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Election Day in Mexico

Exact Methods Pursued by Diaz to Prevent People from Electing a Candidate of Their Choice.

By John Kenneth Turner

In the September number of the Pacific Monthly I detailed the events of the campaign leading up to the eighth unanimous "election" of Diaz. Here is a record of "election day." The information is taken from hundreds of affidavits sworn to by persons in all sections of the "Republic," and presented to Diaz's "congress," and presented to Diaz's "congress" by the Anti-re-electionist Party as a basis for a demand that the "election" be annulled.

Agusancales.—The election boards made out the ballots themselves, copying the names from the tax lists. Anti-re-electionists presenting themselves at the polls were driven away with clubs by the police.

Soldiers Hold Booths.—Chihuahua—Soldiers held all the voting booths. At the town of Santa Barbara the chief of police and a body of assistants smashed in the door of the Anti-re-electionist club headquarters on the eve of election day, broke up a meeting, arrested all present, levied a fine on each and informed them that any of their number appearing at the voting booths the following day would be imprisoned.

Coahuila.—At Ciudad Porfirio Diaz all the known members of the Anti-re-electionist Party were arrested. Announcement was made that all members of the opposition would be drafted into the army, in fear of which hundreds fled across the American border.

Brutal Intimidation.—Durango.—At Asientos ballots were given only to known re-electionists. At Valle de Topia no booths were opened, as the town was overwhelmingly for Madero. At Santiago Papasquiaro all voters were told that if they failed to write in the names of the official candidates they would never see their homes again.

The Federal District.—Armed agents of the government were generally placed in the booths and pressure was used by them to compel the casting of ballots for the government. Ballot-boxes were stuffed and signatures forged. Citizens were forcibly prevented from witnessing the count. At both 109 the election board filled out the time manufacturing ballots, signing the names of imaginary voters.

were preferred against the members of the anti-re-electionist club before the polls opened. Hidalgo.—At Pachuca, the capital, soldiers were placed in the polls and only officials of the government were allowed to vote. The people were driven away from the polls by force, there was much violence and many arrests. The counting was done behind closed doors. At Zacualtipan the election officials spent the previous day manufacturing ballots. No ballots were given out. At Huejutla there were many instances of violence on the part of the government.

San Luis Potosi.—At the capital more than forty mounted anti-re-electionists were jailed on the eve of election, which had the desired effect of keeping their fellow partisans within doors the following day. Violence, threats, fraud and the suspension of all constitutional guarantees prevailed throughout the state.

Outrages in Sonora.—Sonora.—At Nogales no ballots were distributed and the police did not allow the people to approach the polls. At Guaymas the same thing happened. At Cananea there were many arrests, wholesale fraud, and a number of citizens were impressed into the army. Armed force was used generally throughout the state to prevent the use of the franchise by the Independents.

Yucatan.—Hundreds of citizens were impressed into the army on the day preceding election. The jails were filled. Ballots were not given to the people and all voting booths were installed either in army barracks or in police stations. From which causes none of the anti-re-electionists attempted to vote.

Program of the Liberal Party and Manifesto to the Nation

[This interesting document, issued from St. Louis, Mo., by the Junta of the Liberal Party of Mexico on July 1, 1906, with the program reprinted in the issue of our paper was at the bottom of our persecutions and prosecutions in the United States. We want the American people to take cognizance of its contents and to decide for themselves if our treatment in the country of the famed "Declaration of Independence" was in the least justified.]

Mexicans: The Organizing Board of the Mexican Liberal Party solemnly proclaims in the name of the party which it represents the following program of the Liberal Party: Preamble Every political party which struggles to retain effective influence in the direction of the public affairs of its country is obliged to declare before the people in clear and precise form what the ideals are for which it struggles, and what the program is that they propose to put into practice should they be favored with victory.

The Liberal Party, dispersed by the persecutions of the Dictatorship, weak almost dying for a long time, has succeeded in rebuilding itself, and is today in a stage of rapid reorganization. The Liberal Party struggles against the reigning despotism of today in our fatherland, and in the certitude that in the end it will be triumphant over the dictatorship, it considers the time to have come to declare solemnly before the Mexican people, and in concrete form, what the aspirations are that the party proposes to realize as soon as it obtains the influence needed in the guidance of the national destinies.

realization of which becomes strictly compulsory for a government which will be established after the fall of the dictatorship, and that it is equally strictly compulsory and binding for the members of the Liberal Party to watch over the completion of said program. In the points of the program nothing appears that could not be put in practice by reforms in our legislation or by effective government methods. All that which is not more than a principle, all that which can not be decreed but must always stand in the conscience of liberal men, does not figure in the program, because it has no object for it.

It cannot be decreed that the government be honest and just. Such thing might be overcome when all the legislative structure defining the attributes of the government will be laid down to mark out sufficiently clear the road of honesty. But in order to prevent the government from deviating from such roads, as many have done, there is only one means: the vigilance of the people over its mandatories, denouncing their bad acts, enforcing the strictest responsibility for whatever default in the fulfillment of their duties. The citizens must understand that the mere declaration of principles, be they the highest imaginable, are not sufficient to form good governments, and to avoid tyrannies; the principal thing is the action of the people, the exercise of civic qualities, the participation by all in the public affairs.

It has been deemed the proper thing to limit ourselves to general points and to avoid all details in order not to diffuse the program nor give it exaggerated dimensions; but what is expressed in it is never the less sufficient to make it known in all clearness what is proposed by the liberal party and what it aims at realizing as soon as, with the assistance of the Mexican people, it shall triumph definitely over the dictatorship.

President and Vice-President. From the fact that all the changes in the constitution of '57 accomplished during the reign of Porfirio Diaz can be considered as illegal, it might seem unnecessary to declare in the program in favor of reduction of the presidential term of office to four years, and against re-election. Notwithstanding these points, as so important unanimity and earnestness with such unyielding demands special points in the program. The advantages of alternability in power and those of entrusting such power for extraordinarily long time to one man do not call for demonstration. The vice-presidency with the modifications expressed in Article 3 is of notorious utility because throughout the faults of the president of the republic can be immediately, legally and peacefully straightened out, without the convulsions which otherwise might be met with.

(To be continued.)

Are the Mexican Children Beasts?

At the occasion of the great festivals arranged in Mexico City for the official celebration of the centenary of the political independence of Mexico, Diaz has ordained that many millions were to be spent for the purpose of regaling foreigners who have not only the least interest in the independence of Mexico, but are also the first to manifest the deepest contempt and despair for the Mexicans, and to utter the conviction that our people do not deserve to be independent, nor to be free.

So is it that the old tyrant trembling upon his shaky throne is afraid of intelligent sons and daughters of his own country, the order and enlightens "the good will" of the powers that be in the United States to keep the Mexican children upon Uncle Sam's soil in the abject ignorance, and misery, and exploitable submissiveness so typical for the toiling slaves of our lands? Or is it that we are haughtily considered as inferior beings? We Mexicans are forced to under-

go the most degrading humiliations in this country, the most insulting despotism. But in the state of Texas that humiliation and contempt have sunk to a criminal level. In Texas more so than in any other state the Mexican workmen are impudently and cynically robbed by the masters or bosses. They are beaten without redress. They are dragged to jail for no cause. They are sent to the penitentiary in bunches for no reason or for cause not worth the trouble. They are sentenced to the gallows, they are lynched, beaten to death, shot like dogs, despised to the last, like lepers relegated to the worst places, scoffed, cursed, and wounded to the most abject poverty and social degradation. And as if all this was not sufficient martyrdom that unending misery of boundless infamy has been deepened by denying the Mexican children a chance to develop their intellect, by closing the only avenue of redemption for human beings, by depriving them of the most efficient level and only remedy lifting mankind out of the depths of disgrace: the schools. And the same parties who have committed that crime, the authors of that infamy committed upon the children of our race are in the city of Mexico, in the palpitating heart of this country, well fed, in an aristocratic cupola, enjoying all the luxuries that the millions robbed from the people can buy, and they join the chorus of drunkards, leached brute animals hailing the old beast Porfirio. What a festival! Music! volleys of cannons, automobiles! Banquets, balls all grand parades for them, while the Mexican children, the children of those whose life-blood pays for the revelling feast, are condemned, like unclean fetid animals, to the perpetual darkness of ignorance, to the eternal degradation, into a hopeless beastliness. And above it all, the old despot, as a lugubrious grim sarcasm upon our infamy, presiding and to avoid tyrannies; the principal thing is the action of the people, the exercise of civic qualities, the participation by all in the public affairs.

But frankly we must confess that the guilty cause of that crime lies up to us Mexicans, and that it is up to us to call a halt to it. In the first place the Mexicans are despised and ridiculed in this country, and especially in Texas, not so much because they are Mexicans, but because they are workmen. A rich Mexican in this country is not a "greaser," he is a "Mexican gentleman," and the sons of Mexican capitalists, who pay so well, can find admittance to any school whatever in Texas; but the sons of the workmen, the dooms of the same Texas, school are closed, and in Mexico, of course, there are no schools for them either, knowledge being liable to pervert the brain to the detriment of the exploiters. Thus the steps are taken directly against the children of the working class. And now, in San Antonio, Texas, and all over the territory of that state there are living thousands of Mexicans who are American citizens, who are voters, and who, when election day comes, cast their ballots in favor of the scoundrels who after having lived at their expense by exploiting their labor, and after being elected into public positions, turn around and pass the law that orders that Mexican children are not to be admitted to the schools.

Every time the majority election comes along in San Antonio the professional petty-politicians call out, some three or four days before election, the Mexican laborers, who form the greater majority of the inhabitants of that city, and give them work in the streets. This is sufficient to get them on election day in unconscious hordes to cast their ballots for the candidates pointed out by those petty politicians, who, when elected into power will be the first to send the Mexican children to prison and order the police to arrest the idiots who without self-respect and devoid of the conscientiousness of their dignity of men have seated by their votes an enemy of their own race and of their class. In that way are elected those miserable creatures who so thoroughly despise, who have committed and helped to perpetrate so many crimes against the Mexican workmen and their sons and daughters.

In Arizona the Mexicans are more or less treated in the same way as in Texas and they form the greater majority of the voters. Should the Mexicans in Arizona make up their minds to get hold of the reins of government, it would be an easy matter for them, and the best opportunity in the world would be offered to them to get well respected. But instead of that, when election day comes they allow themselves to be led like lambs to vote for the predatory politicians who befuddle their minds and after election are the most brutal in the treatment of the Mexicans. In recent days, when delegates were being elected to formulate a constitution for the state of Arizona the Mexicans voted for the Republicans who had all along been upheld and supported the old tyrant who today wines and dines the men that closed to the Mexican children the doors of the schools in Texas.

There are over ten thousand Mexicans at work in the copper mines of Arizona, and though they see as an object lesson how the members of the Western Federation of Miners by the sole fact of belonging to the union, earn almost twice the wages of the Mexicans, and though the members of that organization invite them continuously to join with them, that our countrymen are as yet reorganized and does not offer any resistance to the abuses and crimes of the authorities and of the exploiters. This lack of organization, this absence of fighting spirit for rights and for manly interests is the cause of the crimes committed against the Mexicans. We have it in our hands to organize, to join the ranks of the labor unions, and the party of labor, to fight with them, and they will fight with us, and immediately we will see a change in the conditions and at last the freedom of the country will have been hitherto the butchers, the executioners of our brethren and who have excluded our children from the schools, will find out mighty quick that they must respect the Mexicans, and they will do so without doubt be the scoundrels of Texas, Mexican or whatever other extraction.

Were the working class in power in Mexico they would now use the money coming from the people in order to open schools for the children of their race in Texas, and they would not wine and dine mercenaries and criminals as is done in these days by the "old beast."

Notes and Comments

Baja California.—The judge of the first instance for the jurisdiction of Mexcala, Lower California, is in receipt of a heartrending petition of the natives of Cucapa, asking for protection against official petty caquism. The document reads in part: "We are all peaceful people and wish that you may be so kind to give us an assistant justice and officers to enforce his findings concerning the peaceful Indians of Cucapa, and to mete out punishment to the official evil-doers who are insupportable and commit no end of outrages. Mr. Judge, we only ask that justice be done and that the ways of law and order be shown to the officials of evil intent. We are inhabitants who are desirous to keep up peace in the midst of our tribe, we are in need and desirous of being taught and yet we are not informed as to the rights we really possess. We wish Mr. Judge, that you listen to our humble plea and furnish as soon as possible the requested relief. We make this humble demand in the name of justice and hope that you will act conscientiously and not deny us the peace we ask for." Signed, Domingo Cucupar Pesada, Carlos Beltran, Felix Hade, Jose Coqueta.

Campeche.—Exasperated by persecutions and chicaneries the peons of the Hacienda Kayal had risen in despair in the early part of August, 1909, and in the struggle the managing boss Eulogio Ayona was killed. Now the judge of the second criminal court has sentenced Ruperto Gomez, the leader of the peons, to eight years and eleven months in the penitentiary and four months and sixteen days in prison; Ramon Juarez to 8 years, 7 months and 20 days of penitentiary, and 6 months of prison; Felix Velazquez to 8 years and 6 months of penitentiary, and 10 months and 6 days of prison, the sentence to be counted from August 28, 1909. This is a total of almost 25 years of confinement for an attempt to abolish unsupportable conditions. But the torturers who bleed the people for profits and drove them to despair go free.

Chihuahua.—The constitution of this state provides that no foreigner shall be allowed to assume rights of sovereignty and yet conditions are brought about that make the native citizens almost outlawed subjects of foreign rulers within the confines of our land. Mighty and powerful foreign corporations devoted especially to the exploitation of mineral resources of the state have established inside of its borders camps of operation which increase to such degree that they form veritable cities, antheaps of uncultured but strenuously active people pulsating with energies that are ready to overflow at the slightest irritation. In those localities the authority of the established order of the state becomes null and void in fact. Arbitrariness and terror are the only restraints to the untamed fiery impulsiveness of the obstinate miner. And the gravity of the social conditions becomes evident if we consider the fact that the managing bosses of the invading corporations are able to constitute the supreme authority in all matters, because the commissioned domestic public officials are paid by the foreign companies, and a wise man knows on which side his bread is buttered. Justice is thus handicapped, because its administrator cannot be impartial but must needs serve the foreign interest that pays him. The toiler and the little man are outlabeled, and foreign monopoly looms up as a threat upon all the native community. The individual guarantees of citizenship become a mere illusion in their domain whenever in conflict with the interest of the foreign interests of exploitation for profit and we get benefited by genuine "foreign caquism by commission." The land of the foreign corporation is a feudal estate, the executor or the manager a hired major domo of unlimited power, and the man of the commissioned local authority gets a higher salary than the jefe politico of widest responsibility but merely forms an appended nonentity. These corporations establish company stores and build up a monopoly for miles around not by fair competition, but by open tyranny in paying off the men only once or twice a month. The camp Dolores for instance has 5000 inhabitants, i. e., more than the political capital of the district. It has no judge to render justice, but an all powerful manager manipulates the commissary so that heavy fines galore are imparted extravagantly, and woe to the man who dares to kick. The same is true for Madera, and for the Candelaria Mining company. Thus we are being outlabeled by foreigners in our own country.

Colima.—The notorious protector of assassin Pizango, governor Enrique Lamedrida "beloved" by his proper degree of detestation is using drastic methods for boosting his reelection. On Saturday, September 10, a re-election club composed of four employees of the governor held a meeting in the Teatro Santa Cruz of the capital to launch the candidacy of their protector, of which the people were so disgusted that they appeared en masse, did not allow the speakers to proceed and forced them to adjourn without result. On the following day the people were on the lookout against similar imposition. The police treated them shamefully, and

the infuriated people chased the police with stones. The governor came to their aid with soldiers, many were wounded, and over one hundred arrested, amongst them the well respected citizens Mr. Odilon Ayon, Mr. Miguel Garza, manager director of the Arzac publishing house, and Mr. Felipe J. Piz, the agent of several independent papers. On Monday Mr. Manuel R. Alvarez, president of the State congress, was brutally assaulted and then a warrant issued for his arrest and for the apprehension of Mr. Miguel Garcia Topete, secretary of the district judge. The only crime of these two highly respected citizens consists in being president, and second secretary respectively of the party of the people standing for their irate indictment. Many others have fled others again like Dr. Ismael Bracamonte, dare to stand on their record of probity, willing to take the consequence of having convictions of their own, and they appeal to the president for relief in child-like faith. They might as well try to remove mountains by mental telepathy than to get Diaz to remove one of his own Mexican constitutionality, what a farce!

Federal District.—Mexico.—Since the unsuccessful uprising of 1908 no arms or ammunition were allowed to enter the nearby states of Chihuahua, Sonora, Tamaulipas and Coahuila. In accordance with the practical construction of both sides of the border patrolled barbed wire fences extending from El Paso, Tex., to San Diego, Cal., the powers that be in Mexico feel so uneasy that rigorous instructions extend that rule to apply to every state of Mexico, and disgruntled prospective American hunting expeditions must needs get special permits from the secretary of war to be allowed to shoot quail on Mexican soil.

Federal District.—Mexico.—Among over sixty citizens arrested and held incommunicado for taking part in the unlawfully broken up lawful parade of September 11, are the following: Francisco Hernandez, Rosauro Garcia, Carlos E. Vera, Pedro Rosales, Alberto Enriquez, Manuel Escobar, Antonio Ortiz, Ruperto Orozco, Ildefonso Rodriguez, Ruperto Aceves, Regino Villanueva, Alfredo Rioja, Celso Gonzalez, Narciso Abrego, Jose Hernandez, Roberto Torres, Joaquin Islas, Jose Vargas Castano, Diego Arenas Guzman, Martin Zamorano, Benigno Vinas, Latoro Sandoval, Francisco M. Escobedo, Ramon Hidalgo, Francisco Tenorio, Rafael Martinez, Angel Iozaya, Enrique Loinzon, Luis Acosta, Pedro Acosta, Jose Silva Daniel Cuellar, Albert Franco, Jose Pineda, Mercedes Freira, Augustin Lizardin and the Misses Dolores Jimenez y Muro, Maria del Pilar Alanis Manuela Pelaez. Only three have been released so far. The balance will be tried for sedition, conspiracy, resistance to officers and what not. El Diario del Hugar publishes interesting photographs of the disgraceful behavior of the mounted police, one picture showing the chief of them riding into the ranks of the woman clubs Cossack fashion. "La Revista de Merida" reports under Sept. 17 that the warship "Morelos" is ready in port of Veracruz to receive one hundred and fifty political prisoners connected with the demonstration to transport them to Mexico's Siberia, the federal territory of Quintana Roo adjoining Yucatan. The same authority speaks of some seventy political prisoners to be sent to San Juan Urua.

Hidalgo.—From Zacualtipan, Hidalgo, it is reported under date of September 10 that on the night of September 2 between 8 and 9 o'clock, Dr. Ruperto Serna, president of the local anti-re-election club on his way home from a sick person was attacked by a son of the reactionary mayor Romulo Pando. The cold blooded defense of the virile doctor levitated the weapon so that the bullet intended for murder inflicted only a slight wound on the left hand. The would-be assassin, trying to fire a second shot, was disarmed by the powerful physician and fell on his knees asking forgiveness. The courts are notified of the assault but have not yet done anything to prosecute as is usual in Mexico.

Puebla.—Reports reach us on anti-re-election demonstrations held on the eve of Independence day, the "Independence" of present days having been demonstrated on September 15 by interference of armed force which broke up a parade of over two thousand citizens. Horses, machetes and guns of the authorities were met by the stones of an indignant people. The "Constitutional rights" are guaranteed everywhere the same in Mexico. Is it then a wonder that the foreign exploiters of Mexico get busy in their anxiety to whitewash, and that the American bankers Spyer, Bischof and Lauderdale of New York, prepare at the cost of \$10,000 a monumental illustrated work to counteract and disprove the more or less grave rumors concerning actual conditions in Mexico?

San Luis Potosi.—During Independence week of the fourth annual convention met of the associated press of Mexico, which Diaz had to allow to live because formed at the time when public opinion was for the first time divested upon the sham

constitutionality of the mock-republic of Mexico shortly after the arrest of Magon et al. Some 83 papers were represented by 38 delegates. As long as public opinion remains awake the association will live and do some good work in building up a nation wide public opinion, and in agitating the release of political prisoners.

Sonora.—A courageous woman, Mrs. Concepcion Escandon de del Vando, acting as attorney of her husband, Mr. Cesar del Vando, a newspaper man persecuted for alleged diffamation, sends as a last resort an open letter to Diaz to the independent press of the states that furnishes a splendid illustration of official Mexican law and order. The tell-tale document is deserving of preservation for future reference and reads in translation as follows: "Alamos, Son. Sept. 7, 1910: To Gen. Don Porfirio Diaz, president of the United States of Mexico, Federal District of Mexico: Respected Sir: As attorney of my husband Mr. Cesar del Vando, who is shut up in the prison of this city for over six months charged with complicity, I come to appeal to you with a demand for justice. Mr. general, you may say that if I near justice I should go to the courts, but I can state right here, that I have already done so and that none of the courts has proceeded in accordance with the codes and with the federal constitution for which statements I cite the following conclusive facts. Already in December of the year 1909 my husband was acquitted of the alleged charge for which he is held today, and yet he is tried for a second time since May 3 of this year, though our splendid constitution of 1857 states that no one shall be tried twice for one and the same crime. The penal and civil codes of the state and of the nation and even the constitution of our republic have been violated. This seems incredible, inexplicable, but Mr. general, all this will be perfectly clear to you when I tell you that my husband is an independent newspaper man in this city of Alamos, Sonora. The entire case is no more or less than a farce invented by men of little scruples, to keep my husband locked up to make it impossible for him to say a good many things which a certain person would like to see ignored. Before the prosecuting judge I submit written statements which he does not examine. Or him I ask for copies of documents and transcripts and they are not given to me. I demand that the case be concluded and sentence is postponed, and I am almost under trial myself. I complain of such procedure to the supreme court of the State which orders the aforementioned judge to examine the submitted documents, to furnish demanded copies and transcripts, to conclude the case as soon as possible, but all without any result whatever, because that judge seems to have such a strong backing that he does not pay any attention to the orders from the supreme court. Sir, I demand of you that you give the order to have the case concluded, and that it be done in accordance with justice and not with all that long delay. In these days in which we all commemorate a glorious deed, because it stood for freedom, in these days in which even foreign newspaper men are being feted upon the soil of our country, will you see to it, sir, that the men of the press of our land enjoy equal liberty. I ask for the guarantees of the law, for, as this letter will be published in various papers, I demand of you that you give to me and some other persons will take notice of this fact, their wrath might culminate in my imprisonment, as, having committed all that injustice, why should they not commit one more? Sir, if you should doubt my words, should you give them no credence, I shall, to convince you of the facts, come to Mexico and submit to you proofs that will show you how things are going in Sonora, documentary evidence in which you could not place any doubt. I trust in you in spite of the fact that it is very difficult to render justice in Sonora. Hoping to you I remain yours very respectfully, Concepcion de del Vando." Will the lamb get justice from the wolf?

Tlaxcala.—Later reports on the outrages of officialdom committed upon the common people of the state as reported last week give the number of people assassinated in Tlaxcala, Panzacola, Zacatelco, Santo Toribio and Santa Inez with eighteen, the wounded over fifty, the imprisoned over sixty.

Veracruz.—On August 31 the district judge of this state denied habeas corpus under bonds demanded by Mr. Camarillo and the other anti-re-electionists, and the same day the lie was circulated that on Independence day all political prisoners in San Juan de Ulua would be released. The farce is over and all are in yet.

Eight Thousand Guests feted at a reception given by Diaz, a feast of barbarous splendor costing millions in the illuminations alone. But we can hardly assume that the rays of gorgeous splendor penetrated to the recesses of the poor masses of the capital sleeping herded under the open sky as depicted on actual original photographs reprinted on the front page of last issue by courtesy of the Pacific Monthly. Keep that sad picture in mind whenever you read of Mexican official squandering of the crystallized sweat, and blood and tears of the slaving millions of Mexico.

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