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GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE REPUBLIC:
ITS EXTENT AND BOUNDARIES

THE territory of the Mexican United States embraces an extent of 9,343,470 square kilometres, comprised within 15° and 32° 42' of Latitude North and between 12° 21' Longitude East and 118° West of the capital of the Republic; or 86° 46' 8" and 117° 7' 8" West of Greenwich. On the North it is bounded by the United States of America, with which, the River Bravo forms the line of division, at three leagues from its mouth, from whence it continues in the direction of that river by the States of Tamaulipas, Coahuila and Chihuahua, up to the parallel of 31° 47' of latitude North, near to the town of Paso del Norte; from this point for one hundred miles in a straight line to the West; thence to the South, to parallel 31° 20' Latitude North; the same parallel continuing from this point to 111° of longitude West of Greenwich; from here in a right line to a point on the River Colorado, situated at 20 miles below the confluence of the Gila with the same river; and from thence up the river as far as where the boundary line meets between the two Californias. On the South East, it is bounded by the Republic of Guatemala, whose limits have not yet been geographically defined. On the East, the coasts

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of the Republic are bathed by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, which extend themselves, without taking into account their development, 2,580 kilometres; of which 400 pertain to Tamaulipas, 640 to Vera Cruz, 190 to Tabasco, 360 to Campeachy and 990 to Yucatan. On the West, the coasts that are bathed by the waters of the Grand Ocean composing the Gulf of California, embrace a greater extent, or about 6,650 kilometres, and of these, Lower California measures from 2,900 to 3,000, Sonora 860, Sinaloa 510, Jalisco 500, Colima 160, Michoacan 130, Guerrero 460, Oaxaca 410 and Chiapas 220.

At the South Eastern part of Yucatan, the territory of Belize is situated, which is in possession of the English, in virtue of a permit for cutting timber. Its limits are stated in the treaty of peace entered into between the King of Spain and the King of Great Britain, signed on the 3rd of November 1783 and amplified on the 14th of July 1786. In these treaties, the rivers Hondo, Belize and Sibun appear as the limits.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC

THE government of the Republic is representative, democratic and federal. The capital of the nation, which is also that of the District, is the residence of the Supreme powers of the Federation, which are distributed into Legislative, Executive and Judicial.—The Legislative power is composed of the general Congress, divided between the Chamber of deputies

and that of the Senate. The members of the assembly of deputies are elected in their totality by Mexican citizens, every two years, one for each 40,000 inhabitants and for every fraction exceeding 20,000. The Senate is composed of two Senators for each State and two for the Federal District, the election being indirect in the first degree, and proceeding from the respective legislatures of the States.

The Executive power is deposited in one sole individual, denominated "The President of the Mexican United States," whose election is popular, and for a term of four years, he entering upon his duties on the first of December. The President has the power of appointing six Secretaries of State; namely, for the Foreign Department, Home Department, Justice and Public Instruction, ("Fomento") or Public Works and Colonization, Finances and Public Credit, and War and Marine. The judicial power is constituted of the Supreme Court of Justice, and the District and Circuit Courts. The first is composed of eleven proprietary magistrates, four supernumeraries, one "fiscal" and one solicitor general. Their election is also popular, and for a period of six years.

The President of the Supreme Court is the Vice-President of the Republic.

The States of the Mexican Federation are free, sovereign and independent, in all that concerns their interior regimen, but united in conformity with the precepts of the Constitution founded upon the rights of man and social guarantees, sanctioned on the fifth of February 1857.