

Besides these, there are the San Nicolas, San Francisco, San Luis, Suiza, Accidente, Tepeyac, and San Rafael in the Real district; and the China, Piedad, Mina, California, Cristo, San Luis, and other valuable properties in the Jacalitos district.

Politically the peninsula is a territory, not a state, of the Mexican republic. It has two capitals,—La Paz in the south and Ensenada in the north,—and two governors appointed by the federal authority, as governors of territories are appointed with us. The great length of the peninsula and the difficulty of passing through this length have made necessary its division into these two districts. There is no territorial legislature. The few government employees are paid out of the federal treasury, and, with the exception of customs duties, there are no taxes, except for local improvements. There are therefore no "politics" in this quiet land.



CORONEL AGUSTIN SAGIÑES,
JEFE POLÍTICO, ENSENADA.

The government requires the inhabitants to obey the laws and keep the peace, and ample powers are given to the governors to maintain order and punish violence. At La Paz there is a small force of troops; at Ensenada the governor had until recently under his control a police force of fifteen mounted men, well armed and active, who were sufficient for all purposes.

Ensenada is a real American town, and is exceedingly attractive in appearance. It is beautifully situated in a healthful location, and is the natural outlet of considerable inland business and mineral wealth. Here lives the governor, Agustin Sagiñes, of the upper portion of the territory, and the several public buildings do credit to the place and to him.

Magdalena Bay is one of the most beautiful places along the Pacific coast, and is surrounded by a beautiful country. The climate all along here is uncommonly salubrious, and Magdalena Bay offers a very desirable site for a sanatorium. The bay is of large dimensions and is accessible in all weather. Orchilla is a parasitic moss which

hangs from the trees throughout this region, adding a touch of picturesqueness to the natural beauties of the place. Large quantities of it are gathered on the sea-shore and in the vicinity, pressed, and shipped to Europe, where it is used for the purpose of dyeing sealskins, etc. A large fortune has already been made by an enterprising company in handling this innocent-looking gray moss which has such valuable properties.

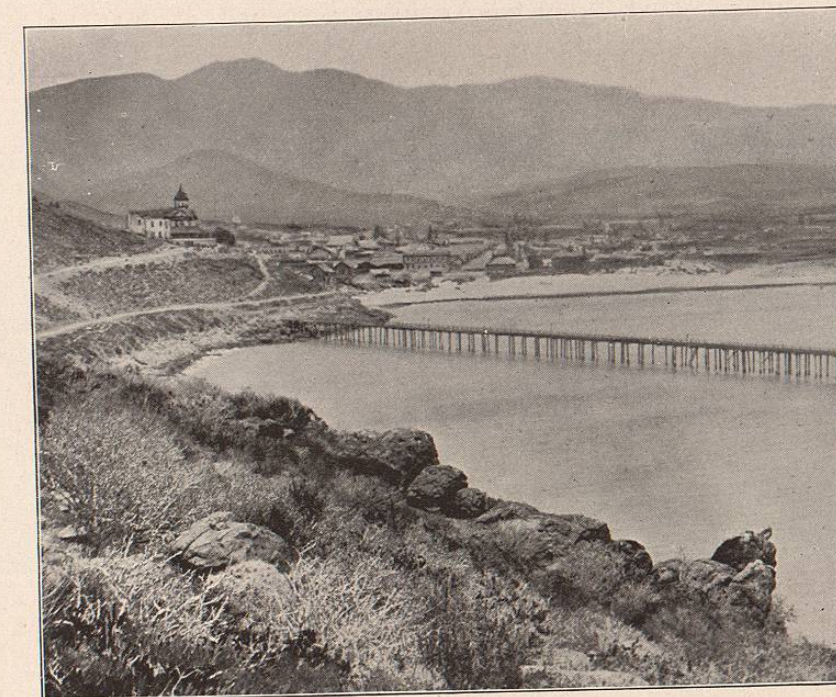
The region all through this district is particularly productive and offers great inducements for investment. The missionaries, after 1730, introduced the Arabian date-palm, which succeeds admirably and yields abundantly, and also oranges, lemons, and all the species of the citrine family, pineapples, bananas, and plantains. They planted the vine, olive, fig, pomegranate, almond, peach, quince; and even plums, apples, pears, melons, watermelons, and such like, in

more elevated and cooler districts. The vine, fig, olive, currant grape, almond, quince, and peach are more luscious and grow much more quickly, and with less labor and expense, than in Alta California, and in many localities are unsurpassed in the world for luxuriance, sweetness, and flavor. The fig and grape are much sweeter, and the grape ripens more quickly and better, from hotter and drier suns, and makes much richer wine, brandy, raisins, and currants.

There is much good land near the missions of Rosario, San Vicente, Santo Domingo, and Santo Tomas. Several permanent streams and a number of coast lagoons furnish abundance of excellent water for animals and irrigation.

The region around Cape San Lucas is beautiful in the extreme, and not far from there lies the picturesque little village of San José del Cabo, which is a shipping port with a coast custom-house section. The Orizaba and the Coos Bay, steamers of the Pacific Coast Company, stop at all principal ports, and furnish the best possible means of communication between San Francisco and Guaymas, Sonora.

La Paz has a population of three thousand. This is the residence of the governor, Coronel Rafael G. Martinez, and his official assistants for the southern district, and is an exceedingly picturesque town, especially as approached by the sea. Although not a large town, many of the houses are tasteful and convenient, and indicate that the place has long been the abode of luxury. The port is well sheltered, the climate hot, and the surrounding country productive. The shipping is growing, and the pearl-fisheries still form an important source of revenue.



THE BAY AT ENSENADA.



PIER AT ENSENADA.

There are great resources in Baja California, although its position is unique. While it is isolated from all the other states of Mexico, it has more seaports than any state, and many



CITY OF ENSENADA.

other advantages for future growth and prosperity with the development of the rest of the republic of Mexico.

From Ensenada, which is the last Mexican town in Baja California, we went by way of San Francisco, taking the Southern Pacific Railroad, and going back to the republic of Mexico at El Paso, Texas.



CHAPTER XXXVII

MICHOCAN

THE state of Michoacán has been given a name which, according to some authors, means "fisherman's country." Its territory is extremely mountainous and its scenery strikingly picturesque. It is characterized by enchanting gorges, beautiful valleys, and vast plains of fertile lands along the banks of glistening streams, whose course, sometimes impeded by huge rocks, occasionally acquires great rapidity, as can be observed especially at the falls of Onendo. At times, after meandering over the ground,

a stream will sally forth in the midst of exuberant vegetation and drop again from festooned falls in myriads of crystalline threads, which sparkle in the sunbeams, reflecting all the prismatic colors. This wonderful spectacle is particularly noticeable on the banks of the Cupachito.

Cortez took an excursion through Michoacán after the fall of Mexico, and was delighted with what he saw. It was at that time a powerful and independent state, inhabited by one of the kindred Nahuatlac races. The Spaniards advanced across the state and erected a cross on the Pacific coast in the name of their Catholic majesties. On their return they took back samples of gold and California pearls, and the report of the great southern ocean beyond. Cortez wrote, "Most of all do I exult in these tidings of the great ocean. For in it, as cosmographers and those learned men who know most about the Indies inform us, are scattered rich isles, teeming with gold and spices and precious stones." For even then had Spaniards begun to look on Mexico as a great treasure-house to be drawn upon to support their own extravagant country.

Michoacán lies on the western slope of the great cordillera of Anahuac; it is bounded on the north by Jalisco, Guanajuato, and Querétaro, on the east by México, on the south by Guerrero and the Pacific, and on the west by the sea, Colima, and Jalisco. Its area is twenty-one thousand six hundred and nine square miles. Its

SEÑOR ARISTEO MERCADO,
GOVERNOR OF MICHOCÁN.