

FAIR ELECTION CERTAIN SAYS MEXICAN OFFICIAL ON JULY VOTE BATTLE

**Danger of Hostility Arising
Over Results of Balloting on
Two Strong Military Men Be-
lieved Eliminated.**

BY RALPH H. TURNER
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 18.—If Mexico, in the ten years of political evolution that has followed the overthrow of the Diaz regime, has reached the stage where she will abide by the will of the majority, then she has achieved one of her greatest objects in the struggle for democratic government.

Next July Mexico will have an opportunity to prove to the world that she has reached that stage. In the coming presidential election there is material for political dissension and resultant disorder. But the election also offers Mexico the chance to merge peacefully from the first real battle of ballots that the Republic has experienced since the days of Diaz, when it wasn't even necessary to count the votes. Mexicans today declare that if their country can weather the troubled waters of an election year, it will mean the nation is on the sure road to peace and prosperity. The crisis will have passed.

Danger Lessened.
The difficulty, if there is any, will arise from contests over the results of the voting. With two strong military men in the race, a dispute might lead to grave internal complications. Such danger has been removed, however, according to Aguirre Berlanga, Secretary of Gobernacion, by the recently enacted laws of election reform.

"Even though both parties may present themselves as victors," Berlanga said in a statement to the United Press "the executive will recognize as elected only the candidates able to present authentic proof. The government in power does not have to think twice

about the matter, its role being reduced to the simple execution of the people's will."

By winning a majority on a permanent commission which functions while congress is adjourned, the Carranza government will be in control during the election. Fifteen of the twenty members composing the commission were chosen in the chamber of deputies last December, the government candidates winning decisively over those who represented General Obregon. Thus the government not only will be in technical control of the election, but Carranza, through his generals, is pushing plans to completely pacify the country before July.

Government Choice Puzzles
There are sidelights to the Mexican presidential campaign which form the subject of much speculation. Discussion of this character chiefly centers around the question of whether the government will throw its support to a particular candidate, and the identity of the government candidate—if there is to be one—naturally is being sought with eagerness in Mexican political circles. Both Carranza and Bonillas are mentioned. But the subject is a delicate one, and one that is discussed quietly in Mexico City.

In many circles the situation assumes added interest from the fact that a civilian candidate is to make a bid for votes. Bonillas' fate at the polls may be an answer to the oft-advanced theory that "Mexico is tired of Military men."

Then there is the query, often propounded in American quarters: "What will the choice of a new Mexican president mean to the relations between the United States and Mexico?"

Mexico's presidential election, as a matter of fact, should hold almost as much interest for Americans as it does for Mexicans.

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