

LAST CHAPTER OF LIFE ROMANCE SHOWS DIAZ BROKEN AND OLD

Mexico's "Despot," Priest, Soldier and President, Only Shadow of Former Self.



Porfirio Diaz.

Mexico City, May 26.—Following the resignation yesterday afternoon of President Diaz, and later of Vice President Corral, the Mexican capital is today rejoicing.

President Diaz's letter of resignation was read in the chamber of deputies late yesterday afternoon amid profound silence. Protests were made by only two members.

At the news of the resignation of the old executive, the crowds that had blackened the streets all day veiled themselves in mourning. Mexico's representative, Dominguez, has taken practical charge of the affairs.

De la Barra Elected.
De la Barra, former minister to the United States, was elected president pro Tempore unanimously.

Diaz, the despot, as he has been so often called, has been broken down mentally and physically by the blow. He is broken in heart, and his pride is shattered.

President Diaz' letter of resignation reads:

"Sir—The Mexican people who generously have covered me with honors, who proclaimed me as their leader during a war, who patriotically assisted me to develop industry and commerce of the republic and establish credit, gain for it the respect of the world and obtain for it an honorable position in the concert of nations—that same people, sir, has revolted in armed military bands, stating that my presence in the exercise of supreme executive power is the cause of this insurrection.

"I do not know of any fact immediately attributed to me which could have created this feeling, but though not admitting that I may have been unwittingly culpable, such a hostility makes me the least able to reason out and remedy the faults that may have been committed. Therefore, respecting, as I always respected, the will of the people, and according to the will of the people and the constitution, I come before the supreme representatives of the nation unreservedly to relinquish the office of president of this constitutional republic to which I was chosen in accordance with the national vote, which I do with all the more reason since it would be necessary to shed more Mexican blood, endangering the credit of the country, disrupting its wealth and disturbing its policy and creating international complications, if I were to continue to hold the office.

"I hope, gentlemen, that when the principles which are inherent in all people have been developed more thoroughly, I will be appreciated for what I have done, if not for what I have tried to do."

Born in South.

Porfirio Diaz was born in the city of Oaxaca, in the southern part of Mexico, which was also the birthplace of Benito Juarez, on September 15, 1830. His father, a planter, died in 1833 of cholera, which, in that year, swept off an eighth of Mexico's population. Porfirio's mother was also of Indian descent, but also had Indian blood in her veins. Her grandmother having married a Mixteca, one of that superb aboriginal type of whose beauty and dignity the early chronicles had much to say.

Porfirio's parents wished to educate him for the church and, at the age of 7 sent him to one of the parochial elementary schools. Leaving the primary school at the age of 11, Porfirio became errand boy in a country store. After one year in that occupation he was again sent to school by his mother and, at the age of 14, he entered a seminary. During his course at that institution Porfirio practically supported himself by tutoring in his spare time.

At the seminary Porfirio prepared himself for the priesthood, but his inclinations were not in that direction. When he had completed his studies at the age of 17, he volunteered to serve in the war against the United States, but was not sent to the front. Then he decided to become a lawyer and after a course of four years entered the law office of Governor Juarez and Marcos Pere.

Rebel, Guerrilla and Soldier.

It was in the "War of Reform" in 1854-61 that young Diaz first saw active service in the ranks of the Liberals. Owing to his open opposition against Santa Ana, Diaz came into conflict with the party upholding the dictator. Orders were given to arrest and shoot Diaz, but he escaped and became advisor to the patriotic guerrilla leader, Herrera, then in revolt against the usurper. Soon after that Diaz entered the army as a student volunteer. Through his bravery

and devotion he resumed the reins of government. Diaz, in spite of the offers of a grateful people, preferred to retire from service to a small farm in his native state, known as La Noria. This he retained until political events again called him into public view. When, for the third time, Juarez was elected president, Diaz, like many other Liberal leaders, opposed him. It was at La Noria that Diaz finally issued his manifesto, entitled the "Plan of the Notables," which was equivalent to a declaration of rebellion against the Juarez government. Juarez most opportunely died just then, and Lerdo de Tejada was elected president. When, after three years, the rule of Lerdo had become insufferable, Diaz became the leader of the opposition and was proscribed. He was compelled to seek safety in the United States.

Makes Himself President.

Soon he returned to Mexico, however, and gathering a force, began a long campaign against Lerdo's army. After months of uphill fighting, marked by executive genius even rarer than his personal daring, Diaz defeated Lerdo and forced him to leave the country. On November 23, 1876, Diaz marched into the national capital without meeting resistance, and five days later assumed the executive power of Mexico, proclaiming himself provisional president. In April, 1877, he was elected constitutional president.

Better Days for Mexico.

Then began a better day for Mexico. For 300 years the unfortunate country had been under Spanish misrule and during the first 60 years after its emancipation from the Spanish yoke, Mexico had been the scene of almost incessant domestic warfare and revolutions in which the land was drenched with blood and progress was practically impossible. It was at this stage that the strong hand of Porfirio Diaz assumed the control of Mexico's ship of state. The man whose whole previous career had been spent among revolutions and civil wars, knew what course to adopt. With his perfect knowledge of intrigues he outwitted the revolutionists at every point. He appeared to trust no one. Of boundless energy, early at work, and untiring in devising plans of action, he became practically the head of all the departments of state. He understood their manifold ramifications, and mastered their details. Order and the restoration of the finances were his immediate objects. To achieve the former he dealt heroically with revolutions, and in the face of general uproar ordered nine revolutionists hanged at Vera Cruz at the beginning of his term of office.

Bandits Become "Buralas."

At that time Mexico was infested with countless brigands, who levied tribute from all travelers, high and low. With characteristic boldness and cunning Diaz sent for a number of the most powerful bandit chiefs shortly after he had become president. He asked them how much they gained by their trade and after they had informed him he offered them an honorable career in the service of the government and sufficient pay if they would abandon their

trade and devote their energy to the suppression of brigandage. The chiefs accepted the tempting offer and formed that body of rough riders and fighters known and respected throughout Mexico under the name of rurales.

Gonzales Shows Country's Need.

When his term of office expired in 1886, Diaz did not seek reelection but secured the election of his secretary of war, General Gonzales. The latter was not able to cope with the difficulties and problems of the time, and when he went out of office in 1884, leaving to his successor an enormous national debt and a disordered administration, the country was only too glad to have the strong hand of Diaz once more at the helm. He was elected with an overwhelming majority and remained at the head of the government ever since, being reelected at the expiration of each one of his numerous terms. In the same year Diaz married Senora, Dona Carmen Romero Rubio, the daughter of Romero Rubio. Rubio was one of Diaz's opponents, but was defeated by him and later became minister of the interior under Diaz.

Peace and Prosperity.

Under the rule of Diaz Mexico became a new land. He introduced sweeping and practical reform measures, increasing revenues without seriously increasing the burden of taxation and set on foot plans for the development of the national resources. He maintained peace at home and established friendly relations with foreign powers. The results of the new policy were soon apparent. Diaz saw that political peace and in-

dustrial prosperity were alike dependent upon railway communication. When Diaz was elected president for the first time, Mexico had about 360 miles of railroads. Twenty years later it had nearly 7000 miles and now considerably more than 16,000 miles. Much of this work was done by a costly system of subsidies, but there can be no question as to the wisdom of that investment. Aside from the effect of the railways on the industrial growth of Mexico, without them it would have been practically impossible for President Diaz to put into effect those political reforms which converted the country from a land of almost uninterrupted domestic war into a land of peace and law and order.

Recognizing the importance of popular education, Diaz extended and developed the school system throughout the country and fostered progress in sciences and literature.

Feed Manufacturers Meet.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 26.—The annual convention of the American Feed Manufacturers' association met in this city today for a two days' session. Members of the association from many parts of the country are in attendance.

Helped to Make Dime Novel.

Baltimore, Md., May 26.—Mrs. Mary Anderson Denison, one of the last survivors of the little group of authors whose sentimental stories established the success of the dime novel many years ago, celebrated her 85th birthday today at her home at Normandie Heights, a suburb of Baltimore. Mrs.

Denison is the author of more than 60 novels, many of which attained wide popularity. When she began to write, the sentimental novel was all the rage, and from the first her work was successful. Among her contemporaries

were Mrs. Southworth, Mary J. Holmes and Amy Randolph. These and several others now forgotten formed a galaxy of writers who made fame and fortune for the dime novel publishers as well as for themselves.

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4 pkgs. Table Salt	25c	Rump Roast Beef, per pound 12c	
7 pkgs. Matches	25c	Fork Chops, per lb.—15c to 20c	
12 bars Laundry Soap	25c	Sirloin Steaks, per lb.	12½c
7 bars Best "Erm All Soap"	25c	5 lb. Pail Compound	55c
1 large pkg. Pearlina	20c	10 lb. Pail Compound	\$1.00
1 bottle Bluing or Ammonia	5c	2 lbs. Pure Lard	25c
1 pkg. Postum	20c		
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2 cans Lake Brand Milk	25c	Rose City Flour, per bbl. \$5.00	
13 cans Lake Brand Milk	35c	Excellent Flour, per bbl. \$4.25	
1 case S. W. Beans	\$2.75	9 lb. sack Cr. Rolled Oats	45c
1 case Pioneer Milk	\$3.90	9 lb. sack Farina	45c
1 case Carnation Milk	\$4.00	9 lb. sack Graham Flour	35c
1 can Eagle Milk	15c	9 lb. sack Buckwheat	45c
2 cans Table Peaches	25c	9 lb. sack Yellow or White Corn Meal	30c
2 cans Shrimps	25c		
2 cans Oysters	25c		

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