

gates of the forest of Chapultepec, and made this one of the finest avenues in the world. In Tacubaya lots increased over sixfold in two years.

A very large proportion of the public land of Mexico is fertile, well watered, and in every way desirable. Intending purchasers will do well to buy government lands, as they are cheaper than others and no question can arise as to the title.

A study of the resources of Mexico would not be complete were it to omit the great industry of cattle-raising. This business is carried on in all parts of Mexico,—on the plains of Chihuahua and Durango, in the Bajión, in all the valleys of Michoacán and Jalisco, and in the plains and valleys of the coast. Where rains are insufficient to produce corn crops, as is the case in considerable portions of Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila, the grass is sufficient for grazing and even the fattening of stock. Generally, however, thin stock from the northern portions of the republic is fattened on the haciendas in the southern and central portions. Of late years the business of cattle-raising has grown in the states of San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, and Vera Cruz, and, though yet in its infancy, is still very important.

Not only is the country well fitted by its climate for the cattle industry, but, with its large unoccupied territories well supplied with running streams and its abundant yield of corn, it would be difficult to find another country so well adapted to compete for the trade of Europe as is Mexico.

In short, in a country with such a healthy climate, such good breeding facilities, such excellent harbor accommodations and good railroad services, the day cannot be far distant when the cattle industry of Mexico will have attained enormous proportions.



CHAPTER XLIX

MEXICO AS A WHOLE

MEXICO is preëminently the land of mystery of the Western world. It contains abundant traces of a civilization far older than any other on this continent, and, now that a key to the Maya inscriptions has been found, it is reasonable to expect that systematic exploration will result in reconstructing, at least partially, the history of the vanished race, and throw some light on the interesting question of its antiquity as well as of its origin, and with it give us some knowledge of what is now the prehistoric period of North America.

It is scarcely possible to overestimate the importance of the movement now on foot in Mexico to have the archaeological treasures of that country properly explored. A bill has been passed by the Mexican congress to empower American scientists to make archaeological excavations in that country, provided the objects found be divided equally between the two countries. This is a liberal proposition, and will, doubtless, be accepted readily by scientific explorers everywhere.

Among the features of which Mexico can boast are the richest and most productive silver-mines in the world; the cradle of civilization on this continent; the ruins and romance of historic and prehistoric America; the Cholula pyramid,—the Tower of Babel of Indian tradition; the spot where the first known European set foot on this continent, to which he gave his name,—the place, the coast near Tampico, the man, Americus Vespucci; the largest meteorite in the world; the statue of Charles VI. on the Paseo in the city of Mexico, the first and, according to some authorities, the largest bronze ever cast in America, and, according to Humboldt, the finest equestrian statue in the world next to that of Marcus Aurelius at Rome; the stoutest tree on the continent and perhaps in the world, at Tula, one hundred and fifty-four feet two inches in circumference six feet from the ground; Popocatepetl, according to the latest figures, the highest mountain on the continent; the largest American church building, in the Mexican cathedral, and the most beautiful, in that of Puebla; the first pulpit and the first church structure in the New World, at Tlaxcala; and the largest bell in America, and one of the largest in the world, in the Mexican cathedral. This bell is said to be nineteen feet high. The "monarch of bells" in the Kremlin at Moscow is twenty feet high and weighs four hundred and forty-four thousand pounds, but it is cracked and useless, while Mexico's bell is sound and serviceable.

In historic associations and relics of the past there is the same diversity. There are reminders of Diaz, of Juarez and Maximilian, of General Scott and Santa Anna, of Spanish viceroys and Hidalgo, of Cortez and Montezuma, and of the unknown builders of pyramids and palaces that antedate the beginnings of recorded history in America. Among its natural attractions are semi-tropical Orizaba, only eighty miles from the Gulf of Mexico, with its Swiss mountains, mountain-torrents, and picturesque buildings, its Javanese coffee, palms and bananas;

attractive and picturesque Guadalajara, on the Pacific slope, with its lake, its waterfall, the Niagara of Mexico, and its cañon that boasts of the temperate zone at its top and the torrid zone at its bottom; and to the southward Oaxaca and the famous ruins of Mitla.

Mexico is more foreign in appearance than nine-tenths of Europe. Her twelve millions of natives are either pure Indian, direct and unadulterated descendants of the Aztecs and other



CARRYING PULQUE.

Indian tribes, or mixed Indian and Spanish, or (much the smallest class) pure Spanish. Four-fifths of the people have some Indian blood, two-fifths are pure Indian, and about one-third can neither speak nor understand Spanish, and use their original dialects. In the outward appearance of the men, women, and children and in their habitations, costumes, and habits it suggests in its different sections and among its varied peoples now Europe in Moorish Spain, now Asia in Palestine, now Africa in Egypt.

In some Mexican homes there are reminders, in architectural effects and in stucco-work, in horseshoe arches and graceful columns, of the Moorish influence upon the Spaniards during the period of Moorish occupation of Spain, while one always finds in its Indian dark-skinned people reminders of the African and Asiatic. In the small villages and country sections where the millions of Indians dwell Oriental scenes are plentiful. The dark-skinned men, with bright eyes and white teeth, dressed first in white cotton and then draped in a serape,—a shawl by day and a blanket by night,—are distinct-

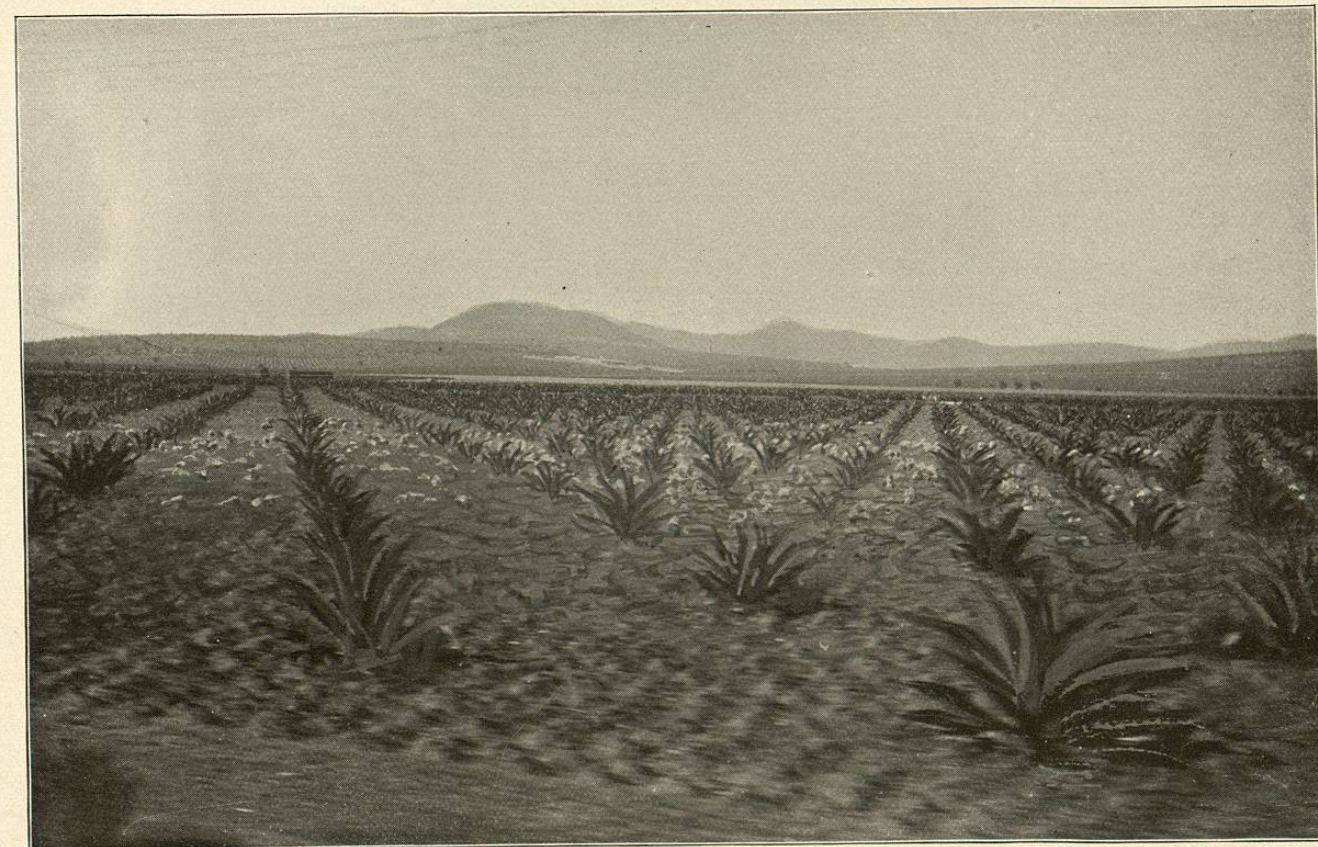
tively Oriental, and the effect is only heightened by the immense sombreros upon their heads or the sandals upon their feet.

The Mexican horseman is even more dashing and picturesque than his Old-World counterpart. As in Spain, the city's heart is often a plaza, with a stand for band-music, the cathedral facing the plaza on one side and the palace or government building on the other.

All classes of people are polite and charitable to one another, and are wonderfully kind and gentle in manner. The women are beautiful when very young, but age rapidly. There are picturesque scenes along the streets of the town Saturday nights, when the men sit in groups playing cards and various games and all classes are apparently happy.

In some parts of the country the method of doing the family wash is as primitive as picturesque, and would make a pretty picture if caught by a snap-shot kodak. The women stand along the river banks, just as they do in parts of Brittany and Holland, and dip the clothes in and out of the running stream, while their children and babies roll and frolic about in sand or

perch upon the stones, their melting dark eyes and slips of bright color making a theme for the brush of Millet. The women of the working class spend much of their time sewing. There are many sewing-machines, upon which the native girls do good work. These women also make the wooden jar, olla, used for holding water. The olla is porous, and will keep water agreeably cold for a length of time. The women dress generally in a calico skirt and sash of some bright color, and a rebozo. The latter is composed of a long blue shawl with fringed ends wound about the head and shoulders. A black shawl instead of the blue rebozo is considered more elegant and distinguished. Bonnets and hats are worn by the upper classes, of course, but only since the advent of the railroad, which has at last penetrated the upper portions



A FIELD OF MAGUEY PLANTS.

of the country. The women, often in gay colors and draped in the rebozo, which half conceals the face, suggest Asia or Africa rather than America or Europe.

Mr. Theodore W. Noyes, a Washington (D.C.) editor, and a very close observer, says, "The Egyptian shaduf finds its counterpart in the well-sweep of Irapuato, where strawberries are grown and sold every day in the year, and where irrigation is resorted to, as in Egypt, systematically and on a large scale. In the absence of trees and rocks the Egyptian shaduf is small, is composed of prepared timbers, and the counterpoise to the well-bucket is an immense hunk of dried, hardened Nile mud. The Mexican shaduf generally utilizes a forked tree, and swings across it a long, tapering trunk or branch, and the counterpoise consists of a large single stone or a mass of stones fastened together. Though Mexico stretches farther south than Egypt, the two countries lie, speaking generally, between the same parallels of latitude; but the altitude of Irapuato is over five thousand feet above the sea-level or the level of the Nile,

so that the same degree of undress is not expected or found in the Mexican as in the Egyptian shaduf-worker. I saw, however, in the neighborhood of Irapuato, two Indians as well-sweeps working side by side, who were dressed only in white cotton loin-cloths, and who looked like the twin brothers of shaduf-workers whom I have seen and photographed on the Nile."

And again he says, "The Mexican woman, with her baby at her back securely fastened in the rebozo, which throws the infant's weight on the mother's shoulders, is to be compared with the Egyptian woman, whose 'rebozo' covers her face while the child straddles her shoulders,



DRAWING PULQUE, IN TLACHIQUERO.

holding to her head and leaving her hands as unfettered as in the Mexican fashion. There are no Egyptian camels, but even more numerous donkeys, the patient burros. The Indian villages, whether of adobe or of bamboo, with thatched roofs and organ cactus fences, and whether alive with goats, donkeys, or snarling curs, are African in effect. There are Aztec picture-writings resembling the Egyptian, the paper being made from the maguey instead of papyrus. The Aztecs employed captives on great public works, as in Egypt. Mexico thus has pyramids, much broader based than those of Egypt, though not so high, and idols quite as ugly. Gold ornaments, beads, masks, and other highly prized antiquities are found on the tombs, as in Egypt."

CHAPTER L

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

TO enable readers of these pages to best open and most profitably maintain social and business relations with Mexico and her people, some appropriate hints may not here prove amiss. Those here given have the advantage of having been inspired during actual residence and of being the result of wide travel and close observation.

It is remarkable how little not only Europeans but Americans know concerning Mexico. A great many know that there is such a country as Mexico, and that is about all. It is not long since that a very successful business man in the United States, on being told that the city of Mexico had a population of over three hundred thousand, expressed himself as incredulous on this point, saying he had always had the impression that it was not over twenty-five thousand.

Those who are seeking the trade of people speaking a different language from their own should accommodate themselves to the language spoken by the expected customers. This is the law of trade. English-speaking people who desire the trade of Spanish-speaking countries should pocket their pride or any theories which they may have as regards the genius or value of their mother-tongue as compared with any other. A knowledge of Spanish greatly aids one in opening out business with Mexico, whether he goes there or remains at home and transacts his business by correspondents, although English is spoken very generally throughout Mexico.

It is pleasant to note that in American towns which have commenced to have large business with Mexico Spanish classes have become quite popular among business men.

It may be interesting to all non-Mexicans to know what the laws are as to who are Mexicans and who are considered foreigners.

Those are considered Mexicans who are born in the national territory and of fathers who are Mexicans by birth or naturalization; those born in the national territory of a Mexican mother and of a father who may not be legally recognized as a Mexican, and those who are born of parents who are unknown or of unknown nationality; and those born outside of the republic of a Mexican father who has not lost his nationality. Should he have lost his nationality the sons shall be considered as foreigners, but shall have the right to declare their intention of considering themselves Mexican within a year following their twenty-first birthday. Those born outside of the republic of a Mexican mother have this privilege, supposing she has not lost her nationality. If the mother shall not have been naturalized her sons will be foreigners, but will have the right to declare themselves Mexicans as in the case before mentioned. A foreign woman who marries a Mexican is considered a Mexican, even during her widowhood. Those born outside of the republic but who resided there in 1821 and swore to the Act of Independence are also residents if they have not changed their nationality. Those Mexicans who lived in the territory ceded to the United States and have fulfilled the required conditions to keep their