

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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There Will Be No Alleys

From the day of the arrival of Don Jose Maria Padres in Monterey, the troubles of Don Jose Figueroa, commandant-general and political chief of Upper California, began. Padres at once asked assistance for the members of the colony he had escorted from Mexico, and demanded that delivery be made to him of the property of the missions, as a thing inherent in his commission of director of the colony. As Figueroa had not yet been replaced as political chief and had been commanded to retain that position, had not been granted funds to expend on the colonists' welfare, and was still subject to the Mexican Republic, he refused to comply to these demands.

Senor Hajar proceeded to hand over a set of instructions to Figueroa which he had brought with him from the Department of Interior in Mexico. There were 15 articles in the instructions dated Mexico, April 23, 1834, and signed "Lombardo." The first article gave the authority to take possession of the missions of both Californias, the second allotted four rials (12 ½ cents) a day for the colonists who were more than four years old, and two rials for those of lesser age, for the space of one year, counted from the day they arrived at the place in which they were to settle.

One article instructed that villages were to be formed, uniting the number of families which may be sufficient for living in safety, choosing situations suitable from the quality of the land, from the abundance and salubrity of the waters, and from the mildness of the winds.

Plans were also given in which blocks were designated and marked out in the villages. The length of each side of the block was to be one hundred varas and all sides were to be equal; the width of the street was to be 20 varas, and no alley was to be allowed in them. The plazas were to be distributed at every tenth street at least, besides the greater plaza, which was to be situated in the center of the village.

Making provision for the Indians, the instructions stated that care should be taken to unite them with the villages, mixing them with the other inhabitants, and "no village shall be permitted to be composed of them alone." In each block lots were to be distributed to the families, according to article eight. They were to build

houses but "it shall not be permitted of them to do so outside the line traced for forming the street."

Outside of the villages there was to be given, "in full dominion and property," to each colonist, four caballerias of land if it be irrigable, eight if dependent on the seasons, and 16 if for pasturage. They were to also receive four cows, four yoke of oxen or two bulls, two broken horses, four colts four fillies, four head of small cattle, and two plows with their gear.

Between the sowing lot of one and the sowing lot of another of the colonists, there was to remain vacant an extent equal to two sowing lots. This land was to be left to the government to "dispose of when it sees fit."

In article 11 is recited: "The distribution of the movable property belonging to the missions of California being made, a sale shall be made of one-half of the remainder in the most advantageous manner." Then follows: "There shall not be sold in the same family more than one hundred head of cattle of one kind."

Making provision for some sort of religious worship the Mexican government had included: "The half remaining property, movable or self-moving, shall be preserved as the property of the government and the proceeds thereof used for the expenses of religious worship; the support of the missionaries; the salaries of the masters of the primary schools, for furnishing the things necessary for children of both sexes in the schools; and for buying the instruments of husbandry which are to be distributed gratis among the colonists."

Figueroa included in his manifesto a copy of the letter which he sent back to Mexico from Monterey, in which he stated that for his part these dispositions would be obeyed, although in his opinion, it was an injustice to deprive the neophytes of the effects of the missions, which they regarded as their property.

Hajar insisted that he should begin at once to take possession of the property belonging to the missions, and that Figueroa obey the orders as presented by him. The Governor then appealed to the Territorial Deputation consisting of Jose Antonio Carrillo, Pio Pico and Jose J. Ortega.

(More Tomorrow)