

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.



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.

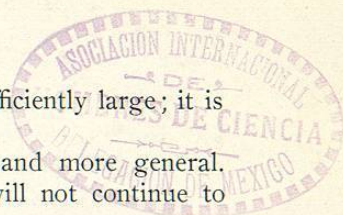
Salaries will increase in all probability either on account of the nominal rising of exchange so long as the country maintains the silver standard, or on account of the engrossment of the commercial power of money, if Mexico adopts the gold standard. On the other hand, the increase of wages will create 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.

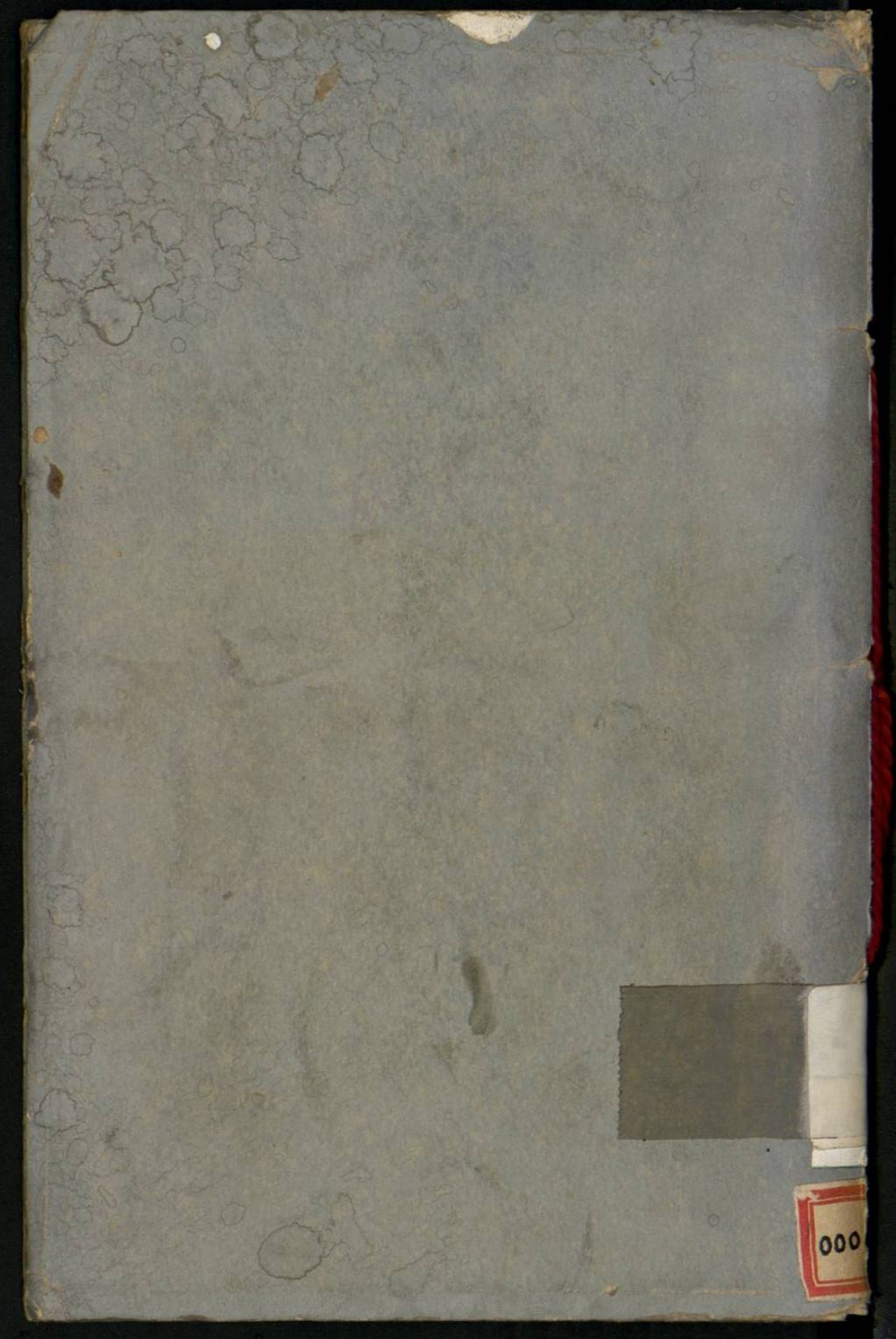
Capital and men will not be lacking, if the security of the country continues to attract the former, and instruction perfects the latter, for men economically able and energetic lend among the causes of wealth and civilization the most efficient of all; a more abundant and varied production will supply 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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