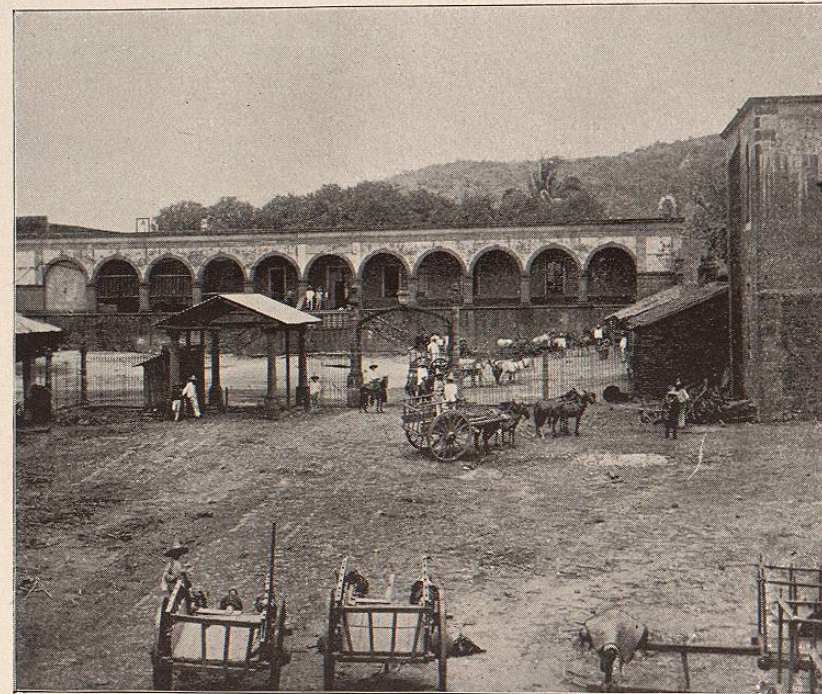


would fill a volume. Besides being a valiant military man, he has proved himself an accomplished diplomat in the way in which he has pacified the territory of Tepic, which under the



PUGA DWELLING, VIEW FROM FACTORY.

dictatorship of Lozada had been virtually severed from the Federal government. For the result I point to the flourishing state of the territory and the well-deserved affection and esteem the general enjoys.



## CHAPTER XXXIV

### SINALOA

**N**ORTH of Tepic, stretched along the Pacific coast and broken up by the Sierra Madre, lies Sinaloa. The formation of the country would naturally, therefore, consist of mountains in the eastern part, and sloping, extensive plains toward the west coast. It has an area of twenty-five thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven square miles, and a population of something over two hundred thousand.

Sinaloa is not perhaps so well developed as the eastern and central states of Mexico, but it, too, has enormous possibilities of wealth. The coast is indented by several bays which make good harbors, such as Mazatlan, Angeles, Altata, Tamazulla, etc. The chief rivers are the Canas and the Fuerte, which form the southern and northern boundaries, and the Sinaloa and the Culiacan. Some of the rivers overflow their banks at stated periods, thus enriching the surrounding country. There are several gold- and silver-mines, and the mountains contain in addition promising deposits of copper, iron, platinum, lead, and sulphur.

The soil is fertile, and offers great opportunities to the rice- and coffee-planter, as well as to the sugar industry. Guavas, bananas, and other tropical fruits can also be raised to great advantage.

Agriculture and mining are the principal industries of Sinaloa, although there are extensive manufactures of castor oil and mezcal, and a great deal of pearl- and tortoise-fishing on the west coast.

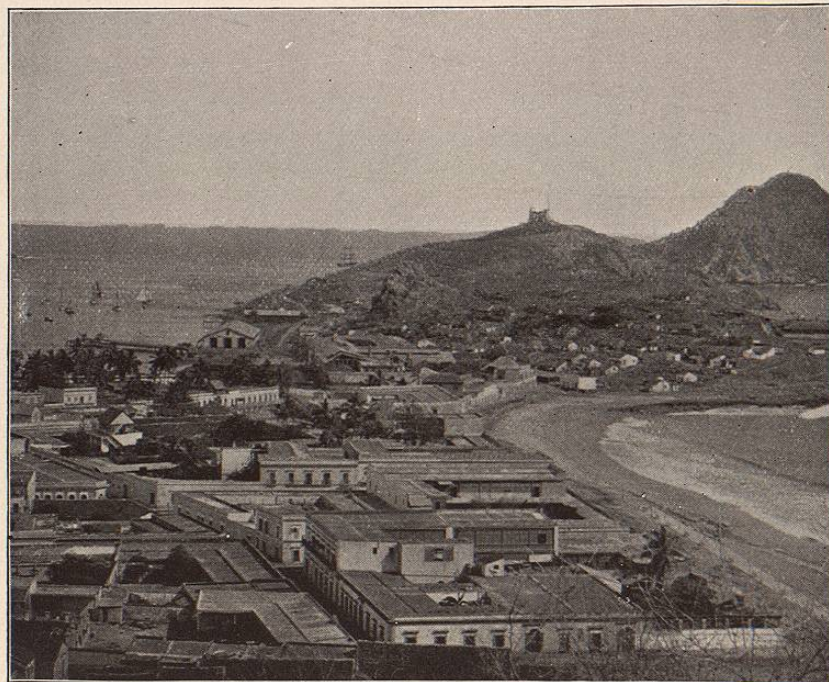
The capital of Sinaloa is Culiacan, and the chief port is Mazatlan. The town of Sinaloa is on the right bank of the river of the same name, with a population of some ten thousand. It is in the midst of a gold-mining district, and was the old capital of Sinaloa. The town has good houses, schools, and churches.

Culiacan is on the Culiacan River, with a population of not far from twelve thousand. It is



GENERAL FRANCISCO CAÑEDA,  
GOVERNOR OF SINALOA.





CITY OF MAZATLAN.

refinery, and several manufactories of lesser importance, and between Culiacan and Altata there is a large wine-establishment, connected with another sugar-refinery.

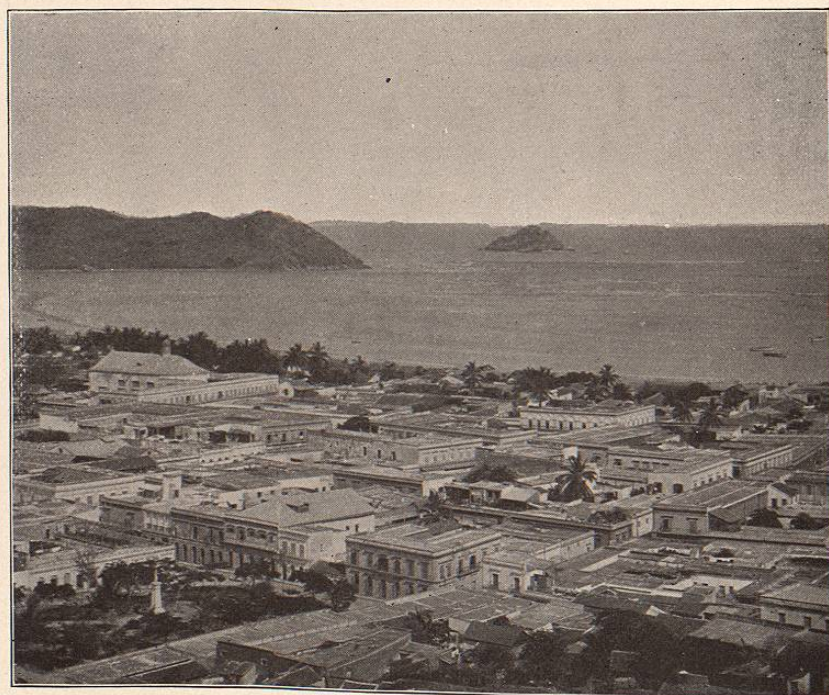
Altata is the seaport of the city of Culiacan, and the outlet for a large agricultural and mining country. The entrance to the bay is over a bar, but, once inside, the harbor is safe and commodious. The interior produces large quantities of gold and silver and lead ore. The Novelata sugar-plantation is within twenty-five miles of this harbor. The export of ores and sugar, together with that of brazil-wood, forms the trade of this port. It is a port of entry of the sixth order. The climate is healthy, and similar to that of Mazatlan.

The river Culiacan is about two hundred miles long, and empties into the Gulf of California at Altata.

Mazatlan, however, is by far the most important town of Sinaloa. It lies beautifully situated at the head of a bay at the entrance to the Gulf of California. Its population ranges from ten thousand to twenty thousand, but it is impossible to give it accurately, because much of it is a floating

in the midst of a well-watered and productive country, with rich gold- and silver-mines in the vicinity, which are being worked with considerable success. The city has a fine public square with a handsome colonnade, and the streets are well laid out and regular. Among the principal buildings are a large cathedral decorated with valuable paintings, a mint which cost three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and a very fine club-house. It occupies the site of the Aztec city of Colhuacan, famous in Mexican history.

In Culiacan there are a large cotton-factory, a sugar-



MAZATLAN, SHOWING THE HARBOR.



THEATRE IN CULIACAN.



CALLE DE ROSALES, CULIACAN.



population. In summer merchant-traders resort here from Chihuahua, Sonora, Jalisco, Colima, Durango, and other states, to look after heavy business interests. The upper town stands in front of rocky hills, and is somewhat uneven, but the section facing the bay has handsome streets, with fine residences, mostly in the Castilian style of architecture, with some of the more modern types intermingling. There are several public squares, but the chief public buildings stand surrounded by orange-trees in the Plaza de Armas. The custom-house, the residences of the commandant and the captain of the port, and the public stores are all tasteful buildings in another square nearer the beach. The vegetation is tropical and abundant, the annual temperature varying from seventy to ninety degrees.

Silver-mines are worked all around Mazatlan, the largest being owned by Americans and valued at several millions. The chief exports are gold and silver, dye-woods, and fine pearls, amounting to two or three million dollars in some years. There are several good public and



PLAZA, MAZATLAN.

more private schools, and in many ways Mazatlan offers splendid opportunities for the capitalist or the colonist, provided the tropical heat of the country be taken into account. Its natural advantages will always make it an important shipping port and the gateway to the Gulf of California.

Mazatlan impressed us with its beautiful approach from the ocean, the flanking mountains and the blue Pacific waters made such a remarkable and beautiful contrast with the shore, all abloom with tropical palms and ferns. The scenery is very fine. We found good hotels and schools. There was some talk, when we were there, of the removal of the capital of the state of Sinaloa from Culiacan to Mazatlan, but it will probably remain where it is. The steamer took us to Altata, and thence we went to Culiacan by railroad. At Culiacan we visited several other schools and factories, and had occasion to note once more the growing attention paid by the state governments throughout Mexico to the system of public schools. It is a system scarcely excelled anywhere in general excellence.

Throughout the state there are pretty villages with comfortable-looking houses and patios that are models of neatness and beauty. In Eastern Sinaloa are some beautiful pine districts that approach in beauty and value those among the mountains of Pennsylvania, united to the semi-tropical vegetation of Florida. It is a section of country not yet much developed, but contains a wealth of lumber which will make several fortunes in the course of time. There are some splendid specimens of pines in the region, which can be readily marketed in that part of Mexico. On the border between Sinaloa and Tepic there is a section of forest yielding some of the best yellow pine in the country. The district is supplied with an abundance of mountain streams, and has already been bought up by a syndicate of Eastern and Southern men, who are developing the entire region.

The governor of Sinaloa is General Francisco Cañedo, a brave soldier and a man whose one thought is his country and whose one aim is to conduct his state to an elevated plane of prosperity and intelligent progress. Under his guidance Sinaloa is fast coming to be one of the most important as it is one of the largest states in the republic. The unusual productiveness of the mines now in operation and the vast extent of mining-lands yet unexplored offer great inducements to prospectors.

