

the world at large nor the inhabitants of Jalisco themselves dream of the wealth that lies locked in her natural resources.

It is impossible to over-praise the climate of Jalisco. With its constant sunshine, its skies even bluer than those of far-famed Italy, and its mellow, genial warmth, Guadalajara is one of the most beautiful garden-spots of the world.

The intellectual condition of Jalisco is up to the standard of modern times, and lifts the people into a state of intelligence rather above the ordinary. The schools are of the best, the state and the cities spending large sums of money on them, so that the primaries are being

extended even to the distant ranches, while the secondary and professional schools rank among the best in Mexico. Jalisco's lawyers have attained the highest reputation, her doctors command the respect of all, her engineers have attained national fame, and her "Seminario de los Obispos" (Seminary of the Bishops) is known everywhere as having graduated some of the most notable of the Mexican clergy.

The governor of Jalisco is General Luis C. Curiel, a young and energetic statesman, of whose abilities his people are justified in expecting much. Governor Curiel, after serving his country in the cause of Mexican freedom, had the advantage of several years in Paris in an official capacity, where he became familiar with the most progressive ideas of good government, the benefit of which is being felt by the people of Jalisco to-day. This noble statesman is one of the "coming men" of Mexico, and undoubtedly will be heard from in the future as prominent in the making of Mexican history.

