

When San Jose Was Young

A Series of Interesting Articles of An Historical Nature Prepared Especially for The News by a Well Known Author and Journalist.

NO. 46 REVIVAL OF NEW ALMADEN

Several quicksilver mines have been found in Santa Clara County, but none except the New Almaden has attracted wide attention. There is the Hillsdale or Chaboya mine two miles south of San Jose, near Hillsdale, on the eastern slope of the Santa Teresa hills

On Capitanchillos creek, ten miles south of San Jose, is the Guadalupe mine, discovered in the fifties. The Guadalupe has been worked to some extent, and has produced considerable quicksilver. One and a half miles southeast of the Guadalupe is the Costello mine.

There is the Wright mine on Llagas creek three miles south of the hacienda at the New Almaden. Near Evergreen is the Silver Creek mine. In the Santa Teresa hills eight miles southeast of San Jose, near Edenvale, is the Santa Teresa mine. These mines are all more or less connected. Underneath the New Almaden is undoubtedly, as is shown by the outcroppings in the inaccessible country nearby, a great fortune in granite.

One of these mines may yet prove to be another Almaden. Increase in the price of quicksilver and decrease in its cost of production will stir speculation.

Within the past few years there has been revived interest in the New Al-

maden. For some time it was not being worked with enthusiasm, for the price of quicksilver had fallen as low as twenty-five. In 1850 it was ninety-nine. At the beginning of the war it was about thirty-five. It advanced as high as three hundred. It hung pretty steadily around seventy-five.

Three-quarters of the quicksilver from the New Almaden is used as primers for cartridges, but even before the war there was a rise in the value of quicksilver. Much of it is used in electrical work.

At present there are about two hundred men working at New Almaden. Many of them have leased great masses of the tailings, and are having them run through the reduction works.

The present superintendent of the mine is Mr. William H. Landers of San Francisco. Under his management a new, important shaft has been sunk, the Senator. This is producing some valuable ore. The Cora Blanca, the San Antonio and the San Mateo are other shafts now being worked. Many of the old tunnels have closed up and under the new management and the new system there are great prospects for the future. A general revival of prosperity is not impossible at the New Almaden.