



*On The Beginnings of Basque-American press:
An Analysis on the Newspaper Californiako
Eskual Herria (1893)*

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the Basque-American newspaper *Californiako Eskual Herria*, based on the used, as the main source, of the collection of remaining issues of the newspaper as published within the *Urazandi* collection¹.

During this essay, firstly as a contextualization, I give information about the Basque people who left the Basque Country to move to the Unites States, why moved, how they lived once in the States, on what they worked. On the other hand there is also information about the Basque language; its different varieties, when, where and how the language was used in the diasporic historical context. Later, I explain the content of the source and some conclusions I reached after analyzing all the issues of the newspaper from July to December of the year 1893; the very first year of the newspaper.

For the analysis, I divided the newspaper in different sections: there is information² about the director of the newspaper, how the newspaper is organized explaining, and what appears in each page, which sometimes changed during the different issues but not always and a path can be found too. Besides, there are two other important parts, one is the **news** given in the newspaper by analyzing where are the news from and how often they appear. The other part will be the different **advertisements** of the newspaper; in what language they were written, what language the advertisers speak, what they try to sell in the advertisement. The same way as I did with the news, this time I will also explain how often the advertisements appear. Moreover, for a better understanding of this last part, I made two graphics for a more visual idea of the topic.

Last but not least, I made some conclusions about the newspaper and what I have analyzed on it, and also there is some conclusion about the project itself too.

Introduction

¹**DVD 7: Estados Unidos** in Urazandi digital (2007) Hemeroteca de la diáspora vasca 01, prensa americana y de otros países. Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Argitalpen Zerbitzu Nagusia, Vitoria-Gasteiz

² Information about his life, writing, point of view....

This project will be related with the use of the Basque language in the Diaspora. Due to the amplitude of the topic, I decided to focus it to the continent of America, there into the United States of America, and as still that became too wide, I reduced it to the State Of California. There I will only analyze some few years of the 19th century, by studying a newspaper called *Californiako Eskual Herria*.

Before *Californiako Eskual Herria*, there was another newspaper published in the United States in Basque: *Escualdun Gazeta*. It was published in the years 1885 and 1886, only three numbers³. Regarding *Californiako Eskual Herria*, it was published every Saturday between the years 1893⁴ and 1897, and due to the extent numbers, I will be analyzing from the first number of the newspaper, on the 15th July 1893, until the last issue of that same year, on the 30th of December. These issues can be found in LIB 1, numbers 1-16 and LIB 2, numbers 1-9.

In order to write this essay, I had used general and specific bibliography on this subject, as well as the *Californiako Eskual Herria* newspaper itself, even though there are more Basque related news and more Basque written newspapers. To contemplate all of them would be too much for this paper. During the composition, I will mainly focus in the newspaper just named to learn about the importance of the Basque people and the Basque language in the USA during the time period of 1893 and 1897, which both are in the same decade.

While trying to be thorough with the work, I will try to draw conclusions with what can be found in the newspaper, and for that, I will divide my essay in different chapters in each one I will give information about a different aspect found in the newspaper.

Basque migration to California

The Basques have been traveling all around the world since long time ago. Some of the destinations were in Latin America and later the United States of America, mostly looking for work and/or trade of colonial aims (Totoricagüena, 2003, 82).

In the time it concerns us for the project, there were some main reasons for mainly young men going overseas leaving their home and everything they knew for going to an unknown country, for example avoiding the obligation to do the military service which

³ At least only three numbers have been found (Diaz-Noci, 2001,5)

⁴ Even if Arbelbide says the newspaper was created in July of 1894 (Arbelbide, 2003, 14)

was an obligation⁵ for all young men in Spain and France (Totoricagüena, 2003, 87), or due to the primogeniture system⁶ there was in the Basque Country at the time (Totoricagüena, 2003, 89).

It is almost impossible to know with certainty the number of Basques arriving at the USA because there were not effective records of the ones leaving a country neither the ones getting into a country (Totoricagüena, 2003, 90), but some accounts give us to understand that between the years 1849 and 1851 several hundred of Basques entered California (Douglas & Bilbao, 1975, 209). Regarding the different Basques that went to the USA around the nineteenth century, it can be seen that depending the different geographical zone in the Basque Country, they would go to different areas in the United States too; the ones from the Basque Country in France (Nafarroa Behera, Lapurdi and Zuberoa) as well as the inhabitants of the Spanish part of Navarre were more likely to choose a destiny such as California and western Nevada, while from Biscay they would mainly go to Idaho, Eastern Oregon or Northern Nevada (Totoricagüena, 2003, 206). The Gipuzkoans, according to Zubiri never went to the USA in big numbers (Zubiri, 1998, 15). Although, before traveling from Europe, Basques traveled North from South America (mainly Argentina, Mexico and Chile) (Totoricagüena, 2003, 203) to California once it became part of United States, by annexing it, in 1848 (Zubiri, 1998, 14).

In general, many of the Basque inhabitants who were interested in working, and sometimes also settling in the United States, in the 19th century they, chose the West Coast of USA as their destination, as a result of the Gold Rush of 1848 (Douglas, 1999, 163), because the Basques had a long standing trade relation with that continent (mainly the people from Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia) (Totoricagüena, 2003, 94). During the Gold Rush, not all men would be able to find gold, but by 1852 there were already Basque camps close to mining areas and there is some evidence, which prove that as for example a

⁵ A large amount of men who were in age of fighting in the Carlist war traveled to the USA to avoid the war and as an aim to stop that de Provincial Council fined the ones caught leaving the country, which most surely made the number of travelers in clandestinely go up. Once they realized the fines did not stop the journey, they decided to prohibit the travel except to the ones having “*Buena conducta moral y política, ..., y sean reclamados por los parientes acomodados en América.*” (Santiso, 1991, 168-169)

⁶ The primogeniture was a system where the oldest of a family, usually male, would inherit all the family goods and be the one in charge of the family when the father died.

newspaper which would occasionally write an article in Basque (Douglass & Bilbao, 1975, 211).

Basque presence in California

Most of the travelers to the West were related with shepherding and cattle ranching because their towns of origin usually were rural towns and lived a farming life with an “*underdeveloped agricultural lifestyle*” according to Totoricagüena (Totoricagüena, 2003, 207). At first, single men from rural areas (Zubiri, 1998, 14) with almost no money and no intention of breaking the ties with the Old World (Douglass & Bilbao, 1975, 231), were the typical travelers to California, but later on, it would become a habit to send family members and neighbors overseas, to make money as shepherders and then go back to the Basque Country as a rich men⁷ (Zubiri, 1998, 15-16). Later on, when East and West coast were connected by railway, more individuals travelled to the West coast for been easier, shorter and cheaper to go there and most of the times, as I said before, they would go to places they knew someone (Totoricagüena, 2003, 205), and that is when the phenomena of Basque boardinghouses and hotels started (always close to railway stops), considering the travelers wanted to find something familiar the first time in the New World. These areas later became Basque neighborhoods, so this shows that Basques stayed together once they reach their destination (Zubiri, 1998, 18), not integrating much in the New Worlds lifestyle even, if at the time there was not a super population in California. Likewise, in addition to the places for sleep, the Basque inhabitants would open taverns and businesses “*to service a Basque clientele*” (Douglass & Bilbao, 1975, 212).

Few years after the Gold Rush, it become evident that it would not be a lucrative activity for all the men involved on it, but they all need to survive, so some decided to move to raising cattle, later sheep and some would even become owners or managers of hotels, farms or boarding houses. Shepherding became the biggest catch for Basques traveling to California, even though it did not have the best salaries (Totoricagüena, 2003, 204-207). For the year 1860, partnerships grew in number as well as the number of Basques sheep owners hiring Basques preferably, and by the year 1870 most of the Basques

⁷ Although the salaries were low, it was more than they would be making if they had stayed in the home country. Moreover, “*in many cases it was only pride that kept them from fleeing back home.*” (Zubiri, 1998, 16)

working in the shepherd's industry did not have own lands, nor a big number of sheep. As I have already said, the sheep industry did not need much technique, but Basques brought some of their own knowledge to try to improve on how to raise sheep (Douglass & Bilbao, 1975, 212-215, 223-224, 231-232).

The 1880's were the best time for Basque shepherders and all the Basques involved in that business, so some Basques bought ranches and properties in the area they would work. Decadence started only a decade later, and at the same time, "*itinerant Basque sheepmen became increasingly rare in southern California.*" (Douglass & Bilbao, 1975, 233-234).

The Basque language, why they use that specific euskalki?

"*Homeland and diaspora Basques refer to themselves as "Euskaldunak" or "speakers of Euskara", the Basque language, although the majority of both do not speak Euskara.*" (Totoricagüena, 2003, 56).

The newspaper is written in Basque language. But in the Basque language there are more than one dialect (*euskalki*)⁸ and the unified written norm or *batua*. The Basque used to write the papers is the Basque dialect of Northern Basque Country⁹, the one located in France. Moreover, the main Basque population living in California was from the Northern Basque Country as I mentioned before making reference to a book of Totoricagüena, so it makes sense that the newspaper was written in their *euskalki*. Besides, the newspaper is not written a 100% in Basque; they use some French words (for example: lapin, punir or gendarmerie), Spanish words (for example: moro or doncella) and English words (for example: sheriff, vice president or Congress); sometimes, they use words in these languages trying to make them sound Basque (for example: yudu, agrikultura or ambasadurra). From my point of view this happens due to the evolution that a language has when it gets mixed with other languages, cultures, people, live styles... Time is another influential factor regarding the changes a language experiences, and another

⁸ The Basque language has an official way to write and speak but almost in every county, there is a different variation of Basque. It changes some words, how you write some others, and the pronunciation of some.

⁹ This can be deduced from the word choose the author does while writing the newspaper, including French words in Basque content

important factor is the necessity that new countries, areas and places create in the inhabitants because previously, they were words they did not need, so that change creates the need for new word (they do not have), so they take those from the language of the country they go, in this case that would be the English. Furthermore, many proper nouns (most of them from places) are left untouched, others change depending how they are pronounced and some others vary in each writing. This are some of the examples; New York or Canada are written always like that but Chili (referring to Chile) is written as it sounds in English, and the word Jew in Basque *judutar* can be written as I just did or *yudutar*, as well as *Soledad canon-ean* or *Soledad-eko cañonean*. As a result of this, and from my point of view, there is not an only writing mode on this newspaper and even though the director was a public notary in the same city, he might not be that well studied in other languages apart from Basque, or he did not care about the spelling of the words but only cared about the readers been able to read his newspaper and like it because it was written not in a very formal and “cold” way, but in a “everyday” Basque.

How are the news written?

The news are written in two different ways; some are formally written but most of the news are written in an informal and colloquial way. That could be because in the time the newspapers were written the percentage of illiterates in the population was big and also, there were not as many writing rules as there are nowadays for how to write official writings and papers there were going to be published. According to Diaz-Noci, the news were written in clear Basque with few words (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 44) for a better understanding.

Who are they directed to?

The newspaper is made for all the Basque inhabitants or at least Basque speakers (due to the fact that the newspaper is written completely in Basque language), not just for the ones living in California, although most of the readers lived there. But in the issues from December 1983 of *Californiako Eskual Herria*, there is more than one advertiser telling the readers they could send that newspaper to their family members over in the Basque Country. Moreover, there also are some different letters sent to the newspaper on which readers from Mexico say they like the newspapers, so it can be deduced that there are Basque readers there too. Moreover, the newspaper also had readers in Rio de la Plata, Nevada and Idaho (Diaz-Noci, 2001, 6).

The Director and main characteristics of the newspaper

The director and main writer of the paper is Jean Pierre Goytino. He was born in 1860 in Ainhoa (France). With 14 years he entered in a seminary but soon moved to a public school from which was thrown out due to his low republicanism (Arbelbide, 2006, 117-118). That makes us understand why the main language of newspaper is Basque from the Northern Basque Country. Later, he went to America but before establishing in California he spent some time in Mexico (Diaz-Noci, 2001, 7), and one in California, where, as I mentioned before, he worked for another Basque for a short period of time. Later on, he worked as a lawyer, with mostly Basque illiterate clients, and he also worked in law courts as translator (Arbelbide, 2006, 119).

Apart from being the director of *Californiako Eskual Herria*, he was also Los Angeles's public notary; even though he did not have law studies, he learned by being in the tribunals and that is why he was accepted as public notary (Arbelbide, 2006, 120). Moreover, Goytino was a Republican and he gave his political opinion throughout the news¹⁰ (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 43).

He wrote *Californiako Eskual Herria*, which was the third newspaper written completely in Basque according to Arbelbide, although Basque was not the only language used; some of the advertisement were written in English and French (Arbelbide, 2006, 119-120).

Californiako Eskual Herria was the second newspaper published in Basque in United States. It was more successful than the predecessor *Eskualdun Gazeta* (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 43), and some of the factors that contributed to the triumph of his newspaper were its low price, the way it was written so everybody could understand it, not very long news, the inclusion of writings (letter, songs, news...) the readers sent, and clear political ideas (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 45).

It was an informative newspaper. In every publications first page has a section with who is the author, were was made and the price of it in America (3\$ per year or 1\$ every three months) and France (15 pounds per years and had to be pay at the beginning of the year). The author uses distributors in different locations as San Francisco, Tehachapi, San Diego

¹⁰ He gave information about the elections in France in many weeks (26th of August, 9th, 16th and 23rd of September), because he also liked are care about polls in the Basque Country (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 44).

or Los Angeles, for spreading the newspaper, and to get more news from different places for making it more interesting (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 44). From July to November the newspaper's dimensions were 40x28 cm, but from November on, it got bigger becoming 50x33 cm, so that, more information could be given (Arbelbide, 2003, 15).

Since the first edition the author gave information¹¹ from the United States as well as news from Europe, mainly from Northern Basque Country because Goytino was from there. Apart from the news, it also had advertisements and literature (poems, stories and songs) (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 44).

Moreover, according to Goytino he supposedly started printing 200 issues and he arrived to print 2.000, but Arbelbide says he does not believe these numbers and that they might be an exaggeration (Arbelbide, 2006, 120).

How is the newspaper organized

In the following lines I will explain how *Californiako Eskual Herria* is organized; the number of pages and what appears on each page. The newspaper I have analyzed has 4 pages in each publication, and most of the issues, more or less always have the same content, although it might vary a little bit sometimes.

What does appear in each page?

I will give an overview of what can be found in each page of the newspaper. But before doing that, I want to emphasize that the content varies throughout the months I have analyzed; some elements are the same but others vary.

On the first page of *Californiako Eskual Herria*, as I said before there is some general information about the newspaper and then there are some **news** in all of them, which vary depending what happened. In all the issues different short news can be found; locals, nationals and internationals¹². In the internationals one I separated the news from Spain

¹¹ There were killings, conflicts and law suits (Diaz-Noci, 1995, 45), as well as news with information from Basques coming and going to and from the United States, their health and family issues

¹² An example of local news: on August there were 10.000 unemployed inhabitants in San Francisco, national news: the Congress will be deciding about customs for animal hair on December, and an example of international news: the cholera is spreading over Europe

and France and the rest of the world. Related with that, on this first page of the newspaper there is a section called *Eskual-Herriko berriak* which gives news from the Basque Country, mainly from the northern Basque Country, but as this will not start been written until September, before that few news from the Basque Country could be read on this page.

Moreover, on this first page there is another section called *Han Hemenka* part on which there news from all over the place. This section only appears six times in the 25 issues of the newspaper I have analyzed, always when there was not *Eskual-Herriko berriak* segment.

Besides, another division is the one called *Gure Erresuma*, it was only written twice; in one it only talks about news from the USA, but in the other there are news from Spain (Santander was burnt) but also speaks about the elections in the United States, so the writer does not follow a clear path when writing this section.

The last piece of the news information can be found in *Mexico-ko berriak* on which news only from Mexico are presented. This one was the less habitual news section because it appears only three times. Nevertheless, this kind of sections with news from different more local news can be found in others pages throughout the newspaper.

As an exception, on the 15th of July and 12th of August, the news of this first page are accompanied by some drawings (both times portraits) always related to the topic of the news. In some rare occasions, the author of the newspaper shows some *olerki/ bertso* or songs about different topics, but they all have in common they are written in Basque.

In general there are some **advertisements**, which just appear on this page as three train companies, all with New York as departure (*Red Star Line, Compagnie Bordelaise and Compagnie Generale Transatlantique*) and with overseas destinies; Anvers, Havre and Bordeaux, but only can be found in November and December, not earlier than that. Another advertisement which appears all the months is the one in different languages¹³ it says that the newspaper is the only Basque newspaper published in North America and that is it published in Los Angeles every Saturday. Another advertisement which only

¹³ In July (except for the first issue) in English, French and Spanish, from August until the last week of November in addition to the already mentioned it appears in German, and on the last issue of November and on December it is Italian too

appears three times (one in November and two on December) on this page is the one called *Mes. Graham's face powder*¹⁴; this one, in contrast to the ones before, is written in English.

Besides, only once an commercial about a working office can be seen; *Besson eta Des Marais enpleamendu ofizinak*, it is written in Basque but it says that they talk Spanish, French, Italian and German and as well it gives the address of their office and the names of the owners of the business.

Like the previous advertisement, *S. Conrad urre eta diamante* add can be only found once. It is also written in Basque but they talk Spanish and French too, and it gives the address in addition to the location.

Moreover, and as the last ad on this first page, there is an ad about an lawyer which only appears on this page three times in divided in July and August, *M. V. Biscailuz*¹⁵. This one also is written in Basque, it says he is a Basque lawyer and gives his address so people knows where could be found in case of needing him.

The **second page** has different sections. Related to the **news**, in 21 out of 25 pieces there is a section called *Herriko eta inguruetako berriak*, on which there could be find all kind of news¹⁶ from the continent of America (news from the USA and Mexico mostly). In general, many of the news are related with Basque people; in some appear Basques and in some others the Basques suffer consequences because of what it says there.

Apart from that, one of the parts that appears most, is *Herritarreri*, there it tells what the ones that do not want to receive the newspaper need to do.

¹⁴ It is a very small add of some face powders. It also says that for two cents a sample can be send for trying and then buy it at the store

¹⁵ Martin Biscailuz travelled to United States in 1840 and he set as an advocate in Los Angeles, becoming the lawyer of the Basque people. He wrote *Escualdun Gazeta*, in 1885, which only lasted 3 issues, due to the lack of subscribers for paying the printings (he needed 65 supporters) (Arbelbide, 2006, 122-123).

¹⁶ An example of those news: on Mexico a man burned his wife, the names of the Basque ill inhabitants, a train has been robbed, news of the weather (the rain, the snow, the lack of ran...) and the disasters it can create

Furthermore, there also are the sections called *Letra eskualdunak*¹⁷, *Eskual-Herria*¹⁸, *Papurrak*¹⁹. They only appears 8 times out of 25 issues, but can appear in the third page too. Moreover, there are four different chapters they could be all fit inside one; the all are “*berriak*” but each one from a different place (San Diego²⁰, San Francisco²¹, Tehachapi²², Mexico and Texas) - It has the name of the place and then “*berriak*”²³.

In addition, the *Asteko Merkhatua* section, which can be found twice on this page but some more times in other pages, gives information about the price of different products²⁴. Last but not least. before starting with the ads, there is a not very popular section called *Heriotzea*, only written twice in December, on which it gives information about a dead person²⁵, the same way we still have nowadays in our newspapers.

After explaining the informational news on this page, I will continue with advertisements: on this page a bank (*Farmers and Merchants bank*), a shoe store (*The queen shoe store*²⁶),

¹⁷ It announces the letters found in Hotel des Pyrenees and in the post some days before and nobody has collect them. This section appear only the months of November and December.

¹⁸ It gives information about who is the writer of the newspaper and where is the office located.

¹⁹ Different small news appear here, all of them are related with the Basques in some way. An example of those news: a Basque man has presented his last will in the court, the hair price on which it is sell in San Francisco, some shepherds are going to move to Texas on spring

²⁰ “*San Diego has never had a significant Basque Community.*” (Zubiri, 1998, 125), something it does not make a lot of sense if on the newspaper it had an section of its own

²¹ “*San Francisco has the oldest surviving Basque Community in the American West*” (Zubiri, 1998, 183), making the city a place where a lot of Basque inhabitants could be found, making it so important that the author gave him a segment in the newspaper

²² Apparently, “*A mini-colony of Basques existed for many years in the mountain town of Tehachapi*” (Zubiri, 1998, 169) and it seems like more than a Basque Hotel was located over there.

²³ It gives local news of the place they are referring too. They do not appear regularly; the least is *Texas-eko berriak* once and the most is *Tehachapi-ko berriak* five time. This last one only can be found in December, but the others can be read before that month and *Mexico-ko berriak* does not appear after November.

²⁴ An example of the products: bread, eggs, chickens. The prices are in dollars and the weight is on tones or hundredweights

²⁵ How, when and where it dies as well as when and when the bury would be

²⁶ Only find it once on this page in December. It gives the address, and it says when buying more than 3 pairs there would be a Christmas present and that the prices went down 10% in that month.

a hotel (*Iberia Hotela*²⁷) and an office that offers work (*Besson eta Des Marais enpleamendu ofizina*²⁸) are offering their services.

On the **third page**, something curious happens, or maybe they decided to follow a path on how to organize this page; from July to October many different segments (with news and advertisements) can be found, but on November and December the 9 numbers are almost the same with small changes, and even the numbers of the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd of December are identical.

Regarding what can be found I will mention and explain as I have done with the previous pages. From July to October there is a section called *Papurrak*. Moreover, there are some other elements that could sometimes also be found on the previous page, such as *Herriko eta inguertako berriak*, and “*berriak*” which each one is from a place, some the same but not all (San Francisco, Tehachapi, Tres Pinos, San Jose, San Diego, Bishop, San Juan-eko Ur beroak and Mexico).

A similar section (giving information from a specific place), is *Fresno-ko ingrain*, that only can be found twice. Going back to repeated parts, there are also *Letra eskualdunak* on this page. Besides, in a general way, in July, there are random news, with different sections every week.

The same way as it happens on the fourth page, in this one there are quite a lot of advertisement that appear in both pages, and there are some that also appear on the previous page. These are some of those advertisements²⁹: a remedy for curing sheep³⁰, a

²⁷ Only find it twice on this page in December. It is written in Basque, it gives the name of the owner and it says it is a place for the Basques of Kern County to live. This hotel is mentioned in Zubiri’s book as the oldest Basque boardinghouse in Bakersfield (Zubiri, 1998, 154-155)

²⁸ Only find it once on this page in December. It gives the address, the phone number and the name of the owners. Moreover, it says is an office to find work for men and women and that they talk in Spanish, French, Italian and German.

²⁹ Not all the advertisements give a clear explanation of what they are trying to sell, other times it just gives the same of the products and some others are well explained

³⁰ It starts appearing on September and it can be found on 3rd and 4th pages. It is written in Basque, it gives the address and the phone number

photographer (*Bertrand argazkilaria*³¹), banks (*Saving bank & trust co., farmer and Merchants bank*), lawyers (*M.V. Biscailuz abokatua, Horace H. Appel abokatua*³²)

And at the **last page**, there are many different **advertisements**, almost the same advertisements every month (some in Basque and other in English about different topics), but depending the month that publicity vary as I will explain later on. Moreover, in the fourth page, some **information** can also be found, and the news can vary; some are about United States (there can be local market information but also news from San Diego in a more global aspect), some about Europe. These most of the time are on the first column of the fourth page but from September on, the percentage of news goes down and it is replaced by poems and/ or songs.

On November, in addition to the previous sections the writer starts writing some short stories which last more than one week; one of them lasts two weeks (*Qui potest caper, capiar*) another lasts 6 weeks (*Ama Birjina Arazazu-koaren kondaira*) and the last one starts the last week of December (*Erroma eta Jerusalem*).

The news the newspaper gives

And as a start I will begin with the news. As I explained in the description of the pages, there are different kind of sections on which news can be found, and sometimes specific pieces have different type of news. As mentioned, there are local, national and international news. Totoricagüena mentions that “*Emigrants were likely to send only good news home*” (Totoricaguena, 2003, 97), but the reality in the newspaper different; there are also bad news, like when someone died or got ill, when the sheep owners and shepherders were losing money due to the low price of the hair or because they did not sell almost any.

Local, national and international

³¹ I appears for the first time in October and then again in November and December almost every week. It is written in Basque, it says is a French photographer and it gives the adress.

³² M.V. Biscailuz: it appears 5 times until November and on that month as well as in December it can be found every week except the 30th of December, it says is a Basque lawyer. Horace H. Appel: it appears once in September and again every week in November and December, it mentions he speaks Spanish. Both are written in Basque and it gives the address

Local news was written in the next sections: *Herritarrei*, *Papurrak*, *San Diegoko berriak*, *San Franciscoko berriak*, *Tehachapiko berriak*, *Tres Pinosetako berriak*, *San Joseko berriak*, *Texaseko berriak*, *Bishopeko berriak*, *San Juar Ur Beroetako berriak*, *Asteko merkatua* and *Fresnoko ingirian*. On each one, especially on the ones with the name of a place on it, they have local news the majority related with the Basques. Additionally, a national news are found in *Gure Erresuma* and *Herriko eta inguruetako berriak*.

An interesting new which could be categorizes as national and international is the one regarding the Chinese people; The first mention of them it is the 22nd of July giving an information about a law that was passed in Washington the year before prohibiting their entrance to the United States, and saying on the 5th of May that all the Chinese need to be deported. The law is not applied and some people are not happy about it. Next appearance was the 5th of August, when Goytino says the Chinese are lost and that once they are arrested, their punishment is to be deported to China. Moreover, on the 19th of August the workers of Fresno meet up to decide how to fire the Chinese workers in their town. In the next week's issue, it can be read that some people went to the "*chinotegi*" of Tulare and arrested 30 of the Chinese for later taking them to San Francisco.

In the issue from the 2nd of September 4 different news can be found related with the Chinese: a Chinese has been hang in prison; a war against them has started because last week; 5 Chinese were arrested; some inhabitants from San Bernardino, Redlands and Riverside have been forced to marry Chinese individuals but the National Guard arrived and stopped that for happening. The last news says that it seems Chinese people kidnap kids for latter selling them as slaves in other towns. On the 9th of the same month, five Chinese were expelled, and in the 16th the Chinese minister in Washington says he will change his passport if the Unites States continues arresting Chinese inhabitants. On the last issue of this month, in the county of Norwalk 1000 Chinese have been killed.

The last mention of the Chinese appears the 4th of November, when the US government gives 6 month to the Chinese to sign up, and if they don't do it, they would be expatriated.

On this section, all kinds of international news can be read; if we regard France and the northern Basque Country³³, for example, we could find information about elections, about who is moving to the Unites States, killings between neighbors of the same town,

³³ For example; Ziburu, Bidart, Biarritz or Urrugne

celebrations of the festivity of different towns... There is also information about other countries been this some of the countries mentioned: Italy, Brazil, Mexico, England, Republic of Argentina, Nicaragua, Germany and Switzerland.

How often does the news appear?

The news, appears in every publication of the newspaper, at least in three pages, which is understandable if we think that we are talking about a newspaper written from and for the Basque people. It was made for the people living out of (some of them) their homeland, in their language, to know about other people living outside their homeland, but also about the country they are living in now, and the country they left and where people they love and miss still live.

Advertisements in the papers

Language in which the ads are written

Next, I will continue by analyzing the advertisements found in the newspapers. In *Californiako Eskual Herria*, most of the advertisements are written in Basque (%77), although there is a small percentage (%23) written in English. This could be related to the receptors of the newspapers; *Californiako Eskual Herria's* main public are Basque people, who know Basque but not necessarily any other language, even if they live in the USA. Despite that, I have described that this paper had also some reader outside the United States who could not be able to read English too, but if they read the newspaper, it is clear that they could read Basque.

Language in which the advertiser speaks

Related with that, almost in every ad, except in the ones that are selling something, it is written which languages they talk, which can vary depending the language the protagonist of the commercial talks or to whom the sample is directed to. All the ads that could offer services to the Basques like lawyers, banks, job offices, hotels, doctors, embalmer, dentist, Basque gathering, mutual aid association, public notary, insurances or a photographer would be written in Basque language, and due to where they are published we could guess they do speak Basque. Taking into account the percentages shown before, regarding the languages in which they are written, out of 48 advertisements 37 are written in Basque, and of those, the 3% of the advertisement says they speak Spanish, in the 5%

speak French, in the 8% they speak French and Spanish, in the 3% they speak French, Spanish, Italian and German. In the rest 81%, it does not say which language they speak. So there are 30 commercials on which it does not say what language they speak, but taking into account they are written in Basque and printed in a Basque newspaper, they would all speak Basque, as is clear they want Basque clients in their businesses.

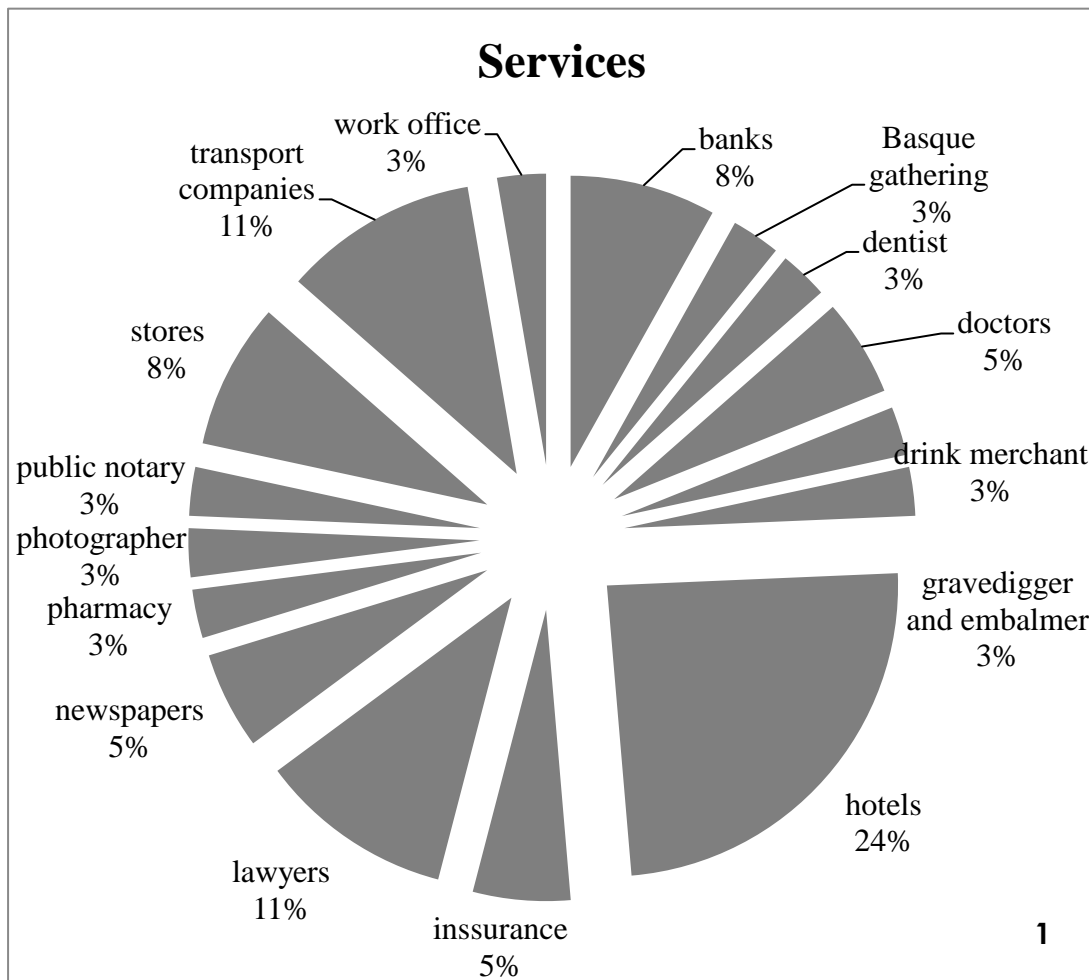
What do they try to sell?

The different ads try to sell different things, but there are some topics and groups on which they could be classified. For a start, there are some that sell services, but others sell products. On the first group a subdivision could be made, and these are some of them: health³⁴, hotels, legal services³⁵, banks, train companies or a photographer among others. On the second group there are face powders, a book or a revolver for example. I made the next graphics for a visual explanation, and these will be analyzed and explained following them.

On the graphic number 1, I have included all the advertisement it seemed to me are services and on the graphic number 2, I show the products.

³⁴ Doctors, dentist and pharmacy

³⁵ Lawyers, public notary and work office



I will start by explaining the number one first; on the graphic it can be seen that the biggest percentage of advertisements are of **hotels**³⁶ (24%), because, as I explained it at the beginning, many Basques took as a profession to open hotels once the sheepherding did not go as well as they thought, or some others did that considering the newly arrived Basques would needed a place to stay until they settled and find a job.

The **transport companies**³⁷ (% 11, train and vapor ships) have the second highest number of advertisements, which is very understandable, if we take into account most of the travelers (Basques included) arrived in California mainly from the east of United States in train. At the same time, for arriving at the United States or in their return trip to the Basque Country they needed to cross the ocean so they needed ships for that travel. It looks it would be easier to have the trip bought before arriving to New York than having

³⁶ Iberia hotela, New Lake House, Piute Hotel (it was located in Tehachapi), Hotel d'Europe, Buena Vista House, Hotel d'Europe direkzio berria, Escualdun ostatua and Hotel des Pyrenees (it was located in Bakersfield and although Zubiri says this hotel could be the same as Iberia Hotel but renamed after having a new owner (Zubiri, 1998, 154-155), I can say I do not agree with her since there are advertisements of both hotels in *Californiako Eskual Herria* at the same time

³⁷ Southern California Ry, Compagnie borldeaise, Red Star Line and Compagnie generale transatlantique

to do it over there, although there are some examples of people losing all the money (or having it stolen) on their travel from California to New York, so they cannot travel anymore to the Basque Country and have to make their travel back to California. This shows that individuals would also buy tickets, or hope to buy tickets, once they arrived in New York.

In addition, with the same percentage there are the **lawyers**³⁸, who apparently were much needed, as it can be seen all through the news in *Californiako Eskual Herria*, to protect the Basques against different lawsuits, from the government against shepherders, but also due to disputes between Basque inhabitants or Basques against other nationalities inhabitants in different towns.

The first mentions of these law issues are from the 22nd of July on where it says that a Basque shepherd has been arrested for going into the government's lands³⁹. On the 29th of the same month, two shepherders were arrested for the same reason and on the same issue it is mentioned that in San Bernardino they were preparing a law against the Basque shepherders. Later on, the 5th of August two shepherds have been arrested again for entering government's lands. The following week, apparently an American shoot two Basque-French shepherders but when they went to court, the jury only believed the American who said he was not guilty. On the same issue, San Bernardino is mentioned again because the official of the place are always looking for and after Basque shepherders. Moreover, for more than a month there is not news about this topic until the 30th of September where there is a division called *Gerla eta Bitoria* on where it says two Basques won a trial against them and they want to do a fundraising for others in the same situation, so they can be able to pay good lawyers and win their cases. The 7th of October the same section can be found as well as a new about. And in the last new about Basque Shepherders in the analyzed period, again one shepherd has been arrested for trespassing government's lands, the 25th of November.

³⁸ Horace H. Appel, M.V. biscailuz, N. C. Bledose and Eugene Daney

³⁹ Even if Zubiri says that “*the public lands were not so crowded, because the use of public land was crucial to the survival of small-time sheep operators.*” (Zubiri, 1998, 17), from the news in the newspaper can be understood, the reality, at least during sometime, was different

There are also other advertisement, **stores**⁴⁰ and **banks**⁴¹ could be found (8%), as a result of Basque people needing to use them; during the different issues it is mentioned that the banks were having a bad time and many were closing, maybe that is why they need to advertise themselves. Moreover, one out of the three banks that appears is for farmers and merchants, what the majority of Basques were.

Whit smaller percentage, we can found more **services**; with the 5% of presence there are **doctors**⁴², **newspapers**⁴³ and **insurances**⁴⁴. The doctors are important and more if they knew Basque, since not all the individuals who migrated to America knew English, so it would be difficult to communicate. The newspapers mentioned are written for farmers in English; consequently they were not rivalry for *Californiako Eskual Herria*, but they could be interesting for Basques who knew English and worked in rural areas. On the insurances it is said what they cover and what would happen in case of illness or death, important if we remember that many of the first travelers to the USA wanted to make money and return home, something they could not do if they die, neither if they were ill and could not work. According to Zubiri, “*Some of the earliest Basque organizations were mutual aid societies*” (Zubiri, 1998, 20), from what it can understand it was an important endeavor for the Basque people.

Last but not least (3%), there are the **work office**⁴⁵ which would provide or try to find some job for the recently arrived Basques but also for the unemployed ones; **Basque gathering**⁴⁶ on where the Basque people could meet and share every days life as well as things from the Basque Country and also it was a place where they could meet new people

⁴⁰ Au bon marche (it sells clothes, shoes and hats), The queen shoe store (it sells shoes) and S. Conradi urre eta diamanteak (is sells things made out of gold and diamonds)

⁴¹ Los Angeles saving bank, Farmers and merchants bank and Saving bank & trust co.

⁴² Dr. De Szigethy (is French who also speaks Spanish. It gives the office and house addresses as well as the phones) and Dr. Zabala (is a Basque doctor who has work in Paris and Madrid. It gives the address and the phone number)

⁴³ American Farm & News (it is a farmers newspaper from Ohio) and The American Farmer (it is the oldest farmers newspaper)

⁴⁴ A. C. Colsh and Fidelity mutual aid assn.

⁴⁵ Besson eta Des Marais enpleamendu ofizinak

⁴⁶ J. F. Yparraguirre (is a Basque gathering from San Francisco where all Basques are well treated)

and make plans; a **dentist**⁴⁷ who is as important as a doctor; a **drink merchant**⁴⁸ a professional that hotels, boarding houses and tavern owners could need, as well as individuals could benefit from it; **gravedigger and embalmer**⁴⁹ were useful because people die, so a Basque person could feel better to have a family member buried by a Basque person instead of by a non-Basque one, if we take into account they were not able to be buried in their homeland, the Basque Country, which already was a pity for some of them; a **pharmacy**⁵⁰ were they could know what the inhabitants of a certain area in the Basque Country were used to take, but also would be easier to communicate with someone who knew Basque, especially as being with a Basque doctor, if the patient had to buy a medicine it would be easier if the pharmacist was too; a **photographer**⁵¹ was necessary for some individuals like Totoricagüena says in her book: *“Basque who could afford photography sent images of themselves in suits and tailored garments... Homeland families also likely did not know that photography studios often provided clothing for people to borrow for the photographs”* (Totoricagüena, 2003, 97), it was a way of sending good news “home” not to worry other family members over in the Basque Country, even though in reality it did not necessarily mean they were doing great; and a **public notary**⁵², a person who could give legal advice, help with different kind of contracts, sales or last wills. This person could come handy mostly to people who did not dominate English in a reasonable way or for the ones who did not know much about laws, and as according to some authors, most of the Basques that travelled to California were from rural and almost illiterate places, therefore it was a good service to have in Basque language.

⁴⁷ Max Wassman (it takes out and organize the teeth)

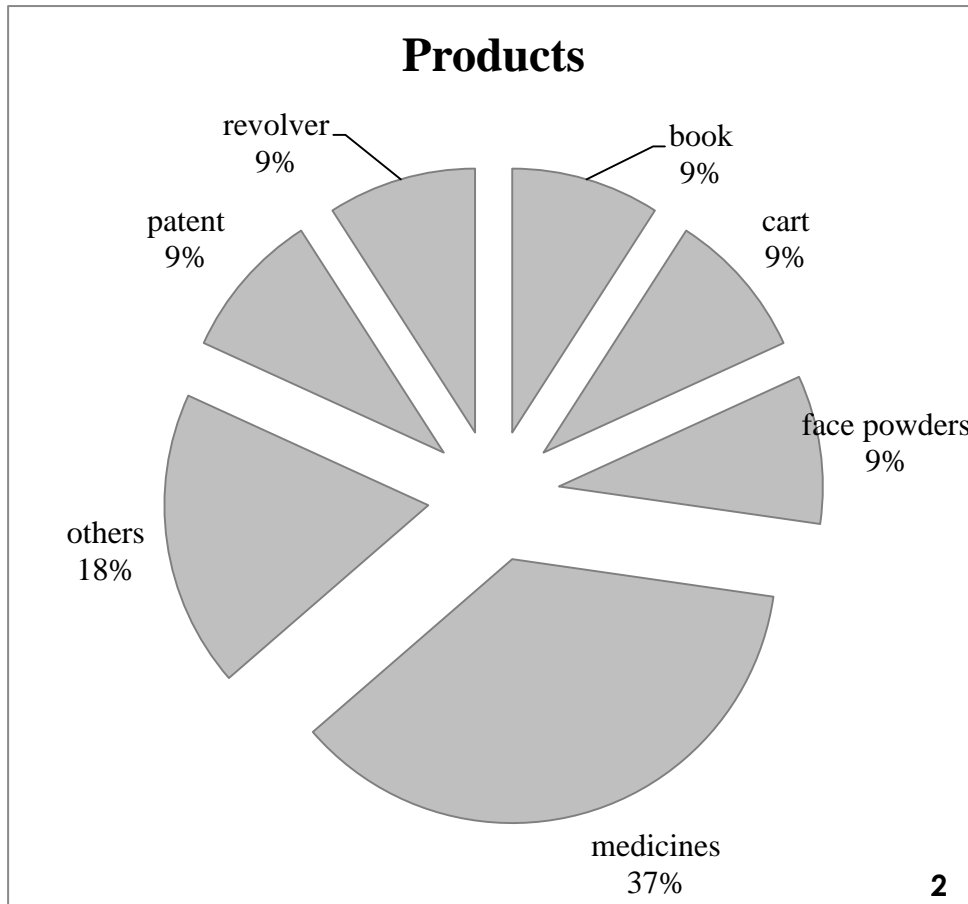
⁴⁸ P. Etcheverry eta Ca. edari komertzanta

⁴⁹ Garret & Sammon: ehortzaileak eta balsamatzaileak (it says they are French and it gives the address)

⁵⁰ Botika frantsesa (it is a Basque pharmacy, with good and cheap remedies)

⁵¹ Bertrand (it is a French photographer)

⁵² J. P. Goytino (he is the public notary of the county of Los Angeles, it says what he does and is the same who signs the newspaper as the writer and director)



On this second graphic, the biggest percentage of appearance they have the **medicines**⁵³ (37%) of different kinds, some for people, some for animals; some are big advertisements and some others very small, but all necessary for everyday life, which most surely would not sell on the pharmacy. Next (18%) there are two advertisements⁵⁴ in which only the title can be read, due to the condition of the newspaper, so it is impossible to know what they are trying to sell. And on the smallest percentage (9%) there is a **patent**⁵⁵ so you could patent something in case of invention, in a period that inventions were more common than nowadays; a **revolver**⁵⁶ to use for self-protection in different cases, as for example if someone trespassed their land or someone shoots at them; a **book**⁵⁷ in English

⁵³ Leon Escallier (is a remedy for curing the sheep), Preston's hedake (pills for the headache), Ripans tabule (for all kind of aches) and Japanese pile cure

⁵⁴ All housekeepers and Vick's floral guide

⁵⁵ Patents (it is not possible to read much more from the advertisement)

⁵⁶ Smith & Wesson's

⁵⁷ "When" a rare book for men

that could be good for practicing the language or for reading, to be entertained; a **buggy**⁵⁸ which could be useful people living in big towns to move from one place to another without the necessity of waling but the needed an animal to move it, so maybe only wealthy people or people living in ranchos could afford; and **face powders**⁵⁹ for women so they could look nice, or go with the fashion of the time. Moreover, it is significant that this is the only add only directed to women appearing in the newspaper, a product to be pretty and something that would make them feel better to themselves and the others.

How often do they appear?

The advertisements can always be found in the 3rd and 4th pages, and sometimes in the first two but not always. Moreover, most of the advertisements usually are located in the same pages, and once, the 28th of October, all the fourth page is dedicated just to ads. This makes me think that the newspaper could get benefits from the announcements published and also that they chose which promo to print because most of them are directed only to Basque inhabitants as being in Basque language, whereas as said before, there are some in English language too.

Conclusions

Conclusions of the paper

As a general conclusion of *Californiako Eskual Herria*, it seems that for the time the newspaper lasted, it made a good social and cultural service for the Basque people in America and other places of the world, because the newspaper had different type of news from different places, as I showed during the essay, making *Californiako Eskual Herria* interesting to more individuals and making the number of readers go up. Moreover, the different advertisements that appeared were important for the society and for the newspaper, being good for both ends; been a source of income for the newspaper but also making the companies, products and the rest of the advertisings grow in their productivity, to obtain higher incomes or to sell more products.

⁵⁸ The “engeres” buggy

⁵⁹ Mes. Grama’s face powder

Furthermore, the newspaper was a way for the Basques away from the Basque Country to keep using their language, in many cases, their mother tongue. Although, as I told earlier in the project, there were some Basque organizations and hotels on where Basque inhabitants could speak in Basque, share home country stories, dance, eat, sing... There were also the news from homeland, but the letters from the family members or friends in the Basque Country took quite a time to arrive to the USA, so the newspaper gave the opportunity to read in Basque and to know about the Basque Country, most of the times in a shorter period of time.

This newspaper was the first one written in Basque who had continuity in America (because there was *Escualdun Gazeta* before which only lasted three issues), but it did not have a long-lasting continuity even though the author had quite determination. Moreover, according to Diaz Noci, Goytino's newspaper fulfilled an important function in and for the Basque community in the United States, and had a good number of readers. It is quite significant that apparently, the level of development *Californiako Eskual Herria* had was bigger than other Basque newspapers written at the same time period in Europe (Diaz-Noci, 2001, 6-9).

Conclusion of the project

As general conclusions of the project I have to say it has been a hard work to find, organize and analyze all the information found in different sources. Firstly, it has been challenging sometimes to understand what the author wrote in the newspaper, especially on some news and advertisements, due to different factors as for example the Basque dialect they were written in, the fact that I was trying to read a printed copy from a previously scanned copy of an original issue from 1893 making it even harder to read all the little details of the advertisements because some were quite small. In other cases, some original papers were broken and some others had too small size letter to be able to read them. But leaving the problems aside, this project has been a way to learn more about the Basque people living in California; to know about their daily events, what they worked in, how they lived... Moreover, it has also been a good opportunity to learn how the Basque language from northern Basque Country spoken in the United States at the end of the 19th century, with the inclusion of new words, expressions and ways of talking. Nonetheless not only that, thanks to the letters that were published in different issues of *Californiako Eskual Herria*, on which there also used different words and euskalkis, I

was able to see different varieties of the same language that happens to be my mother tongue, something it has been really interesting.

Likewise, with this project I was able to learn how a newspaper at the end of the 19th century was organized, and the continuity it had, even if changes happened throughout the time and the numbers all along the years it lasted. Going back to what I explained during the essay, the newspaper was pretty well organized, every edition was quite similar, but yet with small changes.

Last but not least, I would like to add that my first idea was to have another section in the project called *Stories*, because that was another part I found in the newspaper, as well as to do a comparison with another newspaper I have shortly mentioned throughout the essay called *Escualdun Gazeta*. But, due to the lack of space and time to do a good work on these aspects, I decided not to insert them into the project and put more effort on the rest of the sections. This event gives the opportunity for a continuity on the project I wrote, or as another direction of investigation for a new project.

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