

# The Coming Man of Mexico

(Continued from Page 3)

bution of taxes and a more general distribution of the ownership of land. While I expect this problem to be worked out only after due study by the experts entrusted with so serious and important a phase of government, I wish to state in advance that I am in favor of taxing the undeveloped and unimproved lands of the large landholders. This will induce them either to improve their holdings, or to sell or lease them to others who will. This is the only method, in my opinion, by which the agrarian problem of Mexico can be satisfactorily solved.

And since it is this agrarian problem that, according to some of our best thinkers, has brought Mexico to the brink of ruin, how necessary is it that it should be solved once and for all! It has been responsible for much of our social and revolutionary unrest. It swept into power the weak government of the last year or so. It is a specter that must be laid.

LET no one think that if I am elected, I shall try to bring back all the old methods, much less the old leaders, that belonged to the great era of my uncle's administration of the government of Mexico. Those men and measures have performed their task and now belong to the past. The era of Porfirio Diaz is closed. The party which I lead has no program of restoration. We plan a new government, with new men and new measures. If for no other reason, I would be compelled by political expediency to take this attitude. The governmental methods of General Porfirio Diaz were strictly his own. They were justified by a series of events and circumstances so definitely associated with him as an individual that any one who might seek to copy them would be foredoomed to complete failure. He would lack the heroic record of the patriot who shed his blood in a hundred battles to preserve the independence of his fatherland. He would lack the profound love and respect of all the old generals, the officers and soldiers who accompanied him in his long campaigns. He would lack the blind faith with which the nation entrusted itself to Don Porfirio. Lastly, he would lack the admiration and respect with which foreign nations honored the now retired leader of the State, and whom they continue to honor as one of the greatest statesmen that the Nineteenth Century produced.

No, I must work out my own salvation, and turn to my fellow countrymen for approval and support. The Mexican people are now ready for real democracy, in spite of the selfish efforts of some persons to persuade them to embrace anarchy instead. According to the information obtained by the organization that is conducting my campaign, adherence to our platform is coming in from all parts of the country. I certainly expect the most cordial support from my native state, Oaxaca, and from other states where I am personally well known, such as Vera Cruz, San Luis Potosi, etc.

Should my uncle, Don Porfirio, elect to return to Mexico, he will be received with open arms and with the veneration due to his great age and his great name; but, in that event, he will certainly take no active part in the government, except possibly as a wise counsellor in matters of grave importance to our country.

In the same way, Mexico stands open to all the members of my uncle's family and to his social and political friends, so many of whom left the country during the Madero regime. Furthermore, the amnesty bill that has been recently passed, extends to members of the Madero family and to all citizens without exception. I cherish no rancors against any one. The estates of the Madero family will

not be confiscated, as falsely reported, provided the law is obeyed. We are anxious that all the adherents of the fallen government should return and take up their duties as good citizens.

In conclusion, let me say a few words about the personalities of some of the men who have been making history in Mexico.

Don Francisco Leon de la Barra, Provisional President for several months after the abdication of Porfirio Diaz, is in the field for the Vice-Presidency and is the candidate who deserves to be elected. It has recently been proposed by de la Barra himself that the office of Vice-President be abolished; but this is a matter to be settled by our National Congress and by the State Legislatures, as provided by the constitution.

The late Francisco I. Madero, as President of the Republic, was lacking absolutely in tact, under the existing circumstances. This was due to his want of practical sense in respect to men and measures. He had dreams—dreams that were born of speculative study in the library; but he did not take into account that events happen as they will, and not as one would have them happen.

Pascual Orozco, as I take him, is an upright spirit, with the natural simplicity of the peasant. He has been fighting for ideals, the real significance of which has not, perhaps, been understood in all its sociological breadth. He is not a Presidential possibility, because he possesses in the highest degree the virtue of modesty. From this he could not free himself, even if he had a sufficient number of followers to bring him prominently before the public.

ZAPATA, of Morelos, offers a curious special case, which should be judged with care. He is an obscure peasant, without education; but he is hailed as a demi-god by his followers, who believe that he is fighting for the welfare of the Indians. They believed in him from the start, because he told them that the hour for their vindication had arrived. Nor can his tactics be blamed too harshly, when we remember that he was once applauded by President Madero, who visited him and greeted him with an embrace. Zapata is a reckless force unchained, and it is natural that he should decline to come to terms with the lawful authorities. His adherents would first demand that he fulfil the purpose for which he claims to have been called into action. I do not believe that the idea of becoming first magistrate of the nation has ever entered his head.

To the voice of the people, which will be expressed at the election early in the summer, I leave my own political fortunes. I can only say that, if elected, I shall do my best to restore Mexico to her former high standing among Latin American Republics.

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