

PORFIRIO DIAZ AND REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

THE WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT DUE TO HIM.

An Outline of What This Extraordinary Man Has Accomplished in the Twenty-three Years of His Recognized Supremacy Among the Public Men in the Nation Over Which He Presides.

From the Times-Herald. The Mexico of 1859 is governed by a constitution drafted in 1857, but which has suffered many modifications down to the year 1891. This constitution defines Mexico as a "federal republic," divided into states, of which there were nineteen at the outset and now twenty-seven. There are also two territories and the federal district.

As in the United States, the government is divided into three branches—legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative power is invested in a congress, consisting of a house and senate, and the executive is a president. Representatives, elected by the suffrage of all respectable male adults at the rate of one member for 40,000 inhabitants, hold their places for two years. The qualifications requisite are to be 25 years of age and a resident in a state. In the senate sit fifty-six members, two for each state, of at least 30 years of age. They are elected the same as the representatives. Both senators and representatives receive \$2,000 per year. The president is chosen by electors popularly elected in a general election, held once every four years, and he may be re-elected as often as the people desire. Formerly he could hold but one term.

The congress meets twice a year—April 1 to May 30 and Sept. 15 to Dec. 15. A permanent committee of both houses sits during the recesses.

HAS SERVED FIVE TERMS.

Porfirio Diaz was first elected in 1876 and has served five terms. His present term expires Nov. 30, 1900. His cabinet is composed of a minister of foreign affairs, of the interior, of justice and public instruction, of colonization and industry, of public works, of finance and of war and marine. For local government, independent of the federal authority, each separate state has its own internal constitution, government and laws, but interstate customs duties are not permitted. Each state has its governor and legislature, popularly elected. There is a civil and a criminal code in existence which in many respects is more severe than those prevailing in the United States. It will be observed, though, that the governmental form of Mexico is not far different from that of the United States, and that popular suffrage is the arbiter to which all bow. There is a popular impression in the United States that Mexico is in many respects governed as a despotism; that the form of government is monarchical, although Diaz bears the title of president. This is not the case, and if the church were wholly eliminated from Mexican government affairs the form of government would almost be a parallel of that of the United States.

SUB-DIVISIONS.

The states of Mexico are divided into three divisions—the Atlantic States, the inland states and the Pacific states. These, their area and population, according to the census of 1885, are:

Table with 3 columns: State, Area, Population. Lists Atlantic states (Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan, Quintana Roo, Chiapas, Chiuhuahu, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Hidalgo, Mexico, Federal District, Morelos, Tlaxcala, Puebla) and Pacific states (Lower California, Sonora, Sinaloa, Tlaxcala, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Chiapas).

The total area of Mexico is 767,065 square miles and the total population about 12,000,000. The increase for some years past in population has been about 100,000 per year, or 1,000,000 in a decade. The last census revealed that

there were more women in Mexico than men by over 300,000. Of the total population 19 per cent. are purely white or nearly so, 42 per cent. mixed and 38 per cent. Indian. In 1852 there were over 3,000,000 Indians in the republic.

FEW LARGE CITIES.

Despite its area, Mexico is not blessed with many large cities. The principal ones and their population are: Mexico (capital), 350,000; Guadalajara, 85,000; Puebla, 81,000; San Luis Potosi, 70,000; Leon, 60,000; Vera Cruz, 50,000; Pachuca, 55,000; and Durango, 45,000.

Most of the cities have been laid out in old Spanish style, but modern improvements are coming in rapidly and their architectural character changing. Religion in Mexico has played a considerable part in disturbing internal affairs, but at the present time the church and state are separated, and there is no prospect of their union so long as Diaz lives. The prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic, which has 1,100 churches in the republic, while the Protestant has 119. No church or religious body can acquire land in Mexico, consequently there are no church estates. The number of Catholics in the territory is estimated at about 7,000,000. The number of Protestants is considerably less than 10,000.

EDUCATION.

One of the first steps taken by Diaz to insure stability for the republic was to urge upon the separate states the necessity of a free and compulsory school law. Nearly every state has now such a law, and it is enforced to a greater degree at the present time than ever before. English is taught, and the growth of that tongue is now rapid in the republic. Primary instruction is mostly at the expense of the municipalities, but the federal government makes frequent grants, and many schools are under the care of beneficent societies. Higher education is carried on in secondary schools and seminaries and in colleges for professional instruction, including schools of law, medicine, engineering, mining, fine arts, agriculture, commerce, arts and trades and music. There are now in the republic more than 5,000 primary schools, 50 secondary, 40 professional, over 100 teachers and directors, and an average attendance of pupils of 338,000. In the private and clerical schools there are about 70,000 pupils. The amount now annually spent on schools is about \$4,000,000 per annum, or about \$2,000,000 less than is annually expended on the schools of Chicago.

The national public library contains 100,000 volumes, and there are 162 libraries in existence for public use besides it. There are also twenty-four museums for scientific and educational purposes and three meteorological observatories. The number of newspapers published is 426, of which ten are in English and one in French.

AN AMERICAN VIEW.

Considering that twenty years ago Mexico did not possess one-half of the educational facilities that she does now; that she was wrecked by internal dissensions, the prey of banditti and the scorn of the outside world, all that has been accomplished in two decades is something marvelous. That it is due to the energy and the will of President Diaz there is no question. Of value this moment is the following interview with George D. Cook, of this city, who has enjoyed the confidence of the president for a number of years. Mr. Cook resides in Mexico and Diaz, having an intimate knowledge of the republic his views are of value. Mr. Cook says:

"In December, 1885, I was invited to visit Mexico to meet his excellency, President Diaz, to discuss the finances of the Republic of Mexico. As it was my first visit, I was very much interested, not only in meeting him but in all the surroundings that go to make up the impressions of one's first visit to a new country. My interview with him was most pleasant. He discussed freely with me the condition of the finances of the republic, and expressed a very strong desire to become more closely allied with American capital. In that and subsequent meetings I was very much impressed with the frank, open candor of his personality, as well as his thorough knowledge of his country's affairs, both politically and financially. That, and the numerous visits I have made since, has resulted in my becoming very much interested in the republic. I found the same laws governing Mexico that we have in this country; the same form of government as ours, for not only the republic but for the states and municipalities—a president elected every four years, a congress and senate, with state and municipal governments the same as ours.

"After inquiring into the government's resources and the wonderful progress the country was making I could see no reason that the government of Mexico should be paying 6 per cent. on a foreign loan amounting to

over \$100,000,000. Instead of having any deficiency their revenues were more than enough for their expenditures, always leaving a surplus. This not only applied to the affairs of the government, but to the different states and municipalities. It was not only interesting, but very remarkable to find states and cities without any debt whatever, and always living within their income.

A STRONG CABINET.

"The president of Mexico is certainly a very remarkable man, as has been shown in his life and in the successful handling of his government. His cabinet is composed of capable men, the minister of the hacienda (secretary of the treasury), Jose Y. Lamantour, being one of the most able ministers. I have ever had the pleasure of meeting, the remainder of the cabinet being made up of men of equal capabilities in their several departments. The president has always shown special interest in welcoming Americans, and has repeatedly said to me that he would see that they had every protection that his own people had. His only reason for having heretofore handled his financial matters in foreign countries was that the American financial public had never paid any attention to his country. This, I am pleased to say, has within the past two years been largely overcome, first through George D. Cook & Co. and Mason, Lewis & Co. having bought and successfully sold \$1,500,000 of the state of Jalisco bonds, these bonds having been placed with bankers or investors in every state in the union. It is quite remarkable to know that this issue was the first foreign security ever handled in this country. This has, of course, lately been followed out by the placing of a large amount of the 5 per cent. refunding bonds for the Republic of Mexico. I may say, in this connection, that when I took up the refunding of the Mexican government loan of \$100,000,000 some two years ago it was looked upon as being impossible to place any large amount in this country, but, as is now well known, the amount allotted to the United States, was very largely oversubscribed. The president of Mexico showed his wise judgment in wishing this loan to be an international one rather than to have it all allotted to any one country, thereby not only calling attention of the different countries to the interesting capitalities in his country.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

"Mexico is rich in her agricultural lands and in her mineral resources. American way of farming to make them not only very productive but profitable. The mining interests of Mexico are each year growing larger, and I believe that within a reasonable time there will be a greater emigration to the mining districts of Mexico than there has been to the Klondike. I base my reasons for this on the fact that there they can mine every day in the year; that everything produced is paid for in silver, while the product, when sold, brings 40 or 45 cents for the ounce of their currency. Outside of agriculture and mining are the great opportunities of coffee, rice, sugar and fruit growing, the coffee of Mexico being considered now equal to most any of the best grades that are imported into this country.

"We of the United States know what a great impetus was given to the growth and prosperity of our country through the building of the Union Pacific railroad. While our government was censured at that time for the aid given, it has since proved to have been a very wise thing. This idea has been followed and carried out to a greater extent by the government of Mexico in subsidizing railroads. The finishing of the Mexican Central and the Pacific railroad to Acapulco, and the Mexican Central to a point on the Pacific coast, will complete a system of railroads covering the entire republic. Few if any of the railroads of Mexico would have been built, at least for a long time to come, had it not been for government aid. The scenery along the lines of some of these railroads is not exceeded by anything in the known world, and it is only a matter of time before Americans when abroad in foreign countries, they will find more pleasure and recreation in visiting the latter republic."

FINANCES.

"The finances of Mexico have reached that excellent condition that a republic that at out 50 per cent. of the revenue is derived from customs, 30 per cent. from internal taxation and 11 per cent. from other sources. Of the expenditures about 44 per cent. goes to the support of the government, 42 per cent. to the service of the debt and nearly 10 per cent. to railway subventions. The receipts for five years past have been:

Table with 2 columns: Receipts, Expenditures. Shows values for 1892-93, 1893-94, 1894-95, 1895-96, 1896-97.

In 1898-99 the revenues rose to \$56,000,000, while there was a corresponding decrease in expenditures in proportion to receipts. That is one of the significant effects of the Diaz government. It is to be noted that in 1885-86 the government revenues were \$12,000,000, while the expenditures were \$18,000,000. In less than thirty years the change has been produced now witnessed by the figures given above. It has been the work of Diaz to interest not alone his own people but Americans in the resources of Mexico. A man of work himself, he has urged others to follow his example, and has inspired confidence on the part of foreign capital by restoring law and order to his own nation.

PRODUCTS.

"As the Mexicans estimate their land it contains 470 square leagues of forest, 18,134 square leagues of mountain land and 4,822 square leagues of uncultivated land. The climate is suited to the raising of a great variety of products. Provision is made for the sale and occupation of public lands by a law of 1863. The demarcation of such lands is carried out by public companies, the third part of the area demarcated being ceded to them for expenses incurred. Within the republic there are about thirty agricultural colonies with a population of over 10,000. The government liberally aids these by introducing plants of vines, olives and other fruit trees, while seeds of vegetables and silk worms have been distributed gratuitously. The cultivation of the orange is rapidly extending, and already there are large overland exports to the United States. The chief agricultural products are rice, maize, barley, wheat, beans, cocoa, coffee and tobacco. There are also products of cotton, sugar, cane, yucca, vanilla, cacao, indigo, rubber and bananas.

The coffee production now exceeds 22,000 tons annually, the tobacco production 60,000 tons, and cotton 40,000 tons, of sugar 150,000 tons, and of maize

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25,339,417 hectoliters. To handle these products there are 3,000 factories for sugar and brandy, 125 for cotton yarns and textiles, 50 for tobacco, and the total number of factories for all purposes is nearly 4,000. The cattle industry has been given every protection that the state could provide for it. These cattle are shipped into the United States. There are now about 2,000,000 head of cattle, 2,000,000 of goats, 15,000,000 of horses and 1,500,000 of sheep in northern Mexico. The 21,000 cattle ranches in the republic have an estimated value of \$500,000,000. MINERAL WEALTH. The republic is rich in minerals, gold, silver, lead, iron, copper, quicksilver, tin, cobalt, antimony, sulphur, coal, petroleum, all of which is either known to exist or is now being worked. There are 3,200 mining enterprises now on foot in a year as in the Chicago harbor, which is about 10,000 annually. The miles of railway in existence is 7,500, of telegraph wire 40,990 miles, of telephone lines 7,459 miles. The republic has 1,700 postoffices. The course of Mexican history has been changed under Diaz's administration. Revolutions and civil war have been brought to an end; the old-time tyranny has passed away; the possessor of the office of president has lived in safety; the stability of the government has been secured. With abiding peace the country has attained a prosperity unexampled in its history.

QUEER REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

Freak Gifts That Have Been Presented for Signal Heroism. From the Philadelphia Times.

In ancient times for a deed of special bravery or for the fortunate mortal was crowned with a laurel wreath and mayhap verses were composed in his honor. During the days of chivalry many titles were given away to the recipients, who proved themselves heroes, and in modern times soldiers for such deeds have been presented with medals, but it remains for the modern, everyday citizen to evolve freakish rewards for some brave deed. Last March a schoolmaster belonging to a town in Africa was seen with a laurel wreath on his head, and if one of his colleagues who what at hand had not hastily divested himself of his outer garments and at the risk of his life plunged in and brought him to land the disciple of Plato would surely have been drowned. What was his rescuer's reward? Did the burghers of the town crown him as a hero for making such a brave and difficult rescue? No. He was prosecuted for bathing at a prohibited spot, with its resultant fine and costs.

About four years ago the house of a rich Hampshire gentleman was in the owner's absence broken into by burglars, who, but for the inopportunity of the butler in attacking them singly, would have made off with a large haul, including a superb diamond ring valued at over \$2,000. On his return the gentleman effusively thanked his servant, and promised that on the anniversary of the abortive burglary he should be permitted to wear the ring he had saved. A similar though somewhat more generous spirit prompted a well known physician to have on April 15 of each year a man named Foster as his guest. On that date ten years ago this man stopped a runaway carriage, at great risk, which contained the doctor's wife and daughters. For nearly a year Foster heard no more of the affair, and indeed it had almost passed from his memory, when he was sur-

prised to receive a note from the doctor, asking him to dinner, and in order that he might come decently clothed, directing him to apply to a certain tailor, where he would be supplied with a new suit. A well known scholar, now deceased, whose name was a household word among students of classical literature, was once set upon by roughs, and had it not been for the effectual interference of a laborer who chanced to be passing would have been severely handled. A fortnight later, when, at his invitation, his rescuer called on him, he overwhelmed the man with grateful speech and finished by declaring that as his prowess would, had he lived in the golden days of Greece, most certainly have won for him the highest honors at the Olympic games, he had taken upon himself to procure from Greece the prize that had rightfully crowned the victor's deserts—an olive leaf. This he presented to his amazed host, whereupon the latter, remarking in high dudgeon that he had no time to waste with a fool who wouldn't even stand the price of a drink, dashed the classic garland to the ground and left the room in a rage. No more of words of small or no avail, however, can well be imagined than that which a certain John Vesper will carry with him to the grave. Some fifteen years ago, when a poor clerk, he saved, at great personal risk, a girl from drowning. The grateful father, who was a professional tailor, offered in return for the great service he had rendered to decorate his entire body with specimens of his art.

MODERN COATS OF MAIL.

Curious Story of the Way British Officers Protect Themselves. From the London Globe.

To the uninitiated the days of armor have long since gone, but a visit to a certain firm situated in the West End of London will reveal the fact that hundreds of coats of mail are sold annually to officers in the British army. The maker is a well-known gunsmith, and a large portion of his income is derived, not from manufacturing guns, but through the sale of armor to officers. As a general rule, the mail is enclosed in leather casing, which is sewn inside the tunic so as to be invisible unless the garment is picked to pieces. And the same with helmets—a similar device is fixed as lining so as to give additional protection in case of need. Some officers are not above wearing mail vests beneath their tunics and perfectly oblivious to their comrades, who, although they may scoff in time of peace, would be only too glad to don one themselves when in the middle of hostilities. The majority of the maker's customers are officers, because the suits are very expensive, costing about ten guineas each. Nevertheless some "Tommy's" are prepared to spend that amount in order to insure themselves to a certain extent against the enemy's spent bullets. Against a modern bullet, fired at short distance, of course, these suits of armor are next to useless, although they may be instrumental in turning its course or stopping its penetrating power. During the China-Japanese war of 1895 the maker in question sent out several hundred suits of armor, which were eagerly bought up by the combatants at a heavy price. During the American war of last year he did the same thing; it was not nearly so successful, for he found he had been forestalled by Yankee firms, and such officers in the American army as had intended going in for a suit of mail had already obtained them. He then offered his goods to the Spaniards, who proved to be good customers, and were prepared to pay a good price for the luxury. A notable instance of the value of mail occurred during the battle of Omdurman last September. One officer, who is well known, got into the thick of the fight and was slashed on all sides by the Dervishes. His men were surprised to see that he had escaped all the force of the blows, expecting to see him fall from his horse

and most ECONOMIC TEA on the market.

every minute a mass of wounds. After the battle was over, however, he appeared perfectly unscathed save for a few slight wounds on the chest. Then he revealed the suit of mail which covered him and to which he owed his life. A CURIOUS EXPERIENCE. Waiting in a Mine for a Blast to Go Off. From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A man with an empty sleeve told a curious story in one of the hotel lobbies last night. "In 1888 I was prospecting in the Joplin lead district," he said, "and with two partners had sunk a shaft about thirty feet deep on a promising claim. At the bottom of the excavation we started to 'drift'—in other words, to drive a tunnel at right angles. One afternoon, when the tunnel had progressed some twelve feet, it became necessary to put in a blast. I was below at the time and my two companions were at the top, working the windlass. I drilled a hole in the formation, which was very hard, put in a dynamite cartridge, tamped it well with broken rock, lit the fuse and stepped into the bucket. At the first turn of the windlass the rope broke at the top and dropped down into the shaft. The bucket fell only a yard or so, but I plunged head first against the side and it was perhaps a couple of minutes before I could collect my senses. Then in a flash I realized my situation and jumped back into the tunnel to extinguish the fuse, but it had already burned down to the tamping and all I could see was a little smoke oozing out through the rocks. I could hear my partners yelling to me from above, but I knew there was no other rope in our camp, and the only thing I could think of was to pick out the tamping and get at the fuse before it reached the dynamite. For all I knew the explosion might take place at any instant, but I grabbed a drill and began to claw at the tight-packed rock. In a few seconds I realized that it was a hopeless task, so I dropped the drill and as a last resort ran back to the shaft and crouched against the far wall.

"If I live to be a thousand," continued the story teller, "I will never forget my agony while I waited for the blast to go off, knowing full well that my chances for escape were almost too small for computation. It seemed as if the explosion would never occur, and all the while a horrible panorama of death and mutilation was rushing through my brain. 'Now! Now! Now!' I kept saying aloud, thinking each time I uttered the word that the roar would follow, but it didn't. I could have sworn that fifteen minutes elapsed, and I was beginning to feel a wild hope that the fuse had gone out, when an awful thunder-clap came and everything disappeared. My partners had secured a new rope and were pulling me out when I recovered consciousness. My left arm had been crushed and I was peppered all over by flying rock, but suffered most from the poisonous gases of the nitroglycerine in the dynamite. Next day they took off my arm at the elbow, and it was six months before I got out of bed. Strange to say, my hearing wasn't affected and, as you see, I have no scars on my face. So I may consider myself very lucky on more counts than one. By the way, there was one very strange incident connected with the affair. As I said before, it seemed to me that I lay there an interminable time waiting for the blast to go off. Afterward, when I was convalescent, I mentioned the matter to one of my partners and he looked surprised. He told me that he was at the shaft mouth when I crouched down, and that the explosion occurred immediately afterward. He was intending to drop his coat over me, but didn't have time to take it off."

Big Apples in Wayne.

Hawley, Sept. 27.—Two apples of the pound red sweet variety, each weighing 16½ ounces and measuring 13½ inches in circumference, are on exhibition at Welsh & Ames' store. They came from the farm of C. W. Frink, Paupack. Six fine apples, averaging 12 inches in circumference, are also exhibited in town. They were taken from the orchard of Henry Riddle, Arlington.

Advertisement for 'New Goods In All Departments' featuring 'Particular attention invited to our new lines of beautiful double-faced Golf Cloakings.' Includes text for 'Steamer Rugs, choice, quiet styles. Rainy Day Street Skirts, from \$3.50 up. Polka Spot French Flannels. New Designs in Black Crepons. We are showing the very finest styles in these goods at prices extremely moderate.' and 'MEARS & HAGEN, 415-417 Lackawanna Ave.'

Advertisement for 'Ceylon and India Tea' featuring 'Intelligent investigation will prove that MACHINE-MADE TEA has no equal; that it is the PUREST and most ECONOMIC TEA on the market.' Includes text for 'ASK YOUR GROCER FOR SALADA Ceylon Tea' and 'LIPTON'S CEYLON-INDIA TEAS ARE THE BEST For Sale by All Grocers.'