

march from the seashore to the table-land, the intrigues with jealous tribes, the hair-breadth escapes, the explorations and the advanced Indian civilization found—all these make Prescott's volumes intensely interesting. Senor Romero has brought the history down to date in two volumes issued by Putnam & Co., of New York, books that ought to be studied by every American.

Nearly a hundred years ago the people of Mexico, part Spanish and part Indian, took up the fight for independence and, unaided, secured a separate political existence. This ended Spain's reign of three centuries beginning with the Conquest, during which time that mother country had given to Mexico a language and a religion, and had taken from Mexico about everything valuable that could be extracted from soil or people. Following independence came an era of frequent revolutions, although they were for the most part accompanied by but little bloodshed.

Among the political leaders whose careers illustrate the ups and downs of political ambition,

**Santa Ana and His Leg** Sometimes he was in authority; sometimes he was fleeing from a successful opponent. At one time he lost a limb in battle, and

as it was during one of his periods of victory the severed limb was buried with great pomp and ceremony. When he again suffered defeat and his opponent came into possession of the government the buried limb was resurrected, it is said, and despitely kicked through the streets of the city. (I have sympathized with Santa Ana sometimes when I have been buried by the republicans and then exhumed for purposes of criticism.)

The Mexican war brought the people of the United States and the people of Mexico into sharp antagonism for a little while, but the animosities engendered at that time have passed away, and there is now the most cordial feeling between the Mexicans and the Americans. This is partially due to the fact that the United States was largely instrumental in helping to rescue Mexico from European domination when, under the pretense of collecting a debt, Maximilian came over from Austria and declared himself emperor. He came while our civil war was in progress, and at a time when our government was not in position to enforce the Monroe doctrine. As soon, however, as peace was declared at Appomattox our government began to interest itself again in the protection of American soil, and as a result of its protests the European nations that had encouraged Maximilian withdrew from his support and left him to be dealt with by the Mexican people, who executed him as a solemn warning to other ambitious European monarchs.

Juarez, who was the Mexican leader at that time, became president, and is regarded as the second great Mexican—Hidalgo, who was the first leader in the war for independence, being considered the first. Hidalgo is often called the "Mexican Washington."

The museum at the City of Mexico exhibits the state carriage of Maximilian, ornamented with silk and gold, and costing, it is said, \$60,000. Near by is the very modest carriage of Juarez. The visitor marks the contrast between the splendor of an empire and the simplicity of a republic. Looking at the emperor's carriage and remembering his tragic end one recalls the lines of Gray's Elegy—

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Between the Mexican war with the United States and the usurpation of Maximilian came the contest between the clergy and the laity in which the latter were successful and separated church and state so completely that while practically all of the people are members of one church the work

of the church and the work of the state are not allowed to conflict. The experience of Mexico shows that if you will implant in people the idea of self-government and teach them the inalienable rights of the individual they will apply that doctrine to all questions, and without being less devoted to their religion will obey the injunction, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

The third great man produced by the Mexican republic is the present president. With the exception of one term he has been president since 1876, during which time he has shown wonderful ability, and it is doubtful if there is in the world today a chief executive of greater capacity or devotion to his people. Certainly no people have made greater relative progress than the Mexican people have made under the administration of Porfirio Diaz. Education has been promoted, law and order established, agriculture developed, commerce stimulated, and nearly every section of the country connected by railroad with the capital. While there are many able and strong men upon whom the mantle of president might worthily fall, he has been so remarkably successful and has such a hold upon all classes of people that he will doubtless remain at the head of the government as long as he lives—the people would hardly consent to his withdrawal even if he desired to lay down the responsibilities of the position.

I am sometimes asked whether I would advise people to invest in Mexico. The conditions that govern an investment are

**Business Investments in Mexico** so dependent upon circumstances that no general advice can be given. In a report recently

made to the American government, Consul General Barlow of the City of Mexico gave detailed statistics to show that up to the present time American money to the amount of about \$511,000,000 has been invested in the republic of Mexico. His report gives the amount invested in each town and the names of American firms doing business in Mexico. This very valuable report when published can probably be secured from members of congress if not by direct application to the state department.

The investments may be divided, generally, into five classes: railroad investments, mining investments, agricultural investments, manufacturing investments, and investments in city realty. In addition to these there have been investments in municipal lighting and water plants and there has been considerable made by Americans in contracting for the construction of railroads and the erection of public buildings.

The Mexican railroads employ Americans for conductors and engineers almost to the exclusion of the natives. The reason given me by one of the conductors was that there is not so large a middle class to draw from there as in the United States. In Mexico the peons are not yet competent to fill these positions and the well-to-do Mexicans prefer the professions. With the increase in education, however, it is probable that the Americans will not long be able to monopolize this branch of the service.

Quite a number of Americans are interested in gold, silver and copper mines in Mexico, that country coming second as a producer of silver and having an increased output (now about \$10,000,000 annually) of gold.

A large amount of American money has been invested in agricultural lands, coffee, sugar and grazing lands having the preference. The grazing lands are to be found both in the mountains, where the conditions are similar to those that prevail on the slopes of the Rockies, or in the lowlands, where there is a prolific growth of nutritious grass.

The coffee lands are on the slopes of the mountains where the warm air from the lowlands

meets the cooler air from the plateau and where there is an abundant rainfall. The sugar lands lie as a rule a little lower than the coffee lands. There is some cotton in Mexico, but not a great deal as compared with states like Texas.

Mr. J. A. Robertson of Monterey is one of the enterprising Americans who has had experience in the development of agricultural lands, besides being connected with brick-making and other manufacturing enterprises.

Judge Y. Sepulveda, formerly of California, has shown that an American can succeed there in the law, as has also Mr. Will Crittenden, formerly of Missouri.

There has been a large and constant growth in the manufacturing industry of Mexico, especially in the manufacture of cotton. There are some very large plants, one of which is located at Orizaba and others are scattered throughout the country.

Toluca, the capital of the state of Mexico, is making rapid progress in the development of

### Making Wonderful Progress

manufactures in metal, fabrics and cereals. Governor Villada, the chief executive of this state, is one of the ablest, most energetic and generous of the public men of Mexico, and has had much to do with stimulating the progress so apparent in his state. He is preparing an exhibit to be shown at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition next year and already has a state exposition at Toluca which is well worth visiting. We spent a day there, and were surprised at the diversity of industry and at the superior workmanship manifested. Besides the industries mentioned they have fine pottery plants and paper mills, one of the mills making an excellent quality of writing paper from the leaves of the maguey plant. Here, as elsewhere in Mexico, there is an abundance of wood carving, drawn work and feather work.

Considerable money has been made by Americans by subdividing and platting acre property near the growing cities. There are many opportunities in Mexico for the man who goes there with capital and with knowledge of an industry to bring out the latent possibilities of soil and climate. There are also opportunities for those who go as skilled laborers to oversee industries in the process of development, although these opportunities lessen with the increase of education among the Mexicans, but in going one must consider the change of climate. Emigration is seldom from zone to zone, and it is not likely that any large number of Americans will care to make a permanent residence in what is known as the hot country, that is, the lowlands in the torrid zone. On the plateau the altitude (about 7,000 feet) is such that our people can live there without suffering inconvenience. It is hardly worth one's while to go there to look for ordinary day's work, and if any one is contemplating an investment he ought to visit the country first and acquaint himself with all the circumstances that surround the industry in which he is going to invest. The cost of a trip to Mexico is so small compared with an investment of any considerable sum that a person would be foolish to send his money without first looking over the ground himself.

One has no difficulty in traveling in Mexico because he finds English spoken on the railroads and in all the leading hotels and stores. I may add a word of caution. The vendors at the depots do not always follow the "one price" plan. The price

### Traveling Is Pleasant in Mexico

when the train first stops is sometimes considerably higher than the price of the same article just as the train is leaving. We heard stories of the deceptions occasionally practiced in the preparation of merchandise for the market. In fact our boy, after having bought a pair of very pretty little birds, was somewhat disturbed by the sug-