

PRESS OPINIONS.

"THE STANDARD."

January 23rd, 1909.

MODERN RULERS AND THE JEWS.

"The attitude of modern rulers to the Jewish race is of interest at the present time. It was Disraeli himself who first drew attention to the advantages of relying for judgment on those whose position and fortunes placed them beyond the petty jealousies of less exalted beings; a simple fact on which were largely based the political principles of that most remarkable of modern Jews. And Disraeli did as much as anybody to bring the great ones of our present day into personal sympathy with a race whose persistent genius has withstood for centuries the test of prejudice and persecution.

"South America has long been a quarter of the globe towards which those interested in the Jewish question have turned their eyes. One by one the States of South America are finding political salvation, and one of the first to arrive at the goal, Mexico, is now reaping the reward of her dearly bought liberty. President Diaz, who presides over her destiny, is a man whose appearance suggests solid strength of character."

MR. DE KAY'S MISSION.

"Mr. John W. De Kay, who is himself of French Huguenot family, and who is known throughout two continents as a pioneer and captain of industry, has been discussing the question of Jewish

settlement in Mexico with President Diaz. Both men are at one in their admiration of Jewish persistence, virility, and social virtues. Conceiving that the settlement of Jews in Mexico might be to the great advantage of the colonist and tend to the acceleration of Mexico's progress, Mr. De Kay endeavoured to ascertain how President Diaz would regard such a scheme.

"Mr. De Kay has a great belief in the future of the Jew who has the foresight to settle in this Republic of the New World. Especially, he thinks, should the prospect be promising to those who are at present without political power. In such a rich country as Mexico they will cease to suffer from disabilities, and will be treated on equal terms. They by combination—than which political weapon no race knows better how to use—will force the smaller Republics to do them justice.

"There was certainly no mincing of words in his conversation with Mr. De Kay. His sympathy with the struggle of the Jewish race against odds such as are unprecedented in the history of the civilised world has long been acknowledged, and he has no limited appreciation of the value of a Jew as an asset in the land of his adoption."

"THE EVENING STANDARD."

January 23rd, 1909.

A LAND OF PROMISE.

"It is some years now since the late Baron Hirsch conceived a scheme for emigration of Jews to South America. But the subject has not ceased to hold the attention of the civilised world, especially

far-seeing statesmen of the Western Hemisphere, who realised the necessity for the influence of the practical, hard-working Hebrew among the somewhat lethargic inhabitants of Mexico and neighbouring countries. Among the rulers of the world there is no more strenuous character than President Diaz, of the United States of Mexico, a man of political might amounting to genius, patriotic sentiment, and unflinching will and courage. In every sense a man of action, he, if anybody, is the man to influence the emigration of a race whose qualities he has always openly admired.

"Some of the most interesting statements on the subject have been made to Mr. John W. De Kay, himself a strong man in the world of commerce, as well as a polished writer, and well known for his enterprise and breadth of sympathy. He has several times interviewed President Diaz on the subject, with the result that much may come of the combined efforts of these two active men.

"The riches of Mexico are proverbial. Its inhabitants have fought hard for their liberty, and, like most peoples whose political freedom has been hardly won, they are just to a degree of generosity to those of their fellow-creatures less fortunately circumstanced.

JEW'S GENUINE FRIEND.

"What has always struck Mr. De Kay in his relations with President Diaz is the man's sincerity. Every word uttered is brought out with a force of conviction that tells of weighty thought and carefully conceived conviction. The President is a man of his age, one who by sheer genius and force of will has risen from humble origin to be regarded as one of the most remarkable personalities of the world.

"Patriotic to a degree that almost sounds romantic in these material days, he is jealous of his country's honour in finance as well

as in other spheres of politics. He is anxious that she should stand before the world as an example of liberty, justice, and integrity. He is, however, worried at the tendency to lethargy inherited by his people, and what more natural than his desire to exhort them to more strenuous and thrifty methods by the example of the Jews?"

"THE GLOBE."

January 8th, 1909.

SETTLEMENT IN MEXICO.

Mr. John W. De Kay, of New York, who is, by the way, President of the Mexican National Packing Company, an important concern capitalised at £3,000,000, whose securities are well known on this side of the Atlantic, has been interviewing President Diaz on the question of Jewish settlement in Mexico. The gist of the interview, which appears in the *Whitehall Review*, makes it clear that the President is entirely favourable to any well-conceived plan of the kind. He is not only favourable, but may almost be said to be anxious that something should be done to arrange for colonisation on a large scale. "If a syndicate of wealthy Jews who are interested in the progress of their race were to purchase from the Mexican Government suitable tracts of land in various parts of the country and people this land with industrious Jews from Europe," he says, "these communities could be industrial as well as agricultural, and could give profitable employment to skilled labour in almost every line."

PRESIDENT DIAZ'S INVITATION.

"President Diaz is a shrewd and practical administrator, who has no doubt considered this question of Jewish settlement very

carefully before committing himself to any expression of opinion. He goes on:—"The price we have paid for liberty has been justified by what it has done for the people who live under our flag, and I would consider that the Mexicans had added greatly to their achievements if they were able to confer the blessings of freedom upon large numbers of the great race of Jews, born under other flags of the world, and, with or without cause, denied what ought to be the heritage of all men." Mr. De Kay has done well to elicit so unmistakable an invitation from President Diaz. If it should be accepted on anything like an important scale, the financial and industrial position of Mexico would benefit proportionately, and her credit, already high, improve still further.

"THE FINANCIER AND BULLIONIST."

January 8th, 1909.

(MR. DE KAY ON THE JEWS.)

"The author of the article is Mr. John W. De Kay, who, though known to two continents as a pioneer and a captain of industry, is one of those business men on whom culture sits gracefully—an exemplar of the modern, but yet too infrequent, type which, though keenly commercial, is liberal-minded, far-seeing and endowed with the higher aptitudes.

"Mr. De Kay is no novice in literary achievement, for he has written much concerning Mexico—a country that seems to exercise a spell over all who come within its influence.

"The subject of the article, and concerning which he sought conversations with President Diaz—namely, the prospect of Jewish

settlement in Mexico—implies that its author is an original but practical thinker, of wide sympathies, and capable of bold projects. His admiration of Jewish persistence, virility and social virtues is manifest. Conceiving, therefore, that the settlement of Jews in Mexico might be to the great advantage of the colonists and tend to the acceleration of Mexico's progress, he endeavoured to ascertain how President Diaz would regard such a scheme.

"It will be seen from the appended extracts that the President not only approves of the project, but assures all whom it may concern that Mexico would welcome Jewish settlers with open arms, and give them such concessions as they could scarcely secure in less favoured lands. Here, therefore, we have one more proof of the President's large-mindedness and catholicity—of Mexico's enlightened policy under his firm but beneficent rule."

"THE DAILY GRAPHIC."

January 23rd, 1909.

(MEXICO AS A LAND OF PROMISE.)

"That wonderful and much-oppressed race, whose intelligence and virility have defied the persecution of centuries, have had many champions among Christian peoples, but few who have espoused their cause with more intelligence and enthusiasm than Mr. John W. De Kay, the founder of the Mexican National Packing Company. That gentleman, who combines business ability with strong imagination and literary instinct, has made his name known in two hemispheres for the practical schemes he has laid for the

future of the Jewish race. All his life has he been fascinated by this extraordinary people. Their strong contrast in temperament, their perseverance and industry, and their strong individuality are a combination of characteristics that cannot fail to interest a man of the world who combines mundane experience with a spirit of poetry.

"Under persecution, which always brings out the best and worst in mankind," Mr. De Kay remarks, "the Jew has achieved a unique and distinct place in the guiding force of the world. He has always been thoughtful, and a student, and faithful to his task. What he has believed in he has done, and when mankind forced him to trade and to loan money he did it well; and has become the greatest merchant in the world. As fast as Society made land owning unsafe for the Jews, they have acquired the movable property created by the industry of mankind. He is the banker for the world, and has learned that the one who controls the credit of nations can go very far towards controlling the policy of those nations.

POWERFUL JEWISH BANKERS.

"The next great step in the history of this wonderful race is that the powerful Jews everywhere unite and command the recognition to which their people are entitled by every consideration which weighs in the judgment of the world, and since the credit of no nation could withstand the sustained boycott of the Jewish bankers of the world, it remains for the powerful Jews to unite on all the great questions of principle underlying the treatment of their race, and, whenever necessary, make their personal interests secondary to the broad question of how a nation shall deal with their people.

"Like many a good man before him, Mr. De Kay has

wondered why the descendants of Abraham have not taken greater advantage of those richly endowed countries of Central and South America—perhaps the most God-blessed regions of this planet on which we live.

"If any of the countries that comprise that fertile region south of the United States have found political salvation, it is Mexico. For liberty her inhabitants have fought, and liberty have they dearly bought. Like most peoples whose independence and freedom is a genuine and sincere asset, their instinct is to extend to others those liberties they enjoy themselves. Mr. De Kay has studied Mexico, especially from the point of view of a Jewish immigration, and, thorough in all things, he has on several occasions discussed the subject in all its details with that most able and patriotic of rulers, President Diaz."

"THE GRAPHIC."

January 30th, 1909.

MEXICO AS THE LAND OF PROMISE.

"Central and South America as the Land of Promise has long been a favourite theme with those interested in the modern Jewish question. Groaning under disabilities suggestive of the Middle Ages rather than the twentieth century, the Jews of Eastern Europe are gradually migrating to free countries, in many cases, unfortunately, to places already over-populated, and thereby rendering even more difficult to the natives the ever-present struggle for daily bread. There is no use disguising the fact that in such cities as our own the constant stream of immigrants from Russia and else-

where is becoming a subject that even a lethargic Government, preferring the shibboleths of theory to the facing of actual facts, will have to deal with drastically. It is not as though London were the most attractive city for these unhappy wanderers. Here, it is true, they find friends and freedom. But they find an overcrowded population like 'serpents in an Egyptian vase' to use the words of Carlyle, 'each struggling to rear its head above the others.' What the immigrant Jew wants is equal liberty, with more room and scope for those innate qualities of industry, thrift, and intelligence, which are such strong characteristics of the remarkable race to which they belong.

"Among the many able men who have studied with sympathy the question of the modern Jews is Mr. John W. De Kay, a man whose name is known as a writer of wide range and an energetic man of business in two hemispheres. He knows Mexico thoroughly, and, having the Jewish question at his fingers' ends, what he has to say on the subject of Mexico as a land for immigration is of supreme interest.

"The riches and resources of the Great Presidency of Central America are an historic fact; that, despite the hundreds of years the country has been civilised according to western ideas, her many resources are still in the infancy of development, every man of ordinary intelligence is aware. There we have a *prima facie* argument in favour of Mexico as a land for immigration. Let us examine her advantages from a political point of view.

"Mr. De Kay has on more than one occasion gone carefully into the matter with President Diaz, one of the most remarkable and patriotic rulers that ever presided over a free people. The President is a man who wastes few words, and the suggestion of conviction, formed on deliberate thought and experience, with which

he utters his view, is more suggestive of the solid Anglo-Saxon or German statesman than the usually loquacious, if brilliant, Latin.

"It will be seen that Mr. De Kay's conversations with President Diaz have been mainly directed to the political aspect of the question. The Grand Old Man of Southern America, as he has been often called, belongs to that class of statesmen on whose word his subjects have been in the habit of relying, and it is here, perhaps, that we find the secret of his strength and influence. Ignorant though the immigrant Jew often is in many respects, he instinctively knows the commercial and industrial value of the country to which he goes. It is for his friends to assure him of the advantages from the point of view of citizen.

"Mr. De Kay has often, in his writings on Mexico, said much of the President's personality. He is a man of his age, one who has risen from humble origin to the highest position in the State. Like many men, including such eminent statesmen as the late Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Balfour, he has travelled but little. And yet a native genius has endowed him with an intuition regarding the world's affairs and the characteristics of its people that is keener and less biassed than that of the average much-travelled ruler. Perhaps his strongest feature is patriotism, and some of his utterances suggest that lofty attitude to his country which was the glory of Roman statesmen in the zenith of the great Empire. In his last interview with Mr. De Kay he said:—

"The price we have paid for liberty has been justified by what it has done for the people who live under our flag, and I consider that the Mexicans had added greatly to their achievements if they were able to confer the blessings of freedom upon large numbers of the great race of Jews, born under other flags of the world, and, with or without cause, denied what ought to be the heritage of all men."

"There is no question that Mr. De Kay and his schemes for the amelioration of the Jewish lot have a strong friend in the Mexican President. No doubt, as time goes on, and the fact becomes more widely known, some of the powerful Jews of Europe and the United States will help their less fortunate brethren in settling down under satisfactory conditions in this, one of the richest countries in the world, a country which has yet its future before it. The Spaniards are a noble and aristocratic race, but energy is not their strong point, nor were the original inhabitants strong in that respect. Given the example of thrift and industry, which a Jewish element always supplies, there will be a vast improvement in the business methods in this Land of Promise.

"THE SKETCH."

January 27th, 1909.

PRESIDENT DIAZ INTERVIEWED.

"When two strong, practical men sit down to talk on sound schemes of international importance, there is usually much of original interest and sound common-sense to be gathered from their conversation. But when one of these persons is so great a character as President Diaz of Mexico, justly called the Grand Old Man of Central and South America, and the other is a traveller, man of affairs and culture, like Mr. John W. De Kay, there is an opportunity of learning truths exceptional in their force and interest. Mr. De Kay, himself of French Huguenot family, has made the Jewish question his own. He has studied this people in all their aspects. As a man of business, he knows their commercial and financial genius; as a man of culture, he has learned their artistic merits and

temperamental individuality; and as a man of letters, their astonishing history has held his attention.

"Mr. De Kay, who has already written much concerning Mexico, has had some interesting conversations with President Diaz. The Mexican President recognises that religion is a personal matter which every man must settle for himself. His own country was for a long time under fanatic rule, the results of which will not readily be effaced. His sympathies are therefore all the keener with the Jew in his struggle. He has a high opinion of the value of the Jew in the development of any country which he adopts. The Jew has been a valuable element in the development of the United States, and has shown himself willing to conform to its conventions and laws. Whether the Jew could ever be induced to go back to the land is a doubtful question. Certainly to-day he is very far from agriculture, and he may never go back. But if a number of influential Jews, who were genuinely interested in the national cause, were to secure suitable tracts of land in various parts of Mexico and people this land with industrious Jews from Europe, communities could be established which would be not only agricultural but industrial, and give profitable employment to every branch of skilled labour."

"THE SUNDAY TIMES."

January 24th, 1909.

(PATRIOT AND RULER.)

"There are those who regard President Diaz of Mexico as one of the strongest rulers in the world; if they are not so numerous as they might be, it is due to the fact that the President, like the

patriot he is, prefers dwelling in his own country to the present mania for aimless travelling. So fine a personality cannot but excite general interest. The last man in the world to encourage meaningless interviews, when the President does unburden himself it is to talk of matters of world-wide interest with a weight and directness peculiarly his own. Among those fortunate enough to discuss public affairs with this Grand Old Man of South America is Mr. John W. De Kay, whose name is known over the world as a leader of commerce. Mr. De Kay, who, by the way, is of French Huguenot origin, is particularly interested in President Diaz's attitude towards the Jews, which is that of an advanced thinker and shrewd statesman. Originally a cultivator of the soil, centuries of persecution caused the Jew to divert his energies into finance and commerce, with the result that he is now the banker of the world, and to that extent the arbiter of nations.

A MAN OF IRON.

"Like a good many other Republics, Mexico looks to its President for real leadership. No mere figurehead is her nominal ruler, and when you come to a personality like the present President you must look to his grand qualities and realise that his words are words of weight, the opinions of a strong man whose convictions are based on solid thought and experience. Mexico has reached that happy stage when the value of its ruler's strength lies in his sense of justice and fairness, his scrupulousness in matters both great and small. His administration is sound, his people free, and liberty is the watchword of the country. But his people lack thrift and industry, and here he looks to financiers to set an example.

AN ADVANCED ADMINISTRATION.

"The President of the Mexican Republic rules over a country

whose resources are unsurpassed and whose administration is an example to her sister States in the South American continent. Liberty, equality and justice are now the watchwords in Mexico, and to impressing this fact on down-trodden members of the Jewish race in other parts of the world a good many of Mr. De Kay's recent interviews with the President have been directed. President Diaz is unaffectedly anxious to encourage this industrious people to visit his country."

"THE FINANCIAL NEWS."

January 23rd, 1909.

JEW AS IMMIGRANT.

"The Jew as immigrant has long been a subject of thoughtful study to the deeper political thinkers of the world. While backward countries, fettered by religious prejudice and political narrowness, have oppressed and hampered the children of Israel, far-sighted rulers have taken advantage of the situation to throw open their countries to them, and have found them peaceful, law-abiding, and useful citizens. Mr. John W. De Kay, widely-known in the world of commerce as founder of the Mexican National Packing Company, is also a broad and practical thinker, a man of wide experience and deep sympathies. Mr. De Kay, who is of French Huguenot extraction, has always had an unaffected admiration for the Jews, and few have studied their history, especially from the psychological point of view, with more intelligence. Like others interested in the Jewish question of to-day, he has turned his eyes to Central America as a land not only rich as few parts of the world are, but

for many reasons especially suitable to Jewish immigration. He has recently been discussing the subject with the strongest personality in Central America—President Diaz, of Mexico. In that remarkable statesman he has found a confidant as appreciative of the Jewish character as himself. President Diaz presides over a people whose freedom is no theory, but a real, living fact, for which Mexico has fought hard in the past, and of which she is justly proud.

“Mr. De Kay is of the opinion that if the Jews who are without political power can be settled in the republics of the New World they will cease to be oppressed, and through a union of the powerful members of their race they can compel the small republics to make terms with them and to treat them with justice and liberality.

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“Patriot though he be, President Diaz would not be the sound statesman that he is were he to blind himself to the shortcomings of his people. Two things the Mexican requires to learn: thrift and skilled labour. These are the stumbling blocks among so many people, and here will the example of the Jew prove more efficacious than all the precepts that the human brain can conceive. It would be well were some of our own statesmen at home a little more outspoken on this point. Some of President Diaz’s statements breathe the true spirit of patriotic statesmanship.”

“THE DAILY EXPRESS.”

January 25th, 1909.

PRESIDENT DIAZ AND THE JEWS.

“Mr. John W. De Kay is a man of wide experience; one of those rare exceptions, in these days of strenuous specialism, of a man

who has managed to develop wide sympathies and broad culture with a reputation for commerce and finance in two hemispheres. He is particularly interested in the history of the Jews, and like many another able man before him, looks to the wealth-endowed countries of Central and South America as a land of promise for that wonderful people.

“Mexico especially has been holding his attention of late. Mexico has many advantages over her neighbours. She, of all the countries of South America, may be said to have found political salvation. With a Constitution founded on the principles of the United States of America, her public services reveal a discipline that might well be envied by many so-called free countries, and an absence of corruption that shows maturity without decadence. Her President has been rightly called the Grand Old Man of South America.

“When President Diaz talks it is with the unaffected deliberation of a man who has weighed his words. His honest mind is full of matured convictions and useful opinions, and he has no time for triflers. Great weight, therefore, attaches to a series of conversations between himself and Mr. De Kay on the subject of the Jews and Mexico, and Mr. De Kay has been good enough to give the world much that President Diaz has told him.

“The published interviews, apart from what the President has to say, show Mr. De Kay as a bold and original thinker, with practical ideas concerning how the persevering, thrifty, and industrious will benefit Mexico, and at the same time enjoy political and religious freedom in the best sense of the word.

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“The interviews that Mr. De Kay has had with President Diaz have convinced him that there is no stronger or more practical

advocate of the Jew, as an immigrant, among the rulers of the world.

"The Mexican has inherited a rich country. For generations he had little need to indulge in hard work, and his origin and training scarcely fitted him for the industrious, thrifty, methodical life necessary to build up the great commercial country in his possession.

"All these qualities are strongly developed in the Jew, who would readily influence his less practical Mexican neighbours."

"THE FINANCIER AND BULLIONIST."

January 25th, 1909.

WHAT A CORRESPONDENT SAYS.

"We have received the following interesting communication from a correspondent :—

"The article on the subject of President Diaz and the Jews, which appeared in your columns on the 8th inst., raises a question of great interest and importance both to Mexico and the Jewish community, and, as one who has given some thought to the problem of which it offers a solution, I am tempted to lay my views before you. At the outset let me pay a tribute to the man who has been responsible for introducing this subject to the notice of the British people. Mr. John De Kay may justly claim to be the originator as well as the exploiter of a scheme which does credit alike to his business instincts and his humanitarian sympathies, and it is but natural that he should display considerable enthusiasm for the cause of which he is the foremost and earliest champion. His confidence and his ardour are in themselves an assurance that the project he has taken in hand will be carried to a successful issue. Quite apart

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