

bieran sido irreverenciables.

El primer período presidencial bastó para que en la porción más sensata de la colectividad mexicana renaciese la confianza en el porvenir y en la personalidad del Sr. General Díaz como gobernante, ya que, hasta entonces, su prestigio había estado basado preferentemente en sus merecimientos militares. Su permanencia en el poder hubiera sido del agrado de una gran mayoría de la nación; más él no podía, sin faltar á alguno de los compromisos ostentados en las proclamas populares á que antes hemos hecho referencia, modificar desde luego el principio de la no-reelección consignado en la Carta Fundamental de 1857, en esa hermosa y lírica Constitución elaborada por un nobilísimo grupo de idealistas para un pueblo ideal. El Gobierno intermedio del General Don Manuel González, leal amigo de Díaz, no modificó, en esencia, la marcha del programa administrativo de éste, y hasta las perturbaciones parciales que pudo originar, tuvieron por consecuencia indirecta mayor cimentación del prestigio y de la popularidad del General Díaz. Desde el año de 1885 el programa porfirista, el programa íntimo y preciso, pudo ir desarrollándose libre y firmemente. El prestigio del Jefe del Estado, siempre creciente, trocóse en cariño universal; la confianza del pueblo y de las clases esclarecidas fué absoluta; no fueron ya disentidos los actos del Presidente, y su severidad pasada y presente, reservada tan sólo para los sistemáticos trastornadores del orden, para los declamadores incendiarios, para los desorientados minadores de la disciplina nacional y para las ambiciones morbosas, fué aprobada tácitamente por la opinión pública.

El General Díaz, con un conocimiento profundo de los hombres y del medio, ha sabido encauzar admirablemente todos los impulsos sanos de sus contemporáneos y refrenar sabiamente las tendencias amenazadoras del orden. Singular tino ha demostrado siempre en la elección de sus colaboradores directos, sabiendo en todo caso hasta qué punto preciso y en qué orden de actividad cada hombre podía ser útil á la magna obra nacional. Fomentando y creando intereses, ha sabido encariñar á muchos espíritus inquietos con el trabajo pacífico y fecundo, convenciéndolos experimentalmente de que el bienestar personal y el de la nación se logra más segura y fácilmente mediante el trabajo perseverante que en los azarosos campos de la revuelta. De esta suerte ha conjurado muchos peligros, que, especialmente en los primeros tiempos de su Gobierno, pudieron haber amenazado el tranquilo y normal desarrollo de la nueva política de paz y de educación. De ese modo también ha convertido en tenaces y francesas colaboradoras en la gran tarea de reconstitución y de desenvolvimiento, á muchas energías, latentes siempre, pero antes inútiles y hasta nocivas á causa de su completa falta de orientación. Con tal proceder y en este nuevo medio creado á costa de incesantes desvelos por el eminent gobernante de que nos ocupamos, se han hecho en México muy difíciles, si no imposibles, la existencia y la multiplicación del característico tipo de político profesional, indisciplinado y declamador, que desde tiempos remotos ha venido chupando la sabia generosa de la estirpe latina y esterilizando todos los pasos por ésta dados en la vía de la prosperidad y del perfeccionamiento. En los tiempos actuales ese tipo no encuentra ya la adhesión de la opinión pública; el hombre de Estado, para prosperar y vencer, necesita ofrecer sólidas garantías de disciplina mental y de dominio de algunos de los ramos de la actividad humana; hoy los contingentes nuevos para integrar el grupo director gubernativo, se reclutan en México entre los altos intelectuales y entre los hombres de negocios reconocidos como laboriosos y competentes. Antes de servirse de ellos y de confiarles encargos delicados y trascendentales, el General Díaz estudia detenidamente á sus futuros colaboradores, en todos los actos de su vida, por modo tal que, más tarde, en el desempeño de las funciones que les confía, sean exactamente aprovechados en bien de la nación sus aptitudes y sus dotes.

La vigilancia del General Díaz sobre el personal administrativo, no se limita sólo á los altos funcionarios; alcanza también á los subalternos, y la moralidad administrativa se perfecciona incesantemente, cosa bien difícil de lograr en un país en que, por muchas décadas, la falange administrativa estaba habituada á desplegar sólo aptitudes consumidoras sobre los intereses de la nación.

Las relaciones entre los Gobiernos locales de los Estados y el Gobierno federal, que en otras épocas solían encontrarse debilitadas y hasta interrumpidas, con gran perjuicio del bienestar general y para múltiples entorpecimientos de la gobernanza interior del país, son en la actualidad claras y cordiales. Respetando los derechos de la soberanía legislativa de que constitucionalmente disfruta cada Estado, el General Díaz ha empeñado su prestigio en procurar uniformar en toda la República el espíritu y el criterio que norman la legislación de carácter general, á fin de conseguir una acción homogénea y benéfica al progreso del país. Ha hecho desaparecer igualmente las peligrosas discordias que, en otros períodos de la vida nacional, amenazaban la cordialidad de las relaciones entre unos y otros Estados de la República, originadas las más de las veces en disputas sobre cuestiones de límites. Estas han venido resolviéndose tranquila y satisfactoriamente, y no pocas de las dificultades que presentaban fueron allanadas por el empeño y el trabajo personal del General Díaz.

Ha dado también satisfactoria resolución á otro problema que era fuente constante de entorpecimientos y de dificultades y que, de hecho, interrumpía la unidad de la nación. Nos referimos á la sumisión de las tribus rebeldes y refractarias á la cultura y al Gobierno. No ha sido éste resultado fácil de obtener, como debe suponerse. Era preciso, para lograr un buen resultado, emplear alternativamente ora severidades, ora benevolencias, La vasta y rica región regada por el río Yaqui en el Estado de Sonora y una extensa porción del Estado de Yucatán, poblada de rebeldes indios mayas, eran comarcas que en nada habían disfrutado de los beneficios de la civilización y del progreso, porque sus inquietos pobladores detenían en todo la acción del Gobierno y causaban constantes alarmas á sus vecindades. La pacificación del Yaqui está á punto de consumarse, y esa región se ha abierto ya al esfuerzo fecundo de los hombres trabajadores y promete óptimos rendimientos para el futuro. La sumisión de los mayas rebeldes es ya un hecho completamente consumado; el Territorio de Quintana Roo, de reciente creación, es la comarca ganada á la barbarie, y el Congreso Nacional decretó una especial recompensa moral para el General Díaz por la hábil dirección de esa prolongada y ardua campaña, á la vez diplomática y militar.

En suma, con su sistema de gobernanza interior, sistema complicadísimo por los múltiples detalles que lo constituyen y que no es posible re-

avitable.

The first Presidential term was sufficient to re-establish in the minds of the more reasonable persons amongst Mexicans, their confidence in the future and in the administration of General Diaz, whose prestige up to that period had mostly been founded on his military merits. His permanency in power would have received the approval of the great majority of the Nation but without being false to many of the engagements assumed in the popular proclamation above referred to, he could not at once modify the principle of no reelection as set forth in the fundamental charter of 1857 in that magnificent and lyrical Constitution, that was elaborated by a noble group of idealists for and ideal people. The intermediate Government of Gen. Manuel Gonzalez, a loyal friend of Diaz, did not essentially modify the administrative progress of the latter and even the partial disturbances to which it gave rise indirectly resulted in giving even greater prestige and popularity to Gen. Diaz. From the year 1885 the true policy of the latter has continued to freely and firmly develop itself. The prestige of the Chief Magistrate that always had increased changed into universal affection; the confidence of the people and of the cultured classes became absolute; the action of the President as well as his past and present severity were no longer a matter of discussion as they were exclusively reserved for the systematic disturbers of the peace, for the demagogues, for the misdirected intriguers and morbidly ambitious men, with the tacit approval of public opinion.

With a profound knowledge of men and of his surroundings Gen. Diaz has known how to direct in the most admirable manner all the healthy impulses of the men of his day, and wisely control the tendencies that might threaten the peace of the country. He has always shown a special tact in the selection of those who were intended to directly cooperate with himself, in every case with an exact knowledge of the exact point and the sphere of activity in which each man could be of service to the great national work. Encouraging and creating fresh interests, he has known how to gain the affections of uneasy spirits by pacific and profitable work, convincing them in a practical way that the personal and national welfare is rendered more certain and easy by means of persevering labor than in the hazardous fields of revolution. In this manner he has overcome many dangers that especially in the first years of his administration might have threatened the peaceful and normal development of the new policy of peace and education. In this manner he has also converted many energies that were always latent but useless and even noxious on account of their entire disorganization, into earnest and frank cooperators in the great task of reconstitution and development of the country. By these methods and by the new surroundings created at the cost of incessant watchfulness on the part of the eminent statesman we refer to, the existence and multiplication of the characteristic type of professional politician, undisciplined and fluent of speech, who from remote periods has been sucking the blood of the Latin race and in every way counteracting its efforts in the path of progress and improvement have been rendered very difficult if not impossible in Mexico. In our days this type of politician no longer receives the support of public opinion; the statesman in order to prosper and win, must present solid guarantees of mental discipline together with a full knowledge of some branch of human activity; the fresh contingents that today desire to enter into the administration are recruited in Mexico from among the cultured classes and business men who are known to be unwearied and competent workers. Before making any use of them and before entrusting them with delicate and important offices, Gen. Diaz makes a careful study of those future cooperators and of their whole lives, so that later on when they are called upon to fulfill the duties imposed upon them, their capacity and talents may be fully taken advantage of for the good of the nation.

The supervision of Gen. Diaz over his administrative Staff is not limited to only the high Officers; it also reaches the subordinate employees, and the administrative morality is undergoing constant improvement, a very difficult matter in a country in which for many decades, the administrative rank and file were only accustomed to display a talent for exploiting the resources of the Nation.

The relations between the Federal and State Governments that in former times were debilitated and even interrupted with great prejudice to the general welfare and brought about a general disorganization of the internal administration of the country, are now cordial and free from all difficulties. Respecting the rights of legislative autonomy that under the constitution are granted to each State, Gen. Diaz has made every effort to introduce throughout the Republic, uniformity in the spirit as well as in the policy that governs legislation of a general character, in order to bring about a uniform action that will be of benefit to the development of the country. He has also obtained the suppression of the dangerous discord that in other periods of the national life had threatened the stability of the good relations between different States of the Republic and which in many cases had originated in differences on boundary questions. These have been gradually settled in a peaceable and satisfactory manner and not a few of the difficulties which they presented were overcome by the personal influence and work of Gen. Diaz.

He has also brought about a satisfactory solution of another problem that was the constant origin of difficulties, that in fact would sometimes go so far as to interrupt the unity of the Nation. We refer to the subjection of the rebel tribes which refuse to recognize the Government or accept civilized life. In order to obtain a satisfactory result it was found necessary to employ severity at times and benevolence at others, but always with tact and scrupulous consideration. The vast and wealthy region that is watered by the river Yaqui in the State of Sonora and a large area of the State of Yucatan, which was inhabited by the rebellious Maya Indians were sections that had in no way participated in the benefits of civilization and progress, because their turbulent inhabitants in every way obstructed the action of Government and kept the peaceable residents in constant alarm. The pacification of the Yaqui country is about to be finally consummated and that territory has already been opened to the exploitation of men of enterprise and promises magnificent future results. The subjugation of the Maya Indians is an entirely accomplished fact; the Territory of Quintana Roo which has recently been organized may be said to have been redeemed from barbarism, and the National Congress decreed a special moral recompense to be given to Gen. Diaz, in recognition of his able direction of that prolonged and arduous campaign which was of both a diplomatic and military character.

In one word, by his system of internal Government, rendered so extremely difficult by the many details that require attention and that can