## Perplexing Questions for Mexico to Solve

Copyrighted, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter. EXICO CITY-In this, my last letter from Mexico, I want to give you some of the under-currents of public opinion which are rapidly changing the possibilities of this re-The man who thinks that the troubles here are only the struggle of the ine and the outs is mistaken. The people have become aroused to the possibilities of liberty, and there is a strong hope that the whole social and economic system will be reorganized. So far the republic is still in the melting pot. It is difficult to discuss parties, for parties are only in their formaton.

One reason for this is the long autocratic reign of Diaz For more than a generation he controlled the country with an iron hand, in which was held a twoedged sword. Every head which rose above the average level was cut off, and his enemies were wiped out without regard to anything but the success of the administration. Dian often said that he believed in much government and but little politics. The result was that political parties were practically extinguished by his long reign

When Madero became president it was with a promise of reorganization. He preached reform and equal rights to all. and he succeeded in planting the germs of discontent among the common people. He preached but he did not accomplish, and his non-accomplishment was one of the elements that brought his overthrow. The new administration of Huerte is now preaching and promising, and parties are again forming. There may be another revolution or so before order is brought

out of chaos, but there is little doubt but

that the old Mexico has passed away

forever, and that a new one will eventually take its place.

Dividing the Big Estates. Among the great questions which are agitating the country are those which relate to the landed estates and their owners. The people are beginning to realise that it is not right that 1,000 families should practically own this mighty terri-Mexico is divided into enormous ranches, some of which contain millions of acres and are worth many millions of dollars. These estates have been listed for taxation at many times less than their value. A property worth \$1,000,000 in gold will be assessed at \$100,000, and one worth \$100,000 may be assessed at \$10,000. For a long time there were no taxes on unem-ployed lands, and the great estates are still returned at such a low valuation that their owners pay practically nothing to the government. On the other hand the small holders are taxed to the full.

The man who has a 200-acre farm which may be worth \$1,000, dare not list it for \$100, as the discrepancy is too evident. As a result he pays taxes on very nearly the full value. This has long been the grievance of the small land owners, and they are how among the discontents who are in the saddle. They want a reorganization of the tax system, and they have made themselves so felt that this question is discussed all over Mexico.

The Communal Lands. Another movement, which agitated the Chamber of Deputies and which forms the text of many stump speeches, is the restoration of the communal lands to whom they formerly belonged. About fifty or sixty years ago every town in the chamber of deputies. The senate Mexico had certain lands surrounding it holds its sessions in the national palace which were divided among the citisens, and the chamber of deputies has its own and each householder had his own little hall in the business heart of the city. plot, upon which he could raise enough norn for his family and where he could with doors of wrought iron. It is of the

pasture his cows. the center, were often in the heart of or ums and roofed by a dome. An enormous adjoining a big estate, which had come from grants given by the kings of Spain centuries ago. The owners of the estates of the dome, and its many frosted light wanted the lands to add to their already bulbs make the ball as bright as day. large tracts, and so during the administration of President Juaren they succeeded in abolishing the communal system and passing a law to divide up the lands among the people of the villages. These people were mostly peons or Indians, so simple that they sold out for practically nothing. The owners of the large estates were ready to buy from them, and the result was that the communal lands came into the hands of these pich owners living nearby.

There are now hundreds of such settlements in Mexico, where the surrounding lands have been acquired by the rich estate owners. Many of them are not used, and their owners will neither sall nor rent. In this way the residents of the town are compelled to work for these men in order to live, and the great estate owners can fix their own rate of wages. There is no chance for the peon to get ahead; for he cannot buy the land back It has only 233 members, the representaand the system is such that it has meant tives being elected for two years, at the the enslavement of the people.

Among the schemes now proposed in habitants. the Chamber of Deputies is to purchase Both senators and deputies receive salaries of \$3,000 Mexican a year. This is equal to \$1,500 gold. It is just oneor condemn these tracts and to restore them to their owners. If this is done the peons will be largely free of their old fifth what our higher-paid congressmen masters, and they will gradually become get. The Mexican congress meets anmore civilized. It is found that this has nually in two sessions. The first is from been the case with the Indians of the few April 1 to May 31, and the second is from towns which did not give up their com-September 15 to December 15. A permamunal lands. They are more independent nent committee of both houses sits during and better in every way.

Other movements to improve the condi-tions of the Indians relate to the taking Patriotism in Mexico.

It seems to me that the Mexicans are growing more patriotic. They are away of the power of the jefe politices great stump speakers, and the recent or chief officers of the small towns. The campaigns of the several presidents most of these officials have been aphave started the heads of the masses pointed through the influence of the big to working. You can now hear much estate owners; and they have opppressed talk about "Mexico for the Mexicans" the people to please the men who put and the demand for "a government of them in office. According to the laws of the people, for the people, by the peo-Mexico, absolute liberty is supposed to ple." On the Pasco de la Porma now exist. It does not. The socal jefe politice stands the great monument of indehas the right to draft men into the army, pendence, which was completed two and in the past the peon workmen were years ago. It is the finest of its kind, and it has cost about twice as much service or sticking to their labor upon as our monument to George Washing-

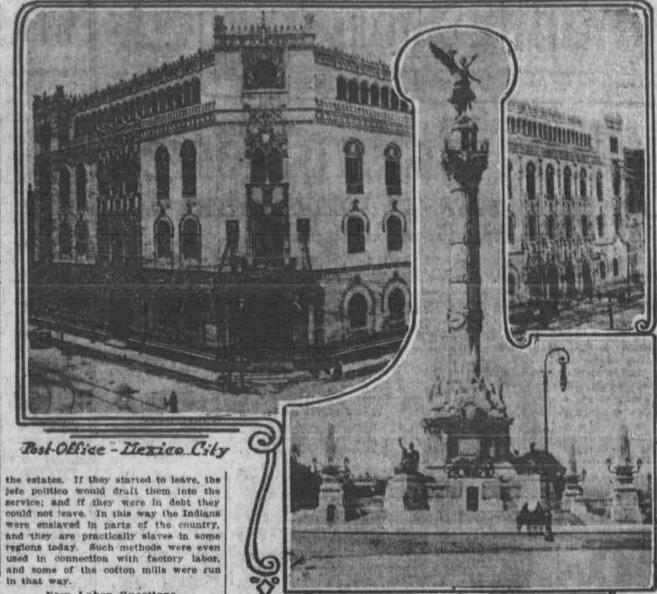
#### How Some Fat People Eat Themselves Thin

(From Pilgrim Magazine.)

When it is remembered we require but three conces of fat daily and that most persons eat ten times that, the wonder is that must people aren't corpulent. Some systems are able to burn up the surplus fat, while others keep storing away pound after pound of useless clis in the tissues just beneath the skin. If fat felias could find something that would absorb or expel these clis nom the cod/, they'd have the long-sought obesity tem-edy.

City, and the federical mass been designed to make personal to the finest of the f

As far as much-needed funds are con-



New Labor Questions. Honument of Independence The new movements include attempts to mprove the lot of the laboring men Laws have been already passed as to the hours and wages in the factories. Forexports for 1912 exceeded those for 1910 merly such things have been fixed at the and 1911 by 11,000,000 pesos. During every caprice of the capitalist, and these men one of the last five turbulent years there were so backed by the administration that has been a surplus of ordinary revethe workmen could do nothing. During nues over the ordinary disbursements. In the administration of Madero a ten-hour 1907 and 1906 this amounted to more than day shift and a nine-hour night shaft \$18,000,000. In 1909 it was more than

were introduced into the workshops of S.000,000, and in 1911 it exceeded \$10,000,000 and in 1911 it exceeded \$10,000,000. In 1912 the revenues were more than

were introduced into the workshops of

done with the consent of the factory own-

and the result will be better hours and

The Mexican Congress.

some time in the Mexican congress.

The building of the chamber is of stone,

shape of the Pantheon, the hall being a

chandelier of cut glass, as big as a two-

ton stack of hay, hangs from the center

At the back, under the coat-of-arms of

the seats run in concentric rows, rising

from the floor below the speaker's desk,

gradually to the back. Around the hall

and looking down into it are gallerles,

which during my visit were filled with

spectators, who listened to every word

of the speeches, and who, it seemed to

me, were much concerned in the pro-

Each member has his own deak and

chair, and the order in which the desks

are kept is far better than that of our

lower house of congress. It seems to

me also that the Mexican statesmen act

better than our congressmen do. They are more polite and there is less talking.

whispering and smoking while the de-

The house is much smaller than ours,

rate of one member for each 40,000 in-

The Mexican capital is fast becoming

a city of statues, and some of the new

public buildings are fine. I doubt

whether there is a more beautiful post-

office anywhere than that of Mexico

City, and the federal capitol, which

has been designed for the Pasco de la

Republica, will when completed be

one of the finest structures in Latin

America. Bo far only the iron skeleton

has been erected. The building is to cost

\$10,000,000. The castle at Chapultepec is

Financial Mexico.

bating goes on.

higher wages.

ers, inducements being given in the way \$195,000,000. of reduction of the taxes on goods made. As to its national debt, Mexico has in such factories. According to the old not only been paying the interest every law, all factories paid the government a year, but it has been cutting down the tax of 5 per cent on their gross sales. principal. In 1911 and 1912 this cut To such factories as introduced the new amounted to almost \$5,000,000, and that labor regulations this tax was cut to 4 notwithstanding the abnormal conditions per cent, and at the same time a proposi-, which then provalled. The resources of tion was made to increase it to 8 per the country are such that there is no cent on all other factories. This policy doubt but that it can redeem all its obliwill probably be carried out in the future gations if a stable government can be secured, and as soon as the country is quiet the bonds and stocks now on the warket will rise. The total amount of the During my stay here I have spent foreign debt is something like \$315,000,000, and this will probably be added to by There are two houses, the senate and the damages demanded on account of the cutrages of the recent revolutions.

Mexican Trade.

I had a talk last night with one of the leading financiers as to Mexican trade with the United States and its possible increase through our tariff reduction. going to Europe, to the United States. before the concessions are granted. Said he:

"Our foreign commerce has been steadily increasing, and within ten years we will double our exports. This is especially so as to our trade with your coun-Mexico, is the chair of the speaker, and try. We sold you \$224,000,000 worth of goods in 1912, and our total exports that year were \$298,000,000. Bo you see you now take the most of what we sell. You will take even more in the future." "What are the chances for American

capital?" I asked.

"As soon as matters become settledand they are bound to become settled within a short time-the opportunities for successful investment will be very great. It is now twenty-five years since your people began to send large sums to Mexico, and you now have investments amounting to many, many millions of dollars. You have large interests in all of our industrial undertakings. You own the most of our mines and enormous quantities of land. The right to acquire land is unlimited and there are extensive tracts awaiting the capitalists. I believe that the large estates will soon have to be divided. They will be laid out in small holdings and will be sold on advantageous terms.

"There are many opportunities here along manufacturing lines," this man continued. "Mexico needs many articles which it does not produce and which could be protected by the tariff. Our cotton mills are making great strides and at no distant date we shall be exporting cotton cloth. We are now producing all the sugar we need and we have a surplus for exportation. There is no reason why we should not make our own iron and steel, and I expect that the steel industry will be one of our big businesses of the

future." "How about your mines?"

"Mining is one of our largest busineases, and it is only at its beginning We have vast tracts of undeveloped territory and our mines are steadily increasing in number and output. Our production of allver last year was the fargest to date. It was worth \$50,000,000.

"The gold production was over \$60,000,000 and during that same year we produced

180,000 tons of copper ore and 116,000 tons of lead. Everyone knows how the petroleum product is growing. The yield tast year was more than 2.500,000 tons, and it will be 1,000,000 tons more this year. All of our industries are receiving a great impetus by the use of electricity. We have a large number of water powers and these are being harnessed and turned to industrial account in various ways." Megleo's New Electric Power Plants.

In connection, with electricity I want to give you a conversation I had with Colonel Hay as a civil engineer by profession, and he is interested in large works in many parts of the republic. He was As far as much-needed funds are concerned, the new ioan which Mexico has a concerned, the new ioan which Mexico has needed in the United States and he speaks English as well as I do. In talk-ion on easy street for some time to come. When I've same into power the treasury was practically empty, owing to the extraordimry expenses of Maxico has needed in the United States and he speaks English as well as I do. In talk-ing of the possibilities of Mexico he tells me that there are millions of American capital awaiting quieter conditions to come here. He has now on his books are the name is lupture accent the country is in much better conditions. These embrace hydraulic been asked to livestigate during the last three months. These embrace hydraulic power plants, electric railroads and irrivative and companies. Many of them will be pushed as soon as the cody, Wyo. educated in the United States and he

"Electricity promises to be one greatest fields of investment of the Mexsoo of the future. This country is ad mirably adapted to such a development We have here a high plateau which slopes steeply down on both sides to the sea, giving us many rivers with abundant water power. This is so both on the Atlantic and Pacific sides of Mexico. I know of one river which has a 7,000-foot fall, forming a series of descents each of which can be utilized. There are other rivers and streams of large size which will develop power and for which concessions

could be easily gotten.
"As it is now, we have one power plant within ninety miles of Mexico City which furnishes 100,000 horse power. That plant s now supplying the capital. The Falls of Juanacatian have been harnessed and there are other powers on government rivers which could be easily developed.

"All that is necessary is to make out your plans and lay them before the authorities, depositing \$2,500 in gold as a bond for carrying them out. That is the basis upon which all concessions are granted in Mexico, and such concessions can be acquired by the foreigner just as well as by the native. The deposits of earnest money bear interest at 6 per cent and they are returned when the works This man says that the new tariff will are completed. The government must, send many Mexican articles, which are of course, approve of the working plans FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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