

añar ni someramente en un trabajo como el presente, el General Díaz ha logrado edificar los más sólidos y difíciles cimientos del ideal imperiosamente reclamado por México: "la creación de la hegemonía de la raza en una patria unificada y respetada." (1)

Por último, en el ramo también de gobernación, el General Díaz ha tenido especial empeño en mejorar la salubridad pública, y sus gestiones á este respecto, coronadas por el éxito, constituyen uno de sus créditos más valiosos contra la gratitud del pueblo. Ni el embellecimiento de la metrópoli es ajeno á su actividad: se ha interesado vivamente en este ramo, y las muchas obras realizadas bajo su guía y por su deseo, son elocuentes testimonios de aquella actividad.

Una vez establecida sobre bases sólidas y susceptibles de ulterior consolidación la gobernación interior, México no tardó mucho tiempo en ir alcanzando crédito moral y consideración de parte de las naciones extranjeras. El General Díaz, comprendiendo toda la importancia de la solidaridad humana para el bienestar de los pueblos, ha cuidado sistemáticamente de evitar todo motivo y hasta todo pretexto de complicaciones internacionales, respetando siempre el derecho ajeno y haciendo siempre respetable el derecho propio. No era fácil, ante la mayoría de los países de Europa, que nuestra patria recobrase prontamente la categoría de *populus gratus*, después de los acontecimientos recientes, de tanta resonancia en el mundo entero; ni era fácil tampoco que la franca *entente* entre los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y de México se convirtiese sin tropiezos en una verdadera cordialidad popular, ya que, aparte de los grandes choques no del todo olvidados aún y de la manifiesta diferencia de fuerzas entre las dos naciones limítrofes, existía también la rivalidad antropológica entre las dos razas: contábamos sólo, en materia de simpatías francas y completas, con la de los pueblos sud-americanos y con la de algunos pensadores aislados de todas partes: simpatías eminentemente líricas ambas.

Al tacto singular del General Díaz fué factible transformar favorablemente y de una manera estable los caracteres de las relaciones mexicanas con el exterior: y en esta labor patriótica y de incalculables beneficios para la nación, fué sabiamente secundado por su viejo amigo é incansable colaborador, el Sr. Lic. D. Ignacio Mariscal, Ministro desde hace muchos años de Relaciones Exteriores y uno de los más eminentes mexicanos en la época actual.

En algunas ocasiones, durante la Administración del General Díaz, nuestras relaciones con la vecina República de Guatemala revistieron alarmante tirantez; pero él supo influir enérgica y prudentemente en que se allanase los obstáculos existentes y en que los conflictos que se presentaran tuvieran pronta y pacífica resolución. Y en los tiempos presentes no hay nube alguna que obscurezca los horizontes del futuro, en lo que atañe á las relaciones exteriores de México: comprueban vivamente este hecho el sostenimiento de misiones permanentes encargadas de fomentar la buena inteligencia; el constante cambio de cortesías internacionales; la destrucción de torpes prejuicios y de infundadas reticencias entre México y todas las naciones del mundo, desde la poderosa y floreciente Unión Americana hasta la remota é histórica Persia!

Y tales relaciones y semejante crédito no son únicamente de carácter moral. Las relaciones financieras de México con los principales centros financieros de producción y de consumo, han alcanzado un florecimiento imprevisto hasta por los más optimistas. El crédito de México, fundado en el sistema, seguido sin interrupción por el General Díaz desde las primeras épocas de su Gobierno, de pagar siempre todo lo que se debe, puede hoy clasificarse de singular, tratándose de una nación joven, que se encuentra en pleno período de educación y que tan breve tiempo cuenta de poder ofrecer las garantías inherentes á una vida nacional orgánica. La reconstrucción de las finanzas nacionales ha sido verdaderamente prodigiosa y su buen éxito ha reposado todo en el buen Gobierno del General Díaz y, en gran parte, en su prestigio personal. Sólo en un estudio especial puede tratarse de este tema con el detenimiento que se merece y que es indispensable para comprender su grandiosidad: baste hacer constar que, en pocos años, el mismo país que se encontraba en bancarota y cuyos bonos pregonaban el descrédito nacional al ser depreciados y hasta rechazados en países extranjeros, ha podido efectuar la Conversión de su deuda de manera excepcionalmente favorable y contraer un nuevo y cuantioso empréstito, destinado á fomentar su progreso, en condiciones y á tipo que no tienen precedente entre los países de la América Latina y que hasta pueden ser envidiados por añejas y experimentadas naciones del Viejo Continente. Esta labor se ha efectuado en plena lucha contra la depreciación de la plata, circunstancia que, por razón natural, hubo de afectar y conmover profundamente á México, productor eminente del metal blanco. Esa misma circunstancia perjudicó al país al originar la depreciación de su moneda, y el Gobierno del General Díaz, atento siempre á cuanto atañe al bienestar nacional, dictó desde luego sabias medidas conducentes á remediar el mal, efectuando muy recientemente una reforma monetaria, cuyos primeros efectos favorables empiezan á sentirse de modo evidente é innegable.

La administración de justicia, viciada y claudicante antaño en virtud de la misma debilidad del Gobierno supremo, ha experimentado también una saludable evolución bajo la influencia del General Díaz. Propios y extraños han recuperado la confianza en la imparcialidad y en la energía de la justicia mexicana, y esta confianza, que es un poderoso estímulo para el trabajo y la prosperidad, ha sido uno de los factores indirectos más valiosos del progreso nacional.

Apartada la nación de los ejercicios bélicos y confiada en la tranquilidad general, hízose preciso propagar la instrucción pública y dar al pueblo resistentes armas morales para la lucha por la cultura y el adelanto. El ramo de instrucción pública ha merecido señalada atención de parte del General Díaz y durante su Gobierno se ha perfeccionado notablemente, tanto en cantidad, como en calidad. Una prueba irrecusable de la importancia que el distinguido gobernante presta al ramo de la cultura nacional, es la creación, por él iniciada y unánimemente aprobada por las Cámaras, de una especial Secretaría de Estado para el despacho de instrucción pública y bellas artes, con todos los caracteres de un Ministerio de Educación.

La inmigración extranjera, tan necesaria en un país extenso y exiguamente poblado, cual lo es México, empieza á acudir espontánea y abundantemente, atraída por las ríscueñas perspectivas y las sólidas garantías que hoy le ofrece el país regenerado. La agricultura ha emancipádose mucho de la rutina y se emancipará cada día más; fortalecido el país con el

not be gone into even superficially in a work of this character, Gen. Diaz has been able to lay in the most solid manner, the foundations of the ideal structure that is imperiously demanded for Mexico: "the creation of the hegemony of race in a united and respected nation." (1)

And lastly, referring to the administration of the country, Gen. Diaz has dedicated special attention to the improvement of the public health and his action on this point, which has been crowned by a perfect success, constitutes one of his most glorious claims to the gratitude of the Nation. Even the embellishment of the Metropolis has received his active attention and he has taken a strong interest in this matter, directing and criticising the improvements that are made, so that many of the works carried out with his approval furnish eloquent testimony to his activity.

Once the internal Government of the country was firmly established in a way that left room for further improvement, Mexico did not have to wait very long before she obtained a moral credit and consideration on the part of foreign nations. Understanding the importance of human solidarity for the welfare of Nations, Gen. Diaz has systematically taken care to avoid all reason or pretext for international complication, always respecting the rights of others and in this way obtaining respect for those of his own country. It was not easy for our country to at once regain the standing of "*populus gratus*" with the majority of the European Nations, after the recent events that had echoed throughout the entire world, nor was it easy for the frank understanding between the American and Mexican Governments to convert itself without obstacles or difficulties into real popular and cordial relations, seeing that apart from the grave questions that were not even yet forgotten and the manifest difference of forces between the two adjoining countries, there was also the anthropological rivalry between the two races whilst for frank and full sympathy we could only look to the South American Nations, and to a few isolated thinkers in all parts, sympathy that was of an entirely platonic character.

The special tact of General Diaz enabled him to effect a favorable and permanent transformation in the relations between Mexico and foreign countries, and this patriotic labor that was of such incalculable benefit for the Nation was ably seconded by his old friend and unwearied co-worker, Lic. Ignacio Mariscal, for many years Secretary for Foreign Affairs and one of the most eminent Mexicans of the present day.

On certain occasions during the administration of Gen. Diaz our relations with the neighbouring Republic of Guatemala were strained to an alarming point; but he knew how to bring to bear on these difficulties, a prudent and energetic influence that smoothed over all obstacles, and brought about a prompt and peaceable solution of all disputes, so that at present there is no cloud whatever on the horizon as regards the foreign relations of Mexico. This is fully demonstrated by the fact that permanent missions are maintained and charged with the task of fomenting the friendly relations that exist and keep up a constant exchange of international courtesies, as well as to destroy the foolish prejudices and groundless reserves that existed between Mexico and the other Nations of the world, from the powerful and flourishing American Union to the distant and historical Persia.

These good relations and satisfactory credit are not only of a platonic character. The financial relations of Mexico with the principal money centres of the world as well as of production and consumption, have reached a condition of prosperity that could not have been expected by even the most sanguine. The credit of Mexico, founded on the system that has been continuously followed by Gen. Diaz from the very first days of his administration of paying everything that is owing, can today be classified as singular in treating of a young Nation that is still in the educational stage and that has only recently been able to offer the securities that are inherent to an organic National life. The re-construction of the National finances has been a really prodigious work and its success is entirely due to the wise administration of Gen. Diaz as well as to his great personal prestige. This subject can only be treated of as it merits in a special article that would clearly demonstrate the importance of the work; but suffice it to say that within a few years, the very country that was considered bankrupt and whose securities proclaimed the National discredit through their depreciation in foreign countries where they could hardly find a market, has now been able to carry on the conversion of its debt in a manner exceptionally favorable and at the same time contract a new and heavy loan that was intended to develop its progress, under conditions and at rates that had no precedent among the countries of Spanish America, and that may even be envied by old and experienced Nations of the Old Continent. This work has been carried on in the midst of a struggle against the depreciation of silver, a circumstance that naturally produced profound disturbances in Mexican finances, on account of its being such a large producer of the white metal.

This same circumstance worked greatly to the injury of the country by causing the depreciation of its money, and the Diaz administration' always watchful over everything that affected the national welfare, at once took the necessary steps to remedy the evil and has lately introduced a monetary reform whose first favorable effects have commenced to show themselves in an evident and undeniable manner.

The administration of justice, vitiated and corrupt through the very feebleness of the Supreme Government, has also undergone a healthy evolution under the influence of Gen. Diaz. Natives and foreigners have recovered confidence in the impartiality and energy of Mexican justice, and this confidence which is a powerful stimulus to work and prosperity, has been one of the most valuable indirect factors of the National advancement.

The Nation having abandoned its warlike customs and confidence having been revived in the general tranquility, it became necessary to attend to public instruction and give the mass of the people, efficient moral arms with which to enter on the struggle for culture and progress. The Department of Public Education has received special attention on the part of Gen. Diaz and during his administration has been notably improved both as regards quantity and quality. An unquestionable proof of the importance which this distinguished administrator gives to the national education is the creation by him in this year with the unanimous approval of Congress, of a special Department of State charged with the administration of public education and fine arts, with all the prerogatives that pertain to a Department of Education.

Foreign immigration, which is so necessary in a country with so large a territory and so small a population, as in Mexico, commences to spontaneously and abundantly enter, attracted by the promising conditions and guarantees that are today offered by the regenerated country. Agriculture has emancipated itself in great part from the routine methods and will every day become still more emancipated; the country being now strengthened by its peaceable and orderly conditions and by the removal of financial

(1) Lic. Julio Guerrero: Influencia del Porfiriismo en la reorganización de México."

(1) Licnelado Julio Guerrero: Influence of the Diaz Policy on the re-organization of Mexico."