The reforms introduced into the postal regulations, and the reorganization of the Post Offices of the country, have greatly improved the service of this Department, as is shown in the following table which corresponds to the year 1892.

### PIECES RECEIVED.

Interior service	55.879,845 13.006,615
In 1880	68.886,468 7.054,790
Increase	61.829,670
Income in 1880	\$ 605,652 1.142,181
Increase	\$ 536,529

Such are in brief the details of the different branches treated of in the present work, and which with their eloquent figures and irrefutable deductions, clearly show the progress and advancement which have taken place in this country.

Mexico, 26th. of March, 1893.

ANTONIO GARCIA CUBAS.

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### INSTITUTIONS.

In accordance with the Constitutional Law which recognizes the fundamental principles of the rights of man, the Government of the Republic, is representative democratic and federal.

By virtue of this same law which was passed on the 5th of February 1857, the Republic is composed of States which are free and sovereign in everything relating to their internal administration; but are united in a single Federation which is established according to constitutional precepts.

The National Sovereignty is essentially and originally vested in the people, which grants all public power and exercises its sovereignty through the officers of Union in matters within their jurisdiction, and through the State officers in those which relate to their own internal administration; all under conditions which have been carefully established in the Federal Constitution and in the special Constitutions of each State, which in no case are allowed to contravene the stipulations of the Federal agreement.

According to the Constitution, all persons in the Republic are born free, and slaves recover their liberty the moment they step on the National territory. The same Constitution guarantees freedom of education, and in the exercise of professions, freedom of thought and of the Press; the only restrictions being those which are prescribed by morality, the respect due to private life, the rights of third parties and public tranquility; it prescribes that no one shall be obliged to give personal service without just retribution and his full consent, it also asserts the rights of petition and association, when with a legitimate object, that of carrying arms for private security and lawful defense; that of entering and leaving the Republic, traveling throughout its territory and changing residence without the necessity of passports; it ignores titles of nobillity, hereditary prerogatives and honors, as well as judgment by private laws or special tribunals; it prohibits the issue of laws with a retroactive effect and the celebration of treaties for the extradition of political criminals; the intrusion into a domicile without written order from a competent authority, and imprisonment for debt of an entirely civil character; it prescribes that imprisonment shall only be allowed when the alleged crime merits personal punishment, and that no detention will exceed the term of three days without due cause being shown for an order of imprisonment; it establishes the guarantees that every accused person shall have in a criminal prosecution, and the exclusive jurisdiction of the judicial authorities in the application of the penalties, that not being of a merely correctional character, can be imposed by the executive authorities; it prohibites all penalties that mutilate, defame, or brand, the lash and torture of whatever class; it declares the abolition of the death penalty for political causes, restraining it to a few cases and determining that it can only be applied to those guilty of high treason, brigandage, incendiarism, parricide and murder in the first degree; it orders that no criminal prosecution shall be carried through more than three courts and that no one shall be judged twice under the same accusation; it proclaims the inviolability of correspondence and the respect due to property, save in the cases of expropriation under special law for the public service, and after due compensation; it prohibits the

billeting of troops in time of peace, and in time of war as well, except under the conditions established by law, and also provides that neither civil nor eclesiastical corporations shall be allowed to acquire, or administer real estate; it prohibits all kinds of monopolies, privileges, and all restrictions even with a view to the protection of industry, always excepting the official monopoly of the coinage and postal service, as well as patents in favor of private persons for useful inventions or improvements; and finally it concedes to the President of the Republic, acting under the advice of the Cabinet, and with the approbations of Congress, or during the recess, of the Permanent Comittee, the authority to suspend constitutional guarantees in cases of invasion, grave public disorder, or any other cause which may threaten the general safety of society.

All children born of Mexican parents, whether within or without the territory of the Republic, the foreigners who may be naturalized in conformity with the laws of the Confederation, and those who acquire real estate in the Republic, or have Mexican children, always provided that they do not declare their determination to preserve their nationality, are Mexicans according to the provisions of the Constitution, and are under the obligation of lending their services in the defense of the country and of contributing to the public expenses. Other things being equal, they will be preferred to foreigners for all official employments or commissions, but everybody in general, whether native or foreign, has an equal right to the guarantees granted under the Constitution.

The additions to the latter, which were decreed on the 25th of September, 1873, established independence between the Church and State, depriving Congress of the authority to dictate laws which may establish or prohibit any form of religion; they declare marriage to be a civil contract; substitute a promise to tell the truth for a religious oath, and prohibit the establishment of monastic orders, whatever may be their denomination, or their object.

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For purposes of administration, the Supreme Authorities of the Federation are divided into Legislative, Executive and Judicial, each of these being independent of the others in its own sphere of action, but the three forming one sole body which constitutes the Supreme Governent of the Nation.

# LEGISLATIVE POWER.

This is formed by Congress, which is divided into two chambers having general authority, but having also each one its exclusive and special attributes. The Chamber of Deputies, or Representatives of the Nation, is formed of individuals who are elected every two years by Mexican citizens, in the proportion of one Deputy for every forty thousand inhabitants, or for any fraction over twenty thousand; and the Senate Chamber is composed of two members from each State, and two from the Federal District, elected indirectly in the first place, half the Chamber being renewable every two years. This Congress holds two ordinary sessions every year; the first, which may be extended for not more than thirty working days, commences on the 16th of September, and terminates on the 15th of December; and the second, which may be extended for 15 working days, begins on the 1st of April and terminates on the last of May. The last mentioned session is especially dedicated to the examination and discussion of the estimates for the following financial year, to the granting of supplies to cover these estimates, and to the inspection of the accounts of the previous year which are presented by the Executive.

Attributions of Congress in general.—The admission of new States and Territories into the Mexican Confederation; the elevation of these to the rank of Federal bodies when they have sufficient resources to provide for their political existence; the formation of new States within the limits of those which are already existing; the final settlement of the boundaries of these States; the change of residence of the Supreme Powers of the

Federation; the internal administration of the Federal District and Territories; the approbation of National Loans issued in accordance with instrucctions given by Congress itself; the issue of Customs Tariffs; the creation and suppression of Federal ofices and the assignation of salaries to the same; the declaration of war in view of the reports presented by the Executive; the Regulation of Letters of Marque; the creation, organization and discipline of the National Army and Navy; the issue of laws on naturalization, colonization and citizenship, on common roads and means of communication, and postal department; the establishment of mints, the regulations for the occupation and sale of waste lands, the concession of amnesties and the issue of the laws that may be required to carry out the determinations arrived at in the use of its attributes.

The exclusive prerogatives of the Chamber of Deputies are as follows:-to constitute itself into an Eelectoral College for the appointment of a President of the Republic, Judges of the Supreme Court and Senators for the Federal District; to accept or refuse the resignation of the President of the Republic and Judges of the Supreme Court, and to grant leave of absence to the former when he may solicit it; to appoint the superior and subaltern employes of the auditing department, exercising a strict vigilance on the fulfillment of the duties of this office; to examine the annual accounts of the Federal Treasury and pass the estimate of expenses, levying the taxes which may be necessary to cover the same; to constitute itself into a Grand Jury which will investigate the following accusations: - firstly, against Deputies or Senators, Judges of the Supreme Court and Secretaries of State for ordinary crimes which may have been committed during their tenure of office, as well as for any faults or omissions which they may have committed in the exercise of the same; and secondly, for any infraction of the Constitution, or of the Federal Laws, which may have been committed by the Governor of a State, or by the President of the Republic. No accusation can be presented against the latter during the term of his office, unless it is for high treason, express violation of the Constitution, attacks on freedom of election, or grave crimes of the ordinary class.

The special prerogatives of the Senate are: the approbation of diplomatic treaties and conventions; the ratification of appointments made by the President of ministers, diplomatic agents, consuls general, superior employés of the Treasury, Colonels and other superior officers of the Army; the authorization of the departure of National troops from the National territory and the passage of foreign troops through the same; the duration of a foreign squadron for more than one month in the waters of the Republic; the granting permission to the Executive for the issue of troops of the National Guard outside of their respective States; the declaration of the cases in which, the authorities of any State having disappeared, the Executive, with the approbation of the Senate, will be authorized to appoint a Provisional Governor who will call on the people to elect a permanent one (who can not be himself); deciding the disputes which may arise between the different functionaries of a State; and lastly, constituting itself into a Grand Jury which shall pass sentence on official crimes, those of the common order being passed to the ordinary courts after investigation by the accusing Chamber.

# THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

The Executive Power is vested in a single individual, who is named "President of United States of Mexico," and is elected by popular vote for a period of four years, which commences on the last of December. In the fulfillment of his important duties, the President has the assistance of seven Secretaries of State, having full liberty to appoint and remove them as he sees fit. These Secretaries are in charge of the following Departments: first, Foreign Affairs; second, Interior; third, Justice and Public Education; fourth, Fomento, (Developement); fifth, Comunications and Public Works; sixth, the

Treasury and Public Credit, and seventh, War and Marine. These Secretaries authorize with their signatures, each in his own departament, the regulations, orders and decrees issued by the President, without which autorization these have no legal force.

The duties and prerogatives of the President of the Republic are as follows:-To promulgate and carry out the laws, watching the exact observance of the same; appointing and removing as he sees fit the Secretaries of State and Federal employés; appointing with the approbation of the Senate, Ministers, Diplomatic Agents, Consuls, Colonels and other superior officers of the National Army and Navy, as well as the superior officers of the Treasury; appointing in accordance with the laws all the other officers of the National Army and Navy, disposing of the permanent forces by land and sea, as well as of the National Guard, for the internal security of the country and defence from invasion; declaring war when duly authorized to do so by Congress; granting Letters of Marque; directing diplomatic negotiations and celebrating treaties with foreign powers; receiving representatives and other envoys from the latter; convoking Congress to hold extraordinary sessions with the consent of the Permanent Commitee; giving the judicial authorities all the assistance that they may require in the exercise of their duties; opening ports to commerce and establishing Custom Houses in the same; granting pardon to criminals condemned by the Federal Tribunals; granting patents to the discoverers, inventors, or improvers in any branch of industry.

The duties of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, include every thing that relates to International Relations, Consulates, location and preservation of the boundaries of the Republic, naturalization of foreigners, registration of foreign firms and companies, certification of signatures, the charge of National Great Seal, and of the general archives, besides official ceremonials and publications.

The duties of the Secretary of State for the Interior include, the management of general elections, Congress of the Union, constitucional reforms, the observance of the Constitution, the relations between the States, the territorial division and limits of the States, public order, the National Guard, amnesties, civil registry offices, the rights of citizenship, the freedom of assembly, freedom of the Press, freedom of worship and guarantees for the same, ordinary police and the health department; Post-Office, National festivities, epidemics, vaccination, Government of the Federal District in political and administrative matters, public charities, hospitals, asylums, orphanages, prisons, pententiaries, convict establishments, houses of correction, and Government printing.

The Secretary of State in the department of Justice and Public Instruction has under his charge: the Supreme Court, the Circuit and District Courts, the controversies that come before the Tribunals of the Federation, prosecutions for piracy, expropriations of property for reason of public utility, codes, official collections of laws and decrees, the judicial organization in the Federal District and Territories, freedom of instruction, professional diplomas, national colleges, technical schools, excepting those of engineering and agriculture; scientific, art and literary societes, libraries, museums, national antiquities, lawyers and notaries, pardons and commutations of sentence.

The duties of the Secretary of State in the Department of Fomento include; statistics, freedom of industry and work, agriculture, commerce, mining, patents on inventions, colonization, waste lands, expositions of agricultural, industrial, mineral and textile products, geographical and astronomical observations, scientific journeys and explorations, weights and measures and schools of engineering and agriculture.

The Secretary of State in the Department of Comunications and Public Works, has under his charge the following matters: wagon roads, railroads, bridges and canals, telegraphs, light-

houses, useful and ornamental public monuments, that may be erected either at the cost or under the protection of the Federal Treasury, and Government buildings.

The Secretary of State in the Department of the Treasury and Public Credit, takes under his charge the administration of all Federal revenues, the customs tariffs, the mints, the public debt and loans, and the nationalization of real estate in mort-main.

The Secretary of State in the Department of War and Marine, has in his charge: the standing army, the National Navy, the National Guard when in the service of the Federation, the Military College, the Naval School, the Military Hospitals, Military Colonies, Letters of Marque, fortresses, barracks, arsenals, deposits and warehouses belonging to the Federation, and wild Indians.

#### JUSTICIARY.

This is composed of the Supreme Court of Justice with the District and Circuit Tribunals; the first has eleven permanent judges, four supernumerary judges, one prosecuting magistrate and one attorney general.

These officers are all elected by popular vote and their term of office lasts for six years from the day on which they take the oath prescribed by the Constitution. They sit in three Courts for the transaction of ordinary business, but in suits for protection against official injustice and in all matters that are related with the Federal Authorities they sit in full Court.

According to the Constitution the President of the Supreme Court used to be *ex-oficio* Vice President of the Republic; but by an amendment law passed on the 3rd of October 1882, in cases of either temporary or permanent absence of the Executive, his place will be taken by the person who during the preceding month has filled the office of President or Vice President of the Senate, or when this is in recess, of the Permanent Committee.

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction over all controversies that may arise with respect to the fulfillment and application of the federal laws when these do not affect private interests, as well as in all questions affecting maritime rights; in questions arising between two or more states, in civil or criminal cases originting in treaties with foreign powers, in those relating to diplomatic and consular agents, and generally in all those in which the Federation is interested.

The Supreme Court extends its sphere of action over the entire Republic through the District and Circuit Judges. The first of these have jurisdiction, in first instance, in suits involving Federal interests, always excepting those which may arise between one State and another, and those in which the Union takes a part, the jurisdiction of these being vested in the Supreme Court or Circuit Tribunals, as Courts of first instance.

The Federal Tribunals determine all controversies that arise; firstly, through the action of laws, or of any person in authority violating personal guarantees; secondly, through laws, or acts of the Federal authority, which violate or restrict the Sovereignty of the States; and thirdly, through laws or acts of State Officers who usurp Federal authority.

The District Judges, who are representatives of the Federal Judiciary in the States and Districts have jurisdiction in first instances, in all suits for protection arising from violation of personal guarantees, and all others that are specified in the previous paragraph; the final sentence being given by the Supreme Court in full session and sitting as a Court of second instance.

There are eight Circuit Tribunals and thirty eight District Courts in the Republic, distributed as shown in the following table.

All the State of Durango.

The State of Chihuahua, with the exception of the Counties of Bravo, Galeana and Ojinaga.

Counties of Bravo, Galeana and Ojinaga. of the State of Chihuahua.

All the State of Jalisco.

All the State of Jalisco.

""" " "Colima". All the part of Tables.

"", "Olima.
"", "Aguascalientes.
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"", "Aguascalientes.
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"", Taritory of Tepic, formed out of what was the 7th
"", Taritory of Tepic, formed out of Malice Scate of Chiapas, excepting the Department of Soconusco.

The State of Chiapas.
"", "Autorem.", "Auto All the State of Sonora.

" in " Sinaloa.
Counties of the South and Center of Lower California.
Northern County of Lower California. of Circuit Tribunals and District Courts in the Republic, showing each Court. their Residence and Territorial Jurisdiction. Jo Jurisdiction San Cristóbal las Casas San Juan Bautista..... Mérida...... Campeche....... Residence of District Courts. Paso del Norte.... District Courts. Aguascalientes.. Tepic.... Paso nel Norte. Return

Jurisdiction of each Court.	The Federal District. The two Judges sit weekly by turns.  All the State of Guerrero.  Morelos.  """ Hidalgo.  """ Mexico.	State of Coahuila, with the exception of the Districts of Mon- clova and Rio Grande.  Districts of Monclova and Rio Grande of the State of Coa-	North of Tamaulipas, with the exception of the Municipalities of Guerrero & Mier.  Municipality of Guerrero and Mier of the North of Tamau-	All the State of Nuevo Leon.  The State of Veracruz \ The two Judges sit weekly by turns.		All the State of Guanajuato. "" " " " " " Querétaro. "" " " " " San Luis Potosí.
District Courts. Residence of District Courts.	México. México. Chilpancingo. Cuernayaca. Tlaxcala. Pachuca.	SaltilloPiedras Negras	Matamoros	Monterrey Veracruz	Veracruz	Guanajuato MoreliaQuerétaro San Luis Poto»f
District Courts.	1st. of the Federal District 2nd, " Guerrero Morelos Tlaxcala Hidalgo State of Mexico	Coahuila	Matamoros	Nuevo Leon	2nd. " " Puebla Oaxaca Tapachula Tampico . " Tampico . " Tampico . " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Guanajuato
RESIDENCE of Circuit Tribunals.	México		Monterrey	Cititioneran	Orizaba	Querétaro

We thus see that the Nation exercises its Sovereignty through the Federal authorities, in those cases which come under their jurisdiction, and through those of the States in all matters which concern their interior administration.

In the same manner, the Chamber of Deputies, besides its more elevated Federal functions, exercises those of a Legislature for the Federal District; the Executive Power of which is vested in the President of the Republic, and by delegation from im, in the Governor. The ordinary justice is administered in the District, first; by Justices of the Peace, who are considered as agents of the judicial police and reside in the smaller villages where are there are no minor judges; secondly, by minor judges, we outside of the Capital, have jurisdiction in civil suits, the penalty which does not exceed two months imprisonment, or a fine of \$300., and within the Capital in civil suits involving up to \$500 fine; thirdly, by correctional judges, having jurisdiction in cases involving two years imprisonment; fourthly, by six Civil Judges of first instance, and five criminal; fithly, by the jury which is composed of nine individuals presided over by the Judge who has investigated the case from the beginning; and, sixthly, by the Superior Tribunal which is composed of fourteen permanent magistrates and four super-numeraries, divided into four divisions of which the second tries criminal accusations, the third and fourth civil suits, and the first casations and disputed jurisdiction in both branches.

The administration of justice is assisted: firstly, by the Public Censor of the Courts; secondly by the official Defenders of the accused; and thirdly, by Medico-Legal Experts and the Medico Legal Council.

The Public Minister is a magistrate whose special function it is to defend the interests of society, and in its name demand the prompt and faithful administration of justice. This Magistrate is represented in the Superior Tribunal by the Procurator, who, in his turn, has ten agents under his inmediate orders, and whose duties, like those of all other judicial functionaries, are clearly defined in the Code of Penal procedure.

In order to defend poor persons who may be criminally accused six official defenders are appointed by the Judge, or Tribunal in which they practice, and in the fulfillment of their duties they are subject to disciplinary corrections which the law allows to be imposed on the parties to a suit, or on their counsel.

Whenever the Public Minister, the Judges, or Tribunals of Common Law call one or more of the Medico-Legal Experts who are appointed by the Scretary of Justice for the Federal District, they are bound to respond to the call for the purpose of examining any person, making an analysis of any substance or fulfilling anyother commission that may be required of them, and they must present their reports in all matters as provided by the Code.

But in cases where a wounded person is either cured or dies in Hospital, these documents will be issued by the physicians belonging to the establishment.

The Medico Legal Council is composed of a President and two members, and to this the Judges apply whenever they find it necessary to appoint new experts, to revise the reports and opinions of the same, or of the Hospital physicians, to assist the latter in post-mortem examinations, diagnosis of injured persons, or necessary analysis; and lastly, to be present at the trials to which they may be cited.

Such is the Judicial organization of the Federal District.

In conformity with the private constitutions of the different States, which recognise the same fundamental principle as that of the Federation, each one of its governments is likewise divided into three powers: Legislative, Executive and Judicial, of which bear the respective names of Legislature, State Government, and Supreme Tribunal. The attributions which correspond to each of these Power are clearly specified in the

respective Constitution of each State, the provisions of which only relate to their own internal administration and in no way contravene the general provisions of the Federal Constitution which rules over the entire country.