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SOME FACTS OF MEXICAN HISTORY IN RETROSPECT

By GEORGE H. MANNING.

Washington, D. C., May 13.—It is generally admitted that Mexico has the "making" of a great and prosperous nation and through her enormous rich natural possessions of silver, mines and forests there is little doubt that with fifty years of good civil government, educational facilities and freedom from internal revolution she would become one of the great nations of the world.

Mexico has been torn by a continuous series of revolutions since the movement for independence was begun by a Mexican priest named Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, in September 1810. Previous to that time there had been intermittent internal strife since Hernando Cortez landed and captured the country for Spain in 1519. When one considers the hard struggle necessary to place the United States on a firm basis of prosperity following our civil war, it is indeed wonderful that Mexico is not worse off financially than she is.

Mexico is the fourth largest American republic as regards territory, having an area of 767,997 square miles, including islands, and a population in 1910 of 15,062,207, or 19.7 per square mile.

Historical Sketch.
A brief review of the struggle beginning with the conquest of Mexico by Cortez in 1519 up to the present revolution against the rule of General Huerta by the constitutionalists under Carranza and Villa is intensely interesting.

Hernando Cortez was sent by Spain to make the conquest of Mexico, landing on April 12, 1519, on the little island of Ulua in the harbor of Vera Cruz. From this point he conquered the country, and destroyed the great Aztec Empire. Montezuma II and the heroic Guatemoc perished, and the Mexican Indians were enslaved. Hernando Cortez was appointed Governor of New Spain, as it was then called, in the year 1522. In the year 1535 the Viceroyalty of New Spain was created, including all the Spanish possessions in North and Central America, Don Antonio de Mendoza being appointed Viceroy. New Spain was successfully governed by 62 viceroys, the last being Don Juan O'Donohu, who withdrew in the year 1821.

A Mexican priest, Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, was the leader of the movement for independence. On September 16, 1810, he issued a declaration known as "El grito de Dolores," and subsequently succeeded in gaining several victories over the royalists. He was finally defeated and executed on July 30, 1811.

The patriotic cause was taken up by another priest, Don Jose Maria Morelos, who was executed in December 22, 1815. General Iturbide, who was finally to decide the struggle in favor of the patriots, entered the City of Mexico on September 27, 1821, at the head of the patriot army. Here was involved what was known as "the plan of Iguala," whereby a king was to be elected for Mexico. The plan Viceroy O'Donohu agreed. In the meantime a congress of Mexican patriots at Chilpancingo, on November 6, 1813, had formally declared the independence of Mexico from Spain.

Under the plan of Iguala, General Iturbide was elected Emperor of Mexico, and on July 21, 1822, was crowned at the City of Mexico, adopting the title of Augustin I. The empire was but short lived. General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana proclaimed the Republic on December 6, 1822 and the emperor was forced to abdicate on March 19, 1823, and to leave the country. Upon his return, in the year following he was sentenced to death and executed at Padilla on July 19, 1824.

General Guadalupe Victoria became the president of the Republic on October 10, 1824. In 1829 Spain sought once more to regain control of her former possession, and landing a strong force at Tampico in July 1829, marched to the capital. The Spaniards were, however, completely routed by the patriots on September 20, of the same year, and on December 28, 1836, Spain finally recognized the republic.

In 1836 Texas seceded from the Mexican union, and on April 21, 1836 established the Independent Republic of Texas which in December, 1845, was admitted to the union of the United States. This led to the war with the United States in April, 1846, which was settled by the treaty of Guadalupe of February 2, 1848.

The intervention of the European powers, France, England and Spain, occurred in 1862, during President Juarez's term and resulted in the establishment of the Mexican Empire by Napoleon III, who placed the Austrian Prince, Maximilian upon the throne of Mexico. He was crowned on July 12, 1864, but being deserted by Napoleon he was defeated and executed at Queretaro, together with his generals, Miramon and Mejia in 1867.

Don Benito Juarez then served as president until his death, July 18, 1872, and was succeeded by Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, who in 1877 was succeeded by General Porfirio Diaz. General Diaz resigned in 1911 and was succeeded by Francisco de la Barra as provisional president, who served until General Francisco Madero was elected in October, 1911, as constitutional president. Following the death of Madero in February, 1913, General Victoriano Huerta assumed the executive power. Huerta's reign has been extremely stormy from the beginning and the next three weeks is expected to see his abdication. The ultimate succession of General Villa to the presidency is not beyond a possibility.

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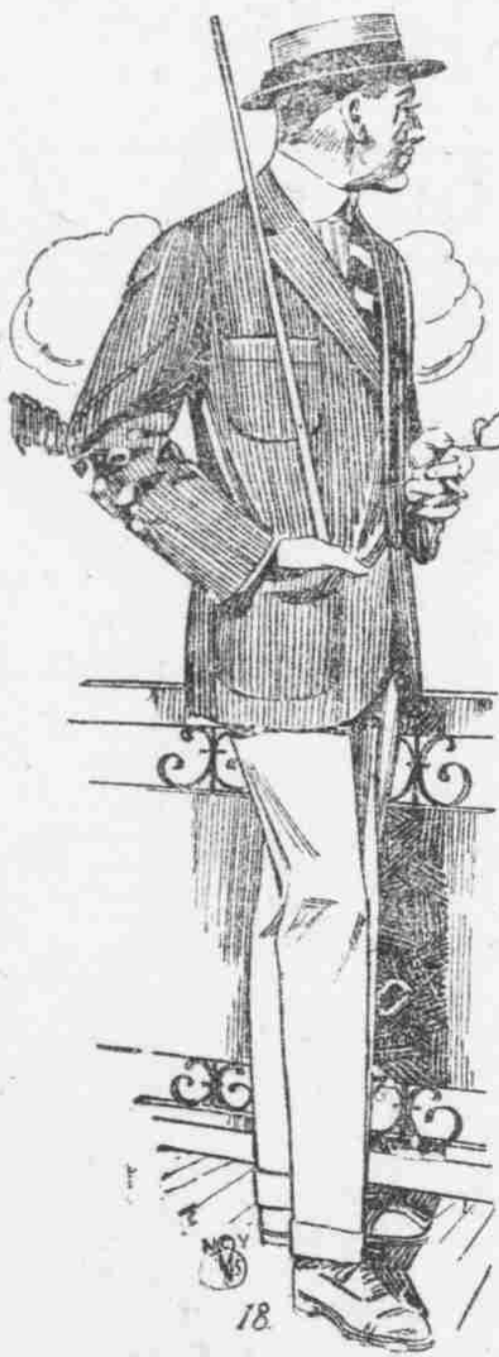


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EDGAR B. MOORE

THE NEWSPAPER PROFESSION A SACRED CALLING

Lawrence, Kas., May 13.—The newspaper profession is as sacred a calling as the ministry in the opinion of Dr. Washington Gladden of Columbus, O., as expressed in an address made before hundreds of newspaper men here at the national conference being conducted by the University of Kansas.

Other speakers on yesterday's program were H. F. Harrington, of the Ohio State Journal and Will Irwin, a magazine writer. A paper by Frank B. Noyes of Washington, D. C., president of the Associated Press, on press association work was read.

Dr. Gladden declared what he referred to as a tendency of some newspapers toward "habits of exaggeration" and the exploitation of crime,

vice and scandal. He outlined four great tasks for American journalism: "First, to teach people to avoid exaggeration and violent speech.

"Second, to resist the tendencies which demoralize democracy and which substitute the mob mind for the deliberate habit.

"Third, to hold the popular judgment firmly to the truth that character and manhood and not money and popularity are the central values of human existence.

"Fourth, to turn the thoughts of men more and more from the negative virtue of detecting and exposing the evil to the positive virtue of discerning and praising the good."

CITY ELECTION IN MURPHY

Asheville, May 13.—According to information just received in the city, at the recent town election at Murphy, the board of aldermen was re-elected and P. E. E. Nelson was elected mayor, to succeed J. D. Mallonee. The following were re-elected as members of the aldermanic body: John E. Fain, A. H. Brown, R. M. Fain, R. Beall, A. G. Deeweese and P. C. Hyatt. Mayor Nelson was formerly mayor of Murphy and his administration was very pleasing to the citizens, as was evinced by the large vote he received at the election. The retiring mayor, Mr. Mallonee, refused to accept another term, stating that his business interests would not permit him to devote his time to the business of the city as it should be done.

Had I a dozen sons, each in my love alike, I had rather have eleven die nobly for their country than one voluptuously surfeit out of action.—Shakespeare.

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