

per day; lime juice was bought at the rate of 35 per bottle, potatoes at from \$1, to \$1.50 per pound, and everything else in the same proportion. These were not high prices in 1849; but they show how expensive it must have been to sustain the Hospital for several months during the prevalence of so much sickness. The amount received from the sale of town lots was altogether inadequate to pay accruing expenses; and the burden fell very heavily upon a few. There is still due between \$500 and \$600 to the Messrs. Dodge for beef furnished, in addition to several hundred dollars paid by them in cash; and the expenses of coffins and burial were mostly paid by C. F. Dodge out of his fees as Alcalde. A few others displayed similar liberality.

The first Town Council consisted of C. F. Dodge, Joshua Holden, C. Labetoure, Peter Mehen, E. Linoberg, J. E. Litton, Wm. Perkins, and ———.

They ordered a survey of the town into lots and streets by Cooper and Galledge, whose map was, for a long time, the official chart by which all disputed lines were settled. When it was decided at San Jose that Sonora was to be the county seat, Col. Freaner immediately dispatched a letter to Joshua Holden informing him of the fact, and advising him to confide the secret to only a few who should take up as many lots as possible in order to speculate on them, as he supposed they would soon become valuable. Instead of complying with his advice, Mr. Holden laid the matter before the Town Council that same evening, and they passed a resolution unanimously that no one should be permitted to take up vacant lots, but that all unoccupied lots should belong to the Town as such, and be sold to the highest bidder. The money derived from the sale of lots was devoted partly towards paying for the survey, and the rest towards defraying Hospital expenses.

This first Town organization not being based upon any Act of the Legislature, became null, of course, as soon as the County was organized under the Laws of the State, in the spring of 1850. From that time there was no Town Organization until May 1851, when, in accordance with a charter from the Legislature, Sonora became a city.

The first officers elected were Chas. F. Dodge, Mayor.—James F. McFarland, Marshal.—Alfred W. Luckett, Clerk.—L. A. Besancon, Attorney.—Daniel F. Sayre, Treasurer.—Leander Quint, Recorder.—J. W. Richardson, Assessor.—A. F. Chatfield, Abraham Tuttle, I. P. Yaney, H. W. Theall, R. S. Gladwin, H. T. Fuller, and L. C. Gunn, Aldermen.

In 1852, Mr. Dodge was re-elected. In 1853, and again in 1854, Capt. George Washington Patrick was elected Mayor.

On the 9th. of March 1855, in accordance with a petition from the citizens, the former charter was repealed, and a new charter granted, re-incorporating Sonora as a city under a Board of five Trustees. This organization is much more simple, is attended with no expense, and is quite as efficient as the former government.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—The first Justices for Township No. 1, were elected on the 1st. Monday in May, 1850, Major Richard C. Barry of Sonora, and Charles M. Radcliff of Pine Log.

In the fall of 1850, Justice Radcliff removed his office to Sonora. In 1851, Sonora being a city, it was entitled to two Justices as such, and H. G. Platt and C. M. Radcliff were elected. In 1852, Robert W. Armstrong and Col. Jenkins. In 1853, James Lane and Thomas S. Hall. In 1854, Major Richard F. Sullivan and Thos. S. Hall. In 1855, Wm. H. Ford and T. S. Hall.

An idea of the power exercised by the first Justices may be inferred from the following advertisement, in the Sonora Herald of July 1850.

"NOTICE.—All persons are forbid firing off pistols or guns within the limits of this town, under penalty; and under no plea will it hereafter be submitted to; therefore a derogation from this notice will be dealt with according to the strictest rigor of the law so applying, as a misdemeanor and disturbance of the peaceful citizens of Sonora.
R. C. Barry J. P.

June 9th. 1850.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.—The first great excitement in Sonora, was in the early part of June, 1850, a graphic account of which was written by Walter Murray, for the Sonora Herald in 1852, is as follows:

"It was a hot Summer's Sunday afternoon in June, when a man on horseback came tearing into the little encampment on Mormon Gulch at full speed, evidently big with exciting intelligence. The miners, who happened to be scattered in groups, talking over the occurrences of the past week, eagerly rushed forward and gathered around the messenger, from whose broken exclamations they at length learned that there was something very like war upon the carpet. It appeared that the Collector appointed by the State Government to receive the Foreign Miners' Tax had arrived at the county seat, and had issued his notice, calling upon all foreigners to come forward and pay up their first month's assessment of thirty dollars. The attempt to collect this exorbitant impost, put the immense foreign population, with whom the county was literally overrun, into a state of intense ferment. Meetings had been held on the subject, inflammatory speeches had been made by Spanish and French orators, and at length it appeared that some great demonstration had been made against the odious tax. The messenger avowed that the county seat was in the hands of the excited foreign mob, numbering some two or three thousand, all armed; that the safety of the place was menaced, and that the American inhabitants were fleeing from it. Furthermore, the principal citizens had sent couriers to the surrounding camps, asking for assistance.

"There had previously been so many rumors afloat of expected insurrection of the Spanish-American population, against the "proprietors" of the country, and "the boys" had in this way been kept in such a continual state of excitement, that the arrival of this intelligence operated at once like the putting of a spark of fire into a tinder box. Messengers were immediately despatched hither and thither, calling upon the miners to assemble within an hour at a given spot on the way to the county seat, and the "gulch" was in a moment alive with busy, bustling men, getting out their rifles and pistols, and preparing for the expected conflict.