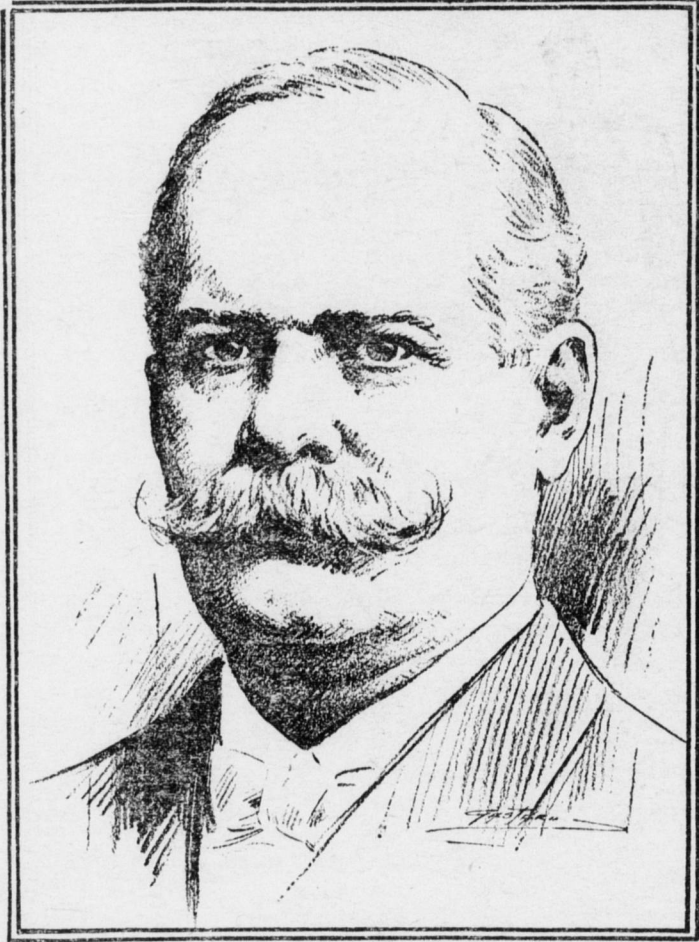


# ZELAYA

## The Despot and Dictator of Nicaragua.



Nicaragua was called by its Spanish conquerors Mohammed's Paradise, writes Thomas R. Dawley in the New York Times. It was a land where the native lived without toil—a land of eternal summer, producing much with little labor. Neither did the people go to war, but under the despotic rule of Jose Santos Zelaya all this was changed. The poor Indian has had to hustle. And not only has the poor Indian had to hustle, but his ladino master, who always exploited him as well, for the despot Jose Santos Zelaya must have wealth, and he made his subjects, whether ladino or Indian, shopkeeper or merchant, hustle to get it, and if for no other reason the people hated him.

For 16 years this despot has ruled the country with a rod of iron. Those who would not submit to his rule, or even demurred, had to die or get out. It is said that 10,000 of his people have been driven into exile, but this is undoubtedly an exaggeration, as the total population of the entire country does not exceed half a million, and less than a third of this belonging to what is known as the ladino or creole element. The rest are Indians, pure and simple. They never leave the country.

While a great deal has been said against Zelaya as a man, there is one thing that cannot be said against him and which his enemies never have attempted to say against him, and that is that he is not a brave man. It usually takes a brave man to rule any one of the turbulent Latin American so-called republics.

Diaz of Mexico began his career as a soldier and a revolutionist, and so did his compeer, J. Rufino Barrios of Guatemala. Castro of Venezuela, while not a soldier, began his career as a fighter and a leader. With a band of poorly armed cow herders from his native mountains he raided a few bordering towns and fought his way on to Caracas, where he landed himself in the presidential chair.

But Zelaya differed from these in that he began his career as the gentlemanly son of a planter. He had little else to do than ride over the vast estate belonging to his father. He was sent to school at the capital and given all the education that his masters could supply. Extravagant in his tastes, he drew on the old man's purse strings, leaving the plantation frequently for the town, where he was the leader among a gathering of young men of about his own age and circumstances. For amusement they paraded the streets of the town at night, twanging the guitar strings and singing love songs to their sweethearts.

Had Zelaya been content with this amusement he might have succeeded to the ownership of his father's estate and have passed the remainder of his days in quiet comfort, for his country was quietly, yet strongly, ruled by the conservative President Chaminor, his party having been in power since the final defeat of the American filibuster Walker, who had landed on the coast with his 56 immortal and fought his way to the presidency.

Zelaya told his young friends and compatriots that he did not approve of the conservative rule. His talks became speeches; he grew bolder, and denounced the government openly, with the result that he was thrown out. In other words, he was exiled. He sought refuge in Guatemala, then

successful revolutionary leaders, the presidential chair.

There is an old saying in Central America to the effect that in dealing with your inferiors you must hold out a piece of bread to them in one hand while you grasp a club in the other. This is very much the principle upon which Zelaya has maintained his rule in Nicaragua. He offers his people bread with one hand, and when they are not satisfied they get the club.

When one sees the tattered and maimed soldiers of these Central American armies for the first time not only is he inclined to laugh, but he entertains grave doubts of their efficiency as soldiers, yet it is only with such soldiers as these that the satrap maintains his despotism. Strange to say that the men who make up the rank and file of these armies are not warlike.

They are usually harmless, peaceable fellows, if let alone, and their greatest desire is to be let alone. But they are not let alone. They are simply picked up, corralled or captured as the case may be, and given to understand that they have got to obey, and it is this understanding that makes them good soldiers.

They are not supposed to know, and do not know, anything about politics, or if called upon to fight, what they are to fight for. They know who their chiefs or officers are—who the president is, and as long as this president is alive, and the officers who command them stay with them, they will fight to the end, and it is this military strength that keeps the despot in power in face of all the hatred and opposition which may be brought against him.

Zelaya learned the power of this stupid military force as an officer in the army of Guatemala under Barrios, and he has made good use of it, although he has not succeeded in perfecting its use so thoroughly as old man Barrios did, for he has had many revolutions to contend with and put down during his 16 years of power.

Some say that this is because Zelaya is neither as strong a man or as clever a man as Barrios. Barrios began his rule by having a dozen sharpshooters of the public peace and security taken out in the public plaza and shot. That ended the matter. There were no more disturbers of the public peace and security, and there were no more public executions. But Zelaya, it seems, has had to keep up the execution of his fellow-citizens all along throughout his 16 years of occupation of the presidential chair.

As to his having converted the Mohammed's Paradise into a country of comparative activity there can be no doubt. In this respect he has done precisely what Barrios did in Guatemala.

He has shaken the Indian out of his lethargic state and made him work or go into the army, or both. With his labor he has strung telegraph lines all over the country, herded cattle and planted coffee, and whenever his army needed strengthening or there was a revolution on hand he has had him brought in as a volunteer soldier or recruit and put in the army.

On the other hand, the merchants, planters and business men of the country have had to increase their earnings as best they could and pay him oftentimes arbitrary tribute or taxation.

As an example of his methods in this respect, during an invasion of the country by a large force of revolutionists from Costa Rica, he kept a careful account of all expenditures in putting down the revolution, at the same

they were going to be allowed to vote sure enough and put up a candidate in opposition to the government program, the unfortunate candidate would be surely taken out and shot.

Zelaya's predominating characteristic is his courage. He is absolutely fearless, and that is one reason why he is more thoroughly hated than any one of the other Central American satraps. The other reason is, like that of his preceptor, old Barrios of Guatemala, his one ambition has been to unite the five republics under one government, with himself, of course, at its head. Various have been his schemes and projects to accomplish this end. At one time fomenting a revolution in Salvador, he has failed in that direction. At another time he succeeded in placing Davila in the presidential chair of Honduras with the understanding that Davila would unite Honduras to Nicaragua, only to have Davila tell him to go to the devil after his seat was safely secured, and Costa Rica has always been a thorn in his side because he couldn't get up any revolution there, in which something might accrue to his benefit or to his pet scheme. For these reasons Zelaya has come to be known as the mischief-maker of Central America.

Compared with some of the other rulers who are or who have been in the limelight, he is undoubtedly the boldest and bravest of them all, with the single exception, perhaps, of Castro of Venezuela. But he is a different type of man from Castro, who was of low origin and as vicious as he was low. Zelaya is educated, and he is very much of a gentleman in his manner and personal appearance, while Castro was not only ignorant, but he was a personification of the brute in human form.

On the other hand, there is the present ruler of Guatemala, Cabrera, who is a rare exception to them all, for he is a despicable coward maintained in power by a host of satellites, who cajole him and flatter him, making him believe that he is the greatest man on earth, while they, as a matter of fact, hold the reins of a despotism as arbitrary, cruel, and corrupt as that of Nero, who fiddled while Rome was burning.

### AVOIDS DANGER FROM GERMS

Theater Doorkeeper Careful to Cleanse Fingers While Handling Tickets.

"I use a wet sponge at all times when taking tickets," said a certain theater doorkeeper of St. Louis, "because of all men in the world the ticket taker is most exposed to contagious disease. When you stop to figure on the thousands of tickets I handle every year—perhaps one for every person in St. Louis—you can readily see what a great chance there is of germs coming to me with the tickets. The idea of using a sponge after every ticket was brought to my attention by a very prominent physician of St. Louis some time ago. He stopped on his way into the show one night and said: 'Come up to my office to-morrow, I want to show you something that you will not regret.'"

"Wondering what in the world it was he had to show me, I called on him, and he then took a bunch of tickets from his desk and under the microscope showed me that I receive hundreds of little germs with every piece of cardboard, and that any of them are apt to contain germs of a type to cause consumption, skin trouble or a half hundred other things."

# SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS MEETS

## Speaker Calls the House to Order and Is Applauded by Friends and Enemies Alike.

### Vice-President Sherman Presides Over the Senate--Numerous Bills Designed to Carry Out President Taft's Policies Are Introduced in Both Houses.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The Sixty-first congress of the United States met at noon to-day for the first day of its first regular session, with Vice-President Sherman in the chair of the senate, and Speaker Joseph G. Cannon in the chair in the House. While this congressional gathering is the first regular session, it is the second session in reality, for congress met in extraordinary session last spring at the call of President Taft to consider the matter of a revision of the tariff.

Some interest was lacking in the proceedings of the first day in the capitol because at the beginning of the extraordinary session in March last the speaker of the House was elected. Moreover, before the extraordinary session was ended, Speaker Cannon appointed all the committees which are to take legislation under consideration for the next two winters. The appointment of the committees ended the campaign on the part of the members for choice chairmanships and, if the chairmanships were not forthcoming, for seats in the more important subsidiary bodies of the House.

**Ready for Work at Once.**  
The members have had time to get over jealousies and rivalries and so is that, so far as committee work is concerned, the House not only is ready to proceed at once to consider legislation, but most of the members have brought themselves into a frame of mind to do what they are called upon to do without regard to their past feelings of disappointment and perhaps, anger.

As is always the case on the opening day of congress, admission to the House and Senate galleries was by card and only those fortunate enough to know senators and representatives sufficiently well to secure admission tickets were allowed to witness the proceedings.

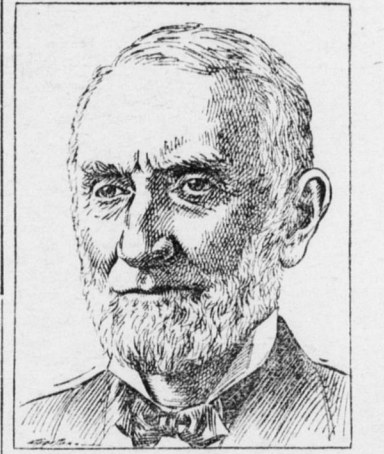
**Galleries Are Crowded.**  
The galleries of both House and Senate were jammed with people. All classes of Washington society were represented in the throng of visitors. The diplomatic gallery in the House and in the Senate as well, was filled to its fullest capacity with ambassadors, ministers, attaches and the ladies of the different legations. Members of the families of the president and of the vice-president of the United States occupied seats in the executive galleries; and the cabinet and judiciary and army and navy circles were well represented.

By a rule which was adopted not long ago, flowers are barred from the floor of the House excepting when they are to be used as a tribute to the memory of some deceased member. The result of this rule is that now on the opening days of congress the desks of the members are bare of floral decorations. In the old days

from the Senate, Speaker Cannon appointed a committee to join a like committee of the Senate to wait upon the president. The members of the body directed to notify Mr. Taft that the House was in session were by the appointment of the speaker, the Republican leader, Sereno E. Payne, and the Democratic leader, Champ Clark.

The first day in the House as usual brought out hundreds of legislative measures in bill form, all of which were read by their title only and then referred to the proper committees. It was evident from the tone of the bills introduced that some scores of representatives were anxious to father measures which had been recommended by President Taft as being necessary to carry out proposed policies of progression. The bills ranged from those intended to correct alleged existing evils in interstate commerce to those to give increases of pensions to veterans of the civil war.

**Applause Greeted Speaker Cannon.**  
If Speaker Cannon anticipates any particular trouble with the "Insurgents" of the House at the coming sessions,



Speaker Joseph G. Cannon.

He gave no evidence of it when he took the chair as presiding officer. He was greeted with great applause from the galleries and from the floor of the House, many of the Democrats and insurgents joining in the demonstration, though in either case possibly the hand-clapping was given as an evidence of regard for the office of speaker, rather than as evidence of any overweening affection for the speaker himself.

With the committees ready to begin work, the House will settle down to its winter's business at once. No bills will be passed immediately because all measures must be considered in committee, and the meetings of the committees will be held daily from now until the Christmas holidays and some of the more important House bodies will sit during the recess. When congress reassembles in January many of the committees will be ready to report bills, and the debates of the winter will begin.

### Opening of the Senate.

Vice-President Sherman called the Senate to order at noon. Rev. Edward Everett Hale, the chaplain of the Senate, having died during the summer recess, his place as chaplain, temporarily, was taken by a local clergyman who offered prayer. In the Senate the roll was called and it was found that nearly all the senators were in their seats. The resolutions were adopted to the effect that committees be appointed to inform the House and the president that the Senate had assembled and was ready to begin the business of the session. As was the case in the House many bills were introduced for consideration during the winter by senators who, like the representatives, desire to have a hand in forwarding administration policies.

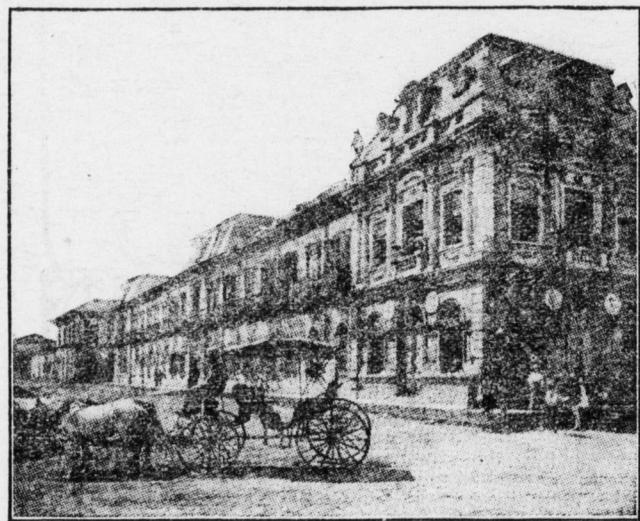
After a comparatively short session "in the open," the galleries were cleared and the Senate went into executive session behind closed doors for the purpose of considering nominations for office sent to the Upper House by President Taft.

### Tests of Diamonds.

Most persons are obliged, in the purchase of a diamond, to rely implicitly upon the word of the man who sells the stone. While many years of observation and experience are needed to become an expert with respect to the value and purity of diamonds, yet there are certain extremely simple tests capable of being made by the most inexperienced.

One is by means of a needle hole pricked through a piece of ordinary cardboard. Looking through the stone tested at the cardboard, one will see two holes if the diamond be spurious—only one if the gem be genuine. The reason for this is that an imitation diamond will give a double refraction, the real stone but one refraction.

It is claimed that there is no acid having any perceptible effect upon a genuine diamond. Hydrofluoric acid will, if dropped upon a stone made of glass, corrode it, but upon the bona fide stone it will have no effect at all.—Harper's Weekly.



GOVERNMENT PALACE, MANAGUA, THE CAPITAL OF NICARAGUA.

time keeping tab on all the merchants, capitalists and planters who were in sympathy with or aided and abetted the revolution in any way. He then, after having put down the revolution, drew upon each one of these sympathizers for a specific amount, according to his capital, to defray the expense of putting down the revolution.

It is frequently stated, and with a good deal of truth, that there is never more than one political party in Central America, and that is the party in power. But as a matter of fact, there is and always has been two well defined political parties. There are the conservatives on one side and the liberals on the other. The reason for its being stated that there is only one political party is the fact that whichever party is in power maintains its despotic sway to such an extent that no opposition does show itself in any form whatsoever. Sometimes there is a pretense of having an election, but such an election is more than a farce for, should any misguided element of the population or section of the country be beguiled into believing that

This fixed me. I thanked him, bought a sponge and have used it faithfully ever since. Each time that I touch a ticket I wash off my finger by rubbing it across the wet sponge. It isn't much bother and it has undoubtedly lessened my chances of disease."

"The average person is in too much of a hurry to take the time to secure protection against these apparent dangers," said a well-known bacteriologist of St. Louis, "but it pays in every sense of the word. The cashier should keep a small sponge on hand at all times over which she could draw her fingers every time they come in contact with the ticket or coin from a patron. It finally comes mechanically."

### The Mean Man.

Wife (crossly)—"Well, have your own way, and then you'll be satisfied." Husband—"I'm not so certain about that. I had my own way when I married you, but I'm not satisfied."—Judge.



Vice-President Sherman.

both House and Senate were turned out conservatively for the time of the opening proceedings.

At sharp noon Speaker Cannon called the House to order and asked the chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, to offer prayer. In his prayer which was in a sense a Thanksgiving offering, the chaplain referred to the prosperity of the country, the opportunities of the present and the bright hopes and promises of the future.

**Absentees Are Few.**  
As soon as the prayer was ended the clerk of the House called the roll of membership by states and it was found that there were only a few absentees. The roll call ended the reading clerk of the Senate who had appeared in the House was recognized, and he announced that the Upper House had passed a resolution to inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate being assembled, that body was ready to proceed to business. The House also was told that the Senate had appointed a committee to join a House committee to inform the president of the United States that a quorum of each house was present and that congress was ready to receive any communication that he "may be pleased to make." On receipt of this message