

long before it became a field for political contest with France."

By way of the Gulf

2 There were four lines of approach to Spanish Texas, through the development of which a knowledge of the region was gradually unfolded:

- (1) From the east and south, by way of the Gulf of Mexico; (2) from the east, by way of the vast region known in early days as La Florida;
- (3) from the west and southwest, by way of New Mexico and Nueva Vizcaya; and (4) from the south, through the expansion of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila."

3 There were numerous explorations around the Gulf from 1519 and afterwards and some landings but no inland explorations worthy of notice.

By Way of Florida

4 1528, de Vaca and some 200 companions cast on the Texas shore. 1542 Moscoso led the survivors of the De Soto expedition into Texas near the north-east corner.

By Way of New Mexico

5"Until 1685 western Texas was much better known than the southern portion, lying nearer Mexico, or than the eastern portion, commonly regarded as 'old' Texas."

Coronado is reported to have come by way of the Pacific slope to New Mexico, "going, it is believed, from the upper Pecos river southeastward to the upper Colorado, thence north across the Brazos, Red, Canadian and Arkansas rivers, eastward into central Kansas, and directly back to the Pecos." This seems to indicate that Coronado followed the present course of the Old Spanish Trail from the Pecos to the Brazos.

After Coronado four decades passed; the Spaniards then began approaching by way of the central Mexican plateau through Chihuahua and up the Rio Grande or the Pecos.

(Best known expeditions) "Father Rodriguez in 1581, Espejo in 1582, Castano de Sosa in 1590, Bonilla and Humana about 1595, and Juan de Onate,