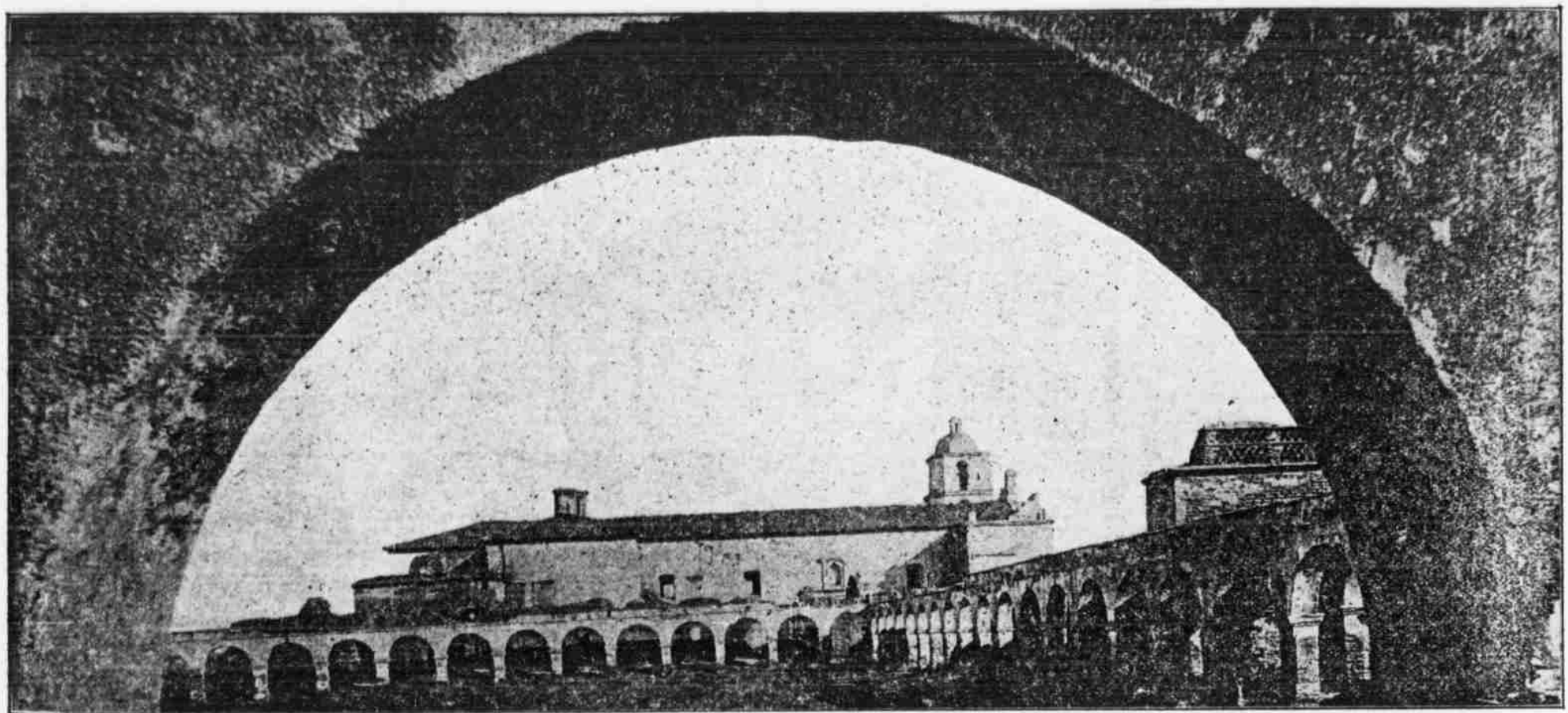


Picturesque Spanish Ruins in California



THE MISSION BUILDING FROM THE RUINED COURT, SAN LUIS REY.

THE palmy days of the eighteenth century are being revived in southern California. Brown-robed Franciscan monks have reappeared at the ancient mission of San Luis Rey, fifty miles north of San Diego, a citadel of strength and a haven of rest in the early days. But for two generations this mission has been almost entirely deserted, until in recent years it has become a mere picturesque ruin, its gray walls and arches crumbling, and its capacious halls and lofty towers abandoned and silent—a decaying monument of the former glory of Spain's church and state.

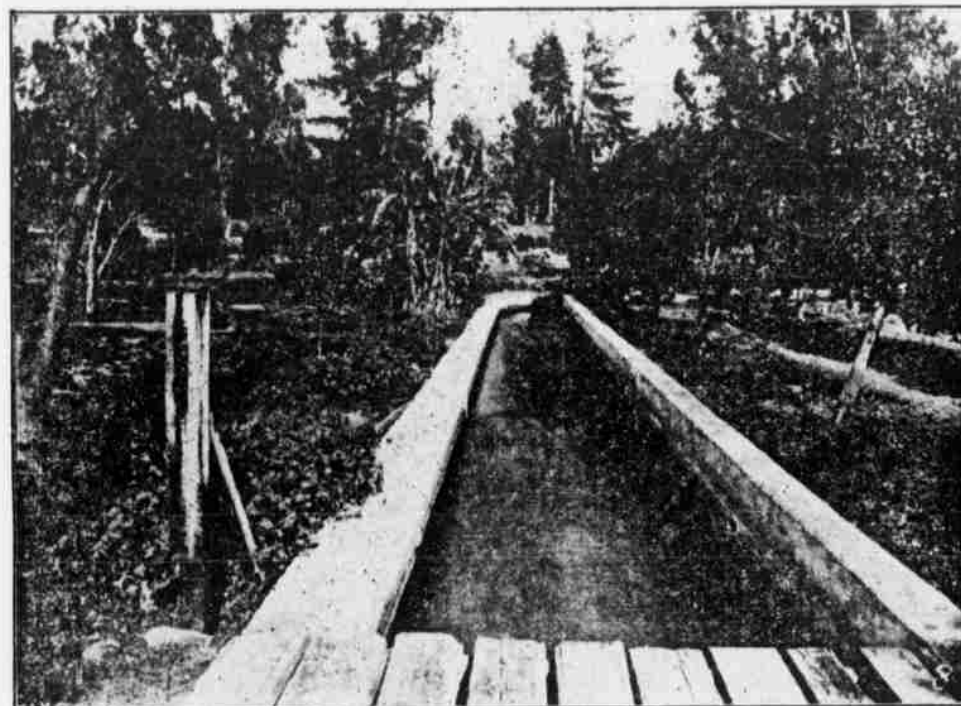
Beginning about the middle of the eighteenth century the Franciscans created a chain of these mission settlements, extending from San Diego, near the Mexican border, to Sonoma, north of San Francisco. They were located about one day's journey apart, for the convenience of travelers, but this feature was only incidental to the great spiritual, educational and economic work which they did for California, before the time of the American occupation.

The mission fathers selected the most fertile spots in beautifully sheltered valleys for their settlements. Here they built their churches, founded their schools and established communities, which took firm root upon the soil. Each community was made self-sufficient and self-sustaining. The useful arts and trades were taught and carried on. Within the shadow of the church, artisans and skilled workmen labored at their various tasks. Water was brought in irrigation ditches from the nearest stream flowing from the snow-capped Sierras, and field, orchard and garden, reclaimed from the desert, yielded of their abundance. The Franciscans were the teachers of the irrigation of the southwest, and this is perhaps the deepest and most lasting mark which they left on California's civilization.

This new activity at San Luis Rey has come as an entire surprise to the quiet neighborhood. Patriotic Americans have been engaged for some years past in an effort to preserve some of the old missions from further decay and even to restore them, to a certain extent. But those most familiar with this work did not dream that the industrious followers of St. Francis would ever return to make practical use of the old landmarks. Even now it is not known but that the movement is to extend to other historic spots.

However that may be, the gentle brotherhood has come back to San Luis Rey. The old church has been repaired and services are again held beneath its venerable roof. The cellars are being rebuilt and the irrigation aqueducts reconstructed. The fields will be tilled again and yield the same loyal support to the community.

The leader in the movement is Father O'Keefe, who came unheralded from Mexico and quietly set out upon the restoration of the old landmark. His fellow-laborers are all members of the Franciscan order and perform their heavy manual work in the brown cassocks that were familiar to generations now passed and forgotten. Father O'Keefe does not expect to revive the former economic life of the settlement in all its amplitude. Much has happened since his predecessors toiled and taught and ruled in these lovely southern valleys. Modern people have come with modern improvements and there is now no need of the paternal scheme which did so much for the simple population of the country a century or more ago. Father O'Keefe's plan is to convert the old mission into a self-



A CEMENT LINED IRRIGATION DITCH.

sustaining Franciscan college. Thus the spiritual and educational work will live again, but the social and economic features will not be restored, beyond what is necessary to meet the necessities of the monks themselves.

The mission fathers were the pioneers of European civilization among the coast hills of California. They supplied leadership and instruction to those who were engaged in founding homes and wresting a living from the gaunt appearing desert. The work which they began must still be continued, and upon a vastly larger scale, but it has passed to other hands—to the government of America and to an army of settlers who come from all parts of the world. The government is supplying both the capital and the expert knowledge needed in this conquest of the desert. It is laying the foundation of prosperity, pointing the way, and inviting the people to enter into their heritage. While its resources are far greater than those of the devoted missionaries who planted the seed of California, its spirit is much the same. It is helping the people to help themselves.

In one respect the mission fathers were better situated than Uncle Sam. They could locate their settlements in the choicest spots without encountering the "sooner," the speculator or the land-grabber, who had anticipated them by filling on the property under preposterous land laws. The cream of the country was open to the real settler and homebuilder in those days. There will be many a new "mission" founded in California—in the whole great west—missions dedicated to industry, thrift and the satisfaction of that craving for homes upon the soil which is a healthy American characteristic. But the future of these "missions" depends in large measure upon the intelligence of congress as a guardian and trustee of its children who are to build up and occupy these productive lands. Under existing laws, speculators are taking up in single entries from four to eight times as much land as is reasonably necessary for the support of a family. They are getting title to this land without living upon it for a day or an hour, since the laws do not require them to do so. While the richest agricultural lands are being rapidly ac-

quired for speculation and monopoly under one law, the splendid forests which clothe the western mountains are being consolidated into great holdings, under another law, to be held against the needs of coming generations. These things are nothing less than a crime against the children of the United States.

And the lesson taught by the brown-robed Franciscan monks of San Luis Rey was one of helpfulness and self-dependence, but not greed and rapacity. Will their successors, the United States, teach the same lesson to its children or will it carelessly allow the interloper to wrongfully profit at their expense? Congress has been asked to take some action on the land laws of the United States. It has failed or refused thus far to do so. If it recognizes public sentiment, it must no longer evade this issue, of importance to the west and to the United States.

Something for Nothing

If you want a practical illustration of how giving something for nothing works, pick out one of your old college friends who's too strong to work, or a sixteenth cousin who's missed connections with the express to Fortune, and say: "You're a pretty good fellow and I want to help you. After this I'm going to send you \$100 the first of every month until you've made a new start." He'll fairly sicken you with his thanks for that first \$100; he'll call you his generous benefactor over three or four pages for the second; he'll send you a nice little half page note of thanks for the third; he'll write, "Yours of the first with enclosure to hand—thanks," for the fourth; he'll forget to acknowledge the fifth, and when the sixth doesn't come promptly he'll wire, collect: "Why this delay in sending my check? Mail at once." And all this time he won't have stirred a step in the direction of work, because he'll have reasoned, either consciously or unconsciously: "I can't get a job that will pay me more than \$100 a month to start with, but I'm already drawing \$100 without working; so what's the use?" But when a fellow can't get a free pass, and he has any sort of stuff in him, except what hoboes are made



PALMS NEAR SAN LUIS REY.

of, he'll usually hustle for his carfare rather than ride through life on the bumpers of a freight.—Saturday Evening Post.

New Garbage Plan

The city garbage in future may be converted into fuel having twice the number of heat units as soft coal if the proposition of the National Garbage Fuel company is considered favorably by the city council. The company is a new one. P. M. Harmon is president and Samuel F. Knox treasurer. The offices are in the Masonic temple.

A number of demonstrations have been held before prominent chemists and sanitary experts. A test, which was pronounced satisfactory, was held yesterday at the Chisholm, Boyd & White company's plant, Fifty-first and Wallace streets.

According to the statement of President Harmon, the garbage is made into bricks of fuel weighing one pound each. It is smokeless and odorless when burned. The reducing plants, it is said, will be free from odor, also. The company proposes to save the city \$240,000 a year.—Chicago Tribuna.

Horrors

The returned war correspondent was describing the terrible scenes on the battlefield.

"When we entered the fort, we saw heaps of dead and wounded lying about. The sight was awful."

"Oh, go and get a reputation!" exclaimed the sporting editor. Then he began to tell about the automobile race and the war correspondent blushed and finally skulked away, like the beaten man that he was.—Cleveland Leader.