

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. 67 WAR IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

PART III

Fremont refused to leave, but he took possession of Gallivan Peak, more commonly called Fremont's Peak, near San Juan Bautista, which is marked by a cross. He fortified the peak with a cannon, and from the height through field glasses watched General Castro assemble and train his men at San Juan. No encounter took place, because Fremont left within a few days and very suddenly.

But Fremont's indignation against Castro for ordering him out of the department was boundless. He encamped near Red Bluff and tried to stir up the settlers against the Californians. His men became bolder in their maraudings. Lieutenant Arce was driving 170 horses from Sonoma to Santa Clara for the use of the government. Fremont's men cut them off at Martin Murphy's ranch at Comsumms. Fremont's men captured the Californians and drove the horses into the camp of the Pathfinder.

Shortly the Californians were released and sent back to Castro with the message that if he desired his horses to come and take them. They also sent the message that they intended to capture Sonoma and continue the war. This occurred in California, during the time of peace.

Three days later, June 14th, Fre-

mont's men presented themselves at the Sonoma residence of General Vallejo and called upon him to surrender. General Vallejo asked by whose orders they were acting. They said, "Captain Fremont." Vallejo had always been friendly to the Americans. He wished to have California protected by the United States. He gave them refreshment and discussed surrender.

Fremont's men carried General Vallejo to Sutter's fort, where for two months he was kept prisoner. When he was released he discovered that his stock and crops had been taken from him. This was the beginning of the revolution of the Bears, and in his memoirs Fremont states that everything done by them was under his order.

William B. Ide, who said that the Bears must either be robbers or conquerors, was made commander-in-chief, or governor of the republic. A flag was made of a piece of unbleached cotton cloth, at the bottom of which was sewn a strip of red flannel. In the upper left-hand corner of the cotton was drawn a five-pointed star outlined with red paint. To the right of the star, and facing it, was a grizzly bear made of blackberry juice. William Todd, a nephew of Mrs Abraham Lincoln, was one of the makers of the Bear flag. On the 14th of June the flag was raised at Sonoma.