

Mexico in the Centennial Year of Its Independence

(Editorial Correspondence.)

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 20.—(Special.)—I conclude this series of letters with a few fragmentary and casual observations on subjects that may be expected to interest people who know Mexico only through the sensational magazines.

Mexico strikes the American visitor immediately by its contrasts: By its contrasts of landscape from barren desert to dense tropical vegetation, from sea-washed rocky ice-capped mountain peaks. By its contrasts in architecture from the thatched-roof mambo to the plaster covered adobe, from the sun-reflecting cathedral dome to the blue-covered box-like dwelling or business house. By contrasts in color through the varied shades of gray in the faded and faded tints of once bright hues decorating the exteriors of their buildings; from the somber darkness of the black costumes worn by high caste descendants of the Spaniards to the striking brightness of the Joseph's coat of arms preferred by the newer class Mexicans. By contrast of riches and poverty, of bejeweled people of wealth and barefoot beggars in rags. By contrast of all the ages from the Aztec pyramids to the modern electric power plant; from ox team hand-driven carts to the latest automobiles; from bent necks to heavy machinery; from burden-bearing carriers, who are nothing but human express drays, to great loading cranes. Mexico at one and the same time runs the gamut from semi-savagery to the supreme effects of civilization. It retains traditions and customs of the aboriginal and the Indian brought by Cortez and his Spaniards; by Maximilian and his French courtiers and still later by the bustling, business-getting Americans. This admixture of the old and the new and this great diversity of population types, from highest to lowest, doubtless accounts for many of the most serious problems confronting the Mexican people and their government, and makes it difficult to test Mexico by our standards.

What I have seen on this trip all goes to confirm what I wrote more than a year before, when the assaults on "Barbarous Mexico" first began to appear—that all criticism of Mexico depends upon the spirit emanating from it; that a mere fault-finder can easily string out horrifying revelations of isolated cruelties and objectionable practices to make a strong indictment, although probably no stronger an indictment than could be brought in the same way against some parts of our own country. And yet by comparison with what had gone before, everyone would have to concede that Mexico has made marvelous advances in all directions since Diaz brought peace and order under his strong hand and established enlightened and progressive policies of government.

Mexico is apparently backward in its newspapers, although the newspapers it has very likely are quite sufficient to supply the present demand because of the limited circle of possible readers. The strongest newspapers in point of circulation are those which are read by the native inhabitants; they are printed in Spanish, and one who does not read Spanish can hardly judge of their quality or pass opinion except upon make-up and form. They get out extras and frequent editions and they keep abreast of local affairs, illustrating their news with reproduced photographs. Several of them quote themselves in connection with centennial celebrations. Mexico City has two daily papers printed in English, one morning and one afternoon, which seek especially to serve the American colony. The Mexican Herald, which is the morning paper, is read widely, with telegraph service covering events in the United States and detailed accounts of the "doings of American inhabitants in Mexico." It is installed in a beautiful building facing the main plaza. The building was formerly a legislative headquarters and is comfortable and almost luxurious accommodations. The El Imperial is just erecting a beautiful new building of its own nearby, into which it will soon be removed. There are also newspapers printed in English in some of the provincial cities, a few dailies and more weeklies.

Apparently the newspapers are enjoying a reasonable amount of editorial freedom, but surface indications are not to be relied on entirely. Each of our party was the recipient of a native newspaper, printed no one knows where, with mourning bands denouncing the death of liberty of the press and spreading out an ominous net of newspapers said to have been suppressed, with the editors imprisoned on trumped-up charges, because not sufficiently subservient to the government or too outspoken in criticism. How much of this is true I have no means of ascertaining. The newspaper editor in Mexico doubtless has to be more cautious in his discussion of public men and measures than he would in the United States. Yet the unobstructed sale on Mexican newsstands of the very magazines that are assailing the Diaz government proves the existence of a wide toleration.

The hopeful thing for the newspapers, and more yet for the future of Mexico, is the development of the public school system and the gradual spread of literacy and education. Our first greeting on the Mexican side, as I have already described, came from an official delegation of the town of C. P. Diaz, whose public schools had been closed in honor of our advent, and all the school children marshaled in gala array at the station waving flags and singing songs. All through Mexico the school buildings are easily recognizable and school children largely in evidence. In many smaller places in the chief event of the centennial was the opening of a newly erected school house. And this very fact is the most complete refutation of the charge that Mexico's rulers are deliberately keeping the natives in ignorance and illiterate for fear they may acquire an ambition for greater participation in their government. They have compulsory attendance laws, which are apparently poorly enforced or, rather, if they were enforced would have secured all available school facilities. But the mere enactment of such laws, to be enforced as circumstances permit, is certainly a good sign.

I think that we have underestimated the influence of our own institutions in popular education abroad, for our American schools are unquestionably the prod and at the same time the object of emulation for the Mexicans. As significant as any part of the centennial program is the organization and inauguration of the Mexican National university by co-ordinating the professional schools previously maintained by the Mexican government teaching law, medicine, engineering and other branches along with secondary schools being collegiate work, upon plans of great pretentiousness. To start this national university right a commission of experts was called in representing three great educational institutions which the Mexicans desired to copy after—the University of Salamanca for Spain, the University of Paris for France and the University of California for the United States. The Mexican National university is headed by the last named university and he was enthusiastic over the broadness and far-sightedness of the Mexican government in laying the foundations for a national university that will eventually take rank along

with those near the top. That the public school system of Mexico, although in its infancy, constitutes the most promising part of its new life and thus impressed all of our party, is emphasized by the telegram which I was delegated to prepare, to be sent to the mayor of C. P. Diaz as we are homeward bound, reading as follows:

On recrossing the border the American and Canadian newspapers men who have been the guests of the Mexican government commission extending greeting to the people of Mexico, we were struck by the fact that we come on Mexican soil with such true cordiality. We hope the future of Mexico will be built strong on the work you are doing for the children in your schools, whose participation in your reception to us we especially appreciate. Mexican churches are, of course older than the schools. Although the alliance of church and state has been completely broken, the churches are still the most potent factor in the life of the native Mexicans. The church in Mexico is the Roman Catholic church, and is the church of the Spanish type transplanted by the followers of Cortez. There are some protestant churches, but they are few and as a rule insignificant. The cathedral in every town occupies the most conspicuous location and the mission churches are thick throughout the rural districts. In some parts of Mexico four or five beautiful church edifices can be seen at one time from the car window, looking across fields dotted with only a few houses and trees. It is almost every time a Spaniard stubbed his toe in this vicinity and recovered from the pain, or had a narrow escape from real or imagined danger, he must have made a vow to build a church to some holy saint, and then proceeded to make the Indians build the church. The churches, however, are no longer as rich as they used to be. Some of them even do not have a resident priest in charge, but have to share the time of a priest who has a circuit requiring him to look after half a dozen churches in succession. This, of course, explains the fact that the churches, however, are no longer as rich as they used to be. Some of them even do not have a resident priest in charge, but have to share the time of a priest who has a circuit requiring him to look after half a dozen churches in succession. This, of course, explains the fact that the churches, however, are no longer as rich as they used to be.

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the money to put up this building came from the United States. It has several floors devoted to living apartments, reading rooms, with the Omaha line on file, gymnasium, baths, recreation and class rooms. The entire equipment is not yet fully placed, but the Mexican Young Men's Christian association seems to be not only holding it in its own, but expanding in spite of many obstacles and growing in popularity and usefulness.

The street car service in Mexico City is fairly good, and covers the city and suburbs particularly well. The street cars are of two classes, the first class and the second class, with a difference in the fare exacted, the natives going into the trailers where they are packed in with small consideration of comfort. The first class fare ranges from 6 cents to 10 cents in Mexican money, which is from 3 cents to 5 cents in our money. Besides the motorman each car has a conductor and a collector, the collector taking the money and giving the motorman a printed slip in the nature of a receipt and the conductor punching it as a counter check. Cars are operated by electric power transmitted about 100 miles from the water power site at Nexaca with an installation of 50,000 horsepower and a prospective enlargement to 100,000 horsepower. The street railway provides "seeing Mexico" cars with guides who speak English or other languages as desired. Some of these private cars are beautifully furnished and can make tours of all the principal places of interest. The street railway service in Mexico City is also utilized very largely for funerals, and every now and then a funeral car is seen passing. The company provides funeral cars at stipulated rates. It has white cars with white catafalques for children's funerals and black ones for adults. The coffin is placed on the catafalque and the flowers heaped around it, while the mourners go one or more closed cars which are either attached or following separately. It is said that this street car funeral service is much cheaper than would be the old-time hearse and carriages and that it is a great blessing to people of moderate means.

and account to the county treasurer for the county portion. Then if a duplicate set of books were kept at the Omaha office as at present it would make it possible for anyone to ascertain the condition of South Omaha property by examining the records in either office instead of being obliged to refer to both offices as at present. This would give South Omaha the full advantage of the proposed change in our tax system without in any way interfering with her independent existence.

So far we have discussed only what are known as regular taxes. We will next take up the question of special taxes.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.
Praised out, as he deserves it, the Rev. Dr. William Morrison, rector of All Saints' Episcopal church, Brooklyn, has resigned after fifteen years' service. Dr. Morrison says that in that period he has delivered 100 sermons, and that if his congregation is not tired of hearing him talk he wonders at their tolerance.
The word "suffragan" much heard in connection with the Episcopal general convention, comes from the middle Latin word suffraganeus, meaning assisting, especially as applied to a bishop. In England every bishop at his consecration is in relation to his ecclesiastical superior, the archbishop.
From gold miner in Brackenridge, Colo., to a Methodist Episcopal preacher in a line in the history of the life of Rev. Dr. Everett Merrill Hill, who has been transferred to the University Methodist Episcopal church at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church at St. Paul, where he has conducted a pastorate for the last three years.
Rev. R. J. Lockhart, who left the Presbyterian church at Sikeston, Mo., to go to Nicola, N. Y., has retired permanently from the ministry to go upon the stage. Mr. Lockhart tried stage life ostensibly to improve his style, but evidently to his liking. He is playing the minister's part on the road in the "Seventh Commandment."
Mrs. Della Todd of Greenfield, Mass., is

home on a visit from her missionary work in Africa, in the very heart of the continent where she and her husband have braved perils that would not give. For instance, the house of the mission to which they went was in ruins, having been burned by the natives and seven white missionaries massacred.

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land, Miss Slavinsky was born in the United States. Her father was a Greek Catholic priest, and before the political troubles of Russia he was a chaplain in the czar's bodyguard.
Rev. Florence Kollok Crocker has completed thirty-five years' service in the ministry of the Universalist church. During that time she has founded three churches, reorganized four and accomplished much outside work. Mrs. Crocker is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where she took her A. M. degree, and of the divinity school of St. Lawrence university at Canton, N. Y.

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"Mr. Blair of the City National Bank of Kearney, Neb., is planting 640 acres."
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Defects in Nebraska's Taxation System

III.
Consolidating our city and county taxes and having all taxes of every kind become due and payable at the same time would make it possible for the taxpayer to ascertain at one time what his taxes for the entire year would be, and thus eliminate the confusion and uncertainty that now exists. Other features must, however, be provided for. It is not always convenient for all the people to pay taxes at any given date, nor would it be desirable to have them do so. In order to reach the highest degree of economy in the treasurer's office it is necessary to have the taxpayers call on as many different days as possible, for if all would call at one time it would be impossible to provide clerks enough to give satisfactory service during the rush, and then there would be a long slack period during which the clerks would not be profitably employed. Now, of course, we cannot say that the Browns should call at one time and the Smiths at another, or make an arbitrary division of any kind, but we can provide terms and conditions that will appear to different people for different reasons and thus accomplish the same result. Certain people always pay all claims at the earliest possible moment. A great number of this class will always bring in their checks as soon as they receive a notice. Another class begins to pay in installments the last day of a stated period. Still another class, who have their money profitably invested, will leave off payment as long as they can without being obliged to pay interest. Another class does not find it convenient to pay large sums at one time and would rather pay in installments.

be taken care of and about October 1, when real estate is advertised for delinquent taxes, people begin to flock in to save their property from being sold. So you see that this arrangement would distribute the work in the treasurer's office so as to make it possible to give the best possible service at the least possible cost.

It is evident that Omaha, South Omaha and the other large cities of the state feel the need of an improvement in our tax system most, and yet the proposed change would be beneficial to the counties in which there are no large cities and would not disturb their present habit of paying taxes if they desired to continue as they have in the past. As the law now stands their real estate tax becomes due November 1 and may be paid without interest any time before May 1. Under the proposed law it would still become due November 1 and if they so desire it may be paid in one installment without interest any time before May 1. Their personal taxes, however, do not become due until after December 1. Under the proposed law it would still become due November 1 and may be paid in one installment without interest any time before May 1. So if those counties desired to continue paying their taxes as they have in the past they could do so under the proposed law as under the present law. In addition to this they would have the privilege of paying installments on February 1 and July 1, which would often be of great convenience to them, particularly to the farmer, who does not always find it convenient to market his stock or crops at any particular date, or they might pay before December 1 and receive the discount. Then, of course, they would have the advantage of one rule as to date of payment for both real estate and personal property. Hence this proposed change should receive the hearty support of counties without large cities as well as those in which the large cities are located.

tion of this change to South Omaha. In Omaha the county treasurer is ex-officio city treasurer, but this plan might not meet the approval of South Omaha people, as the county treasurer's office is in Omaha. No one regrets more than I that the imaginary line between Omaha and South Omaha exists, and no one would be more pleased to see the two cities one, and yet I have no sympathy with any movement that would bring South Omaha into Omaha against its will. Being an Omaha man, I would not discuss the South Omaha situation, but for the fact that many people own property in both cities and would find it exceedingly desirable to have the same rule as to taxes apply in both cities. The South Omaha tax system is equally, if not more confusing than Omaha's, and where one owns property in both places his troubles are doubled.

It seems entirely possible for South Omaha to adopt the proposed system and have its city tax included with the county tax, and yet have it paid in South Omaha and to the South Omaha treasurer. At present the law provides for an arrangement by which the South Omaha county tax may be paid either at Omaha or South Omaha at the option of the taxpayer. The present plan, however, is not altogether satisfactory for the reason that the books show the payments that have been made in South Omaha, as well as those made in Omaha, but the South Omaha books do not show the payments made in Omaha, hence it frequently happens that the books do not balance. This is paid again in South Omaha and necessitates the trouble of making a refund. At present a South Omaha taxpayer cannot tell for sure whether a South Omaha county tax has been paid without referring to the Omaha office, and an Omaha taxpayer cannot tell whether a South Omaha city tax has been paid without referring to the South Omaha office. Now if the South Omaha city and county tax were consolidated and made payable in South Omaha only, it would make it possible for the South Omaha treasurer to collect the tax, separate the South Omaha city tax from the county tax,

Each of these classes is equally a part of the public, and as far as practicable should have their convenience provided for. In my judgment this can be done to the best advantage as follows:

1. Provide that all taxes of every kind shall become due November 1, but may be paid in either one or two installments, at the option of the taxpayer. This would make it possible for the taxpayer to know at one time what his taxes for the entire year would be.

2. Provide that a small discount shall be allowed if both installments are paid at one time and within the time specified before December 1. There is a saving of expense and labor in the payment of both installments at once, and this discount would reward the diligent taxpayer for his promptness, as well as mark another date for the payment of taxes.

3. Provide that if the first installment is paid before February 1 the second installment may run until July 1 without interest. Provided, however, that if the first installment is not paid before February 1, both installments shall become delinquent and bear interest from November 1. Likewise, if the first installment is paid within the time specified, but the second installment is not paid before July 1, this installment shall draw interest from November 1. Having the interest revert back and begin at a previous date would induce people to avoid allowing their taxes to become delinquent.

4. Provide that if the first installment is not paid before February 1, the interest will be remitted if both installments are paid at one time before May 1. This would make it possible for those who neglect to pay their first installment before February 1 to avoid the payment of interest by paying both installments at one time. It would also make it possible for those who have their money invested to pay their entire tax at one time without the loss of interest, for it would be a slightly better business proposition to pay the entire tax on May 1 than to pay half on February 1 and half on July 1.

We have the most difficult proposition right here in Douglas county—the application of this change to South Omaha. In Omaha the county treasurer is ex-officio city treasurer, but this plan might not meet the approval of South Omaha people, as the county treasurer's office is in Omaha. No one regrets more than I that the imaginary line between Omaha and South Omaha exists, and no one would be more pleased to see the two cities one, and yet I have no sympathy with any movement that would bring South Omaha into Omaha against its will. Being an Omaha man, I would not discuss the South Omaha situation, but for the fact that many people own property in both cities and would find it exceedingly desirable to have the same rule as to taxes apply in both cities. The South Omaha tax system is equally, if not more confusing than Omaha's, and where one owns property in both places his troubles are doubled.

It is this arrangement we would have five dates at which different people would prefer to pay their taxes for different reasons. We would also relieve the taxpayer from paying a large sum at one time if he preferred to pay in installments, and yet the inducement offered would be such that the majority of the people would prefer to pay their entire tax in one installment and the work of the office would thus be greatly reduced. Inasmuch as one rule would apply to all taxes, people would soon become familiar with it and be able to take advantage of it at one time. It would also make it possible for those who have their money invested to pay their entire tax at one time without the loss of interest, for it would be a slightly better business proposition to pay the entire tax on May 1 than to pay half on February 1 and half on July 1.

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If a woman is strong and healthy in a womanly way, motherhood means to her but little suffering. It is in the fact that the many women suffer from weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism and are unfitted for motherhood. This can be remedied.

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\$30.00 Tuna Mahogany Chiffonier, the State's October Sale Price.....	\$20
\$25.00 Mahogany or Golden Oak Dresser, the State's October Sale Price.....	\$19
\$25.00 Mahogany or Golden Oak Chiffonier to match Dresser, the State's October Sale Price.....	17.50

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