

3d District—Branciforte, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Monterey—John H. Watson.

4th District—San Francisco—Levi Parsons.

5th District—Calaveras, Tuolumne, San Joaquin and Mariposa—Charles M. Creanor.

6th District—Sacramento and El Dorado—J. S. Thomas.

7th District—Marin, Sonoma, Nassa and Mendocino—Robert Hopkins.

8th District—Yolo, Sutter and Yuba—N. R. Turner.

9th District—Butte, Colusa, Trinity and Shasta—W. Scott Sherwood.

The courts of first instance were continued in force and effect until the organization of the district courts, which took possession of all their records and jurisdiction of their actions ; and all writs which had been issued out of the courts of first instance were required to be returned to the district courts of the respective counties in the same manner as if the same had been issued out of said district courts. In some of the counties there had been no judge of first instance elected, and in the absence of such judges the alcaldes had exercised their powers. The Act of Feb. 29th, 1850, not only abolished the old courts of the second instance and the third instance, but also transferred all the business of the courts of the first instance to the district courts, and suspended the powers of alcaldes in counties having no courts of first instance, and transferred the same to the district judges. General Riley in his summary of the old organization of the government, it will be noticed, says that the "Alcaldes have concurrent jurisdiction among themselves in the same district, but are subordinate to the higher judicial tribunals." What that concurrent jurisdiction comprised, seems to have been anything and everything that parties would bring before them—a sort of star-chamber, presuming jurisdiction where the same was not expressly prohibited. All the appeals from the courts of the first instance and second instance pending when the Act of Feb. 28th, 1850 went into effect, and all the business of the courts of second and third instances, not then disposed of, was transferred and vested in the supreme court, and the jurisdiction and authority of the alcaldes were removed and suspended upon the election and qualification of the justices of the peace. By the same Act it was provided that the offices of all prefects, sub-prefects, regidores and syndics should be suspended and abolished as soon as the county judges and sheriffs of the different counties were elected and qualified. All appeals from the alcaldes' courts were