

an abiding place for the Aborigines; in various parts of the valley the Indian mound builders erected mute evidence of their existence.

An Indian village on the northern limits of the present San Jose site, marked the first congregation of an organized community, and with the advance of the civilizing influence of the Franciscan Friars came the selection of a site for a Mission near the City of Santa Clara, about three miles distant.

Then came the advent of San Jose and Santa Clara as municipalities. San Jose is well situated at an altitude of from ninety to one hundred and fifty feet elevation; beyond the city limits the rise continues gradual until the foothills and mountains are reached, the latter, on either side, reaching an elevation of three thousand feet.

San Jose has fully aroused to her importance, and the citizens have been doing things with a vim and vigor. Buildings of steel and stone, Class 'A', from two to nine stories, have been erected, and others of reinforced concrete, modern in all appointments.

There is a feeling of security in the investments, because the growth of the city has been gradual, and a boom is not in the order of the controlling element.

Miles of paved streets have been built and are now in the course of construction, or contemplated by property owners. Recently (June, 1911), the citizens, in ten days, raised a fund of \$147,000 for a Young Men's Christian Association Building; the site has been selected and the property is in possession of the Association.

Following the Y. M. C. A. Campaign, the citizens, in nine days, added to the Chamber of Commerce, 2,057 new members; making a total of 2,270, making it a powerful organization for civic improvement and for all that is good for the community, not alone in San Jose, but in the entire County. In this campaign, as well as the preceding one, the people from every part of the county and from the cities throughout the county joined actively and earnestly and worked as a unit.

Immediately following this came the unanimous support of the voters of San Jose in which a bond issue for over three hundred thousand dollars was carried for civic improvements; of this, \$100,000.00 was for improvements in Alum Rock Park, and the building of a bath house in the park which will be the equal of anything on the Pacific Coast.

Alum Rock Park is a beautiful natural park of about one thousand acres, six miles from San Jose, connected by electric line, and is a city reservation, free to all. Sixteen developed mineral springs furnish curative properties to the public free for the asking.

San Jose is a cosmopolitan center, and a distributing point for