

# PREFACE



**A** GREAT deal has been written about Mexico. There are numerous publications of a political, historical, scientific or literary character which refer to the whole Republic or separately treat of its States. Although, as a general rule, said books are not lacking in merit, there are some, however, which have for a sole purpose to satisfy the vanity of some people by publishing biographies which are of no utility as a source of knowledge of the country.

Foreigners living here and several eminent Mexicans deplore the absence of a serious and well prepared book which could inform the North-Americans and Europeans, not only with respect to the wonderful progress of Mexico, but also in regard to the organization of its business life, the stability of its institutions and natural wealth susceptible of exploitation. Such a book would necessarily be a sure guide for the immigrant and the capitalist. It will encourage the former and will furnish the latter with elements to elucidate his mind, and to safely invest his money in Mexico.

With the purpose of carrying this idea into effect, for over two years I have been studying the program of this work, called "THE PROSPERITY OF MEXICO," a name which appears to be truly adequate and in perfect harmony with its contents. The efforts made in favor of this young nation by the Government of the Illustrious GRAL. PORFIRIO DIAZ, in a relatively short period of peace and labor, not only has brought the country to a level with the most flourishing American Republics, but has led it to a path which in the near future shall carry it to the rank now occupied by the most advanced nations of Europe.

All of this would not have been accomplished without the wise policy, high practical sense, the honesty and patriotism of GRAL. PORFIRIO DIAZ, who, we may justly say, has had at his disposal the assistance of eminent cooperators in his Cabinet and local governments, and has always merited, since the establishment of his administration, the sensible support of a people desirous of reorganizing itself under the pale of liberal institutions.

The material contained in this book is strictly correct, as the same has been compiled from the most authoritative publications known today and has been submitted to the judgment of distinguished specialists in the various matters treated therein. Official data has been secured from public offices and the veracity and correctness of the same has been carefully compared in the Departments of State and local Governments.

I consider it my duty to express herein my sentiments of gratitude towards His Excellency, the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, the Honorable SECRETARIES OF HIS CABINET, the GOVERNORS OF THE STATES and my collaborators for the valuable support they have kindly tendered to me during the preparation of this large work.

In conclusion, I must make an explanation to justify a variation in one point of the program. I had announced that this book would be printed in New York, and such was, in fact, my intention at first; but considering that the book is, as a matter of fact, is destined to inform the foreign element about Mexico, the whole work, therefore, ought to be intellectually and materially mexican.

In fact, the whole book contains mexican material: the paper on which it is printed was manufactured by the factory of "SAN RAFAEL Y ANEXAS;" the printing was done by the well known firm of "BOULIGNY & SCHMIDT, SUCCESSORS;" and the photo-engravings were made by the popular house named: "AMERICAN PHOTO ENGRAVING Co., S. A.," Fourth Independencia N<sup>o</sup> 10, City of Mexico.

I believe that while this book may not be perfect, it will at least serve its purpose, which is exclusively practical and, as such, beneficial for the readers for whom it is intended and for the beautiful country, the uninterrupted prosperity of which I earnestly desire.

FRANCISCO TRENTINI,

EDITOR.