

The COMING MAN OF MEXICO

MY PROGRAM IF MADE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

by **GENERAL FELIX DIAZ**



MEXICO, EMERGING FROM the throes of revolution, will elect a new Chief Executive within the next few weeks. Upon him will depend the resurrection and integrity, if not the salvation, of the Republic. Friends of General Diaz go so far as to insist that, if his life is spared until the July elections, he will be chosen to succeed the late President Madero.

Born forty-six years ago in the state of Oaxaca, in the south of Mexico, the prospective President entered the Military Academy of Chapultepec in 1883 and was commissioned a Lieutenant of Engineers in 1889. His first military service was on the Geographical Commission which prepared the great military map of Mexico. At its conclusion, he was in supreme charge of the work which is conceded to be a masterpiece of its kind. During the Spanish-American war, Lieutenant Diaz was made a Colonel on the General Staff of the Mexican Army, and later was twice elected to Congress from Vera Cruz. By 1902 he had already become politically formidable and was regarded as the most likely successor to his uncle, President Porfirio Diaz, who in 1905 made him Inspector General

By Felix Diaz

Mexico, March 21, 1913.

THE CLOSE OF A bloody but just revolution finds me a candidate for the Presidency of my country. This position has been forced upon me by the exigencies of the situation, backed by the unsolicited support of a large proportion of the electorate. But abroad—and particularly, I fear, in the United States of America—my aims and my attitude toward political preferment have been misunderstood. I, therefore, gladly embrace this opportunity to address a large section of the American reading public.

Should I have the good fortune to be elected President of Mexico, my first efforts will be toward creating conditions of absolute peace throughout the country. "Peace and Justice" has been my motto, and shall remain the guiding principle of my administration. I am convinced that only by dispensing justice to all, in the fullest sense of the word, can permanent conditions of internal peace be assured.

To enlarge on this proposition: My attitude at present is necessarily one of expectancy; but my aims are the same as those I expounded years ago in an address to the Military College, and recently in a manifesto to the people of the state of Oaxaca. Three steps must be taken in the rehabilitation of Mexico. First, order must be restored; second, the natural resources of the Republic must be developed, and knowledge diffused for the greater growth of these resources; third, perfect justice must be administered, so far as it lies in a human being to administer justice. The rest will come of its own momentum, based on the foregoing and a new rule of conduct which will decline to indulge in Utopian dreams, but which will appraise men and things as they are and as they may be used, not as one would like them to be and as they are never found in this world.

I recognize that peace must first be assured before we can obtain confidence abroad, and the confidence of other nations is necessary if this Republic is to be placed on a sound financial basis. It is my earnest hope that President Huerta's interim government may succeed in putting down the last vestiges of rebellion and disorder in Morelos, Guerrero and in the North, especially in Sonora. The active military measures that are now being taken in this direction ought to have good results. Should this task not be fully accomplished by the time the new government comes into power, it is my intention, should I be President, to bring about, with all the means at my disposal, the prompt and complete pacification of those states and of the whole country.

If the means I find at hand are not adequate, new means will be created. But I am convinced that it would be wise for me to adopt only some of the methods of pacification used by my uncle, Don Porfirio Diaz, at the time of his early triumphs. This is because I would lack the personal elements on which

of Police in the City of Mexico. As such he earned a sinister reputation for severity, often tinged by cruelty. It is said that more prisoners were put to death under his administration than under any other police regime in Mexico, but this is emphatically denied by him. On the contrary, General Diaz points to the fact that no Chief of Police, under the Mexican law, is authorized to condemn or execute prisoners in his charge. . . .

Toward the close of the disreputable Madero regime, Felix Diaz automatically became the leader of the malcontents in the regular army, and last October made himself temporarily master of Vera Cruz. His revolt was a failure and he was imprisoned. The rest is immediate history. An uprising followed in which the prison was stormed and the General was released.

By the terms of his compact with Provisional President Huerta, General Diaz has announced himself a candidate for the next Presidency of the Republic. Since making the announcement, he has taken no unnecessary chances, but has strongly entrenched himself at the Hacienda del Cristo at Atzacotalco, some twenty miles from Mexico City. From this garrisoned retreat, General Diaz issued the following exclusive declaration of his political principles for publication in the SEMI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE:

he counted. My principal strength must lie in the fact that I shall be bound by none of the compromises which often cause trouble to well-intentioned governments.

It is not my present expectation that the standing army of Mexico will have to be materially increased. According to the needs of the moment, there may come such especial measures as calling for volunteers, or incorporating standing bodies of rurales into the army for short periods of time; but I am by no means committed to the mooted plan of introducing general military conscription. This I feel to be a very large and momentous problem, from a social and financial point of view, as well as from many others. Therefore, it should not be rashly undertaken without the fullest and most earnest preliminary consideration.

I AM a soldier and I know that large armies can not be improvised off hand, except, perhaps, at moments of high patriotic fervor. Powerful standing armies cost money—a great deal of money. Mexico, at the present time, is in no financial condition for a vast expenditure for any such purpose. The late Madero government has left us without any funds in the treasury. We found only debts. Our country needs money badly; but she needs money for constructive purposes—for economic development and for internal improvements. With this as our frankly declared financial policy, and in view of the admitted wealth of our permanent national resources, I believe that foreign capital can be obtained; but I feel free to say that I doubt very much whether foreign capital could be readily obtained for purely military purposes.

Still, it must be clear to all that our country can not be properly developed without guarantees of complete pacification, and such pacification must necessarily require military methods and occasionally heavy expenditures. But in the solution of this problem I know that we shall have the hearty cooperation of all our political parties and of the people at large. In regard to Sonora and the menace of its secession—which I do not believe for a moment can be successfully accomplished, or is even desired by a majority of its citizens—I feel, like every right-thinking Mexican, that any loss of our territory, in this or in any other direction, is simply inadmissible.

Should I become President, it will be my aim to encourage in every possible way the influx of foreign capital and foreign immigration. Mexico is rich in minerals, in agricultural products and in timber, to name only three of our leading industries. We cheerfully invite the foreign investor to aid us in developing these resources.

It is planned to create a new Ministry of Agriculture and Labor, in addition to the existing Ministries of Mines, Hacienda, Fomento, Communications and the Interior. To this Ministry of Agriculture and Labor will fall the task of making a special study of a more equitable distri- (Continued on Page 13)

