

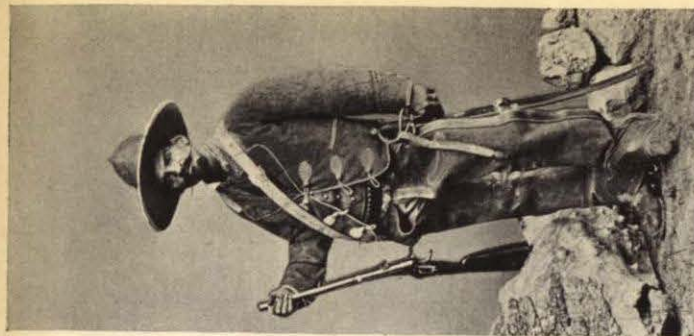
CHAPTER V

Government—Legislative chambers—The Cabinet—Judicial powers—State governments and judiciary—States and their groupings—Ministerial departments—Ministers and the public—The Federal District Government—The Army—Rurales de la Federacion—Their equipment and organisation—Remodelling of the Mexican Army and Navy Departments.

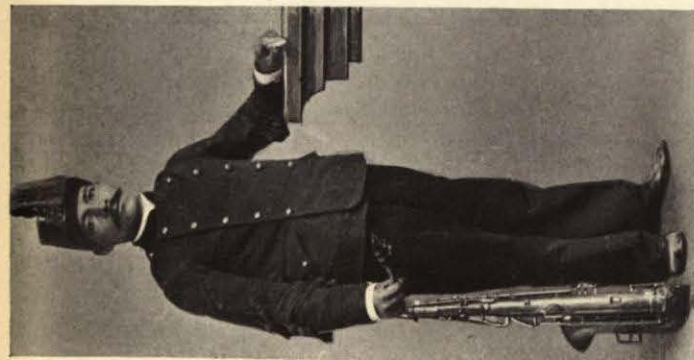
THE President of the Republic, who is the supreme executive power, is elected indirectly by electors chosen by the people. His term of office is for four years, and, unlike the Republics of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, he may be re-elected indefinitely. This was not always the case, but the Constitution was amended on December 20th, 1890, to admit of this being done. The President must be a Mexican-born, not less than thirty-five years of age, must not belong to any religious order, and must be a resident of the country at the time of his election.

The Cabinet consists of seven Secretaries, all heads of different Departments—Foreign Affairs; Finance; Public Works; Industry and Colonisation; Interior; Justice and Public Instruction; and War and Navy. All these Ministers must be native-born Mexican citizens, and at least 25 years of age. The President receives a salary of \$50,000 (£5,000) per annum, and the Ministers \$15,000 (£1,500) each.

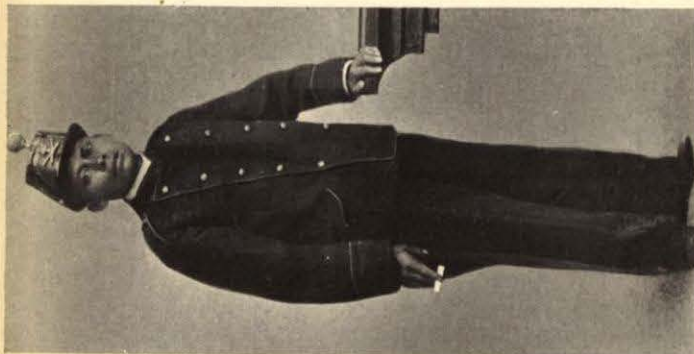
The idea that a Republic should provide an example in simplicity of living on the part of its President is realised by General Porfirio Diaz, who, except upon those State occasions which demand some display and pageantry, passes an exceedingly plain and unostentatious existence. His town house (No. 8, Calle Cadena), is one of a long line in a not ultra-fashionable thoroughfare, containing banks and other com-



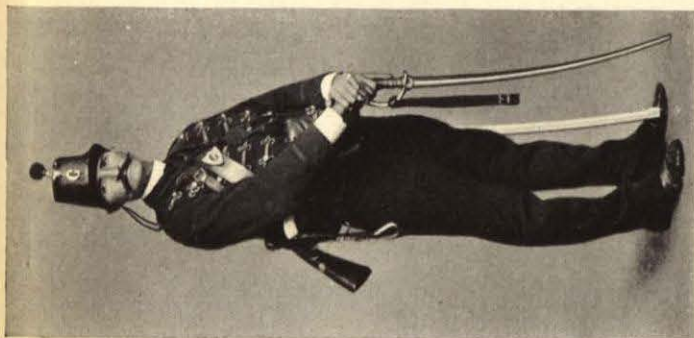
RURAL GUARD.



INFANTRY BANDSMAN.



ARTILLERY GUNNER.



GENDARME

TYPES OF THE MEXICAN ARMY.—see pp. 36-40.

mercial institutions; and he uses his official residences, the National Palace and the Castle of Chapultepec, but seldom and only for public functions.

So far from entering, then, into competition with the more luxurious members of the community, he really offers a striking contrast to extravagance and ostentation. There are many sensible people who contend that the Head of a State should not allow himself to be outdone in wealth by his subjects, as is the case in the United States of America particularly; but President Diaz has his own opinions upon these matters, and he continues to live the life of a well-to-do but not an extravagant gentleman. He is nevertheless believed to be a very rich man, and it is estimated that his private fortune cannot be far less than £1,000,000. Certain it is that the President is exceedingly generous and entertains both frequently and liberally, which could not be done well out of £5,000 a year.

The Legislative Power consists of two Chambers as in most, if not all Republics, namely the Senate and the Deputies. In the first named there sit two Senators for each State and the Federal District, who are chosen as are the Deputies. The Deputies are elected every two years in the proportion of 1 Deputy for every 40,000 inhabitants. The Congress holds two ordinary sessions annually, the first, which may be extended thirty days, beginning on September 16th and ending on December 15th, and the second commencing April 1st and adjourning May 31st. But under certain exigencies this Session may be continued for a further fifteen days.

The Judicial Power consists of a Supreme Court of Justice, with 3 Circuit and 32 District Courts. The Supreme Court is composed of eleven "magistrados" or judges, four deputy-judges, an Attorney-General and a Public Prosecutor. They are all appointed for 6 years, and are indirectly elected by the people, in exactly the same way as are the Senators and Deputies. The Supreme Court Judges receive \$5,475 (£547 10s.) a year, and the District Judges \$3,650 (£365) each, moderate enough salaries in all conscience.

All the above-named officers and regulations apply to the Federal Government. In regard to the various State Governments the arrangements are as follows: Each State has its

own Congress, the members of which are called Deputies and sit for two years; and a Governor, elected indirectly by the people, and who, although nominally appointed for four years only, can be, and frequently is, elected indefinitely. The judicial power in the greater number of the States is reposed in a Supreme Court of Justice and inferior courts. Each State is divided politically, as a rule, into different districts, each ruled over by a *Jefe Politico*, or, as we should call him, Political Chief, while the French equivalent would be *Préfet*. There are minor divisions or municipalities, each having its *ayuntamiento*, or Town Council and Mayor. Each State is bound to deliver up, without any preliminaries, criminals from all States to the authority demanding them. The various powers in the Federal and State Governments work admirably together, the Mexican Constitution forbidding one State to make war upon another or against the Federal Government (as has been done in Brazil, Colombia, and other of the less reputable South American Republics), while no State can conclude any alliance, treaty or league with another State, issue letters of marque or reprisal, coin money, issue paper-money, stamps or stamped paper, or decree any kind of laws which would cause "differences of taxes or requisites by reason of the source of national or foreign merchandise, whether those differences be established in regard to a like production in that locality or on account of like production from different sources."

The salaries of the State Governors of Mexico are exceedingly moderate considering the great amount of attention which they have to pay to the affairs of their respective States, the small amount of vacation allowed, and the heavy responsibilities which their offices carry. The highest salaries are received by the Governors of Veracruz and Puebla, amounting to \$12,000 (£1,200), or .0093 per cent. and .0084 per cent. of the total amount of taxes collected in their States. The Governor of Tlaxcala receives but \$3,000 (£300), or .0145 per cent. of the total taxes collected in his State.

The Federal Government, on the other hand, has almost unlimited powers, but what it cannot do is "to establish or decree in the District and Federal Territories the taxes and laws expressed as regards the States."

The United Mexican States are divided into 1 Federal District, 27 States, and 3 Territories. These are as follows:

City of Mexico	- Federal District (1).
Aguascalientes	} Central States (11).
Durango	
Guanajuato	
Hidalgo	
Mexico	
Puebla	
Morèlos	
Querétaro	
San Luis Potosi	
Tlaxcala	
Zacatecas	
Chihuahua	} Northern States (4).
Coahuila	
Nuevo Leon	
Sonora	
Campeche	} Gulf States (5).
Tabasco	
Tamaulipas	
Veracruz	
Yucatan	
Colima	} Pacific States (7).
Chiapas	
Guerréro	
Jalisco	
Michoacán	
Oaxaca	
Sinaloa	
Tepic	} Territories (3).
Baja California	
Territorio de Quin- tana Roo	

The various Federal Governmental Departments, all of which have their offices in the City of Mexico, are carried on with the greatest of precision and decorum. For the most part, the Ministers are located in large and handsome buildings, somewhat separated at present owing to there being no

central establishment. The Ministers are accessible to the public who are received in audience, either by special appointment or upon the usual days and at the specified hours, which are conspicuously posted in the reception-rooms. As a rule the ante-rooms of the Cabinet Ministers are well filled by audience-seekers, especially during the sittings of Congress.

So accustomed are the Members of the Government to consult with the shrewd and level-headed Chief Magistrate, and to follow his advice, that even comparatively trivial matters occurring in their departments, and which they are both competent and authorised to decide for themselves, are referred to President Diaz, who thus has a complete and thorough knowledge of everything which goes on in the Government.

Moreover, in spite of his advanced age, which has passed the allotted span by several years, the President retains a simply remarkable memory for both faces, facts and figures. He succeeds, moreover, in imparting a great deal of his own native shrewdness and faculty of deciding quickly and justly to his Ministers, one and all of whom are devoted to him and defer unhesitatingly to his judgment should any question of difference of opinion at any time arise. A more united "family" than General Diaz and his Cabinet does not exist; the only changes made from year to year are those caused by deaths or resignations from ill-health.

The Federal Government, having sway over the whole of the Federal District, which comprises Mexico City, came into existence only on July 1st, 1903. Previous to that date, the various small towns and suburbs surrounding the Capital were entirely dependent upon their own limited resources, and consequently but little progress or enterprise was possible. By introducing the new form of administration, increased facilities for improvements, by reason of the wide resources of the Capital itself being available, were at once obtained, to the great benefit of the large population concerned. The Federal Exchequer is drawn upon for all general or special requirements, and the original idea of the greatest good for the greatest number has fructified amazingly.

The administration of the Federal District is in the hands of three Federally-appointed officers, the Governor, the Presi-

dent of the Superior Board of Health, and the Director of Public Works. Each has his own clearly-defined sphere of utility, but upon occasion the whole three can form a "Superior Governing Board," and act in unison. All municipal corporations such as exist in the Argentine and Brazil and prove such a fruitful source of corruption and obstruction, have been swept away, but aldermen, representing, and being elected by, the people, still possess some influence in purely local matters, and exercise their rights of initiative, watchfulness and veto. Only the President of the Republic can set aside any such veto passed by the majority; but up to the present no such occasion for interference has presented itself. The administration works uncommonly smoothly, and is a decided improvement upon the old "ayuntamientos," or governing bodies, which formerly had charge of purely local interests, such form of "parish politics" prevailing for nearly four hundred years, in fact from the time of the Conquest. The Federal District of Mexico offers an admirable object-lesson to our own defective County Councils, and London might rejoice if she possessed as clean and sensible a form of local administration, instead of the expensive incubus at present sitting on her chest.

With so distinguished and capable a soldier at the head of the Government, it is not to be wondered at that, just as soon as peace was finally established and the country was fit for it, General Diaz set about the task of thoroughly re-organising the Army, and introducing that system and orderliness which had hitherto been lacking.

A good deal of shuffling of the cards has taken place during the past five-and-forty years, since, with every change of President or head of the Government in Mexico, no matter under what designation it was known, there has invariably been a change of Secretary of War and Navy. Altogether, there have been about 80 changes of Secretaries and Acting Secretaries of War, some of whom have been in office more than once. It is indispensable that a Mexican Secretary of War should be a distinguished soldier holding high military rank; and for further preservation of the peace he must, of a necessity, be a loyal adherent of the Head of the State.

As previously mentioned, the Secretary of War and Navy

is one of the seven Cabinet Ministers, and the Department over which he presides is one of the Departments of State. He has full and undisputed control of the army, the navy, the national guard, the merchant marine, military legislation, administration of all the military schools, military justice, privateer commissions, naval academies, military hospitals, forts, fortifications, barracks, arms and ammunition, factories, arsenals, military stores, warehouses and depôts. Thus, it will be seen, how vast and widespread are the Minister's responsibilities, and how necessary it becomes to appoint an experienced and thoroughly responsible man.

Since the end of the protracted internal and foreign wars, the Government have set themselves to the accomplishment of two tasks, first to reduce the standing army, and secondly, to thoroughly reorganise and improve it. The Army is divided into three sections—the Active, the Reserve and the Second Reserve.

For purposes of comparison, I append the number of the officers and men comprising the Mexican Forces in the pre-peace and the post-peace times:

The Permanent Army of Mexico.					1867.	1897.
Rank and file	...	...	...	...	37,133	26,011
Officers:						
Major-Generals	...	...	...	...	11	8
Brigadier-Generals	...	...	...	...	73	54
Colonels	}	...	...	...	1,041	955
Lieutenant-Colonels						
Majors						
Commissioned Officers from rank of Captain to Ensign	...	...	...	...	2,335	2,379

The considerable reduction effected in all branches except that of Commissioned officers holding rank between that of Captain and Ensign, and which was actually increased by 44, will be observed. The various divisions of the Army are as follows:

INFANTRY: { 28 battalions, 4 skeleton battalions, 2 companies of District troops, 1 section of scouts, the auxiliary troop of Sonora (18 officers and 219 men), and the Yucatán guard (21 officers and 401 men).

CAVALRY: { 14 Regiments and 4 skeleton regiments, Federal Auxiliary Corps (15 officers and 298 troopers), and the Sonora Auxiliaries (62 troopers).
2 Regiments of mounted, 1 regiment of horse, 1 regiment of mountain, 1 troop with rapid-firing guns, 1 train, 1 battery and 3 sections of garrison, 1 company of mitrailleuse. Also, 1 battalion of sappers and miners, 1 pack of Engineers, 1 troop of transport, 1 signal corps section, 1 hospital corps.

The numbers of both officers and men may be summed up as follows:—

8 Generals of Division, 54 Generals of Brigade, 955 officers from the rank of major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel, of whom 450 are "en deposito," that is not on active service; 2,379 officers from Captain down to Ensign, of whom 527 are "en deposito"; 26,141 rank and file, of whom 16,423 belong to the infantry, 6,554 to the cavalry, 1,776 to the artillery, and the remainder to the various special services of the Army. There are about 6,820 horses and 2,550 mules for hauling and pack-carrying.

The pay of a General of Division on active service is \$16.44 (say 33/-) per diem; a General of Brigade \$12.33 (say 25/-), and a Brigade General the same. A Colonel of infantry receives \$7.00 (14/-); a lieutenant-colonel \$4.80 (9/6); a Major \$4.25 (say 8/6); first Captain \$3.20 (6/6); second Captain \$2.90 (5/10); first Lieutenant \$2.55 (5/-) and second Lieutenant \$2.35 (4/9). The pay in the Cavalry is somewhat better, and also in the Artillery. A Colonel of Cavalry or Artillery receives \$7.60 (say 15/6) daily; a Lieutenant-Colonel \$5.12 (10/8); a Major \$4.45 (8/9); first Captain \$3.65 (7/3); second Captain \$3.15 (6/3); first Lieutenant \$2.65 (5/3); and second Lieutenant \$2.45 (4/9).

The regulation arms adopted comprise the Mauser pattern rifle of 1901, 7 mm. calibre, Colt's mitrailleuse, the Bauge 7.9 cm. calibre, the Krupp and the Mondragon cannons, the latter being the invention of a Mexican Officer of Artillery, Colonel Manuel Mondragon, and who is at present military attaché to the Mexican Legation in Paris. The cavalry are provided with carbines of the Mauser pattern, the mountain

batteries having guns of the Gruson pattern, and the Reserves the Mauser rifle of 1893. Ammunition is made in the country by German machinery, imported some 5 years ago.

The following shows the Mexican Army's strength when on a peace footing :—

Divisions.	Officers.	Men.	Horses.	Pack Animals.
Minister of War and President's				
Guard	384	101	66	—
Administration	1,066	675	49	—
Infantry	900	15,796	—	907
Cavalry	575	6,800	6,569	588
Artillery	161	1,585	352	1,024
Engineers	63	725	19	286
Hospital Service	154	290	13	51
Invalid Corps	10	39	—	—
Totals	3,313	26,011	7,068	2,856

In war-time, the effective strength of the Army is given as being: Officers 3,500, infantry 120,000, cavalry 20,000, artillery 6,000.

It was in October of 1900 that Congress authorised the President to reorganise the Army. Among the improvements introduced was the formation of a Second Reserve, consisting of volunteers organised into corps of officers forming the nucleus of a volunteer-army. The First Reserve had already been some years in existence, being composed of retired officers of the regular army, of both the Federal and the other States, rural and city police, frontier-customs and maritime guards, and all other armed bodies supported by the State. In the event of the State calling upon its reserves at a time of emergency, there could be put into the field an additional force of 4,333 officers and 86,000 men.

Unlike our Volunteer officers at home, often snubbed and insulted by the cheap press and insolently ignored by officers of the Regular Army, the Volunteers of Mexico are highly esteemed, shown every kind of courtesy and honour, and their uniform, instead of being sneered at, is saluted with precisely the same distinction as that of the officers of the Regular Army.

The individuals comprising the Second Reserve are much



GENERAL SUB-INSPECTOR DE LOS CUERPOS RURALES (CHIEF OF THE RURALES).

of the same social class as form the bulk of our Volunteer forces, *i.e.* young men of the commercial and professional classes, the idea being that such recruits have a real and actual interest in preserving order and maintaining the stability of the State, apart from all considerations of patriotism.

In writing of the Mexican forces, it would be impossible to avoid mention of that splendid body of men, known as "los Rurales de la Federación," the "Rural Police," who have not inaptly been termed "Mexico's Pride." All picked men, they are alike renowned for their fine appearance, their good conduct and their splendid horsemanship. They ride coal-black animals, and are attired in elaborate and expensive uniforms, consisting of ooze-leather jacket and vest, richly embroidered and trimmed with silver galloon; trousers of steel-gray army cloth, and long leather leggings of doeskin, known as *chaparreras*. The hat is of gray felt of the immense size peculiar to Mexicans, and forming the most important portion of the *charro* dress. This hat is also richly trimmed with silver embroidery and ornaments. The horses are just as handsomely trapped, the saddles being richly wrought and the headstalls mounted in silver, and the stirrups being of the heavy wooden type, resembling a French *sabot*, and the inevitable hanging fringes of stripped leather. The hackamore and martingale are of a brilliant red colour, the saddle-blanket of the same hue, while the troopers wear a silk tie or scarf of exactly the same bright shade. They carry a Mauser rifle, the case hanging straight down like a sheath or socket on the right side of the saddle. There are some 2,000 of these troops, divided into 10 corps numbering 200 each. They are commanded by a Colonel, a major, 3 first corporals and 12 second corporals. The corps are stationed at various points throughout the Republic, but they are quite a separate body from the *rurales* of the States, who form a distinct organisation of their own and are no less valuable factors in maintaining order within their prescribed jurisdictions. I give particulars of these troops in the following Chapter.

Towards the end of last year the whole of the Military and Naval Department was remodelled, so as to render still more efficient its administration. Over a twelvemonth had been devoted to the consideration of this matter, and under the

new régime the Department of War consists of nineteen sections and subsections, the duties of which are carefully detailed and defined, thus preventing any overlapping or neglect occurring in any one of them. In point of celerity, the work of the Mexican War Office may compare favourably with that of any similar European Government department; while there is a commendable absence of that red-tape which renders association with most Governments, our own not excepted, so trying and discouraging.

CHAPTER VI

Distribution of the Mexican Army—Military instruction—The Mexican officer—The private soldier—Rurales of the States—Their history—Their organisation—Daily pay—Influence of the Rurales with the public—Aguascalientes trouble suppressed—The equipment—Some valuable saddles—The Navy—National Fleet—Training ships—Naval schools.

THE Mexican Army is distributed throughout the Republic according to the different military zones into which the country is divided, and of which there are 10. At the time of writing the commands are in the hands of the following Generals:—

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Zone 1. | General Luis E. Torres, | Hermosillo (Sonora). |
| „ 2. | „ José Maria de la Vega, | Chihuahua. |
| „ 3. | „ Ramon Teran, | Monterrey (Nuevo Leon). |
| „ 4. | „ Joaquin Z. Kerlegand, | Guadalajara
(Jalisco). |
| „ 5. | „ Juan A. Hernandez, | San Luis Potosi. |
| „ 6. | „ Emiliano Lojero, | Guanajuato. |
| „ 7. | „ Manuel M. Plata, | Puébla. |
| „ 8. | „ Lorenzo Garcia, | Oaxaca. |
| „ 9. | „ Julian Jaramillo, | Juchitan (Oaxaca). |
| „ 10. | „ Ignacio A. Bravo, | Quintana Roo. |

The various Regiments are stationed as follows:

The Federal District:—1st, 3rd, 5th, 14th, 21st and 24th Infantry; Gendarmes del Ejercito, 1st, 4th, 6th and 9th Cavalry; 2 Regiments Artillery and several smaller detachments of Rurales.

Michoacán:—2nd Infantry.

Sonora:—4th, 12th, 19th and 20th Infantry; 5th and 13th Cavalry.