

income from his individual property to satisfy his every want. Although the depression of silver during the administration of Mr. Limantour has been very great, yet through his ability as a financier he has paid every obligation of the government that is due and has sustained the credit of the country, even though the bankers of Europe have attempted to depress the values of Mexican securities; and now the balance on the ledger is on the credit side, where it had always been on the debit side until his administration.

The Department of Communications and Public Works is under the wise and statesmanlike management of General Don Francisco Z. Mena; and under his charge are the railroads, the post-



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DON MANUEL MONDRAGON,
INVENTOR OF THE FAMOUS GUN, WHICH HE PRESENTED TO THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT.

office, and the telegraph systems of the republic. No more acceptable man for the onerous duties of his position could possibly be chosen. General Mena has lived many years in European capitals, and was acting in the capacity of minister to Germany when he was called to the president's cabinet. During his life abroad he had exceptional opportunities to study social conditions as well as financial questions, and the results of his knowledge of modern methods of transportation and intercommunication are plainly visible in the administration of the affairs of his present office. At one time he was governor of Guanajuato, and under his administration that state made rapid advancement in all modern progress and was greatly benefited. As a soldier, too, General Mena has a fine record, beginning as sub-lieutenant of the Batallón de Zapadores and rapidly ascending the rigorous military scale until he was finally made general.

The offices of General Mena and his assistants are located in the old custom-house, a building which was founded in 1731, and still stands, mighty and commanding, in elegant and substantial style. The Administración de

Correos occupies the building intended formerly for one of the mints. Here are all the offices of postal authorities and the general post-office. The latter is finely conducted under a very rigid administration, and the income from it grows larger every year. General Mena has instituted many substantial reforms which react strongly for the benefit of the whole republic. The same is true of the telegraph systems and all the public works.

General Pedro Hinojosa was for years the secretary of war and of the navy. He is an old soldier who has been in the service of his country for the past fifty years. Born in Matamoras during the troublesome period of the almost unbroken series of wars which Mexico had to sustain, General Hinojosa early enlisted, and by his strict attention to duty, by his bravery in the thick of battle, and by his thorough knowledge of the tactics and science of war, reached the highest grade in the army, that of general of division, and was finally appointed by General Diaz to his present position. In future years General Hinojosa will be

honorably remembered as the secretary under whose administration the beginning of the new Mexican navy was started and who introduced many desirable reforms in the army.

In 1884 President Diaz appointed him secretary of war and the navy, a position which he held in the cabinet until March, 1896, when he resigned. He is now the president of the military court, and one of the most popular and beloved military men of the country; and, having lived for many years on the United States frontier, he has among "Uncle Sam's" soldiers many warm friends, who will cherish his memory throughout life.

General Hinojosa resigned on account of his advancing years and consequent infirmities, and President Diaz appointed in his place General Don Felipe Berriozabal.

The present minister of war was born in Zacatecas on the 23d of August, 1827. He was still continuing his studies when the invasion of the republic by the armies of the United States filled him with patriotic ardor and with the desire of fighting in behalf of his country. Consequently he entered the army as lieutenant of a company of engineers, and served throughout the campaign in the valley of Mexico. On the occupation of the capital by the American forces, Berriozabal went to Toluca to aid the acting president, Don Manuel Pena y Pena. When the latter went to Querétaro he left the young engineer in charge of a very delicate matter.

When the war was over, he retired to the capital, where he completed his studies and graduated as an engineer, April 26, 1849. He at once began exercising his profession, and for the next few years he held many important offices. Among others, he was appointed by the government to examine, amplify, and complete the plans of the lands of the states of Mexico and Tlaxcala, and to estimate the value of their rural and city properties.

In the city of Toluca he became successively a member of the ayuntamiento, jefe político of the most important district of the state, diputado, adviser to the governor, and finally governor of the state. Later he was elected to the federal parliament. He has successively been governor of the states of Guanajuato, Querétaro, Vera Cruz, and Michoacán. In 1876 he became minister of the interior.

By a decree of October 21, 1872, the government of the state of Mexico, in recognition of his many services, honored him by placing him upon the list of the illustrious men of the country. Many scientific societies have also recognized his worth by electing him an honorary member.

It is interesting to follow his career as a soldier. In his twentieth year, he commenced his services on the 2d of July, 1847. In 1856 he was raised to the rank of lieutenant-colonel



LIC. DON JOAQUIN BARANDA,
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.



NATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

breast thirteen medals of honor given only for special and distinguished services.

In addition to this, General Porfirio Diaz has presented him with a certificate of honor, which alone would be recognition enough to satisfy the pride of the most ambitious soldier.

Under his charge are the excellent military schools of the country. El Colegio Militar was established in 1821, but experienced a series of changes and *contre-temps* until it was finally removed to the castle of Chapultepec, where it is now in a flourishing condition. During the North American war many brave young cadets lost their lives in defending this noble old castle against the invaders, September

13, 1847. The college is now a fine military institution, under charge of experienced generals in military tactics and learned professors in all branches. It is remarkably well organized, with fine observatories, and scientific cabinets full of instruments and apparatus of all descriptions. The course of instruction, as may be judged, is very complete.

The Fabrica de Armas was established in 1873, and is constantly being improved and enlarged. It is in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel de la Plaza Mayor Facultativa de Artilleria Don Manuel Mondragon, the,

on account of his gallant conduct in the Plaza de Toluca. In 1858 he became colonel of Tacubaya. As a result of his bravery in the attack upon Mexico in 1859 he was made colonel of horse. The following year he was appointed general of brigade. He distinguished himself in the battle of the 5th of May and in the defence of the city of Puebla in 1863, and as a reward was given the high post of general of division. Since then he has filled a long list of important posts and commissions. The list of battles and engagements in which General Berriozabal took part would fill more than a page. He has the right to wear on his



ACADEMY OF SAN CARLOS.

inventor of the famous gun which bears his name and which is used entirely by the Mexican army. In this factory, where all classes of arms are made, most of the work is done by young girls. The National Powder Factory is situated in Las Lomas de Santa Fé, and is also under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel Mondragon, who has for some time devoted his efforts to perfecting smokeless powder.

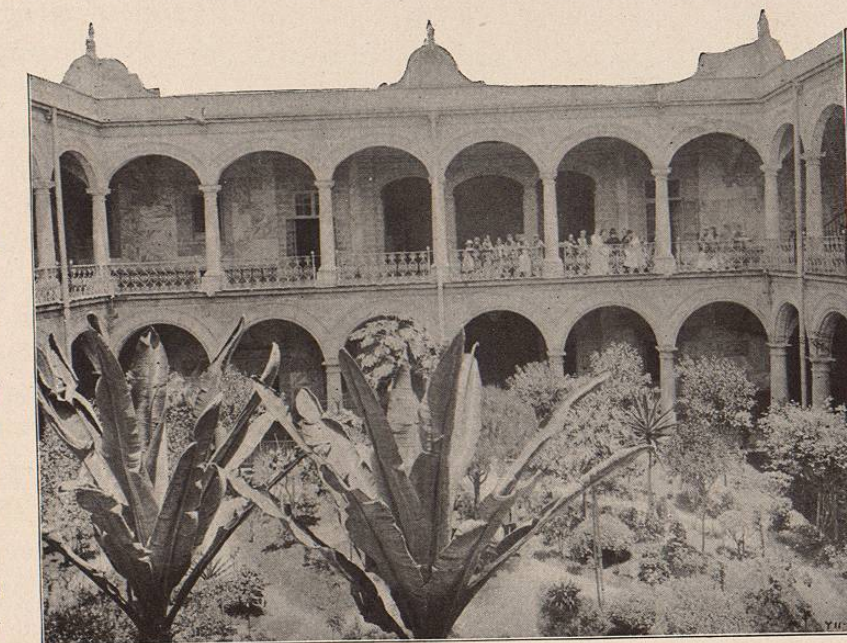
The Fundición de Artillería is an immense building, in which are manufactured all the necessities for artillery purposes, serving also as a warehouse for the costly machinery imported from Europe. The Cuartels de Ingenieros, de Artilleria, and de Infanteria are all well appointed and in remarkably good condition.

The most ancient fort of Mexico was probably that of Chapultepec. It occupied the most beautiful spot of the valley of Mexico, and with its many historical reminiscences still towers there, a grand old castle. When the Aztecs reached Mexico and saw this valley, they chose this as the site of a fortification that should effectually protect them from their innumerable enemies. Until Cortez occupied it, it served their purpose. During the reign of the Marquis de Galves it was turned into a palace for the viceroys, and for three centuries of varying fortunes for Mexico it served in that capacity. During the occupancy of Maximilian the old castle experienced a marvelous transformation. It was then that the palace was gorgeously fitted with rich Gobelin tapestries, inlaid floors, magnificent furniture, and priceless bronzes, while the gardens and observatory were turned into dreams of beauty and splendor of vegetation and brilliant coloring.

Señor Don Joaquin Baranda is the secretary of justice and education. He was born at Campeche on May 7, 1840. He comes of a distinguished family, his father having been one of the most prominent men in the state of Yucatan. Señor Baranda received a complete and brilliant education, and adopted the law as his profession. He was admitted to the bar when scarcely twenty years old. At the beginning of his political career he joined the Liberal party, and, having a strong inclination for newspaper work, he commenced spreading his Liberal principles through the press.

The first important office which Señor Baranda occupied in his native state was that of civil and criminal judge. He served in this office up to the time of the war with France, when he resigned to fight for the liberties of his country. He did more than any other, through the press, to arouse public spirit against the invading soldiers of Napoleon III. When the republic was re-established, Señor Baranda was appointed judge for the district of Campeche, but soon after was elected representative to the Fourth and Fifth National Congresses.

In 1880 President Diaz appointed Señor Baranda judge of tribunal for the circuit which



PATIO OF THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.