

In the Centennial Year of Mexican Independence

Night Ceremony of Ringing Again That Historic Liberty Bell

Two of a Series of Travel Letters Written in 1910 to The Bee by Victor Rosewater

Mexico City, Sept. 30, 1910.—When our Uncle Samuel celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary with the Philadelphia exposition, the big doings culminated in the ringing of the original Liberty bell on Independence day. So in the celebration of the centennial anniversary of Mexico's first blow for freedom the ceremonies have focused in the ringing again by the president of the republic of the selfsame bell upon which the curate Hidalgo sounded forth his Grito de Dolores just 100 years before. By a peculiar coincidence the birthday of President Diaz also falls upon the eve of this date, affording an opportunity to make the holiday honor the personality of the ruler as well as the idea of self-government which his rule is supposed to typify.

Personality of Diaz.

It was our fortune to witness from specially good vantage ground the principal head line acts of the centennial program. We were to have an audience with the president and view the historic pageant from the palace. Comparatively little difficulty was encountered in gaining admittance to the building and only the usual waits for our turn for presentation. Of course, we were not the only ones—in fact, we were the most somber among the gaily dressed diplomats and brightly uniformed officers, provincial dignitaries in native gala garb and palace attaches attired with equal brilliance. As the line moved slowly through one chamber after another we could examine the rich furniture and handsome wall decorations. At the far end of the last room the visitors passed in front of a raised platform on which the president stood with his cabinet members behind him. He shook hands as each person was presented by name and usually added a word to the greeting.

"You have my felicitations on your birthday," I said.

"I am very pleased," he replied.

As I surveyed him hastily he did not look 80 years old. His hair and moustache, to be sure, are growing white, but are strong reminders of the jet black they once were. His eye is keen and his facial features firm, but not noticeably lined by age. He wore simple evening dress with a broad silk band of the Mexican tricolor—green, white and red—across the shirt bosom. He did not seem to be as tall as I had expected—probably five feet eight inches, but then he looked more impressive the next day when I saw him driving past in full military uniform and coat breast laden with glit-

tering decorations and jeweled insignia of honorary rank.

Some of the Cabinet Members.

We were not presented to the cabinet members, but could recognize many of them by their portraits or by having them pointed out by more knowing friends. For the most part they had strong faces and would doubtless hold their own among men in similarly responsible positions in other countries. I met the administrative head of the federal district, Governor Landa y Escandon, who has a courtly manner and speaks English most fluently. I also met Senor Romero, nephew of the late ambassador to the United States of that name and himself now a prominent member of the Mexican congress. He asked particularly after Herbert M. Rogers, with whom he had studied at Princeton and whom he had visited in Omaha for a few days after graduation.

All this was but a prelude to the grand historical pageant which was to portray the striking scenes in Mexico's onward progress. In front of the palace, stretching as far as the eye could reach, was one dense mass of humanity. It would be a rash guess to hazard an estimate—surely not less than 100,000 people, and the efforts of police and soldiers to keep open the space in front of the reviewing windows were in vain. The Aztecs, headed by Montezuma, accompanied by their different tribal allies, were to

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The Bee Household: Group of Men Who Handle the Big Printing Presses Which Turn Out the Papers



William J. Hotz

William J. Hotz, well known Omaha lawyer, was born October 15, 1865, at Iowa City, Ia. He is the son of Matilda Ward Hotz and the late William J. Hotz. Both his parents were born in Iowa City, Ia., where they reared and educated their family of nine children.

Mr. Hotz received his collegiate, as well as his legal education at the State University of Iowa.

In 1912 he was married at Sioux City, Ia., to Josephine Lynch, a brilliant graduate of the State University of Iowa. She is the daughter of J. M. Lynch, well-known and prominent in business and social circles at Sioux City. Mr. and Mrs. Hotz have one son, William J., Jr.

In the ten years that Mr. Hotz has been practicing law in Omaha, he has demonstrated exceptional ability as a lawyer, and has won the confidence and respect of a very large and influential clientele in this city and throughout the state. He is able and resourceful in the trial of his cases, and has made it his practice to conform to the highest ethical standards.

Mr. Hotz has three younger brothers who have enlisted in the army and navy, and says he has two more brothers who are anxiously awaiting until they arrive at sufficient age to enlist. Mr. Hotz has worked diligently with the other members of the Omaha Bar Association and the American Bar Association in the performance of much important work that the government has assigned to lawyers, to help insure the complete success of the Liberty Loans, Red Cross and other war measures.

Mr. Hotz maintains his suite of offices for the practice of law at 1530-35 City National Building.



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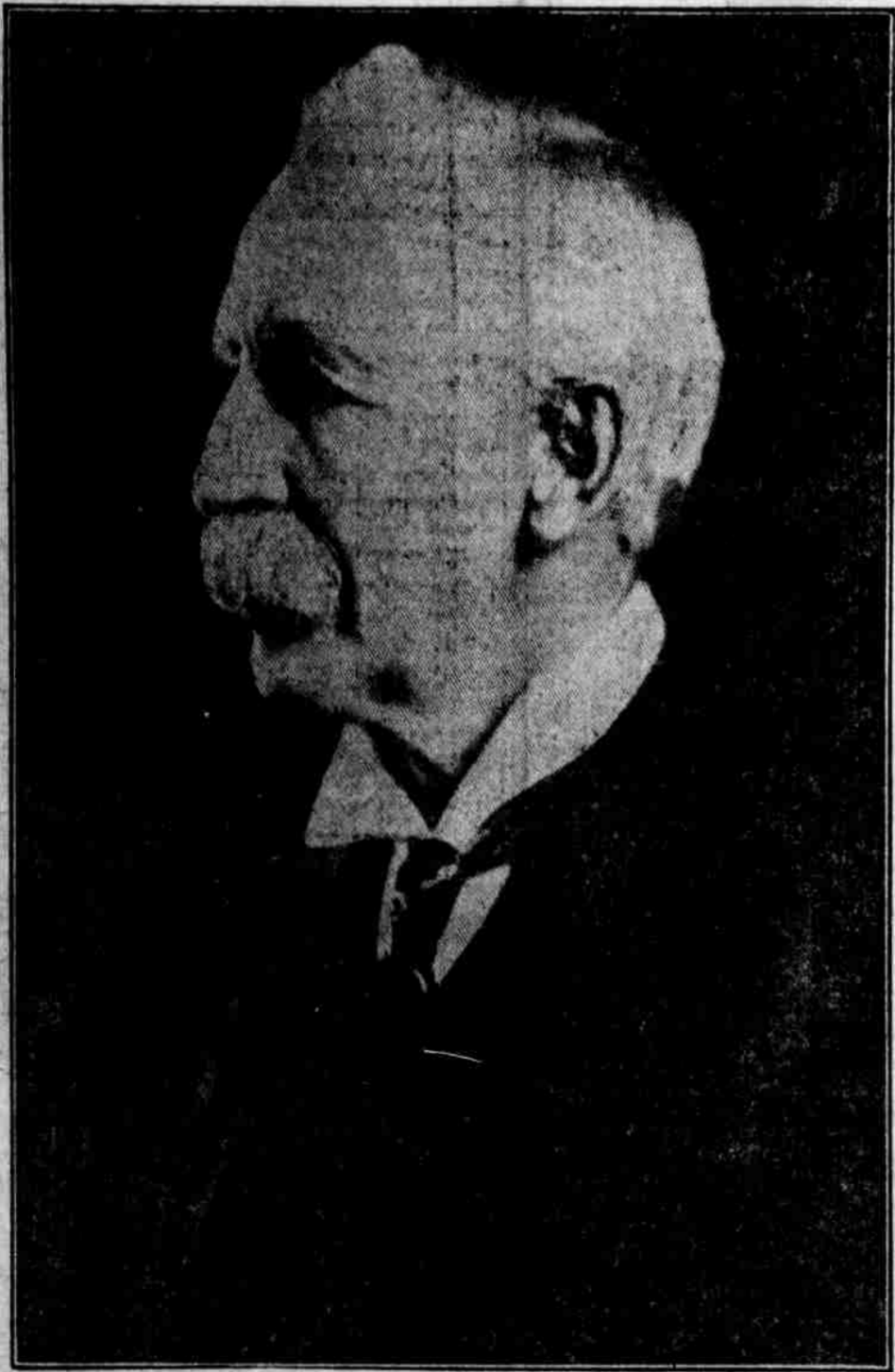
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General John C. Cowin

General John C. Cowin was born at Warrensville, Ohio, January 11, 1846; born and raised on a farm; attended public school and Hiram Eclectic Institute until the outbreak of the civil war.

In 1861 he enlisted as a private soldier, and had as comrades Privates William McKinley, who afterward became president, and his blanket-mate, Joe Rudolph, brother-in-law of Garfield. This regiment also furnished President Hayes and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Stanley Matthews. Cowin participated in the battles of Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam and others. He served to the close of the war and rose to the rank of captain.

Returned to Cleveland, Ohio, studied law, and graduated from the Union Law College in 1867. Same year came to Omaha and commenced the practice of law.

In 1868 was elected District Attorney; two years thereafter re-elected. He has been attorney in many of the most important litigations, giving him a national reputation.

He was attorney for Governor Boyd in the classic case of Thayer vs. Boyd, involving United States citizenship of Boyd, finally determined in favor of Boyd in



to the National Convention in 1896 that nominated McKinley, his private comrade in 1861.

He sought no other office. He was invited by President McKinley into his cabinet as Secretary of War, but declined on account of his employment by the government in the foreclosure suits.

He was on the staff of Governor Furnas with the rank of Brigadier General. He is a member of the G. A. R., the Loyal Legion, Knights Templar, Shriners, Elks, the Omaha, Country, Field, University Clubs, and of Chamber of Commerce, American Bar Association and other societies.

His only son is in the regular army, W. B. Cowin, who served in Cuba, Philippines and Mexico, and is now Lieutenant Colonel.

General Cowin has always been a persistent advocate of reasonable military preparedness. Ten years ago, responding to a toast at a banquet to Secretary of War Taft, he said:

"We cannot have a peace nation, safe against the outer world, nor safe against the democracy of lawlessness rapidly growing within our land, unless it be supplemented by reasonable military preparedness."

Cowin was roundly denounced for this speech as a militarist, but he is of the same opinion today.

the Supreme Court of the United States, where a new class of citizenship was established. Boyd was declared a citizen, though a foreigner and had never been naturalized.

He was special counsel for the United States in foreclosing the subsidy bonds of the government against the Pacific railroads, and secured for the government \$68,000,000.00 as a result of the suits, claims that had been declared in congress to be worthless.

He is a republican and has been active in politics; was a candidate for United States Senator and defeated by a few votes by General Manderson; was a delegate