

# MEXICO



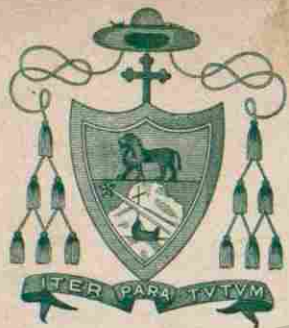
AT THE BEGINNING  
OF THE

TWENTIETH CENTURY

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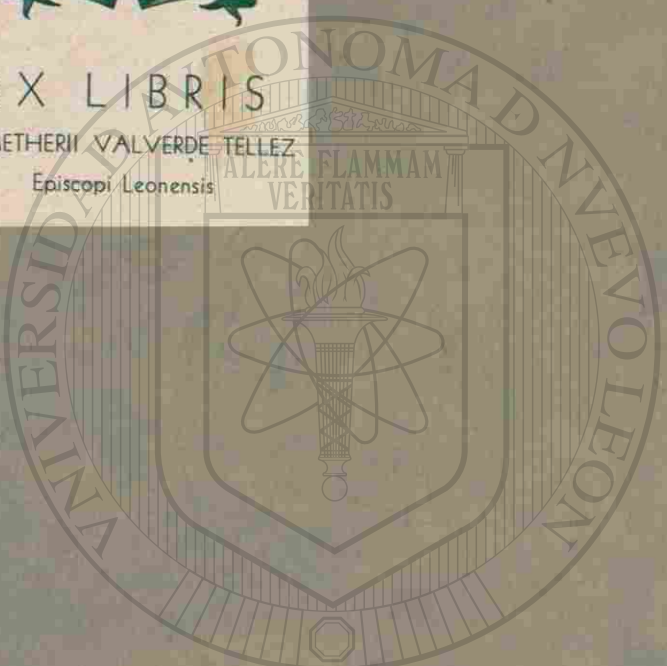


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SUMMARY OF THE WORK

MEXICO  
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY

Written by:

Le Prince Roland Bonaparte,  
Leon Bourgeois,  
Jules Clartie,  
D'Estournelles De Constant,  
A. de Foville,  
Hippolyte Gomot,  
O. Greard,  
Albin Haller,  
Camille Krantz,  
Michel Lagrave,  
Louis de Launay,  
Paul Leroy-Beaulieu,  
E. Levasseur,  
Le General Niox,  
Alfred Picard,  
Elisee Reclus.



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MEXICO

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Twentieth  
Century*

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VALVERDE Y TELLEZ

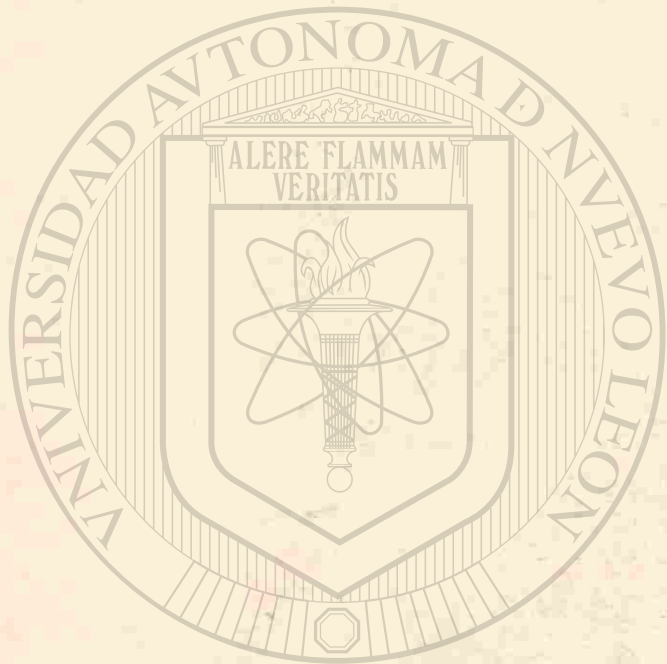


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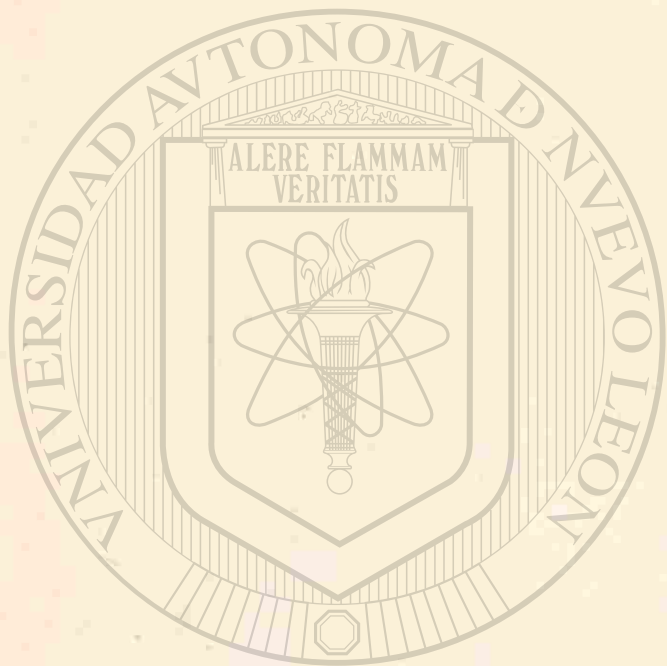


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1904

GENERAL PORFIRIO DIAZ,  
President of the Mexican United States.



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## GENERAL RECAPITULATION.

By E. Levasseur, Member of the Institute.

I will endeavor to recapitulate, in a few pages, the masterly exposition made by each of the *collaborateurs* of "Mexico at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," concerning one of the parts of the administrative and economic task accomplished in Mexico during its last thirty years, and to set in relief, by the accumulation of the results, the sense of unity which inspired the conduct of President Porfirio Diaz's administration.

Mr. Sebastian de Mier, Mexico's Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, and former Commissioner-General of that country to the Universal Exposition of 1900, had, as stated in the introductory part of this book, conceived the idea to prepare, at the commencement of the twentieth century, a work similar to that which Alexander de Humboldt produced at the beginning of the nineteenth century, under the title of "Essai politique sur le royaume de la Nouvelle-Espagne," through which he made a revelation of what Mexico was to the European world.

Mr. Sebastian de Mier made it the purpose of his contribution to address the most eminent men upon each special subject; he has had the merit not only to obtain the assurance of their co-operation and of those whose auxiliary help was necessary to carry the matter into effect (1), but also to supply works, which have required many years of attention, all the official documents, and to impart to all the light of his experience. Humboldt was in position to formulate his great work in the coun-

(1) By the side of the names of the writers who have signed the proper chapters we consider it a matter of duty to signify the names of Mr. Marcel Charlot, secretary of the president of the Chamber of Deputies and secretary of Mr. Leon Bourgeois; of Mr. Georges Voguet, assistant of the secretary of public works, former secretary of Mr. Camille Krantz. We

try itself and to describe what he saw. If the writers of "Mexico at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century" have not had such opportunity, they have found, at least, a greater supply of administrative, economic and statistical elements.

Their work shall be one of the monuments of Mexican history, of which the present recapitulation may be the finishing touch.

will also thank Mr. Elisee Reclus, who has subscribed the maps appearing in the two volumes, especially the political and physical chart, which, among its class, is a work of great merit.

We owe a souvenir and a tribute of regret to Mr. Gustavo Baz, secretary of the Mexican Legation. In him we had the contribution of a man of vast erudition. He died in March, 1904, while the work was yet incomplete.

Above all, we owe our recognition to Mr. Albert Hans, who, under the direction of Mr. Sebastian de Mier, has acted with indefatigable activity as secretary of the editorial staff, taking charge of the reports of the writers and correcting all the proofs. Mr. Albert Hans, former assistant commissioner from Mexico to the Universal Exposition of 1900, was, on account of his deep knowledge of the language, geography, history and institutions of the country, the proper person to select as a *collaborateur* of this work.

## POPULATION AND COLONIZATION.

Before proceeding, it appears necessary to state the condition of the population and its growth. The census of 1869 gave Mexico a population of eight and one-half millions. That of 1900 takes it up to 13,611,694; Prince Roland Bonaparte says that considering the omissions, it is safe to expect that in 1903 it will go up to at least fourteen and one-half millions (1).

The average density of the population is as yet very light; about seven inhabitants per square kilometer. This density is, however, an increase of 30 per cent above that of Anahuac, and whatever the case may be, the total number of inhabitants has increased 70 per cent since 1869; no other American country of those situated in the inter-tropical zone has approached such figures.

Marriages, though imperfectly registered up to the present time, are generally effected at an early age; one-fourth of the women get to be mothers about the age of 16 years (2).

Immigrants are not very numerous; the census shows that there were 57,500 in 1900. The majority of them are Spaniards (16,258) and Americans from the United States (15,265), the former being enticed towards Mexico by the affinity of race, the latter by reason of constant business relations. The French (3,976) come next to the Guatemalans (5,804). Englishmen, Germans, Cubans,

(1) Mr. Matias Romero, in 1895, estimated the population to be about 20 per cent above the census, because great many people hide themselves for fear of taxation. In the annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (January, 1903), Mr. Walter F. Weyl expressed the belief that the population of Mexico was between fifteen and sixteen millions.

(2) During the five years from 1897 to 1901 there were 2,336,113 births registered, 206,593 marriages and 2,317,454 deaths, thus indicating an excess of births over deaths of 0.8 per cent, an average of 17.08 births per marriage. In 1901 statistical data showed 470,060 births, 60,227 marriages and 444,900 deaths. The aforesaid figures only give an approximate estimate, as the civil status of the people is as yet imperfectly established.

Italians and Chinamen number approximately between 2,500 to 2,900 for each nationality. Such immigration is beneficial to the country and deserves to be encouraged inasmuch as it may not become a menace to Mexican nationality.

The Mormon colonies, the agricultural importance of which is praised by Mr. Hippolyte Gomot, are rapidly developing, and suggested to Prince Roland Bonaparte the idea, not devoid of good reason, that they ought to be watched closely, on account of their ideals and particularizing instincts. Prince Roland Bonaparte, who has made an eye study of the Mormon people, affirms that such colonists will never amalgamate with the Mexican nation; he considers Mormons as the vanguard of a prolific and invading race.

With regard to Chinamen, their number has increased with rapidity subsequent to the census of 1900. Only in the peninsula of Yucatan their number was estimated, at the beginning of 1904, at about 10,000; they were employed preferably in henequen plantations. Many thousand more have also disembarked at ports of the Pacific coast, principally at Manzanillo. It would be safe to state that the "Celestials" outnumber the Spaniards or the Americans. Chinamen appear in Mexico, as they do everywhere else, as hard-working people who live on very little, but are regarded with dislike by the natives.

As a great number of Chinamen succeed, in spite of prohibition, to enter the United States through Mexican soil, the Government of the United States has resented this violation and proposed to the Mexican Government the means to regulate the landing of Chinese, which means have not been agreed upon so far (1).

It is hoped that Chinese immigration may not become a source of trouble for the Republic of Mexico. Prince Roland Bonaparte, whose high authority is indisputable, has expressed some fear in this respect.

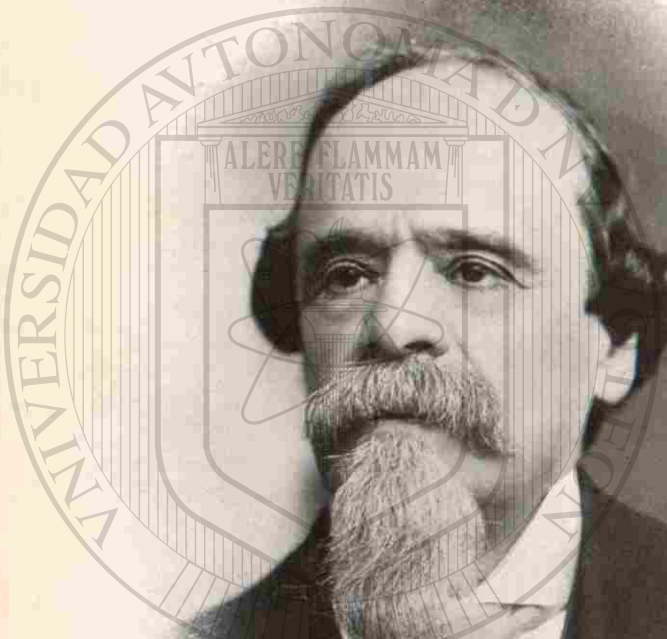
(1) On the 14th of December, 1899, a treaty was signed at Washington between Mexico and China relative to the immigration of Chinese laborers.

The preponderance of immigration from the United States has been predicted often enough, but this being purely economical does not assume an alarming attitude. The old movement of colonization, starting from the center towards the northern portion of the Republic, and which was the main factor of so many good results during the Spanish domination, has again taken a vigorous impulse. This constant contingent, which tends to increase the population of the northern States, causes a feeling of tranquillity among the friends of Mexico's nationality. The rapid development of the States of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon has been a surprise to observers.

Unfortunately, the movement of emigration towards the North does not stop at the frontier; it goes beyond, and the emigration of Mexican laborers to the United States, pointed out by Prince Roland Bonaparte, is becoming more remarkable. The cause of this must be the increase of wages and the fact that the same are paid in gold. This emigration means a considerable loss to Mexico.

President Porfirio Diaz has encouraged immigration by relieving immigrants from fiscal taxation. He has revived a traditional measure adopted by the Viceroy of Mexico in order to populate some vacant regions by means of colonies and even by the creation of new towns. Railroads have greatly aided towards this end. The submission of the rebel Indians of the North, who were made the subject of an exterminating war, and that of the rebel Mayas of the South, which country, in spite of its inaccessibility, has become the Territory of Quintana Roo, placed under the authority of the central Government, will facilitate the increase of population and at the same time complete the unity of the country.

In sum, the facts we have expressed and which are intelligently set forth in the study made by Prince Roland Bonaparte, rich in new thought of perception, show that the ethnic body of the Mexican nation is sound and endowed with strong vitality.



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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE

HON. IGNACIO MARISCAL,  
Secretary of Foreign Relations.

## GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

A master in political matters, Mr. Leon Bourgeois, has made an analytical study of the Mexican Constitution, of February 5, 1857, which served as the basis of organization of a democratic, federal, representative Republic. Said Constitution, inspired in that of 1824, was modified in great many points through a series of amendments, specially so by that of 1887, by virtue of which the President, whose election was made by secret ballot and for a term of four years, by the electors chosen by the people, sanctioned by the House of Representatives, may be re-elected any number of times. A law passed in 1904 has just extended the presidential term of office to six years.

The President has the exercise of the executive power. He is assisted by seven members of his cabinet, who are appointed or dismissed by him, but they are not responsible to Congress and can not form part of the same. The Vice-Presidency, which had been suppressed for a number of years, has been re-established this year. The Vice-President is elected by popular suffrage.

The legislative power is vested in a Congress composed of two elective Chambers: The Chamber of Deputies (House of Representatives, numbering 232 members), elected to office for two years, and who, among other powers, have the exclusive right to vote upon taxation; and the Senate, one half of which is renewed every two years, there being two Senators for each State and two for the Federal District, and who, besides other powers, have the right to ratify the appointment of high officials. A permanent Commission, composed of fifteen members of the House and fourteen Senators, acts during the recesses of Congress. This body has been intimately associated, without default, for over twenty-five years, to the regenerating action of President Porfirio Diaz.



The judicial power, emanating directly from the people, is exercised by the Supreme Court of Justice, which settles all differences between the States, through the Federal District Courts, the judges thereof being also elective, and besides other missions, the judicial power acts as the safeguard of individual freedom against the abuse of authority of the administrative power. The members of Congress and all public officials, up to the President of the Republic, are responsible for their acts before the courts or before the House of Representatives.

Each of the twenty-seven States of the Union is the master of its own constitution and government, provided they are not in conflict with federal laws, and that they do not raise any barriers against interstate commerce by virtue of customs or revenue taxation. Each State has its governor, legislature and courts. Throughout the Republic criminals are tried before a jury.

The Constitution of Mexico, which greatly resembles that of the United States, is based on principles equally liberal to those of the latter. It provides individual freedom and prohibits monastic orders; it affirms the equality of all citizens, freedom of worship, the right of association, freedom of labor and teaching; under certain restrictions it admits the liberty of the press and respect to property.

Foreigners enjoy, with the exception of the right to meddle in politics, the same privileges allowed to Mexicans. The laws of naturalization are very liberal. But, at the same time, the Constitution of Mexico has to contend with a country composed as yet by dissimilar elements, which have for too long a time been divided by class prejudices and troubled by dissensions which have checked, to a certain extent, the full application of the Constitution.

The present order of things tends towards the complete enjoyment of future freedom. President Diaz has devoted his attention to insure the latter by consolidating the central power. To that effect he has limited, with a view to strengthening and generalizing the principle of

federation, the municipal autonomy of the Capital. Let us observe several examples of said policy. Subsequent to 1903 the various municipalities located within the Federal District, and particularly that of the Capital, have been provided with a commissioned council, acting under the direct authority of the executive power. An additional article to the Constitution has deprived the States of the right to negotiate loans with foreign countries: a very important measure, the tendency of which is to prevent that unwise contracts prejudice the credit of the nation which now follows the progress of the world.

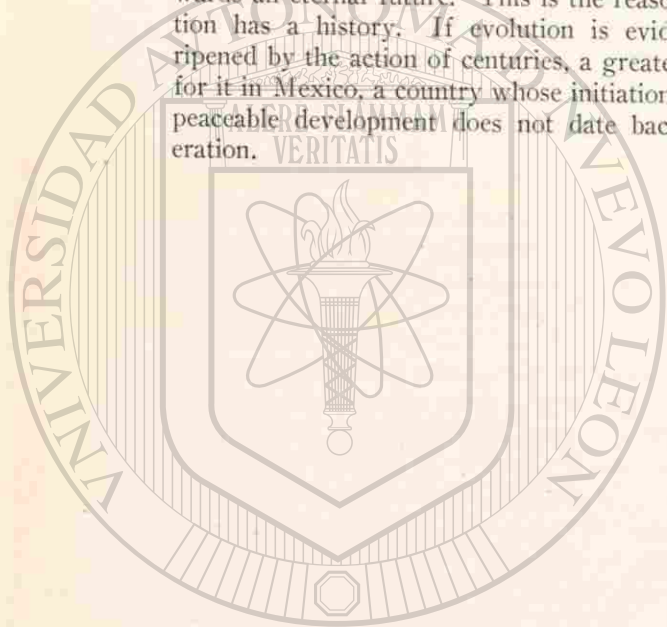
Bands of marauders, which were the remnant of civil wars, were the cause of terror throughout the country. The organization of the rural guards, that of the city police in the Federal District and the energy of the President have caused the disappearance of the above calamity. Besides the great number of measures which set in relief the solicitude of the Government to accomplish the material and moral advancement of the people, it is just to mention the creation, in the City of Mexico, of a model penitentiary, the suppression of gambling houses, the improvement of infants' asylums and hospitals, the drainage of the valley of Mexico and the sanitation of the Capital.

All religious questions have been solved by the complete separation of church and state; real estate owned by the clergy has become the property of the nation; and religious communities have been prohibited. However, the Catholic clergy, the subject matter of such measures, continues to exercise a great influence upon the spirit of the people.

From 1827 to 1875, according to Mr. Leon Bourgeois, "not one country could have been so ill-disposed to accept the establishment of a peaceable and normal situation." Notwithstanding that, thanks to the internal policy of the Government of which we have set forth the essential features, and which has been observed with firmness and perseverance during thirty years, Mexico was able to come out of the chaos. Mr. Leon Bourgeois says with

good reason: "There is not a statesman in Europe who would not be proud of having accomplished such results."

Is the task complete? No. The spirit, the institutions and the fate of nations are constantly moving towards an eternal future. This is the reason why civilization has a history. If evolution is evident in nations ripened by the action of centuries, a greater reason exists for it in Mexico, a country whose initiation in the road of peaceable development does not date back of one generation.



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## FINANCES AND PUBLIC CREDIT.

One of the most arduous questions to solve was that of finances (1). It was also one of those which required an immediate solution for the relief of the State.

The income of the Treasury, during the period 1822-1844, had been more or less 14 million pesos; the same having increased, in 1844, to 34 millions of pesos, decreased, by the influence of civil discords and wars with foreign countries, to 10 millions of pesos from 1852 to 1853. A short time after, following a short period of relief, the income dropped to 5 millions from 1865 to 1866. The expenses surpassed the income about 30 per cent and the deficit in ten years (1867 to 1878) had grown upwards of 50 million pesos.

During his first presidential administration (1876 to 1880), General Diaz raised the Government's income to an average of 20½ millions, though it went beyond 23 millions during the last year. The financial condition was still crushing; the foreign debt was therefore suffering a good deal; a large portion of the revenues were encumbered, and public officials were incompletely paid.

After 1884 President Porfirio Diaz has made of the restoration of finances the most important feature of his administration. He has been powerfully seconded in his task by the wise economist Mr. Jose Ives Limantour, to whom President Diaz entrusted since 1893 the department of the Treasury.

A system of economy was then realized, principally by the suppression of a number of employes; new imposts were established without causing the feeling that any of the contributors were overtaxed. The floating debt

(1) See geographical and statistical notes on Mexico, by Mr. Matias Romero (p. 139), for the schedule of income and expenses subsequent to 1822.

was consolidated in 1885; the foreign debt, contracted in London, was reduced, in 1887, to 30 million dollars; two loans, one 10½ millions sterling, negotiated at 6 per cent in the market of Berlin, facilitated the liquidation of a large portion of the indebtedness (1888) and the other of 6 millions sterling was devoted to the payment of subsidies accorded to railway companies (1900); new loans had to be made, which were crowned by success.

Old bonds, which were numerous and divers, were converted (1893-1894) into certificates subject to interest. "We have no floating debt," said the President in 1896; "all the debt of the nation is represented by regular certificates of the public debt which are subject to interest."

The effects of such reforms were already felt at that time. They became more and more evident in the years that followed. Thus, in 1889, Mexico was able to negotiate a loan of 22,700,000 sterling at 5 per cent to clean out those it had contracted twelve years before at 6 per cent.

Although public revenues, which in 1877-1878 did not surpass 20 million dollars, were increased to 38½ millions in 1889-1890, they were not sufficient at that time to cover the expenses.

The deficit became more and more sensible during a number of years, exceeding 6 million dollars in 1892-1893.

But finally the Government released itself of its financial burdens. In 1901-1902 the income of the federal Government, half of which is provided by its customs duties and by the stamp tax, reached the sum of \$66,774,380 (1), while the expenses were only \$62,275,101, therefore leaving an excess of the former over the latter.

The results of the fiscal year 1902-1903 are still more remarkable; \$76,023,416 income and \$68,222,522 expenses, leaving an excess of \$7,800,894—that is to say, a balance of over 11 per cent.

To have a complete idea of public expenses it would be necessary to add to the federal budget that of the

(1) The stamp tax, established by the law of August 25, 1893, produced alone \$25,000,000.

States, the total of which in 1902 reached the sum of \$18,086,952, income, and \$17,322,707 for expenses, plus the municipal budgets, which show \$10,490,901 income against \$10,148,804 for expenses. The credit of Mexico has increased in proportion to the development of its finances generally; its foreign loan, which was floated in the markets of Europe at the rate of 58 francs (for certificates of 100 francs) reached the rate of 90 francs (1895) and surpassed its par value towards the end of 1899. On March 31, 1903, 5 per cent bonds were and are sold in London at 103.

The Government of Mexico has been benefited, legitimately, in converting into 5 per cent bonds, as stated before, the loans it had contracted at a higher rate of interest. Such certificates, however, have also surpassed their face value in June, 1903.

President Porfirio Diaz deserves moreover the credit of having accomplished such purpose since he was, as Messrs. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu and Alfred Foville remarked, strongly hampered by the decrease in the price of silver.

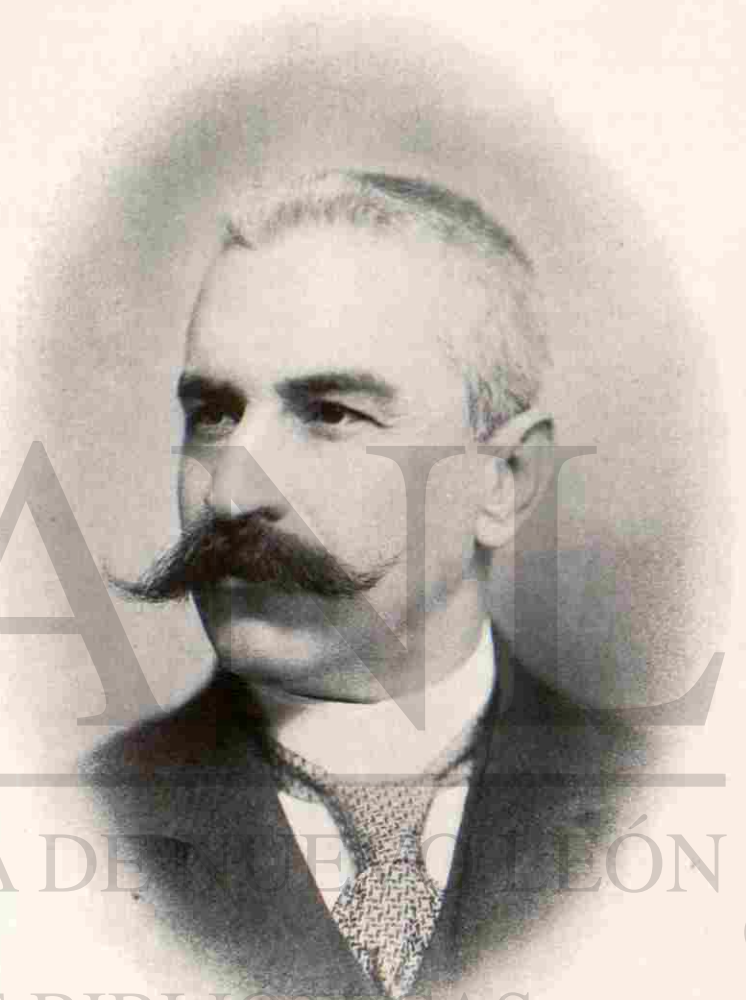
On the other hand, customs duties, which constitute one of the heaviest revenues for the Treasury, were calculated on a silver basis. Or, the white metal which in 1876 maintained still its proximity to par value (1) has followed an almost constant decline during twenty-five years, so much so that in 1903 it was worth, according to the progress of precious metals, less than half (24 1-16 pence per ounce) of what it used to be, this being the cause of a decrease in value of mining property and also of the fall in the income of the Treasury. This last decrease has been partially remedied by the law of January 1, 1903, which establishes a basis for the payment of customs duties, which, however, may be an obstacle to importations (imperfectly compensated, from a point of view of a general interest, by the benefits that may be derived by the exporters of national products, silver excepted); a

(1) The average price of silver per ounce in London during 1876 was 52¾ pence.

menacing commercial crisis, a considerable overcharge for the payment of arrears of the foreign debt, which, for example, were calculated, on account of conversion of silver into gold, at nearly 28,000 francs in 1892-1893.

The Government has been enlightened by the advice of those who, being the most interested in the matter, were consulted through a commission appointed in February, 1902. The counselors advised the Government to pay its debt in silver, same as if the par value had been maintained, which would have meant a total failure. The Government, however, was wise enough not to follow this counsel and it was perfectly right in doing so; for it is to that sense of sagacity that a good deal of credit placed to-day upon its bonds is due. Furthermore, it appears that the decline of silver may be stopped for some time at least.

The series of operations that have placed Mexico's credit on a level with that of the majority of the large European nations is the work of a wise and restorative administration. Upon the evidence of it, Mr. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu has repeated the words of one of the greatest ministers of the restoration, Baron Louis: "Give me a good political administration and I will give you prosperity." One could add that prosperity helps a good deal to perpetuate a good political administration.



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HON. RAMON CORRAL,  
Secretary of Interior.

## ARMY AND NAVY.

A government should always have at its disposal a sufficient armed force to maintain order and insure the security of the country, to defend when necessary the integrity of its territory against a foreign aggression, and also to cause the respect abroad of its national flag. "No country," said with good reason the great General Niox, "should consider itself exempt from the dangers of war."

The Mexicans are not wanting in the habit of making use of arms; political parties have done no other thing than to appeal too often to the use of arms during intestinal dissensions. They are not wanting, either, in endurance before the hardships of war or in courage to face death. General Niox, who is an eye-witness of their struggles, pays homage to their valour. They are lacking, however, in a good military organization. President Diaz has made it his purpose to provide one for his country.

General Niox explains with correctness how the recruiting of the army has been regulated and how the various corps have been constituted by means of new laws, especially by that of July 1, 1901, establishing the principle of compulsory military service for all those between the ages of 20 to 50 years, combining with it the mustering of volunteers and conscripts, distributing the recruits of different social standards among the various corps of the army, instituting or restoring military schools and creating an important supply of war material.

It is calculated that the ordinary number of soldiers that a country ought to support in times of peace is about a one hundredth part of its population. Mexico could, therefore, support 140,000 men under its flag. However, it has only 31,000 men of regular troops, 3,500 of which are officers. The number of officers is comparatively large, this being done for the purpose of recruiting the

necessary number of men in case of war, thus raising the present army to 220,000 combatants.

There are two reserves. The first is composed by the rural guards, customs officers in the northern portion of Mexico and on the coasts, and the corps of gendarmes of the Federal Districts and the States, the whole amounting to about 20,000 men. The second reserve is constituted by levies mobilized from the States, which reserve is poorly enforced but which can be utilized to fill the deficiencies of the regular army.

The arms in use are modern and of good quality.

With regard to the navy, the same is still in its embryotic state—a few gunboats and steel sloops, three of which were recently constructed in Genoa and New York. The great extension of Mexico's coast lines will force the construction of a navy capable of protecting the country. That is a task for the future to accomplish, and, for the present, such needed improvement has been provided for by the addition of new credits to the general budget (1).

On the other hand, Mexico can not for the present go beyond the maintenance of a small fleet on the Pacific, an ocean which some day will play a part equal to that played by the Mediterranean concerning the rivalries of the Old World. We consider it proper to repeat an old adage: A country without a navy is a bird without wings.

(1) The war and navy budget in 1901-1902 did not exceed \$14,000,000. The proportion, therefore, as remarked by Mr. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, is not excessive with regard to the total budget.

## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

To spread education is one of the functions of the Government. "The eagerness of the governments of all countries to spread education," said President Diaz in 1896, "is the characteristic of our age. \* \* \* If the diffusion of knowledge is a blessing to all social organizations, it is a necessity, and a forcible necessity—a question of life and death for nations pledged to democratic principles which constitute their ideal."

During the era of colonial administration instruction was imparted almost exclusively by religious congregations, Jesuits (up to the time of their expulsion) and Franciscans, more so in schools and colleges. Such instruction was very rudimentary for the primary grades, religion being the principal preoccupation of mind, although it was imparted even to the Indians; in colleges it was more of a scholastic character.

After the Declaration of Independence, laic education began its course of development. Lancaster introduced his method in Mexico, and during thirty years or more the Lancasterian Society directed the schools of the Federal District; several private colleges were also established. The Government, however, for a long time, remained, if not entirely indifferent, at least incapable to do anything.

It was during the administration of President Juarez that the solicitude of the Government began to give signs of life. The law of December 2, 1867, created the organization of public instruction in three grades: primary schools supported by the proper communities, aided by the States, and compulsory, free and laic primary instruction; preparatory schools, that is to say, secondary education supported by the States; professional schools, where technical and superior education was imparted, and which were supported by the Federal Government. From 1870 to 1876 the number of schools was doubled,

there being 4,500 in 1870 against 8,165 in 1876; these figures were still low, because, out of 1,800,000 children of school age, there were only 369,000 enrolled in the above establishments.

During the first period of administration of President Porfirio Diaz, not having yet the means to found new schools, he confined his efforts, as he said it, "to point out the evil and its remedy," and to awake in teachers the spirit of confidence and progress. This progress has been accomplished during the course of his administrations subsequent to 1884, by the establishment of two normal schools (1887 to 1890); by a congress to which all the States of the Union sent their delegates and where all important questions relating to teaching were discussed (1889 to 1891). Said congress maintained the enforcement of a "national system of popular education having as a basis the uniformity of primary, compulsory, free and laic instruction." It was followed by the laws of May 23, 1888, and of March 21, 1891, relating to the enforcement of education in the Federal District and the Territories, which enforcement is really effective since 1900; next came the law of June 3, 1896, concerning the creation of a general director of primary instruction. "The vivifying wave of primary instruction is climbing further and further towards the high regions," said the President in 1900; "progress has invaded even our villages."

Mr. Greard, whose death was to France a matter of public mourning and a loss to science and education, has presented a sketch of the above mentioned progress with his high competence in educational matters and the authority that his name signifies. In 1895 statistics fixed the number of schools of all grades at 11,500 and that of the pupils at 803,686. A great improvement, but still insufficient because the census of 1895 listed 10,345,000 persons who did not know how to either read nor write, and 323,000 who only knew how to read, most of them being Indians or half-breeds.

The "Anuario Estadístico" for the year 1901, of which Mr. Greard adopted the figures which made the

best exposure of the real situation, mentioned 12,136 primary schools (of which 6,434 were supported by the Federal Government and the Governments of the States, 3,057 by municipal corporations, and the balance by private persons or the clergy) and 871,027 pupils.

There is yet a great deal to be done, and many years will pass before the diffusion of the Spanish language by means of schools will reach the total Indian population and thus facilitate the spreading of an education which will cause the consolidation of national unity.

Preparatory or secondary instruction was organized by the law of December 2, 1867. The same is imparted in forty-six establishments to the public. It has a general, uniform character, based, according to the law of June 2, 1866, "upon the necessary studies for the harmonious development of the mind."

Mr. Greard enters into details au sujet of the results of the *Licee Francais*, established in Mexico in 1866, under the patronage of the French minister and with the support of the Mexican Government, said college being principally devoted to the education of the children of French merchants, adopted in 1903 a commercial programme. "Commercial schools are the foundation of the prosperity of great countries," said Mr. Justo Sierra, sub-secretary of public instruction, upon the inauguration of the new regime. Germans and Englishmen have also established schools following the example set by the French.

The Preparatory School of Mexico deserves to be ranked at a high level; it is attended by young men of the better class of the Mexican people, where they receive through a course of six years' studies an instruction which is at the same time theoretical and practical.

The Government has justly devoted much of its attention to the education of girls. The latter constitute already a large body of attendants to the primary schools. Half of the personnel of such establishments is formed by them and they also have charge of special secondary schools, particularly the school known as *Colegio de la*

*Paz* (College of the Peace), founded in the eighteenth century and reorganized in 1900, and also the School of Arts and Trades, the attendance to which has increased five times its original number during the last ten years.

Professional schools impart an education of a technical and superior character—law, medicine, fine arts, agriculture, military and civil engineering, commerce, etc. Statistics for 1901 register sixty-two schools of the above mentioned character, twelve of which are supported by the Federal Government. An experimental method has been adopted for those schools, as it is the desire of the Government to turn out men of practical knowledge.

The separation of the church and the State, which has opened the field for a freer education, does not assail either the liberty of worship or the religious feeling that lives as vivid as ever in the soul of the Mexican people. There are at the present time twenty-seven seminaries, most of which have endeavored to modernize their programme of studies.

A superior board of national education has been recently created. "Under its active and liberal administration," remarked Mr. Greard, "everything tends towards a well-seasoned and sure progress, everything is saturated with a practical sense, which constitutes the character of instruction in Mexico."

Prior to the decided adoption by nations of such system many years had to elapse; civil dissensions were the principal obstacle against their progress. We will cheerfully repeat with Mr. Greard: "No foundation can be laid upon a shaky soil"; and according to Mr. Jules Clartie: "Literature can not attain a real development where the calm of peace is wanting."



DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS

HON. JUSTINO FERNÁNDEZ,  
Secretary of Justice and Public Instruction.

## SCIENCES, LETTERS AND ARTS.

In the chapter relative to sciences, Mr. Albin Haller mentions how Mexico's scientific institutions merited the admiration of Baron Humboldt, and how subsequent "wars and troubles which accompanied the independence of Mexico paralyzed their work." "The struggle being over," he says, "the task was resumed."

By the side of foreign explorers who have discovered rich mining treasures, on the one hand, like Burkart, and ruins which reveal pre-Columbian civilization on the other, like Mandsley and Desire Charnay, Mr. Albin Haller mentions the native names of geographers, archæologists, geologists, mineralogists, naturalists and physicians who, for more than half a century, have been ranked among the masters of science and who do honor to their country.

Most of them have been educated in the large schools of Mexico, viz.: National Preparatory School, School of Medicine, National School of Engineers, Military Academy and others. More than one of those men have distinguished themselves in international congresses and contribute to-day to form international works upon sciences.

The work of getting up the topographical chart of Mexico is now in course. The same can be considered as the *suite* of the work commenced during the French intervention under the direction of Captain Niox. Several observatories take part in the establishment of the great photographic chart of the skies, undertaken at the suggestion of the Observatory of Paris and France's Academie des Sciences. A bacteriological institute has just been founded in Mexico, and it will not be very long before they establish a Pasteur institute.

Mexico has several men of learning, and the efforts made by the Government to develop a high grade of edu-



cation give room for the idea that it will have many more from the generation that is at present growing.

"Have we a literature of our own? Have we an art?" has been asked often by Mexican writers. "I will repeat the question," said Mr. Jules Clartie, "and will also repeat my reply: Mexico has already acquired an art and has more than one literature; it has a people endowed with artistic taste and literary education." And Mr. Clartie gives cumulative evidence of the above by citing in the chapter devoted to art and literature the names and works which form too long a list for us to repeat in the present resume.

A great many buildings have been erected in Mexico during the last thirty years. However, Mr. Jules Clartie has not gone so far as to attribute to that country an original class of architecture; but he does point the freedom of design of Mexican painters and sculptors.

The eminent author speaks highly of the fecundity of writers upon divers subjects and particularly of those who write for the press. "At the present time Mexican literature, after having been strictly Spanish, saturated with local flavor, I dare say, has evolved without losing its national character; it follows the course of universal literature."

Mr. Jules Clartie, manager of the Comedie-Francaise, had to say something about theaters. His judgment, which is that of an experienced master, is most favorable: "Mexico has several distinguished artists, both operatic and dramatic, whose talent is worthy of admiration."

## PUBLIC WORKS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Public works have furnished the subject for a deep study made by Mr. Camille Krantz; said works are of various characters.

Those which have been performed for the purposes of navigation are of a capital importance. There were only a few good-natured ports, Acapulco for example. The Government has spent considerable amounts to better the conditions of other ports, particularly those of Tampico and Veracruz. The latter, which was nothing more than an open and dangerous landing place, has been completely transformed by means of break-waters and a channel leading to the new docks. It has been provided with all kinds of improvements and will shelter, with perfect safety, the ships of deeper draught. There are now under construction several works not less necessary at Coatzacoalcos, Salina Cruz, Manzanillo and Mazatlan.

Lighthouses have been provided on all the eastern coast. The same will be completed at a future date on the Pacific.

A new extension will be given to the works in the interior by applying thereto a loan of six million dollars, voted in May, 1904. Out of said loan, two and a half millions will be devoted to the work of providing the City of Mexico with fresh water, and two and a half millions shall be invested in the first work of the federal legislative palace. Said edifice, destined for the Senate and the House of Representatives, the project of which is the work of a Frenchman, Mr. Emile Benard, and which is intended to cost about ten million dollars, will be one of the handsomest in the world. It is thought that the inauguration will coincide with the centenary of the independence of Mexico.

The means of communication, the creation of which is a governmental measure of prime order in all countries, are particularly important in Mexico, where nature is so disposed that it presents powerful obstacles to the circulation of commerce and hampers political and moral unity. Mr. Camille Krantz has made a detailed description, with the precision of an engineer, concerning the progress accomplished in that line during the period of thirty years.

Streams, with the exception of a few, are not navigable. The principal effort has consisted in giving them, on the Anahuac Plateau, a drainage in order to cause the sanitation of the valley. The great canal, named Desague, begun in 1880, was completed in 1894, and it may be considered among works of its kind as one of great merit, which did not cost less than 18 million dollars.

Long roads were of difficult construction and demanded heavy expenses. On this point, only those which were strictly necessary have been improved. The Government has left the greater part of this work in the hands of the States and municipalities.

It is principally with regard to railways that the example set by the United States has been followed by Mexico. Although the first concession goes back to 1837, the execution of the same was rather tardy on account of the revolutions that spread a reign of terror throughout the country. There were at that time two small lines which joined several suburban towns with the Capital, and in January, 1873, the Mexican Railroad (Ferrocarril Mexicana) was inaugurated, thus connecting the City of Mexico with Veracruz (470 kilometers). This improvement (made under concession dated November 27, 1867), carried into effect with English capital, aided by laborers furnished by the Government, is one of considerable merit, owing to the difficulties that had to be conquered in a range of mountains 2,532 meters high, and it also deserves considerable credit for its results since it connects the Capital with the sea, and through the latter with the whole world.

After the access to power of President Porfirio Diaz the construction of railway lines has been pushed in all directions with an indefatigable activity and following a general and methodical plan. Mexican capital has been joined by foreign capital, specially from the United States. President Lerdo de Tejada declined always to accept foreign co-operation. President Porfirio Diaz, on the contrary, has cheerfully accepted it; he has accorded it all kinds of encouragement, either by granting large areas of land of the great Republic or by pecuniary subsidies (1). The results have shown that he has acted wisely.

Mr. Camille Krantz has made an exposition of the legal and administrative principles governing railways, of which the law of April 29, 1899, has made three groups—lines of general interest, lines of local interest for the Federal District and the Territories, and lines of local interest for the States. He has made known in detail the construction and the present condition of each of the lines in question. The above lines have two principal directions: north-south, connecting the United States with the City of Mexico, wherefrom they will be extended to Yucatan and Guatemala; east-west, connecting the plateau with both oceans (the lines in the southern part of Mexico leading principally from the northeast to southwest). Among the most important we may mention the Mexican Railroad, which comprises a trunk line from Veracruz to Mexico with several branches, the traffic of which has been more than doubled within the last ten years. Quite interesting is the line that runs from Coatzacoalcos to Salina Cruz, thus crossing the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, which line will surely handle a growing amount of traffic so long as there are no maritime communications from one ocean to the other.

Without referring, in addition to what has been said by Mr. Camille Krantz, to the history of each com-

(1) Subsidies paid to railroads by the national treasurer up to June 30, 1902, amounted to \$145,000,000. Pablo Macedo, "Mexico and Social Evolution."

pany, we will confine ourselves, on that point, to recapitulate his work within a few condensing figures.

In 1876 Mexico had 578 kilometers of railroads in operation; in 1901 it possessed 18,432 (1).

The increase of traffic has been very rapid. In 1896 there were 4,281,000 passengers and 2,730,000 tons of freight; in 1899 there were 39,000,000 passengers and 7,267,000 tons of freight (2).

We will say a few words in regard to measures recently adopted by the Government relative to the administration of companies, which, formed by foreign capitalists, showed the intention to merge by means of fusions or contracts based upon private interests. The Federal Government, acting with activity and discretion, has acquired a controlling interest in most of the companies, and thus checked the tendencies of the Mexican Central Railroad which was about to become a menacing power.

Furthermore, it has bought branches of great importance, such as from Chihuahua to Topolobambo. The creation of a trust which was intended to work against the interest of the country was checked to its benefit by the President and his minister, Mr. Jose Ives Limantour.

Since 1904 the Mexican nation has the upper hand on a very important system connecting the Capital to the frontier of the United States, to that of Guatemala and one ocean with the other. Said system comprises the National, the Inter-oceanic, the line crossing the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Veracruz and Pacific Railroad, with all of their branches.

(1) Over the above 18,432 kilometers there were, on December 31, 1901, 3,937 kilometers moved by animal power and 118 by electric traction. More than half are broad gauge lines; the balance are narrow gauge lines, though a few are still narrower.

Ranking with federal lines (15,034 kilometers December, 1902, according to "Anuario Estadístico," page 118) there were 17 lines operated by animal traction and two by electricity. The department of Communication and Public Works gave federal lines a mileage of 16,114 in December, 1903, 15,935 kilometers of which were operated by steam power.

(2) See, with regard to traffic of the principal railroad lines, "Geographical and Statistical Notes on Mexico," by Mr. Matias



Also all the fears which caused a vivid impression concerning a monopoly plotted in New York by foreign capitalists have disappeared.

Other considerations serve to further approve the operation. The centralization of power and the unity of the country will find in it many advantages. Commerce and industry are not in danger of corners and the personnel may be totally nationalized.

The prosperity of Mexico's finances, which has created a reserve fund, and the affirmation of its credit have permitted the Government to effect the purchase of shares without effort or engrossment of its budget.

We must point out a vacant space. The Capital is not connected practically with the Pacific coast. The line from Mexico to Acapulco reaches only as far as the Mexcala River (or Rio de las Balsas), and the State of Guerrero, which is a very rich region from an agricultural and mining point of view, remains isolated and devoid of cultivation. Whatever may be the cost of building a railway line between Mexico and Acapulco or Sihuatanejo, action should be taken without further delay. The task should be taken up with eagerness, regardless of difficulties; it involves an interest of the first order, not only economically but politically.

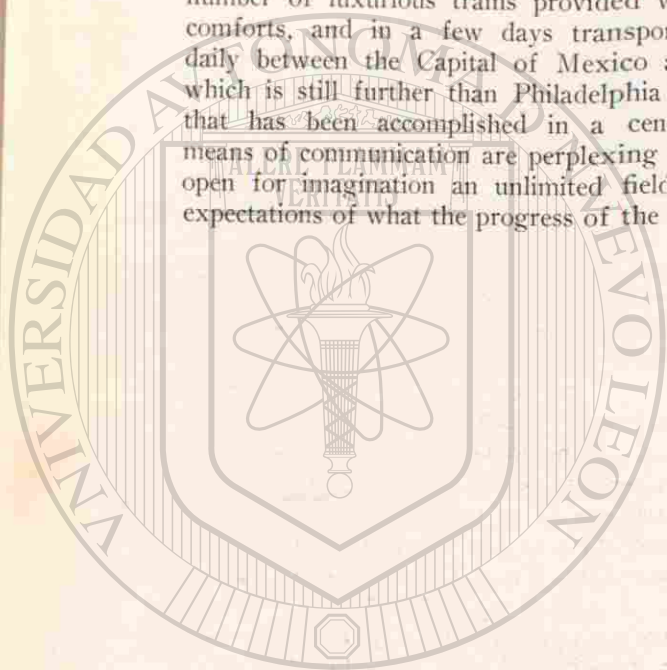
In conclusion, the prophecy of Baron Humboldt comes to our mind: "The day will come," said he in his essay upon New Spain, "when one may go in a coach from Mexico to Philadelphia." Philadelphia was then

Romero (page 193 and those following), and "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana, 1902." The five principal lines obtained the following results:

	First Year Statistics.		Year 1902.	
	Passengers.	Tons.	Passengers.	Tons.
Mexican Rwy., 1873.	476,287	159,473	912,951	724,244
Federal District Rwys., 1873	3,760,653	.....	31,132,030	.....
National R. R. of Mexico, 1873-1874	247,547	298	974,258	1,233,111
Inter-oceanic, 1880	228,053	11,431	958,560	730,302
Mexican Central, 1881.	303,543	7,102	2,401,968	2,658,356

the first city of the United States, the best populated and the richest.

What would Humboldt say if he saw at present the number of luxurious trains provided with all sorts of comforts, and in a few days transporting passengers daily between the Capital of Mexico and New York, which is still further than Philadelphia? The progress that has been accomplished in a century concerning means of communication are perplexing to the mind and open for imagination an unlimited field pregnant with expectations of what the progress of the future might be.



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GENERAL MANUEL GONZÁLEZ COSÍO,  
Secretary of Fomento, Colonization and Industry.

## MAIL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES.

The mail service has been greatly benefited by the progress of lines of communication. The interesting chapter on the subject prepared by Mr. Michel Lagrave furnishes the proof of this.

It is true that postal service was rudimentary prior to the construction of railway lines. President Porfirio Diaz devoted much attention to elevate this service to the level the same has attained in European nations.

Since 1878 Mexico adhered to the Universal Postal Convention held at Paris and the Government has therefore regulated the administration and postal tariff accordingly. A law issued January 26, 1899, has fixed the regulations for the above mentioned administration (1). The number of letters, printed matter and packages, which in 1894-1895 did not go beyond twenty-four and one-half millions, increased in 1902 to one hundred and fifty-six and one-half millions; that of postal orders has surpassed a half million. During the first six months of the fiscal year 1903-1904 there has been, in comparison with the first six months of the preceding year, an increase of two millions over the total; postal orders between the interior towns of the Republic show, during the same period of time, a movement of \$21,500,000, while those between Mexico and the United States have increased about 20 per cent (2).

The general office which manages telegraph lines was established in 1878. In 1885 the States ceded to the Federal Government all lines of general interest; to-day

(1) See about such regulations in section devoted to mails and telegraphs, by Mr. Michel Lagrave. The total number of postoffices in 1898 was 1,710 and in 1902 it went up to 2,207. ("Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana, 1902.")

(2) President's message to Congress, April 1, 1904.

all main lines belong to it. In December, 1902, the entire system numbered a mileage of 71,812 kilometers (1); the same in 1876 had only 7,136, and 60,509 in 1891. The total number of messages increased from 40,000 to over 2,870,000 in 1902.

During the first six months of fiscal year 1903-1904 the federal system acquired 1,905 kilometers on account of the merger of military lines established in the Territory of Quintana Roo and of new lines ceded by the State of Tabasco.

Telephonic lines (comprising those belonging to railways) measured, in 1897, 25,496 kilometers and, in 1902, they reached 40,657 kilometers (2). These lines are provided with apparatus of the latest models. The operation of telephone lines at a great distance has been insured through contracts covering this service up to the northern States of Mexico.

Railways and vessels transport persons and things. The mails, telegraphs and telephones transmit the thought. They also constitute a part of the economic machinery of a nation and are by no means less useful to social life and commerce.

(1) In December, 1902, the system was composed by 50,125 kilometers belonging to the Federal Government, 5,709 to the States, 3,943 to private corporations and 12,036 to railway companies. ("Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana, 1902.")

(2) Out of the 40,657 kilometers, 1,739 belonged to railway lines.

## COINAGE, EXCHANGE AND BANKING.

Money and other elements of exchange serve to pay for labor and to transfer the property of one person to another, and they are also a part of the means for the circulation of wealth.

Mexico is not wanting in silver metal; mines are numerous. At the end of the eighteenth century their production was valued at \$22,000,000. Said production, which had greatly increased during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, had a decrease down to less than half (1) on account of the arduous struggles attending the period of emancipation and of civil dissensions. After the pacification of the country took place, the production increased from year to year. In spite of the low price of the white metal, the production has increased three times its amount from 1877 to 1901: \$24,000,000 covered the production in 1877, \$74,000,000 in 1901 (2).

Coinage of silver in the mints remained more or less stationary; or, rather, it had an increase of about \$8,000,000 from 1877 to 1894 to fall back to an amount slightly inferior (3).

(1) The mints of Mexico coined, from 1791 to 1810, a little over \$20,000,000 per average year. From 1811 to 1845 the various mints had scarcely coined ten million dollars per annum. Coinage increased little by little to about twenty millions, from 1845 to 1876. (See "Edelmetall Production," by Von Soetbeer.)

(2) The "Statistique de l'industrie mineral et des appareils a vapeur en France et en Algerie" for the year 1902 show on account of Mexico 1,876,339 kilograms, valued at 165,118,000 francs. The "Anuario Estadistico" for the year 1902 shows 1,506,796 kilograms, valued at \$587,882,222.

For the year 1901-1902 the "Anuario Estadistico" (page 243) shows only \$28,000,000 of silver destined to coinage and \$30,000,000 exported to foreign countries. However, the value of all the silver that was exported in 1902 was (page 243) \$40,000,000.

(3) \$102,500,000 during the period of five years from 1897 to 1902, which show an average of \$20,000,000 per year.

It is exportation that has always been increasing. From \$2,752,000 exported in 1877-1878 it went up to \$45,852,000 in 1900-1901 (1). In fact, the Mexican dollar, a coin of good alloy, was very popular in foreign countries, principally in the extreme Orient, where it has maintained its reputation up to the present time.

But two incidents, one of which is the consequence of the other, have determined the constant decrease of the white metal ever since 1872: the abundance of production, which, from two million kilograms produced in 1870, went up to five and one-third millions in 1900, and the debasing of the white metal in the monetary system of nations which have adopted the gold standard, thus suppressing the coinage of silver. Silver coins are still turned out of the mints of the world, but such coins have, in many countries, a secondary character; the ounce which sold for 60½ pence in the London market in 1871 was not worth more than 24 1-16 in 1903.

Such enormous fall, without precedent in the history of modern times, has justly alarmed the Mexican people. The owners of mines and exporters complained of the reduction of their profits. It is believed, however, that they must have had some profits, since they have maintained and even developed their industry up to the present time, thanks to the improvement of the means of production and to the economy of transportation rates afforded by railway companies. The necessities of life and wages are far from having suffered in Mexico an increase equal to the fall of the price of silver in foreign markets; the above being a source of profit for exporters of commodities and manufactured products paid for in Mexico in silver and sold in foreign countries for gold; but, on the other hand, the Mexican people have to suffer the rebound, paying dear for imported goods, which are billed in gold, and the Government, as stated before, has been compelled to labor under sacrifice to settle in gold its arrears from its foreign debt. Foreign capital invested in Mexican enterprises harvest their dividends in

depreciated silver, this being the reason why new capital is held back by investors.

Although the fall in the price of silver appears to have reached its limit for some time back, the present situation regarding the course of precious metals does not authorize the supposition of a future amelioration with regard to the relation between gold and silver. So long as Mexican money has to stand such an onerous exchange as the present one, the country will not get a solid foothold among the nations of the civilized world, and will find itself in a disadvantageous position with regard to its foreign relations. The above appears as a dark cloud in a sky full of sunshine.

The Mexican Government is not responsible for this difficulty. However, President Porfirio Diaz is confident of the fact that a favorable solution must be sought. He has gone so far as to propose to the United States, in concert with China, a new monetary system in which the relation between silver and gold could be, during a certain time, fixed 32 to 1 by means of an international convention, although the coinage of the white metal would have to be limited. He expected that by such measure a more extensive and surer road would be opened for the white metal. The problem was of a complex nature on account of the diversity of interests involved, both as to present and future, therefore the success of the negotiation was problematic (1). Mexico's representative in Washington, after having spoken of the progress attained by his country, said: "The only thing that causes some trouble in its affairs is the depreciation of silver, since Mexican money is based upon such metal."

(1) The Mexican Monetary Commission published in 1903 several books on the subject: "Datos para el estudio de la cuestion monetaria en Mexico, etc." The secretary of said commission, Mr. Jaime Cruza, has published the preceding year a resume of the monetary problems of Mexico ("Apuntes sobre la cuestion de la plata en Mexico"). A mixed commission from Mexico and the United States was sent, during the year 1903, to bring the matter to the attention of England, France and other countries; it did not obtain any practical results.

The development of the production of gold, which has been more than duplicated during the last twenty-five years (1) will probably help to solve the question.

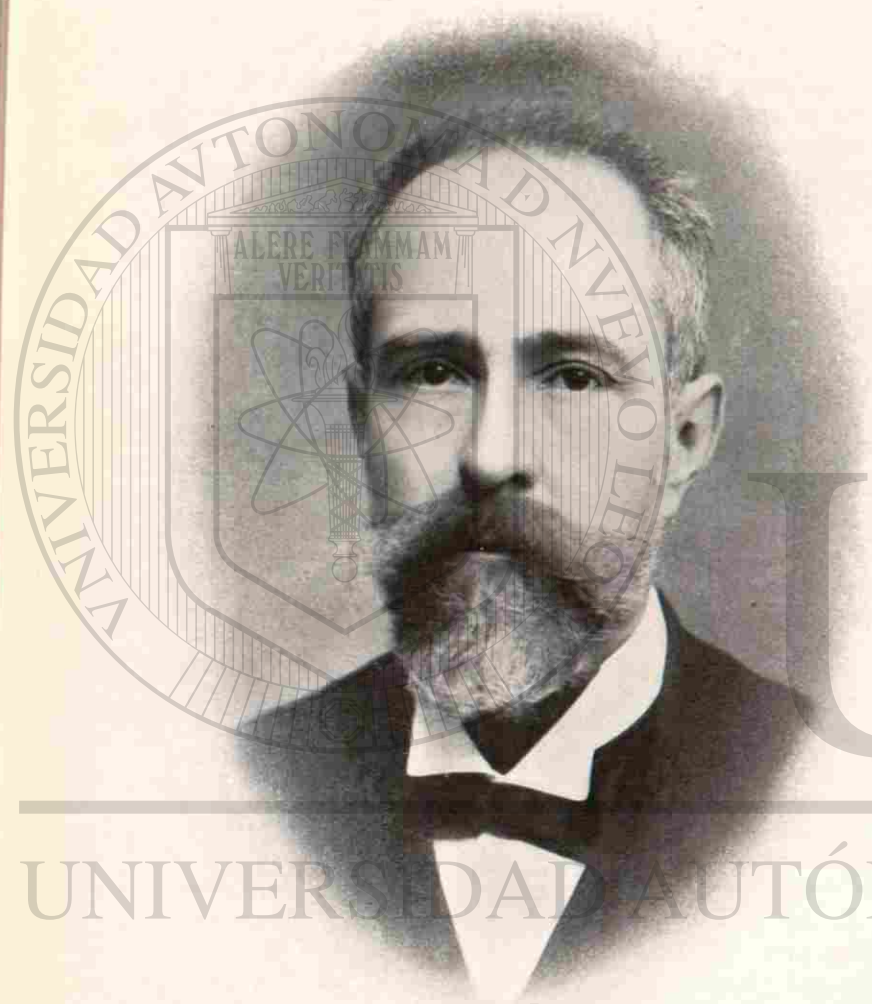
Wherever there was a probability of setting forth the interest of circulation and credit the Government was ready to take part. The law of March 19, 1897, prepared by a commission presided by Licentiate Casaus and aided by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Jose Ives Limantour, has provided for Mexico a system of banks similar in many respects to that of the United States. The principle of a plurality of banks of issue has been adopted; the privileges of the national bank have been reduced by a reciprocal convention.

In 1902 Mexico had twenty-four banks of issue with an aggregate capital stock of \$89,000,000 (December, 1902,) and a circulation of 86 millions (2). Their books showed over 125 million dollars in their vaults. Ten years earlier the capital did not go beyond 20 millions and the circulation was then about 26½ millions. The National Bank of Mexico, the most important of all, has fourteen branches in the various States of the Republic. Among banks of issue, there are several mortgage banks, other banks for the development of agricultural enterprises, called in Spanish Bancos Refaccionarios, and the Bank of London and Mexico.

With the above mentioned arrangement credit is able to attain a large development and the prosperity of the country will not be long in showing the proper results.

(1) \$746,630 in 1877-1878 and \$9,327,542 in 1900-1901 (or even \$12,951,000 in 1901, according to the "Anuario Estadístico" of said year, page 408). See chapter on Money, Credit and Banking.

(2) Of the above said 86 millions, 28 were issued by the National Bank of Mexico and 19 millions by the Bank of London and Mexico.



DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE

HON. LEANDRO FERNÁNDEZ,  
Secretary of Communications and Public Works.

## AGRICULTURE.

The production and circulation of wealth (that is to say, material wealth, productive forces and personal services excluded) appear in all countries under four different forms: agriculture, mining exploitation, manufacturing industries and commerce. An enlightened and watchful administration, which inspires safety and insures liberty, will facilitate development.

Mr. Hyppolite Gomot, Senator and former Minister of Agriculture, said to us at the end of the year 1900 that he had admired the variety of the agricultural exhibits of Mexico to the extent that the same would have been taken "not as the exposition of a single country, but as that of several nations situated at latitudes entirely opposed." He has expressed such opinion in his report upon Mexican soil and its products. The climate, ranging from the tropical heat to perpetual snows on the summits of volcanos, and the quality of the soil which, in certain regions, is covered by a thick layer of earth and in others it is salty and arid, are the two principal causes of said diversity. Men have taken advantage of the conditions of nature.

The possession of large tracts of land is in our days, like in the colonial era, one of the predominating features of rural economy. Plantations of twenty square leagues are not scarce, said Mr. Hyppolite Gomot. Considering their large buildings, which comprise dwelling apartments, the stables, the barn-houses, work shops, their vast extension of land, part of which is used for farming purposes and another part for pastures, their large personnel, which brings to the mind the "familia rustica" and the "familia urbana," may be compared with the villas of the Roman Empire. There are no less than eight thousand of such concerns, without counting a still larger number of properties of a lesser magnitude, designated by the



name of "ranches," the owners of which constitute, to a certain extent, the body of rural democracy.

There are certain "haciendas" where the personnel numbers as many as three thousand persons; it is composed by peons, or rather of former peons, because the old contracts of compulsory labor were radically abolished (1). However, great many of them, in the regions where laborers are scarce, remain, as before, bound to the premises and receive, besides a salary in silver (2), certain interests in the crops, but they are not legally attached for their debts. The system of advance payments (3), which does not necessarily mean a compulsory engagement on the part of the peon, is nevertheless a chain which holds the servant to his master, and it is sometimes a burden more or less onerous for the landlord. Apart from the "haciendas" and ranches a certain part of the land belongs to the "pueblos," Indian settlements, in which the soil, cultivated in common, becomes at the present time, by virtue of new legislation, a sort of family exploitation—the root of an important social transformation.

Salaries vary according to regions. As a general rule, the average wages paid by agricultural concerns, which employ about 76 per 100 of the laborers, are inferior to those paid in mines. Salaries paid in the hot countries are more liberal than those paid on the Central Plateau where population is thicker. Mr. Matias Romero remarked, about fifteen years ago, that 19 cents were paid in Nuevo Leon, 75 in Michoacan, one dollar in Sonora; the general average throughout the country being about 36 cents. Those figures do not agree with the present state of affairs, not only on account of the demand for laborers, but also because of the depreciation

(1) Article 5 of the Constitution of 1857 forbids all contracts involving the alienation of freedom.

(2) In Yucatan, however, there are persons, called "driados," born on the plantations, where they are retained on account of their debts. See the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," year 1903.

(3) According to Mr. Matias Romero, such advances rise up to amounts ranging from \$80 to \$200.

of silver. It is true that the price of food stuffs has also increased.

The territory of the nation is of considerable extension. Spain declared itself the owner of all the lands; it gave a portion of them to the conquerors and colonists, another portion to Indian settlements, organized in the form of communities, but there was still a vast area of vacant lands (terrenos baldios).

The national Government therefore inherited and took the necessary action to take possession of the lands controlled by the usurpers. It has caused the examination and surveying of its domains by means of companies which have received a portion of the lands surveyed by way of compensation (law of March 26, 1894). In this manner the Government became the possessor of 32,000,000 hectares. Subsequent to 1867 it adjudicated to companies and private parties an area of 10,466,000 hectares (1); sold lots at a fixed price (2); facilitated the exchange and merger of certain lands (3); ceded free lands to poor laborers (4); created, either directly or by the interference of companies, thirty-two colonies comprising a population in the neighborhood of 6,000 people (5).

In spite of the felling of trees, carried on for a number of centuries under a reckless system of exploitation, it is estimated that there are still about 479 square leagues

(1) In 1896 the price, though variable, in the States did not exceed \$3.25 per hectara. From 1900 to 1903 it varied between \$3.30 (in Puebla) and \$1.00 (in the States of Sonora, etc.).

(2) From 1868 to 1898 7,200 lots were taken. There were adjudged 10,466,000 hectares, aggregating an amount of \$2,400,000 ("Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana, 1898"). From 1897 to 1901 the adjudications aggregated 542,385 hectares and the sum of \$354,943. In 1902 an area of 364,202 hectares of Government lands was deeded out through 73 titles for the sum of \$343,810 (principally in the States of Chihuahua, Chiapas, Yucatan, Durango, etc.). See "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana, 1902."

(3) From 1898 to 1902 56 titles were issued to cover an area of 408,753 hectares.

(4) From 1898 to 1903 253 titles of such class were issued to cover an area of 47,041 hectares.

(5) The following titles were issued to colonists: 98 in 1898; 29 in 1899; 129 in 1900; 17 in 1901; 4 in 1902.

of forests. It is important that the felling of trees be made under better rules in consideration of the returns that forests will be able to produce by reason of the gradual development of railroad lines, which furnish an easier outlet for them, and also because the moisture they preserve is of great agricultural value. The checking of currents by means of trees prevent the damages caused by floods subsequent to heavy rainfall. To control these currents is one of the features of the economical policy of the present Government.

We can not devote much attention to the details attending the raising and cultivation of the numerous products of Mexico's soil. The whole has been perfectly treated by Mr. Hyppolite Gomot.

It will suffice if we point out the increase in agricultural production (1) and to repeat the words transmitted to us by the eminent writer of the chapter upon Agriculture.

A certain day he asked one of the delegates of the section of agriculture in the exposition of 1900 to enumerate the products of Mexico.

"It would be easier," replied the Mexican delegate, "if you would ask me what Mexico does not produce."

In fact, that country, if isolated from the rest of the world, could—thanks to the variety of its climate—support itself.

(1) The "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana" for 1902 shows the production of Mexico's agriculture during the last period of five years (1898-1902), wherefrom we have taken the annual averages mentioned hereinafter:

Corn	33,000,000	hectolitres.
Wheat	2,770,000	metric quintals.
Barley	3,400,000	hectolitres.
Beans	2,800,000	hectolitres.
Rice	504,000	metric quintals.
Peas, chick peas, Lima beans and lentils	960,000	hectolitres.
Sweet potatoes	210,000	metric quintals.
Potatoes	920,000	metric quintals.
Pepper	10,000	metric quintals.
Sugar (molasses and juice excluded)	720,000	metric quintals.

Experiments made under the auspices of the Government of the State of Jalisco favor the expectations of success with regard to a tree which produces an abundant amount of cotton fiber.

In fine, the "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana" for 1902 gives the number, weight and value of animals slaughtered each year since 1897. Whatever may be the average of correctness of those reports, the same show an increase in the production of such animals (sheep and goats excepted). In 1902 the number of animals slaughtered, shown in the statistics, were:

	Number.	Value.
Cattle	938,583	\$41,900,000
Sheep	572,971	2,900,000
Goats	1,031,256	2,900,000
Pork	778,618	14,200,000

With regard to stock raising, travelers who have visited the State of Chihuahua say that in that region there are numerous herds of cattle. They point out, particularly, the recent prosperity of the domains of General Terrazas, the wealthiest stock raiser in Mexico, who could be called, following the fashion of the United States, the "cattle king."

Coffee	225,000	metric quintals.
Cocoa	19,200	metric quintals.
Vanilla	420	metric quintals.
Tobacco	160,000	metric quintals.
Spirits (cane brandy, corn brandy, pulque, grape brandy excluded, there being about 2,000 hectolitres of the latter)	641,000	hectolitres.
Fermented beverages (mezcal, tequila, fine and common pulque)	5,715,000	hectolitres.
Henequen fiber	820,000	quintals.
Ixtle fiber	94,000	quintals.
Cotton	270,000	quintals.
Logwood	501,000	quintals.

## MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES.

If agricultural production is the one which furnishes the sum of highest value with regard to domestic consumption, mining industry takes the lead concerning exportation.

Mr. E. de Launay has made a scientific demonstration of the general disposition of mineral deposits in the Mexican range of their formation relatively recent and their multiplicity in the midst of a volcanic soil. "When one examines the geological chart of that country," said Mr. de Launay, "our immediate surprise is caused by the manner in which loom up, on all sides, the red and orange colors by which we are in the habit of distinguishing the tertiary eruptive rocks." It is there that mines should be found. It is not our purpose to make a complete description. It is sufficient that we repeat that the production of the leading metal, silver, that decreased a great deal during the era of revolutions, has raised again during the administration of President Porfirio Diaz—thanks to the influence of wise and radical administrative measures.

During the colonial period and the subsequent era of revolutions mines were in general the object of small partial concessions and were encumbered by burdensome taxes; two of the gravest obstacles against large enterprises and the improvement of machinery.

The mining code, made effective in 1885, and completed by the laws of June 6, 1887, inaugurated an entirely new regime, exemption of almost all taxes, concessions extended to petitioners who appeared to have a large capital, facilities concerning works of exploration, perpetual and irrevocable property without any clause relating to forfeiture, ample freedom of exploitation and free importation of machinery.

The results did not take too long a time to come forward. Mining machinery became a matter of great importance. The most economical processes have been adopted for the recovery and treatment of silver-bearing ores, particularly the fusion process for which purpose several large smelters have been established. During the year which followed the publication of the law of 1887 there were 2,077 new mines condemned, and thirty-three reduction works, of which 682 mines and three smelters were in actual operation. On December 31, 1902, the titles to mining claims registered numbered 16,430, representing a surface of 196,250 hectares, where 85,000 laborers were employed (1).

The production of gold, increasing every year, was something like 14,000 kilograms in 1902 (2).

That of silver had been 4,500,000 kilograms during the period of five years preceding the law; it reached 6,000,000 during the subsequent period of five years. The law of 1892 was stimulating. The petitions for the consolidation of mining properties were six times larger, and the production of silver, which was already 1,151,110 kilograms in 1891-1892, raised in spite of the depreciation of said metal to over 1,500,000 kilograms in 1902 (3).

Foreign capital—American, English, German and French—was eagerly invested in such enterprises, which

(1) Said statistics do not refer to other than mining properties paying taxes on the titles and claims in accordance with the law of June 6, 1892. Said 16,430 mines comprise 4,882 silver mines, 3,892 auriferous silver, 2,616 lead, 1,195 gold, etc. During 1902 alone, there were 4,017 mining claims condemned; 916 titles were declared deserted.

(2) The "Statistique de l'industrie minerale en France et en Algerie" for the year 1902 showed 15,277, the "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana" for 1902 showed 13,917 kilograms produced principally in the States of Oaxaca, Sonora, Sinaloa, Nuevo Leon and Durango.

(3) The "Statistique de l'industrie minerale en France et en Algerie" for the year 1902 showed 1,876,339; the data for such States was furnished by Mexican engineers. The "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana" for 1902 states that 1,506,796 kilograms were produced principally in the States of Nuevo Leon, Aguascalientes, Durango and San Luis Potosi. (See note 2, page 27.)

had been the subject of two great advantages essential to success, security and liberty.

The Government has, furthermore, facilitated exportation and exploitation by establishing mining agencies (numbering 138), organizing the Geological Institute (1888-1891), publishing in 1899 the geological chart. Two enterprising men established near the City of Mexico an assay office. In 1900 there were 1,170 mines in exploitation (1).

Mr. de Launay compared the value of ore production in 1893-1894 with that of 1898-1899. Said production increased four times its original amount; that is, from \$33,000,000 in the former date it went up to \$123,000,000 in the latter (2). More than half of the above value is represented by silver ores, the production of which has more than doubled, the most fruitful exploitations of the same being located in the District of Pachuca, principally at Real del Monte. The second rank belongs to gold, which, in accordance with statistics, probably incomplete, has increased from \$1,816,000 to \$24,600,000. The third place pertains to lead and copper which have increased proportionately a great deal more (3). The principal copper exploitation, being that of El Boleo, Lower California, organized by a French company, dates back to 1886. Iron exists in large quantities, but the exploitation of the same is not very large (4).

(1) To-wit: 54 gold mines; 293 auriferous silver; 87 gold and other metals; 231 silver; 223 silver and lead; 137 silver and other metals; 60 copper, etc. (the State of Chihuahua and other districts included). The "Anuario Estadístico" for 1902 gives some data which differ from those of 1900. It mentions 714 mines in actual operation (plus 174 closed down)—that is, 209 gold mines, 246 silver, 55 copper, 66 lead, etc.

(2) The "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana" for 1902 shows \$106,673,103, of which \$14,400,000 pertain to gold, \$58,800,000 to silver, \$24,600,000 to copper, \$5,600,000 to lead, etc.

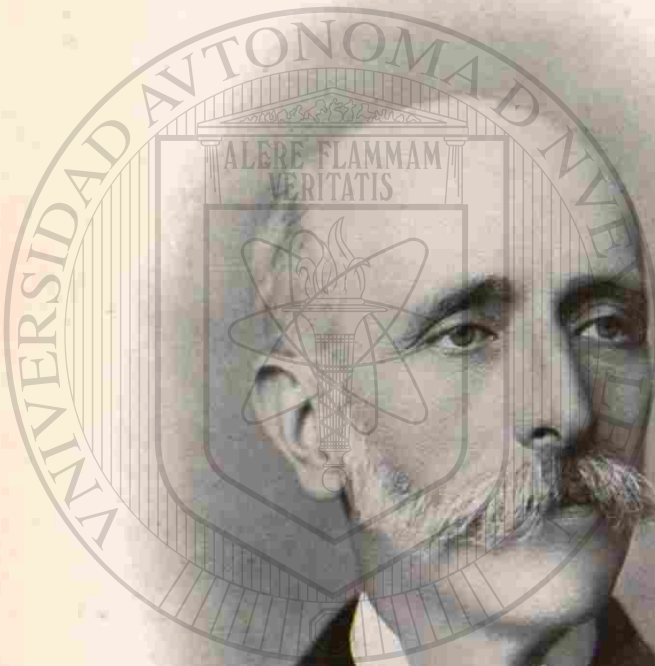
(3) Lead, 21,800 tons in 1889-1890; 81,000 tons in 1898-1899, and 106,804 tons in 1902. Copper, 4,300 tons in 1889-1890; 15,448 in 1900-1901 (in 1902, 51,624, other metals included).

(4) "Geographical and Statistical Notes on Mexico," page 21, by Matias Romero, assure that this ore is so abundant that, if only a portion of it was utilized, the Republic would become one of the richest States of the world in that respect.

Coal is scarce and the exploitation of it is of recent date. However, the value of the production, most of which comes from the State of Coahuila, reached the sum of \$3,700,000 in 1898-1899.

The production of onyx and opals, as also that of sulphur, salt, etc., has been doubled from 1893-1894 to 1898-1899. The country is rich in mineral and thermal springs.

One can see, from the mining report, that Mexico has not lost any of its old reputation in the Old World.



UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS



HON. JOSÉ IVES LIMANTOUR,  
Secretary of Finance.

## INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION.

Manufacturing industries were entirely rudimental prior to the independence. The colonial policy did not favor the establishment of factories, the home market reserving for itself the right to supply the colonies. The conditions, in that respect, changed but little during the under-period of the revolution. They were greatly improved, though, during the commencement of the era of peace. Many useful amendments were introduced in the industrial and commercial legislation and policy of the country, to-wit: general adoption of the metric system, commencing with 1896; organization in 1890, 1896 and 1903 of the law relating to patents; regulation concerning trade-marks and commercial brands by the laws of November 28, 1889, and October, 1903; establishment of a Board of Trade at the City of Mexico in 1887; creation of bonded warehouses; concessions for the use of water power. The law of May 30, 1893, gave the executive power the right to grant certain franchises, exemptions of direct taxes and certain customs duties in behalf of the promoters of new industries which would be established, according to administrative prescriptions, and where agreement was made that such enterprises would be the subject of an investment of not less than \$40,000.

Mention has already been made, apropos of agriculture, of industries relating to food stuffs which, in general, represent small concerns, such as distilleries of spirituous beverages made principally from the maguey plant, sugar mills, chocolate factories, breweries, cigar factories, and, in another chapter, mention is also made of mining industries. A man of authority in industrial matters and public improvements, Mr. Alfred Picard, Commissioner-General of the Exposition of 1900, and a member of the Institute, completes the above data by means of a detailed and correct report.

In accord with a number of his co-operators he points out at once the use of water power, which he calls "houille blanche" (white coal), as a means destined to transform such industries in which the real black coal, works to a disadvantage. Thanks to waterfalls, the use of electricity as a source of light and motive force has rapidly developed.

The cotton industry, which was flourishing and even artistic prior to the conquest, is as yet the leading textile industry. It is carried on principally in the Federal District and in the States of Veracruz, Puebla, Mexico, Tlaxcala, Jalisco, etc. Mexican soil does not supply more than a part of the demands for such raw material; the other part is imported from the United States, 14,500,000 kilograms having been brought in in 1902. There were in 1900-1902 155 cotton mills, provided with 1,150,608 spindles (325,026 of which are of the old type and 825,582 of modern construction) and 35,947 looms (11,772 operated by hand and 24,175 driven by mechanical power), requiring a force of about 50,000 persons, and which consumed 27,500,000 kilograms of raw material and produced 1,879,000 kilograms of thread and 10,500,000 pieces of dress fabrics (1).

Progress is very rapid; many are the establishments that have had considerable increase in their business (2).

Woolen fabrics and silk industries occupy the second rank, but very far from cotton. Statistics show for 1902 a total of 478 establishments for the manufacture of dress fabrics of all kinds.

We may add, besides, among the most interesting manufactures those of cordage, carpets and paper made out of the fiber of the maguay or henequen plants; the exploitation of lumber and industries emanating therefrom; the manufacture of pottery, which gave the ancient Mexicans a just fame; the manufacture of soap, and, in

(1) The number of factories in 1901-1902 was 155, of which 124 were in operation ("Anuario Estadístico de la República Mexicana" for 1902).

(2) Example: The sales of the factory of Orizaba amounted in 1903 to \$8,000,000.

conclusion, the leather and fur industry, which furnished certain fancy and artistic articles. Several large shoe factories have been mounted after the style of those of the United States.

However, speaking in general terms, we must admit that manufactures and large factories are not numerous and that minor industries are yet a controlling element (1).

The customs tariff has been the subject of many amendments; it is both fiscal and extremely protective.

The comparison of foreign commerce during different periods is not necessarily accurate as a basis to measure the production of a nation and the progress of such

(1) See the bulletin of the Department of Labor, Washington, January, 1902. Patents for inventions furnish some indications of the development of industrial activity. Sixty-three patents were granted in 1890, 154 in 1895, 278 in 1900, 488 in 1902 ("Anuario Estadístico de la República Mexicana" for 1902).

In 1902 the general statistical bureau made a report upon the industrial establishments of Mexico. "That is," said the chief of said bureau, Mr. Antonio Penafiel, "an initial work of a preliminary character; or, rather, an essay." The publication made in December, 1903 ("Estadística industrial formada por la dirección General de Estadística a cargo del Dr. Antonio Penafiel"), was received by us subsequent to the issue of the first volume of "Mexico at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century." In all countries the statistics of industries are hard to prepare; it is not at all surprising that the chief of Mexico's Bureau of Statistics considers his work as a simple essay of approximate correctness. (The State of Chihuahua failed to send its statistical report to the department.) Notwithstanding that, the work is interesting enough to repeat herein the principal results.

The total number of establishments recorded was 6,234. The principal groups are: Brandy, 1,361; sugar, 2,082; cigars, 242; cotton and woolen mills, 324; mills working other fibers, 154 (including 2 establishments for silks); brick yards and tiles, 287; soap, 287.

Motive power employed in the 6,234 establishments was 120,989 horse-power, divided as follows: Steam, 66,008; water power, 32,147; electricity, 17,828; compressed air, 2. The State of Jalisco takes the lead with 26,946 horse-power (of which 9,668 are furnished by hydraulic force). Nuevo Leon (15,850) and Veracruz (15,066) are second in rank; next comes Sinaloa (8,247), Puebla (7,515, of which 5,201 are water power), Coahuila (5,075).

The number of laborers registered was 117,992—100,717 men and 17,275 women. The States showing over 5,000 laborers are the following: Veracruz, 13,025; Federal District, 12,077; Nuevo

production; nevertheless, it can help as a source of useful reference.

Or, in 1873, importations were hardly valued at 19 million dollars (2) and exportations at 27 millions, making a total of 46 million dollars. In 1902 importations reached \$72,333,333, gold (3), and exportations \$177,000,000, silver, the total amounting to about \$150,000,000, gold. Machinery and building materials, cotton stuffs, woolen fabrics, linen, silks, wines, principally from Spain, liquors and fancy staples, appear in the leading rank of importations. More than half of the exportations consist in ores (principally silver), then come agricultural products, animal and vegetable, henequen, coffee and fresh fruits aggregating the highest figures.

It is with the United States that Mexico cultivates the more important commercial relations. In 1902 more than two-thirds of Mexico's importations were from the United States, and three-fourths of its exportations were destined to the latter country (4).

There is between Mazatlan and San Francisco a Mexican steamship line. Mexico's means of navigation,

Leon, 10,327; Jalisco, 9,382; Puebla, 8,326; Oaxaca, 6,187; Mexico, 5,835; Michoacan, 5,812.

Wages paid to men vary from 12 cents (minimum paid in Tlaxcala and Guerrero) to \$3 (maximum paid in Yucatan, the only exception, as other maxima do not exceed \$2). Women's wages vary from 6 cents (minimum in Guanajuato) to \$1.50 (maximum paid in Coahuila and Yucatan).

The value declared of production (data which in no statistics would be accepted as adequate to the real value) shows an amount of \$144,488,941. In the first rank appear Nuevo Leon with \$18,093,140. The Federal District with \$15,692,420; Mexico with \$15,069,062; Veracruz with \$14,297,959; Durango with \$13,426,430; Puebla with \$10,370,829, etc. A. Picard and E. Levasseur.

(2) According to Mr. Matias Romero (page 156), 20 millions in 1872-1873 and 23 millions in 1873-1874; exportation was not regularly registered until after 1877. In 1895-1896 importations amounted to 42 million dollars, consisting above all in cotton fabrics, structural iron, iron and steel, wines and liquors, etc.; exportation amounted to 105 millions, out of which 65 millions were represented by ores, 8 by coffee, 7 by henequen, etc.

(3) During 1902 importations went up to \$72,318,469, \$42,000,000 of which were imported from the United States; \$8,600,000 from England and its colonies; \$4,200,000 from Germany; \$6,500,-

formerly confined almost exclusively to coast trading, has commenced to assert itself in long distance navigation over both oceans.

The total movement of navigation registered in the ports during 1902 was 15,052 vessels (7,326 entries and 7,526 sailings), aggregating a total tonnage of about 10 million tons (5).

000 from France, etc. Exportations reached \$177,108,082, of which \$134,800,000 were for the United States; \$20,500,000 for England and its colonies; \$6,400,000 for Germany; \$5,500,000 for Belgium; \$5,300,000 for Cuba; \$2,500,000 for France, etc. See "Importacion y exportacion de la Republica Mexicana, ano 1902, formados por la Direccion-General de Estadistica a cargo del Dr. Antonio Penafiel."

(4) See, for details upon foreign commerce from 1826 to 1896, "Geographical and Statistical Notes on Mexico," by Mr. Matias Romero (page 154 and following ones), and subsequent to 1896 the "Anuario Estadistico de la Republica Mexicana." A few years after emancipation, in 1826, importations amounted to \$15,500,000, consisting in cotton fabrics, linen, wines and liquors, etc.; exportations amounted to \$7,500,000 in precious metals, cochinilla, etc.

(5) Out of the 15,052 vessels there are 9,034 driven by steam and 6,018 sailing vessels; 9,840 fly the Mexican colors, aggregating 218,200 tons, and 5,212 fly foreign colors, aggregating 7,831,000 tons.



## DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ESTADÍSTICAS

GENERAL FRANCISCO Z. MENA,  
Secretary of War and Navy.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Subsequent to the declaration of independence, Mexico became an autonomous State, establishing, among other economical relations, those of a diplomatic character with the other powers of the world. The latter were established, however, under many hardships, because its civil dissensions did not inspire much confidence to foreign governments.

The history of the diplomatic and consular relations of the Republic of Mexico has been intelligently disclosed by Mr. D'Estournelles de Constant, minister plenipotentiary, deputy from Sarthe and member of the permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, a man whose competence is well known.

In the above study the author has shown to us the gradual entering of the Mexican nation, after the proclamation of its independence, in negotiations with the leading civilized States; that after the French intervention the Government of President Juarez did not maintain other relations than those with the United States, while the Government of Emperor Maximilian, brought to an end by the former, was recognized by all European powers; and, finally, the study shows that after the downfall of the empire, Mexico re-established in 1869 its relations with Prussia and Italy, and subsequently with Spain, Portugal, Belgium, England, France, Sweden and Norway, and even with Austria-Hungary (1).

Mr. D'Estournelles de Constant has brought before us the entire reconciliation of Mexico with Spain, its mother country, with the United States and France, thus showing its desire to forget past aggressions. He has

(1) This last event dates only from 1901, the year in which Emperor Francis Joseph decided to forget the death of his brother, tendered his hand to President Porfirio Diaz, thus wiping out forever the sad recollections of the past.



also shown the Republic of Mexico establishing friendly relations with all the countries of Spanish America, Paraguay and Cuba, after it became free, and assembling in its Capital the pan-American conference in 1901-1902. He has also brought to our attention the treaties of amity and commerce entered into with Japan in 1893 and later on in 1899 with China, as also the establishment of an embassy in Washington, which permits the Mexican representative to march on a par with the ambassadors of the great European powers.

In 1904 the two new events were the recognition of the Republic of Panama and the creation of a permanent legation in Japan, which have enlarged the circle of the Government's diplomatic relations.

In sum, Mexico has conquered abroad a very honorable rank in the concert of nations. Let us say it now, that country is at present in position to take part in the general politics of the world.

Some one has said with good reason that its alliance would be desirable in case a war happened in the inter-tropical zone (2); in fact, though Mexico is a secondary nation, possessing at present force and credit, it has given proofs of its value which makes its friendship precious.

(2) Albert Hans: "La Guerre au Mexique selon les Mexicains."

## A FEW WORDS FOR THE FUTURE.

Deeds speak louder than words. The authors of "Mexico at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century" have made an exposition of facts; we have made a resume of their work.

It is beyond question, after thirty years have elapsed, that Mexico has entered into a new era, a period of national independence of which the country knew nothing about during the colonial domination, and it is, at the same time, an era of interior peace entirely strange to the period subsequent to emancipation. Under such double influence—thanks to an energetic and watchful Government which has been able to check all revolutionary uprisings, and having enjoyed a long duration in power, favorable to a political, civil and economic restoration—considerable improvements, some of them surprising, have been accomplished.

All civil dissensions having come to an end, the present generation has grown in the midst of a healthier atmosphere, resting upon a well-braced political stand; its moral character is certainly superior to that of all past generations.

It has advantageously directed its energy towards the kind of work which makes nations stronger, and, as a consequence of a more regular course of labor and of the security which places the laborer beyond any danger of spoliation, the wealth of the country has been increased.

The political standard of the people, which has been improved gradually, encourages the idea that the future of the nation and the part it will perform among the other nations of the world will depend, during more than one generation still, from the personal worth of the men who may be called upon to govern the country. It is therefore important that such men be prepared by a practice in the affairs attending the discharge of high political functions.

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In the interior the administration has been solidly organized in its essential features, and its action is felt with efficacy throughout the whole country. The nation has developed its productive forces and set to work more extensively than it ever did in the past the natural elements of its soil.

The value of property has increased considerably, reaching several times its original price in many cities. Industries of great importance have been constituted.

Abroad Mexico has conquered a highly honorable standing in the concert of civilized States on account of its commerce and diplomacy.

We have shown in the general introductory part what Mexico's past has been; in our resume we have recapitulated its present status.

What does the future keep in store for Mexico?

It would be bold to intend to announce for too long a period of time the horoscope of the world. He who may dare to do it might certainly have the satisfaction to think that neither he nor his contemporaries may exist a century from now to witness the veracity of such predictions; but the same will not cause any impression in the minds of thoughtful contemporaries. In fact, when one carries his mind back, it is natural to ask, Who could have had sufficient foresight in 1800 to imagine what the demographic, political and economical relationship of civilized nations would be at the beginning of the twentieth century?

But, without pretending to carry our sight too far in this century, we have the right, in presence of accomplished facts, to affirm that Mexico has entered a new era under very promising auspices, and that the advance that has already been attained has, for the present generation, the merit of being the result of a new era of progress.

The population increases. Why should it cease to grow if the Mexican people are wise enough to maintain a Government which, being strong and liberal, can in-

sure social peace? The country is sufficiently large; it is not wanting in vitality.

Education is growing stronger and more general. There is no reason to fear that it will not continue to spread.

Salaries will increase in all probability either on account of the nominal rising of exchange so long as the country maintains the silver standard, or on account of the engrossment of the commercial power of money, if Mexico adopts the gold standard. On the other hand, the increase of wages will create new necessities among the laboring element. If such increase becomes gradually general and permanent, the additional means resulting from the same are not in danger of being dissipated in futile expenditures, as it might happen at present as a consequence of a sudden increase. The average level of existence, the "standard of life," as the English call it, will rise with the people to the benefit of democracy, and also to the advantage of agriculture and industry, which will have to supply a larger consumption.

The demand for laborers will increase in relation to the advances of agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries; for there is a strong solidarity between the divers forms of social economy. The sap that goes up nourishes all the branches when the trunk is healthy and vigorous.

Agriculture has a future which means not only the enlargement of national development, but also the placing in foreign markets of products which properly belong to Mexico's soil and of those which may be raised to enter into competition with other countries situated in the inter-tropical zone.

The mines, for which the railroads have opened an extensive field, and which will be the cause of large investments, increasing in proportion to the improvement of the means of communication, have a future no less encouraging than agriculture.

Industries and railroads bring, at present, from other countries at a very high price the greater part of the coal

they consume. The utilization of numerous water forces for electrical purposes, which started several years back, will surely increase and become more general.

There is in this branch an inestimable amount of force which might permit the substitution of electrical locomotives for those driven by steam, and which, in any case, justifies the hopes for a near development of manufacturing industries. Neither the raw material nor the motive power are wanting.

Capital and men will not be lacking, if the security of the country continues to attract the former, and instruction perfects the latter, for men economically able and energetic lend among the causes of wealth and civilization the most efficient of all; a more abundant and varied production will supply the markets of Mexico, owing to the stronger reliance caused by commercial exchange with other nations.

All the above shall be the motives of the increase of wealth in Mexico, and at the same time a great good in behalf of civilization and of the world's commerce. The prosperity of one nation ought not to cause a shadow over the others. On the contrary, considering the transformations from the particular point of view of foreign commerce, which is nothing more than one of the aspects of the vast and complex problem of material, intellectual and moral progress of mankind, one can see that exchange is more active among the countries that grow in wealth than with those which remain poor. All nations cannot necessarily and indefinitely maintain the same rank; but they all can perform their part in the progress of the whole, and each one tends, and should tend, to do its duty to the best of its ability, without thus belittling the work of the others.

In twenty or thirty years the great North American Republic and Canada will have increased considerably and without fail their population and productive forces. Mexico will have done the same. The world will gain by it, and history will teach, with due justice, that such era of prosperity commenced with the administration of General Porfirio Diaz.

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