

**CALIFORNIA, ITS PRODUCTS,  
RESOURCES, INDUSTRIES, AND  
ATTRACTIONS: WHAT IT OFFERS  
THE IMMIGRANT, HOMESEAKER,  
INVESTOR AND TOURIST**

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California, Its Products, Resources, Industries, and Attractions: What It Offers the Immigrant, Homeseeker, Investor and Tourist by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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# CALIFORNIA

ITS PRODUCTS  
RESOURCES  
INDUSTRIES and  
ATTRACTIONS

WHAT IT OFFERS THE IMMIGRANT,  
HOMESEAKER, INVESTOR and TOURIST

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EDITED BY T. G. DANIELLS

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## PREFACE.

The purpose of this book is to disseminate accurate information regarding California. It is to give those who seek enlightenment facts and figures that in every instance may be verified upon personal investigation. There is no purpose in exaggerating the resources and attractions of such a marvelous land as California. One of the contributors to these pages writes: "I have told everything just as I would want it told me if I had in view a change of location. The truth is plenty good enough as to anything concerning California." That spirit, it is trusted, has been carried out in every paragraph and sentence of the book. Each subject has been treated by one who has particular knowledge of it and who has undertaken the task through love of his State and a desire to render it a service; and also, possibly, because of a feeling that something which may have gone before needs more careful treatment. Some of the contributors are of national renown; all are recognized in California as particularly qualified to write on their several subjects.

If the details of this little work are curtailed, it is because of an embarrassment of riches, rather than a lack of them. To amplify and supplement the matter here set forth the reader may obtain printed or specifically written information from any of several large bureaus maintained for that purpose up and down the State—the State Board of Trade and Promotion Committee of San Francisco; Chambers of Commerce of Los Angeles, Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, Fresno and Stockton; and if anything further is desired regarding still smaller communities, a board of trade or similar body maintained at every county seat and in most of the towns will, upon request, promptly forward reliable information.

This book is issued by mandate of the law carrying the appropriation through which California is enabled to place an exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. In that respect it is official, and by that fact it must be realized that it is in the interest of no individual; of no single community. It is for the whole of California—designated by one of the greatest of Americans as that “Empire of the Pacific,” whose extent and importance he expressed in that title, and whose destiny he so clearly foreshadowed.

With this brief introduction, the California Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition present this book, in the hope that it will be accepted as a true, earnest and impartial presentation of the conditions in California; as giving reliable information to all who may be seeking it.

# CALIFORNIA

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## Its Products, Resources, Industries and Attractions.

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### HISTORICAL SKETCH.

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BY CARRIE J. PRATT.

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Many and diverse are the elements which have gone into the making of the "Golden State." Strangely different actors have played their part, and left their impress where they played. The country itself and its aboriginal inhabitants were long a source of attraction to the Spanish conquerors. In 1536, Cortes and his followers superficially inspected Lower California. They likened the land to the famous island of Amazons, described in the old Spanish romance, "Sergas de Espladian," in which the author speaks of "the great island of California, where an abundance of gold and precious stones is found." With the inherent poesy of the Spanish race they named the territory California.

In 1542, Cabrillo sailed along the coast, and over a century later Viscaino explored it, mapping the bays of San Diego and Monterey. Sir Francis Drake, Queen Elizabeth's daring buccaneer, in cruising the Pacific for Spain's treasure ships, discovered, in 1579, the bay which bears his name. He called the land "New Albion."

Spain's desire for new possessions and the missionary zeal of the Franciscans under the leadership of Father Junipero Serra led to the colonization of California in 1768. This fervid religious enthusiast, and Jose Galvez, visitador-general to Mexico from Spain, fitted out four expeditions which set out by land and sea. The vicissitudes of travel were many. Finally, the travelers reached San Diego, and on July 16, 1769, they founded the mission of that name. Despite their exhausted condition, a detachment was sent northward to find the bay of Monterey, which had been mapped out by Viscaino. It was this party that missed its objective point and found instead the important bay of San Francisco. This discovery led to the establishment of the mission of San Francisco, in the year of our national independence.



By the end of 1823, when the last and most northerly mission had been planted at Sonoma, these religious houses had grown to twenty-one in number and had acquired great wealth in olive, orange and grape plantations and herds of cattle and horses. The Indians were converted to Christianity, weaned from their barbaric and nomadic state, and induced to lead a settled life. The Spanish government provided a presidio, or military station, near each mission. The pueblos, also a sort of adjunct to the missions, were towns established to promote the settlement of the country. They maintained local and civil government independent of church or military rule. To Californians of the present day, the missions are memorials of the older civilization which keep alive the continuity of historic interest. The ruined buildings are a source of inspiration to artists and the motifs for much of the domestic, civic and religious architecture of Modern California.

As the years rolled on, explorers of different nationalities now and again touched at points along the coast, but only the Russians established a settlement, which, however, was abandoned after a short period.

The political situation of the whole country was much altered when, in 1822, the many revolutionary upheavals in Mexico culminated in her proclamation of independence from Spain. The republican government was unfavorable to the Church, and the Mexican congress enacted a law providing for the dispersion of the Franciscan fathers of California and a division of their vast principalities among the settlers and the Indians. Soon after this the secularization of the missions began. They were stripped of their wealth; the buildings were neglected, the Indians scattered, and the ownership of the land fell to the lot of the Mexican rancheros. These were mostly of Spanish lineage, whose principal occupation was the raising of cattle for hides and tallow. They were, on the whole, a simple, kindly and unprogressive people, much given to picturesque apparel, gay colors and fiestas. They rode a great deal, visited one another frequently, enjoyed many sports, music and dancing, lived to a ripe old age, and had very large families. These were the days of boundless hospitality, when every stranger was welcome at the haciendas and became a guest for as long as he chose to remain. Those happy patriarchal times of the splendid idle forties—how they vanished upon the advent of the gringo—the stranger from across the plains!

By 1846 a number of Americans had found their way to the new territory. They had come as trappers and traders, and were men of valor and sturdiness—the heralds of Anglo-Saxon supremacy. A spirit of local independence developed rapidly among them. This led to a silent conflict between them and the Mexicans, resulting in a jealousy of Mexican control and bitter political feuds between rival factions around Monterey in the north and Los Angeles in the south.

About this time the attention of the United States government began to be strongly attracted toward California, and the French

and the English were looking in this direction with a view to possibly taking possession of the country.

All the circumstances connected with the seizing of California will probably never be known. It appears, however, that the authorities at Washington, having determined on a war with Mexico and being fully aware of the importance to the United States of an extension of territory to the Pacific, resolved to take possession of California, so that after the termination of the war this country would become a part of the Union. At all events, Fremont, while engaged in conducting a scientific expedition on the Pacific Coast, received, in May, 1846, verbal instructions from an officer dispatched from Washington. He at once turned back, made his way to Sutter's Fort, then to Sonoma, where he organized a battalion of mounted riflemen, and prepared to make war against the Mexicans. On the 14th of June, 1846, a party of Americans took possession of the town of Sonoma and raised the Bear Flag. On the 5th of July following, this Bear Flag party declared their independence, made Fremont governor and issued a formal declaration of war. Two days afterwards Commodore Sloat, under orders from the United States government, seized Monterey, and Captain Montgomery raised the American flag in San Francisco. The conquest was completed by Commodore Stockton and General Kearny. By the treaty with Mexico in 1848, California became American territory, and another milestone was reached in its progress.

Upon the acquisition of California the United States revenue laws were extended over the territory and San Francisco made a port of entry, but no further progress was made toward creating a government. The discussion as to what should be done with California when acquired began in Congress in 1846, and the question of slavery or no slavery was at once raised. When it became American territory the question of its admission into the Union was counted as one of supreme importance. There were fifteen free states and fifteen slave states, and, of course, an equal representation in the Senate. The addition of the sixteenth free state would turn the scale and mark the beginning of a preponderance of free-state power in Congress. Against this, resistance on the part of the South was almost desperate. A furious conflict was waged between the oratorical giants of Congress, but nothing concluded.

The dilatoriness was most harassing to the Californians, who soon realized that a state organization was the only feasible scheme which promised the country a government. In accordance with this conviction the people, in September, 1849, framed a constitution which forbade slavery. On the 9th of September of the following year, 1850, and without having gone through any novitiate as a territory, California sprang into full being as a commonwealth and was admitted to the sisterhood of states.

An important era dates from the discovery of gold at Sutter's mill, on January 24, 1848. The news that gold had been found sped to the most distant parts of the world. A great tide of mi-

gration swept westward, and the vast Pacific was covered with the sailing craft of all nations. The mighty historic body of gold-seekers—the Argonauts—arrived in 1849. Many of these journeyed with ox team across the plains and struggled through the Sierra, braving the famine and horror of the desert and the perils of predatory Indians. Women and children shared with men the privations of the terrible overland trail. Simultaneously with the coming of the overland contingent, ships were fitted out for the long voyage around Cape Horn, and steamers were put on to carry people by way of Panama. The majority of the newcomers were young, unmarried men of brawn and vigor, contemptuous of obstacles and reckless of their lives. They had the qualities which made them fit to do battle with and to overcome wild man and nature. They came with one idea—to get rich quickly and return home. The scramble for gold lasted until the mountains and gulches had been scratched over and a decline in gold production had set in. Then those who came to mine remained to till. The pick and the shovel gave way to the plow and the hoe. Instead of golden nuggets, the earth was made to yield a harvest of golden grain. This was the beginning of the great wheat-planting era, before the versatility of California's soil was realized. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 furthered the prosperity of the State and gave an impetus to the immigration of home-builders.

California's second "gold" discovery—the navel orange—dates from the seventies. Like Marshall's find, it was the magnet to draw to the State thousands of strangers. These, unlike the first-comers, were colonists who brought with them their household gods and set up homes, laid out orange groves, and awaited results.

The orange was the incentive to other horticultural discoveries, and today California has no equal among the states, nor indeed, among the countries of the world, in horticultural possibilities. It has more acres in grapes than New England has in corn, and it produces more wine than all the rest of the Union put together. Its beet sugar is a formidable rival to the cane product of tropic lands. It exports raisins to Spain, prunes to Germany and France, and will very soon take the fig trade of the world from Smyrna.

California, with a coast line about one-fifth the total coast line of the United States, has, by value, one-fourteenth of the fisheries; it has the densest forests of merchantable timber in the world; its yearly gold output is up in the millions of dollars, and its oil wells now exceed and bid fair to outlast the productiveness of those of Pennsylvania.

In comparison with the other states in the Union, California ranks second in area, twenty-first in population, and eighteenth in order of admission. Its coast line, measured in all its sinuosities, is nearly one thousand miles in length, and its eastern boundary conforms to the curve of the seacoast, so that its breadth is approximately the same throughout, averaging about two hundred miles. The total land area is 155,980 square miles.