

Cuautla de Morelos has been the theatre of important historical events. Here it was that the curate Morelos shut himself up with his troops until the Spaniards under Calleja besieged it and the priest and his party were compelled to abandon their position.

The state of Morelos has already thousands of bright, clever, pushing Americans and Englishmen engaged in active endeavor. All through the hot country one finds them growing cane, maturing their coffee-trees or gathering their fruit, raising maize and bananas, and leading the independent lives of small planters and cultivators, their manual labor being done for them



FIELD OF SUGAR-CANE IN MORELOS.

by the native Indian. One could easily enumerate scores of men who took only a few thousand dollars to start with, some less, who are now on the way to wealth, and not a few who are very substantial people indeed.

Cuernavaca is the home of Mr. J. Hamer, at whose factories in the city of Mexico a practical test is being made of successfully spinning the native flax and manufacturing linen cloths of all kinds. We visited this flax-factory and the residence of Mr. Hamer; and in this connection might say that we made the entire trip through Mexico in beautiful linen travelling costumes which were woven at this factory. While there we had the opportunity of meeting Governor Alárcon and his newly wedded bride, finding them both among the most charming people in Mexico.

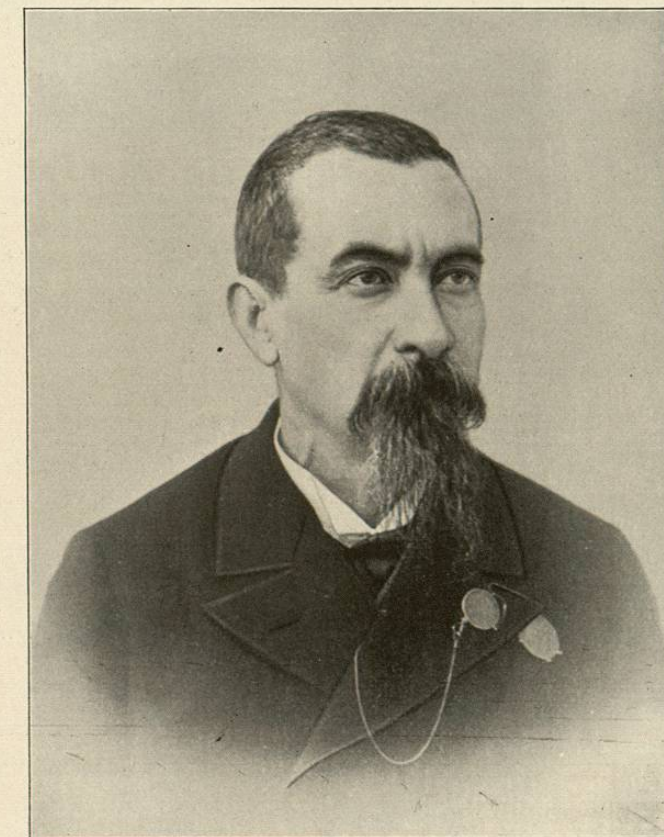
Although Morelos is the smallest state in Mexico, it certainly equals in importance even the greatest. In Governor Manuel Alárcon it has an executive head fitted to carry its industrial and its native wealth to a fitting climax, and make the region named after that noble patriot Morelos one of the most progressive spots, as it is one of the most beautiful, in the world.

CHAPTER XL

CHIAPAS

CHIAPAS is the most southern state in the Mexican republic, and presents an almost virgin field of unsurpassed natural resources. It is bounded on the north by the state of Tabasco, which separates it from the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the republic of Guatemala, on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by the states of Vera Cruz and Oaxaca. The Sierra Madre mountains run almost

parallel with the Pacific Ocean in their course through the state, there being between the two a stretch of level land which is uncommonly fertile, including the districts of Soconusco and Tonalá. North of these mountains, and exactly in the central section of the state, there are also fertile plains in the districts of La Libertad, Chiapa, and Tuxtla, and in Comitán along the Guatemalan frontier; and, finally, along the boundary of Tabasco are situated the humid forest-plains of the districts of Pichucalco and Palenque. From the southern limits of these two districts and toward the centre of the state the mountain-slopes begin to rise, finding their extreme height in the district of Las Casas, whose county-seat is more than seven thousand feet above sea-level; but the coast range in its descent to the sea slopes more abruptly. In the districts of Mezcalapa, Pichucalco, Simojovel, Chilón, Comitán, and Palenque the landscape presents a picturesque undulating country, with ridges of mountains of moderate altitude, and traversed by numerous navigable streams, such as the Grijalva, Mezcalapa, Tapijulapa, El Salto, and Usumacinta. The number of rivers of lesser importance is very considerable, and Chiapas may be counted among the best watered states of Mexico. As there are no really low or swampy districts, the climate is healthy, and it is generally tempered by prevailing breezes from the gulf and the Pacific Ocean, which supply the atmospheric moisture favorable to plant life and give abundant rainfall.

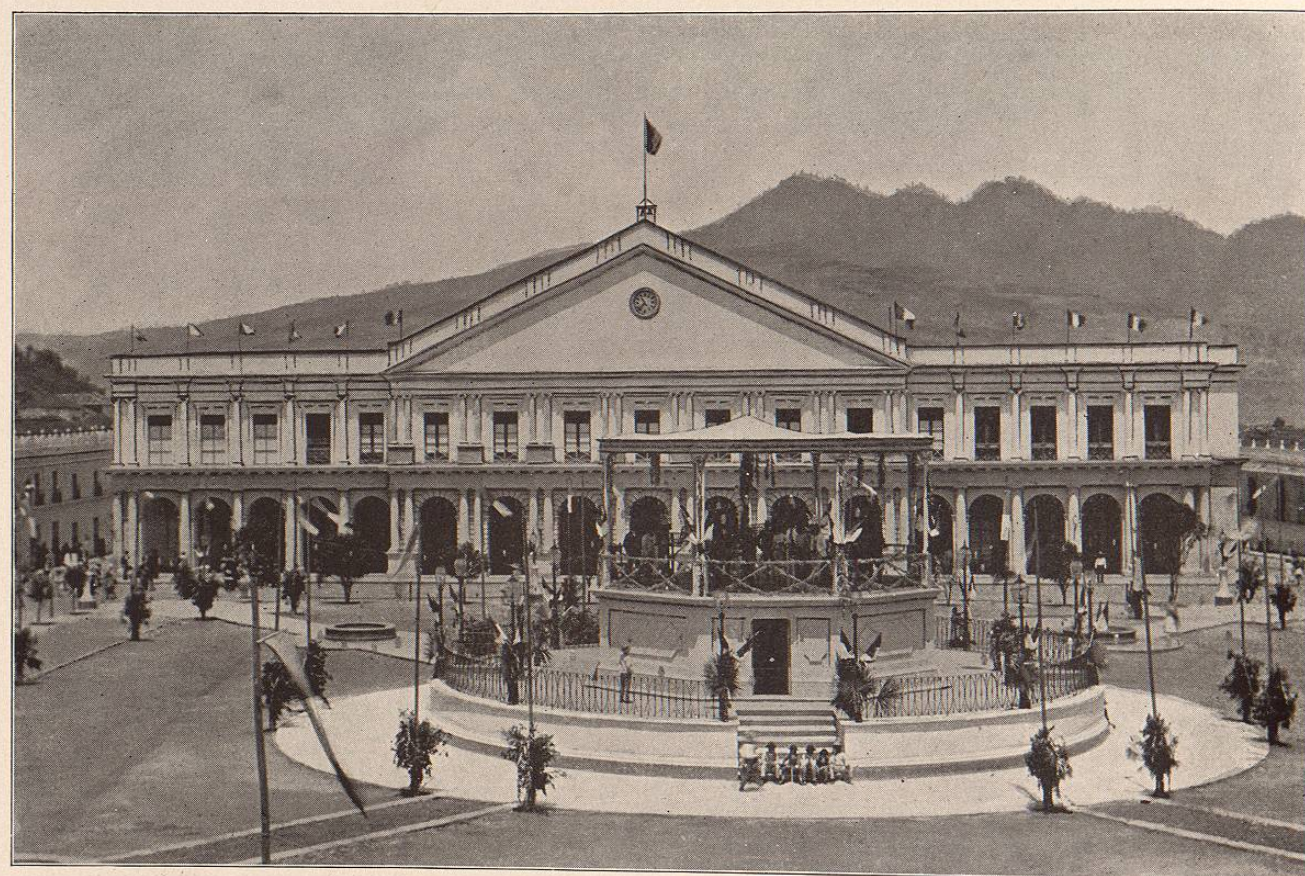


SEÑOR CORONEL FRANCISCO LEON,
GOVERNOR OF CHIAPAS.

The general aspect of the country is very unlike that of Northern Mexico. Chiapas has no barren country except in the very highest parts of its mountains, the medium and lower regions generally being covered by forests of valuable woods, while its cultivated parts show fields of all kinds and abundance of crops.

Lake Tepancuapán, in the southern part, is eighteen miles long and three miles wide, and abounds in crabs. There are several smaller lakes in the state.

It is a mistake to assume that all of Chiapas is mountainous, and hence inaccessible. Through the ports of Tonalá and San Benito on the Pacific the rich districts of Tonalá and Soconusco can be reached, and from the former port the towns of Tuxtla, Chiapa, and San Cristóbal are accessible by means of a good wagon-road. Six water-ways give access through



PALACE, CHIAPAS.

the gulf to the districts of Mezcalapa, Pichucalco, Simojovel, and Palenque. Ascending the Grijalva River, in Tabasco, and following the Mezcalapa, the districts of Mezcalapa and Tuxtla are reached; the district of Pichucalco is reached by the river Blanquillo, Simojovel by the Tapijulapa, and Palenque by the rivers Tulija and Chacamas. Palenque is also accessible from Lake Términos by ascending the rivers Palizada and Usumacinta into Lake Catazaja to the town of Catazaja. The Mezcalapa is navigable for low-draught boats up to within twenty-four Mexican leagues from Tuxtla-Gutierrez, the capital of the state. The department of Comitán is not easily reached by either the gulf or the Pacific Ocean, but its proximity to Guatemala offers great advantages for the exportation of its products to that country, which will always contribute to the enrichment of the inhabitants. The road to Guatemala is hilly, but is in fit condition for travelling. The Tehuantepec National Railway has opened new and

advantageous means of egress to the state. By taking the train at Coatzacoalcos, the railroad's terminus on the Mexican Gulf, or at Salina Cruz, its terminus on the Pacific Ocean, San Gerónimo station is reached, from which place a good wagon-road leads to the capital city.

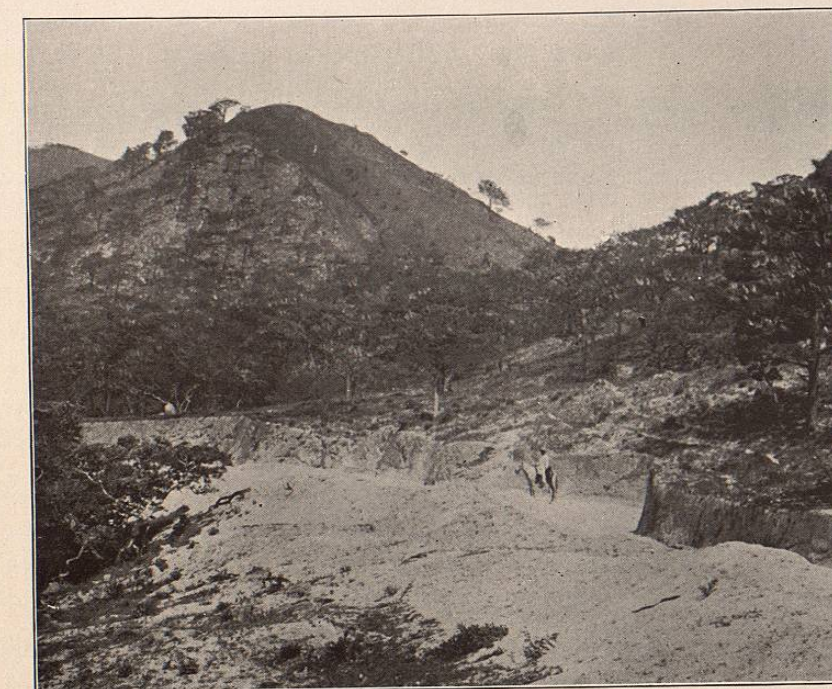
Chiapas has over three hundred thousand inhabitants; the majority of them are Indians. They are of a peaceful disposition, and there are among them tribes which are intelligent and highly civilized, as may be seen in Tuxtla, Ocosocua, Copainala, and other places. The inhabitants of Chiapas are remarkable for their hospitality. Foreigners are well received, and no distinction is made on account of nationality. The necessities of life are generally cheap and excellent. There are schools distributed throughout the state according to the size of the towns. In the cities of San Cristóbal, Comitán, and Tuxtla there are high schools for girls, supported by the city and state governments, and under the guardianship of the latter government. In Tuxtla and San Cristóbal there are preparatory schools where students receive preliminary instruction for any professional college of the federal government.

Commerce is the most developed of the resources of Chiapas. Tonalá and Soconusco supply themselves through their ports; Pichucalco and Palenque are supplied from San Juan Bautista; the remaining departments do their trading for

foreign products with Tuxtla, which is the commercial metropolis of the state, and here capital and wealth have concentrated themselves. Trade in Chiapas is susceptible of great possibilities.

Agriculture is in its infancy, but will be the means of adding materially to the wealth of the state. Coffee, which has been cultivated for some years, is greatly enriching some of the departments. Soconusco has two million coffee-trees, Tuxtla about one million, Mezcalapa five hundred thousand, the other departments one million, making a total of four million five hundred thousand, one million of which are in production, and the remainder will be bearing inside of two years. There are several sugar-cane plantations, and in Simojovel some interest is taken in tobacco culture.

Coffee is considered the best paying product of Chiapas. In a hectare (2.4711 acres) of land nine hundred trees are planted. It is not advisable to increase the number, as is done in the other states, on account of the extraordinary growth of the tree in Chiapas. The minimum product of a tree in full bearing is two pounds of dry coffee; many plantations produce on an average three, four, and five pounds to the tree. Trees are found in Simojovel and Chilón that bear twenty pounds, and there is one particular tree in Tuxtla, on the Mezcalapa River, forty years old, that yields forty pounds; but of course these are isolated cases.



BETWEEN ORTEGA AND LA PUERTA.