

MEXICO'S ROCKEFELLER MAY BE ITS PRESIDENT

Ambassador Creel Said to Be Training to Succeed Diaz

IN MEXICO there is a growing belief that the man who is known as the John D. Rockefeller of that country is in training to become the next President.

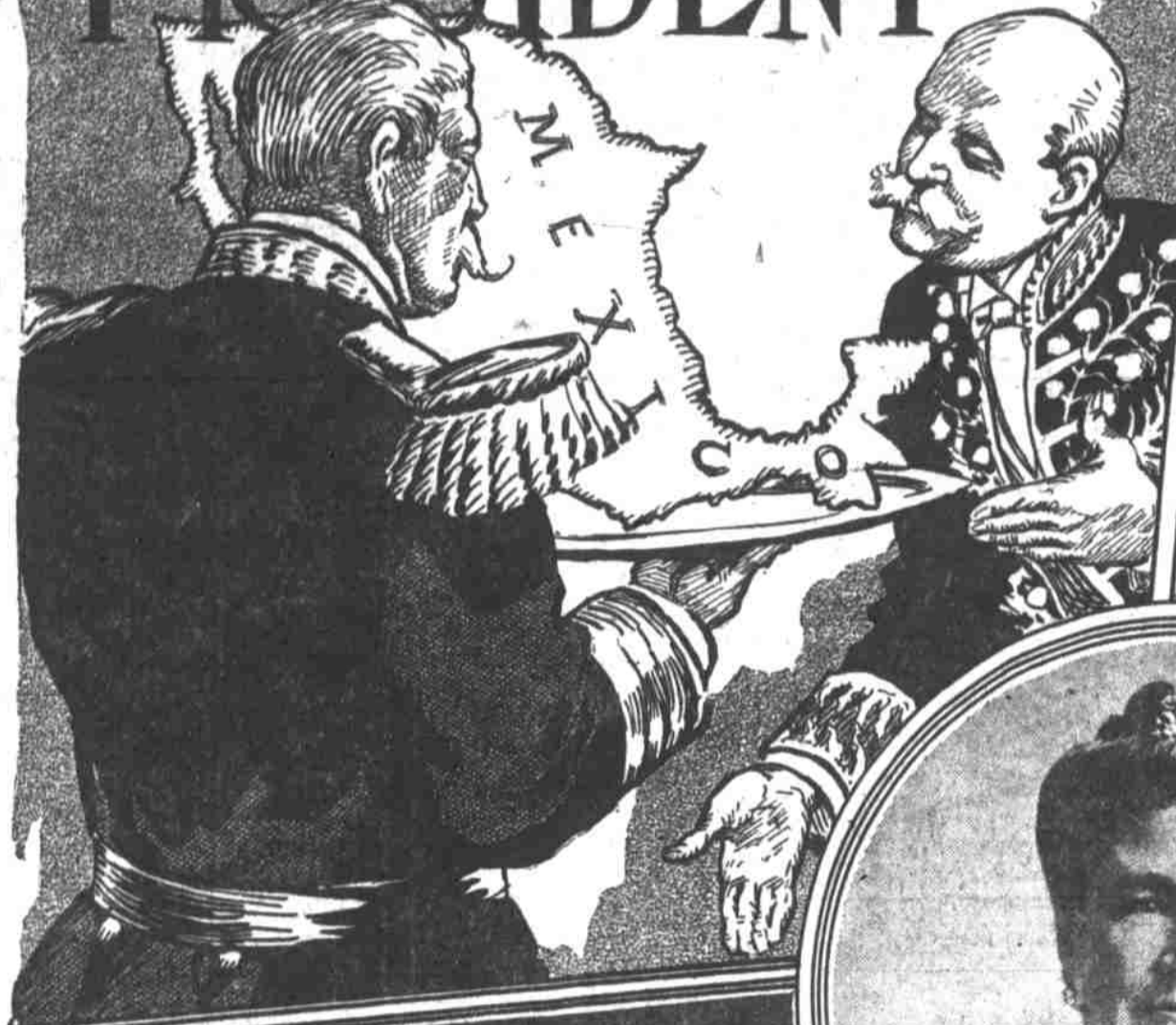
Thirty-two years ago General Porfirio Diaz, head of a victorious army, made himself President of Mexico. President ever since, he has proved himself the most beneficent autocratic ruler of a republic in history. With absolute power over government and treasury, he has maintained liberal republican ideals, regenerated a country torn by internecine struggle, and used the almost unlimited power at his command for the benefit of the 14,000,000 people constituting the nation.

President Diaz is now 78 years of age. His hair is white, his complexion waxen, his face is growing cadaverous. For several years Mexico's statesmen have spoken in whispers of the day when the mighty leader would have to give up his duties and when a successor would have to be chosen. They faced the difficulty of getting another Diaz, a man honest of purpose, unselfish of motive—one willing to sacrifice private gain for public weal.

At last, according to reports, a fit successor to Diaz has been found, a man worthy of his mettle, possessing the sterling qualities which have made Diaz one of the most successful rulers of his time. This man is said to be Enrique Creel, Governor of Chihuahua, ambassador to the United States from Mexico and one of the world's wealthiest men. Now in the prime of life, he is said to be progressive, magnanimous, intellectual and just, with the needed capacity for leadership.

PRESIDENT DIAZ, it has been said, has been an autocrat under protest. Enrique Creel has accepted public service not with any purpose of gain or personal advancement, but from a sense of duty to his country.

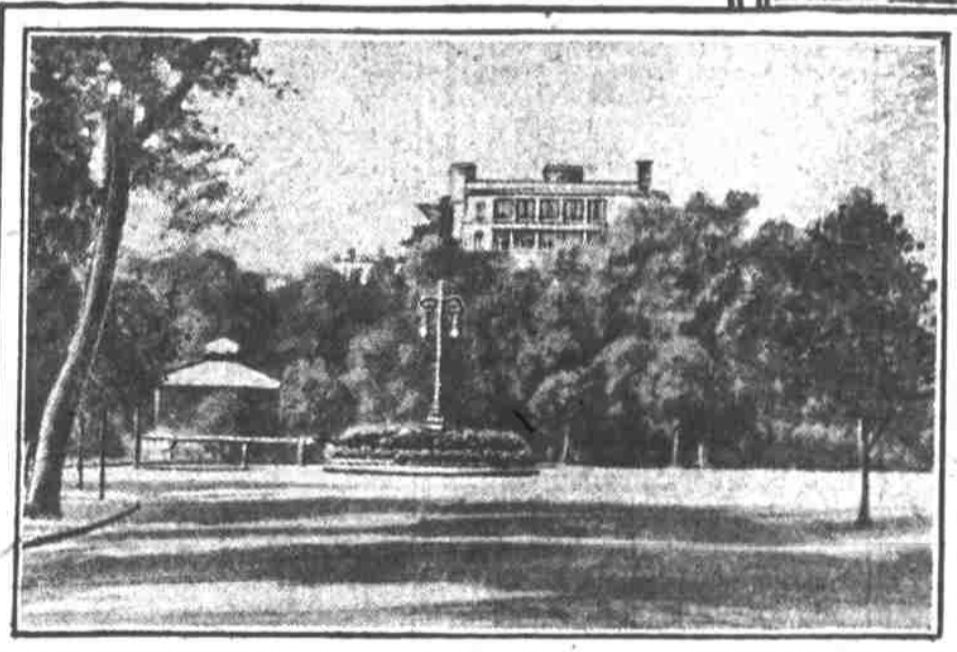
Diaz has done notable things for his nation. He established peace among a people who had been at war for more than fifty years; he secured religious freedom, established compulsory education, created a middle class



Copyright 1907 by Clive d'Amore



General Porfirio Diaz, Mexico's President.



Home of the President of Mexico.

and organized an army of nearly 40,000 trained soldiers. He has had Mexico represented at foreign capitals. He has secured an increase from 420 to more than 8000 miles of railroads.

Within twenty-five years after his assumption of the presidency there was an increase from \$35,000,000 to \$75,000,000 in the production of precious metals; from \$20,000,000 to \$43,000,000 in imports; from \$23,000,000 to \$75,000,000 in exports.

Foreign capital was brought to the country; the wages of laborers increased from 15 to 50 cents a day. The government secured a surplus in 1895 of \$10,000,000. Mexico City was vastly improved, and about \$10,000,000 has been spent for water, light, sewers and pavements.

A centralized government, giving all liberties but dominated by one head, was Diaz's idea; for the Latin-American people, he declared, could not be governed by a constitution like that of the United States. All attempts at national government previously failed; Diaz's scheme proved a success.

HARD TO FIND HIS LIKE

Diaz has protested to his cabinet that a successor must be found. "I am old," he would tell them. "I am tired of power. I want to take a rest before I die. I want to see a man trained who can take over the responsibilities of government, who can carry out the wise policies established."

Then there would be conferences. Statesmen would meet early in the morning, and remain together nearly all day. Names would be suggested, only to be rejected. One man could not be trusted. Another was known to favor northern corporations. This one might provoke a revolution. And so on.

Two years ago Enrique Creel came to the United States as ambassador. He secured unusually friendly relations between the two countries. Occasionally Creel's name had been mentioned as Diaz's successor. Rumor had it, however, that Jose Ives Limantour, minister of finance, was the likely candidate. But Limantour was advancing in years. That was an objection.

Now comes the announcement from the Mexican capital that Creel will likely be appointed to succeed the minister of finance, who has signified his intention of resigning; that this means Creel is to train for the presidency.

Probably there is no man in Mexico better fitted to rule the country than Creel. His life has been romantic. He is the most notable self-made man of the country.

Enrique Creel is said to be the richest man in Mexico; at any rate, only the wealth of his father-in-law,

General Luis Terrazas, can equal his. His wife, Senora Creel, who has become one of the favorite women in the diplomatic corps at Washington, in her own right ranks among the wealthiest women in the world.

Her income is estimated at \$5,000,000 a year. She is extremely modest, and wears dresses costing no more than \$14. In her native state the people worship her as their Lady Bountiful. Like St. Elizabeth of Hungary, this woman of wealth goes among the poor, personally seeing to their needs and dispensing mercy. Her husband has made the capital city of Chihuahua, with a population of 100,000, the most modern city in Mexico and one of the ideal communities of the world.

Enrique Creel's father was an American. Enrique was born poor. Now he is known as the John D. Rockefeller of Mexico.

His father, a Kentuckian, failing to make a success of business in this country, emigrated to Mexico in the early 40's. He set up a small store at Chihuahua and married a native woman. Enrique was born on August 21, 1854—and came as a ray of sunshine to the parents.

Business was discouraging, but somehow the father got along. Years passed, and six more babies came. Enrique grew, waxing in intelligence, and often, as he played about the Mexican home, the fond father and mother would build dream castles of what he should do when he became a man.

The father taught the child. He devoted all his energies to giving him knowledge. He filled the boy with ambitions. When scarcely out of his teens Enrique taught in a private school, and his earnings were devoted to the care of father and mother and sisters and brothers.

Enrique had the American hustle. While a teacher many Mexican business men, noting his activity, gave him hints to collect. In Mexico the "manana" policy of putting off until tomorrow what should be done today, which included the payment of debts, hampered business progress. Enrique got after creditors, and did not desert in his efforts until they paid. With a small capital the young man branched out in various kinds of mercantile business, all of which prospered.

In the meantime the young man came to the United States and finished his education. On his return he married the daughter of General Terrazas, then reputed to be the largest owner of cattle in the world.

Senior Creel today is said to be worth \$200,000,000. Years ago the generous husband gave to his wife a number of mining claims as a gift. From these already has come more than \$20,000,000 worth of ore.

In 1883 he helped to organize the Banco Mineral, with a capital of \$10,000,000, and a year later became manager. The capital now exceeds \$5,000,000, with a surplus and

reserve fund of \$1,200,000. The bank has branches in all parts of Chihuahua and in many other Mexican states. Creel is also one of the founders of the Banco Central of Mexico, which has a capital stock of \$100,000,000; the Banco Agricola and Hipotecario and the Guaranty Trust Company, of El Paso, Texas.

Years ago he learned of the vast copper deposits in Chihuahua and came to the United States for capital.

He got millions invested, and, through the Greene Consolidated Copper Company, mines were developed, railroads built and cities improved. Senior Creel is a director in the Mexican Central Railway, vice president of the Chihuahua and Pacific, director of the La Paz Clothing Factory, with a capital of \$1,000,000; the Campana Industrial, capital \$1,000,000; the flour mill of Chihuahua, capital \$4,000,000; the Chihuahua brewery, and many other large concerns.

He manages, in addition, the estates, mines, railroads and business enterprises of his father-in-law, who owns nearly the entire state of Chihuahua.

Something for the poor son of a poor American to achieve, isn't it?

When he became active Governor of Chihuahua, Senior Creel undertook to remedy deplorable conditions that prevailed. He possessed the American knack of system. He undertook to lay sewers in Chihuahua, to put up railroad lines, to install telephones and afford the people conveniences enjoyed in the great cities of the United States.

EDUCATED THE PEOPLE

Were the people ignorant? They should have schools. A public system of education was inaugurated. Were the people poor, in want? They should have labor and good recompense. Did the poor suffer from lack of attention when ill? They should have hospitals. Did they want to read? Let them have libraries.

Chihuahua city today has the finest system of public education in Mexico. Its business blocks rank with those in the best laid out cities of the North. There are fine hotels.

Is justice administered in Mexico? Not a Mexican but praises Diaz for his impartiality, his wisdom, as admirable in its way as that of Solomon. But in Chihuahua, more than any other state, is absolute justice administered, a benevolent yet exacting justice. The people are happy. They are prosperous.

Something for the American father to rear a son for, is it not?

Enrique Creel's most notable achievement is not the gaining of wealth. It is what he has done for his people. It is this that fits him to govern them.

Governor Creel's hobby is lifting up the people, educating them, abolishing the evils of poverty and administering justice. His wife, Senora Creel, the "Lady Bountiful" of Chihuahua, a gracious and lovely woman, is adored by the peasants of her country, among whom she goes dispensing largesse with a prodigal hand.

When in Washington this prospective lady of the Mexican White House entertains royally. She is regarded as one of the most charming of hostesses. She is singularly modest, and, although she dresses in good taste, never indulges in the sensational extravagances in clothing which have characterized many other wealthy women.

When a year or so ago Miss Morosini, of New York, confessed to spending \$300,000 a year on clothing, some one asked Senora Creel what she deemed the proper expenditure of a wealthy woman on dress.

"Really, I do not know," she declared. "I suppose every lady should follow her own inclinations. Should she not? For myself—well, I never pay more than about \$14 for a dress. And I get along quite well—oh, quite."

And remember the income of Senora Creel is estimated at \$5,000,000 a year! She owns cattle to the number of 60,000, and at her dinner table often sit as many as 400 guests.

Early in their married life the senora took a great interest in the success of her husband, and was always by to comfort him when he was harassed or perplexed. The marital life of the two has been ideal—one long romance, they say in Chihuahua.

For many years Enrique Creel has enjoyed the confidence of President Diaz. Senior Creel, at 54, is in full vigor and activity.

To will all who succeeds the liberal despot of Mexico will fall onerous duties and grave problems needing solution. And it is the general opinion in the country that no one has shown such desirable qualities as this son of an American father, Enrique Creel.

Factories use barrel after barrel of alkali to neutralize the acids, but with so small a measure of success that boiler pipes are sometimes eaten through in the course of three months, sometimes in the course of three weeks.

His father, chief veterinary surgeon of Greater Pittsburgh, found that the water's lead poison has so affected horses that numbers of them suffer from an otherwise accountable weakness, stumbling about unfit for work, with the pulse inadequate and intermittent.

The Zoo, located on Smithfield street, in Pittsburgh, has 200 feet of lead pipe leading to his home. He has the characteristic double wrist drop, and now he could not stand the water; the back of a sea cow became ulcerated; several monkeys—favorite subjects now for experiment because of their kinship to humanity—suffered of cardiac weakness, and one of the baboons had both arms paralyzed.

The human being who drinks the water that has stood overnight in the house supply pipes is liable, then, and there, to get a toxic dose of lead poison. Dr. Reetenwald's observation of those who, for a long period, have adhered to the common house supply of water has shown some to have weak, intermittent, irregular hearts, others gastro-intestinal symptoms, and a few traces of albuminuria.

While some have nothing but a little griping, lasting for months or years, others display all the symptoms of acute lead poisoning.

In the gastro-intestinal cases, lead colic and the vomiting of large quantities of bitter, corrosive, and in the nervous cases, multiple neuritis, disturbances of the pneumo-gastric nerve and the double wrist drop of paralysis were the fearful evidences of the chronic poisoning in the cardiac symptoms, the weak heart was steadily noteworthy.

Among the clear cases is one of a retired fireman who has 20 feet of lead pipe leading to his home. He has the characteristic double wrist drop, and now he is still paralyzed in both arms.

It has been noted, of late, that hospital physicians encounter a surprising number of weak hearts. Dr. Reetenwald finds that the lead poisoning produces precisely that symptom of the weakened heart muscle; and it would appear probable that all persons using the modern water supplies are exposed to the danger.

He urges, as a first remedy, the obvious one now advocated by all state medical supervisors of health—enactment of laws prohibiting the discharging of chemicals and other injurious materials in water courses.

Then, too, iron pipes should be substituted for the lead. Again, wherever pure spring water is procurable, it should be used instead of the city supply with boiling as a precaution against possible trouble. All in which has impracticable, in the opinion of the vast majority of householders.

At least, then, urges Dr. Reetenwald, turn on the spigots of the house every morning, and drain off every drop of water that has lain in the supply pipes overnight. Any one can employ that simple safeguard.

Avoid Lead Water Pipes—and Death



ON the heels of the surprising announcement, recently made, that a number of persons, who pride themselves on being drinkers of water, are, in reality, drunkards on water, comes a much more specific indictment of man's oldest and least appreciated beverage.

Dr. J. J. Reetenwald, of Pittsburgh, formerly resident of the Philadelphia Hospital, declares the urban populations of the country are poisoning themselves by means of their water supplies.

Lead poison, from house pipes corroded by the acid-bearing water, slowly disseminates itself through the system, loading up the blood with fatal chemicals, weakening vital organs, insidiously preparing the way for crippling disease and sudden, inexplicable death.

If Dr. Reetenwald's deductions are to be accepted—and he has forty cases to support them from his own private practice—thousands of mysteries of modern medicine, hitherto unaccountable upon any rational theory, find ready and simple solution.

And millions of Americans are leading what they imagine to be the simplest and most hygienic of lives, while, in truth, they are preparing themselves for a train of ailments which may culminate in such disaster as paralysis, neurasthenia, heart disease and death.

Water, water, everywhere. Not any drop to drink—Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner."

YEAR ago, Dr. H. C. Wood, the distinguished authority, gave his indorsement to river water, because, containing silicates in high proportion, it coated the lead pipes supplying dwellings and formed in them an insoluble salt of lead, leaving the water to flow through without any possible impregnation from its carrier.

"Things have changed since then," observes Dr. Reetenwald. "Our rivers, having become dumping places for mills factories hospitals and sewers, contain acids which continuously dissolve the lead of the pipes and carry those soluble salts directly to the stomachs not only of those who merely drink the plain water, but of those who employ the familiar precaution of boiling it."

"No! And he says it very emphatically. The river water supplied Pittsburg, he finds, often kills the fish, corrodes the iron pipes in factories and mills, rots the brass pipes in hotels and eats through the strongest boilers.

Lead poison, from house pipes corroded by the acid-bearing water, slowly disseminates itself through the system, loading up the blood with fatal chemicals, weakening vital organs, insidiously preparing the way for crippling disease and sudden, inexplicable death.

If Dr. Reetenwald's deductions are to be accepted—and he has forty cases to support them from his own private practice—thousands of mysteries of modern medicine, hitherto unaccountable upon any rational theory, find ready and simple solution.

And millions of Americans are leading what they imagine to be the simplest and most hygienic of lives, while, in truth, they are preparing themselves for a train of ailments which may culminate in such disaster as paralysis, neurasthenia, heart disease and death.

Water, water, everywhere. Not any drop to drink—Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner."