

are seven municipalities,—Colima, Villa Alvarez, Comala, Coquimatlan, Tecoman, Iztlahuacan, and Manzanillo.

Both the hot lands and the temperate regions are wonderfully fertile and rich in products of every species. Colima coffee is famous everywhere for its excellence, and is raised here in



PLAZA DE LA LIBERTAD, IN FRONT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE IN COLIMA.

great abundance. Owing to the climate, tropical fruits grow in astonishing luxuriance, and, as there are no mines in Colima, the people devote themselves to the pursuit of agriculture with remarkable results.

Manufacturing is not neglected in Colima. There are three important cotton-factories in the state, known as San Cayetano, La Armonia, and La Atrevida. There are two larger mills, also, for making sugar and brandy from cane, besides numerous manual industries on a smaller scale.

The governor of Colima is Coronel Francisco Santacruz, who is a progressive, well-educated man, and under whose fostering care the state is making a fine record for itself. He is particularly interested in the cause of public education, realizing that no true progress can be accomplished in any country except upon a foundation of thoroughly good common schools. I made a thorough personal inspection of the public schools of Colima, and found them conducted according to the most approved modern methods now in use in European and American cities. Thus it will be seen that while Colima is a small state it is neither poor nor unimportant.

CHAPTER XXXIII

TEPIC

THE territory of Tepic was to us a surprise and a wonder. We were the guests of Mr. Ernest Loneragan, who met us with carriages and took us through the capital and entertained us handsomely at his lovely home. We were shown over the sugar-refineries at Puga and the immense plantation of the Barron's, and took horses from Tepic to San Blas, from which place we went on one of the Pacific Mail Steamship liners to Mazatlan. At Tepic we had the pleasure of meeting General Romano, the governor of the territory. We had heard so much about this energetic man, who had crushed out brigands in that part of the country, that we expected to meet quite a piratical personage, but were most agreeably surprised when we met a charming gentleman with delicate manners and exceedingly courteous.

The territory of Tepic originally belonged to the state of Jalisco, but President Lerdo de Tejada, on account of the power which the famous one-eyed Indian chief Lozada had acquired, declared it a free territory. When Lozada attacked Guadalajara with his hordes of Indians he was met by General Corona with only twelve hundred men and repulsed. General Corona was assassinated on the 10th of November, 1880. This general, an intimate friend of Benito Juarez, had rendered great service to his country during the war of intervention of the French.

The territory of Tepic contains about one hundred and eighty thousand inhabitants, the principal towns being Tepic, with ten thousand; Santiago, six thousand; Ixtlan, five thousand; San Blas, two thousand; Ahuacatlan, two thousand; and Acaponeta, three thousand. Immediately around Tepic, however, there are factories containing as many inhabitants as some of these towns. Among these are the Hacienda de Puga sugar-factory and the Escondida. Near Tepic there are large cotton-factories, "Fábrica de Jauja." The proprietors of these factories, Messrs. Barron and Forbes, own large estates near the town of



GENERAL LEOPOLDO ROMANO,
GOVERNOR OF TEPIC.

Santiago, where they raise nearly all the cotton worked up in their factories, supplying any shortness in their crops from Acapulco, in the state of Guerrero. Both these factories run about six thousand spindles and one hundred and eighty looms, turning out excellent cotton goods, which are sold in the Tepic territory and in Jalisco, Sinaloa, and Sonora. Messrs. Barron & Forbes Company's "Fábrica de Jauja" has extensive bleaching-works on the most improved plan, turning out white cotton cloths which compete favorably with the products of Manchester manufactories. These cloths are sold all over the republic of Mexico.

Besides his sugar estate of Puga, Mr. Francis Barron owns the hacienda of Mora, where sugar-cane is also cultivated, the product being worked up by an open jamaica-train into brown

sugar, called *panocha*, which is largely consumed by the natives. The Hacienda de la Laguera, at the door of Tepic, also deserves mention. At one time this was a lake surrounded by mountains, and evidently formed an enormous crater of a volcano, but in 1866 a tunnel was driven through the hill at one end and a deep ditch cut in the pasture-land that, although only four thousand five hundred acres in extent, has at least three thousand head of cattle feeding on it the year round.

The country round about Tepic is remarkable for its excellent pasture-land and fertile soil.

Both Puga and Escondida have large distilleries attached to their sugar-factories, where the refuse is worked up into a species of rum (*aguardiente*). Mr. Barron's estate embraces about one hundred thousand acres, and extends from the city of Tepic to the other side of Santiago.

Tetitlan, another large estate on the same road, deserves mention on account of its fertile lands and abundant water, at the foot of the extinct volcano called Sevoruco.

Below Tetitlan are the lands of General Leopoldo Romano, governor of the territory;

these extend to San Blas and Santiago. Here is found a splendid breed of cattle, the general having spared no trouble or expense in raising them on his pastures. An extensive coffee-plantation has been laid down also by the general. Large quantities of salt are produced from his lands adjoining San Blas.

Santiago is a town situated on the river which bears its name, the largest river in the republic. A tract of land was ceded for the building of the town, and cotton, corn, beans, and tobacco are extensively cultivated. India-rubber trees grow readily here. Corn yields three times as well as on the higher land.

To the south of San Blas an extensive and fertile estate is being opened up by a German firm. These lands have been planted with coffee, teas, tobacco, etc., and are yielding most satisfactory returns.

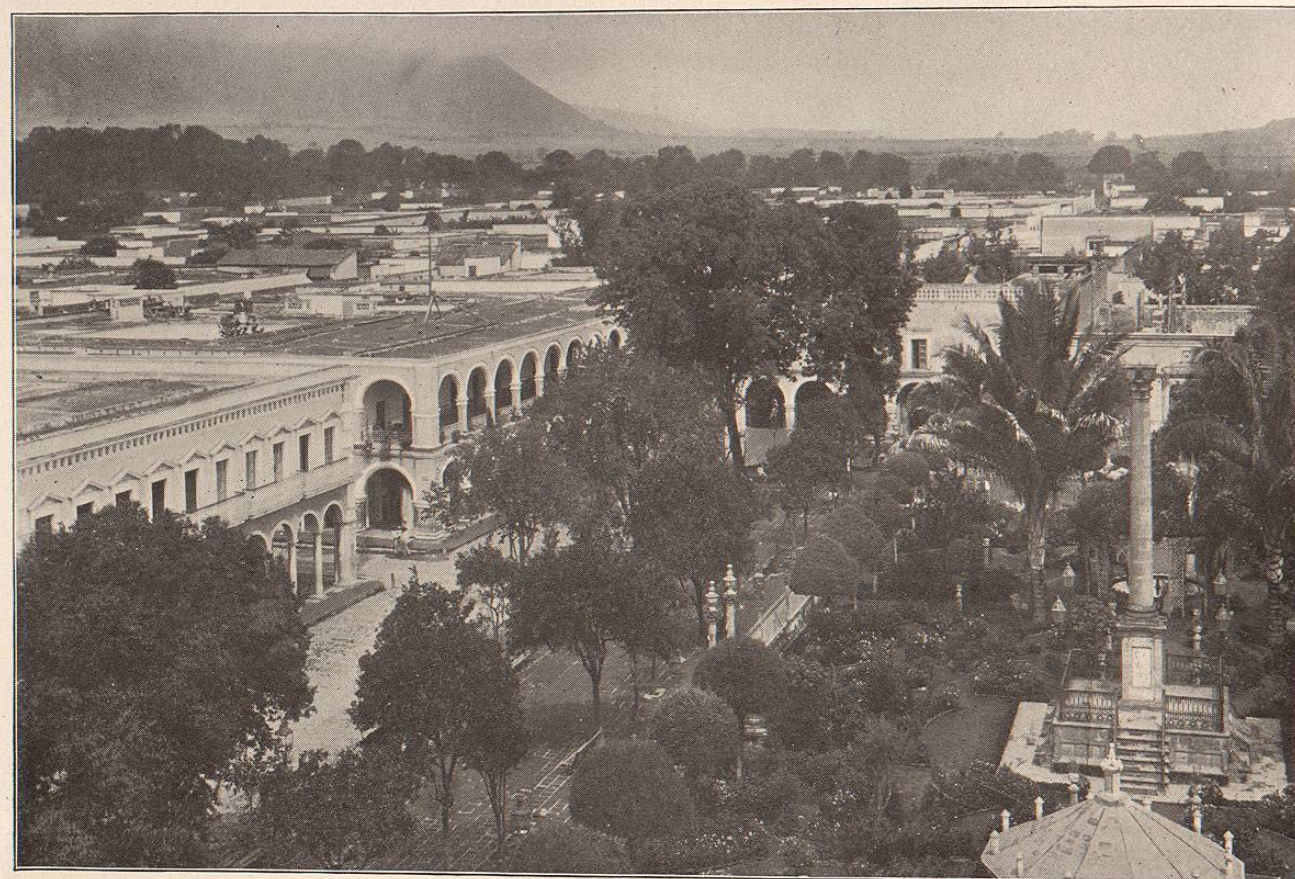


CATHEDRAL, TEPIC.



CASCADE WHICH FORMS THE TEPIC RIVER, TEPIC.

With the exception of sugar-cane cultivation, agriculture in Tepic is carried on by a species of partnership between the owner of the soil and the laborer. The owner opens an account current with the laborer, giving him land, oxen, plough, and seed, the laborer putting in his labor. Any advance in cash, justified by the size and condition of the crop, that may be required by the laborer is allowed by the owner, who receives back the equivalent from the share of the laborer. Generally a stipulated price is named at which the owner purchases the laborer's share, which usually yields a large profit to the owner. This system has one advantage, that the crop is carefully tended by the laborer, which is rather difficult where such extensive crops are grown.



PLAZA AT TEPIC.

The Tepic territory is noticeable for the quantity of waterfalls it contains, of which as yet only a few are utilized. This abundance of water is of great importance to a country where pasturage is so expensive an item.

The town of Tepic is situated about two thousand nine hundred and eighty feet above the level of the sea, and enjoys a most delicious climate from the month of November till the end of April, possibly the most delicious climate anywhere. The nights are cool, with slight frosts in December, January, and February. The days are warm and bright. Rain seldom falls except in June, July, August, and September, the rainfall averaging sixty-six inches in the year. During the hot months frequent heavy storms fall, mostly at night and scarcely ever before the afternoon, the mornings being delightful. The drives around Tepic are most picturesque. The town boasts a very pretty plaza, where fruit and flowers are sold. This square presents an animated aspect on Sundays, when the country-people bring in their produce from miles around. The alameda, or park, as well as other smaller squares, is beautifully laid out.

The government buildings are handsome, and in the Plaza Principal a fine stone municipal college is in course of erection. The merchants and shopkeepers are enterprising and thriving, but feel sadly the want of railway communication with the interior, which would open up the fertile district capable of being the granary of the interior of Mexico.

Even now, with their limited means of transport, Tepic cultivators of the soil and manufacturers hold their own and compete with more favored districts in the Jalisco and Sinaloa markets; but they can send only produce which will bear the heavy freight charges, such as cotton goods, sugar, tobacco, coffee, and rice.

A very important product is cocoa oil, which is raised in large quantities on the coast lands and sold in Jalisco, Sinaloa, and other neighboring states.



COTTON-FABRY "JAUJA," TEPIC.

Ixtlan is a flourishing little town, with several small sugar-factories in its immediate neighborhood: its principal source of revenue is mining.

The territory of Tepic owes its prosperity in great part to its able and courteous governor, General Leopoldo Romano, who received his charge in a state of semi-revolution and completely overrun with brigands.

Jauja is situated on the outskirts of the city of Tepic, and is noted for its extensive and beautiful gardens. Bella Vista is situated about three miles from Jauja. Between these two places the Tepic River forms a splendid cascade, about five thousand cubic feet per minute falling one hundred and ten feet.

The factory of La Escondida is situated a mile below Bella Vista, and uses the Tepic River for irrigating its cornfields. This factory, if not the largest refinery in the republic, is equal