

FIGHTING DIAZ FROM A NEW YORK RESTAURANT

And It's Not So Safe as It Seems, for the Mexican President's Long Arm Reaches Even Here.



President Diaz of Mexico.



Heriberto Barron, Exile.

THIS is a Presidential year in Mexico, as any one in Joel's will tell you.

Joel's, where poets, patriots, artists, and near-artists gather toward midnight, is in the shadow of The Times Tower. Here are the headquarters of the Liberal Party of Mexico and here may be seen the candidate of this party, Señor Heriberto Barron, almost any evening.

In the big heart of little old New York there is a nook for any revolution that may be designed, and this corner, presided over by Joel, patron of those disappointed in the arts or the world reforms, is made the headquarters of the Mexican political exiles.

In the many revolutionary and reform headquarters of the east side there is always to be heard the note of cheer sounded by the optimistic one, the dreamer who builds great hopes on the slightest opportunity and who will look upon a thread as a great rope. Abundant hope and courage are to be found in the hearts of the Russians with their well-organized revolutionary circles, and one who has access to these places of meeting will always find buoyancy of spirit and enthusiasm that is contagious, but with the Mexicans, although their mother country is republican in form, is to be found only blasted hope.

Although named as the candidate of the Liberals to run against Diaz or the candidate Diaz may choose, Señor Barron would not dare cross the Mexican border, and, as it is, he lives in fear of being arrested here and hustled to Mexico to join his brother in jail.

It is no pleasant thing for a Presidential candidate and republican citizen to contemplate a political future of that sort. Barron is no small fry politician or trouble maker. He is a man of character, of brilliant mind, of high ideals, and was, prior to his exile, an editor and newspaper publisher, a member of the Mexican Congress, and a man to whom Diaz himself often looked in affairs of state. Yet,

Barron has two newspapers in Mexico and was prosperous and happy until he began to throw his influence to the formation and development of a party that would stand against Diaz.

Carlo di Fornaro, one of the most successful newspaper cartoonists in the country, belonged to the little band of exiles in New York. He is, at present, serving a sentence of one year in prison on Blackwell's Island for libeling a Mexican editor and friend of Diaz. Joseph T. Kelly, his personal attorney, when interviewed by a TIMES man, said that Fornaro's attack on the Diaz Government in a book published here was primarily the cause for the charge of criminal libel and that the editor in the case was less than a side issue.

"The look that put Mr. Fornaro in prison," he said, "was written to show that the Diaz Government is not just as fine a Government as humanity and intelligent students of economics might expect. The editor mentioned, Espindola, acted really as the instrument of the Diaz Government. It seems that in the United States President Diaz can deal with his political enemies almost as effectively as in his own country.

"It was impossible for Fornaro to get his witnesses in Mexico to testify in his behalf by deposition in a case for criminal libel tried here. Diaz is an autocrat and has always been, and he had the means of suppressing the witnesses Fornaro wanted. Fortunately the friends of the cartoonist stood by him and they made the best fight that they could. He will probably leave prison penniless and start out on his career again. He is not the first man who has written a book that has been published here and that has called out the wrath of Diaz. Enriquez de Zayas, one of the political exiles in New York, brought out a book in 1905. It came from the press of a well-known publisher. De Zayas, of pure Spanish blood, a gentleman of finest culture, and a scholar and statesman, was

recently returned to New York from a number of the Mexican border States. He said that the determination of President Diaz to utterly crush out any opposition to his autocracy was shown in the frequent cases of railroading political refugees across the border and their incarceration on the Mexican side.

"There are people in the border States of this country who are mad all the way through at the way the Mexican authorities have been going about things," he said. "In Fornaro's case we got an adjournment in order to gather evidence in Mexico for his defense. We found that the fourteen witnesses he had chosen all went back on him."

Both lawyers in the Fornaro case implicated in their interviews that Diaz was being too highly favored by the representatives of this Government, and that the law firm with which Henry W. Taft, brother of the President, is connected prosecuted the case against the cartoonist Charles P. Taft, also, it has been declared in public speeches, has Mexican interests. Gaylord Wilshire, publisher of Wilshire's Magazine, at a meeting to protest against the jailing of Fornaro, held in the Berkeley Theatre, declared that Charles P. Taft owned hundreds of acres in Mexico and employed 2,000 peons, who were practically slaves.

Although the Liberal Party exiles from Mexico seem to have suffered in vain for their cause, the activities of the Mexican Government in pursuing its enemies on this side of the border have brought forth some results that may prove beneficial to them. The Political Refugee Defense League, which has saved two famous Russian refugees, Pouden and Rudowitz, has turned its attention to the Mexicans.

Representative Wilson of Pennsylvania has introduced only recently a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee made up of Senators and Representatives to investigate "persecutions of Mexican citizens." Mr. Wilson has been furnished with a mass of memoranda giving the

execution in this country, among which there are several that have created considerable newspaper interest. One of these, the De Lara case in California, was of a brilliant young lawyer, a refugee from Mexico, who was twice arrested

warrant charging almost anything. Then the exile is arrested and held in jail here and extradited to be locked up indefinitely in Mexico."

Here in New York the exiles have gained the sympathy of the Socialists, who have been helping in framing a plan to call the attention of Congress to conditions they consider grievously against political liberty.

"We are not in sympathy with the Mexican exiles because we think we can advance the cause of Socialism in Mexico," said a Socialist to a TIMES reporter. "We would stand just as much of a show of starting a Socialist Party in Mexico as we would of starting one in Russia. Diaz is worse than the Czar."

Two years ago the hopes of those Mexicans who wanted to see the end of a one-man Government in Mexico were kindled highly by an interview granted an American magazine by President Diaz. In this interview Diaz was quoted as follows:

"It is a mistake to suppose that the future of Mexico has been endangered by the long continuance in office of one President. I can say sincerely that office has not corrupted my political ideals, and that I believe democracy to be the one true, just principle of government, although in practice it is possible only to highly developed peoples.

"It is quite true that when a man has occupied a powerful office for a very long time he is likely to begin to look upon it as his personal property, and it is well that a free people should guard themselves against the tendencies of individual ambition. Yet the abstract theories of democracy and the practical effective application of them are often necessarily different—that is, when you are seeking for the substance rather than the mere form.

"I have waited patiently for the day when the people of the Mexican Republic would be prepared to choose and change their Government at every election without danger of armed revolution and with-

out injury to the national credit or interference with national progress. I believe that day has come."

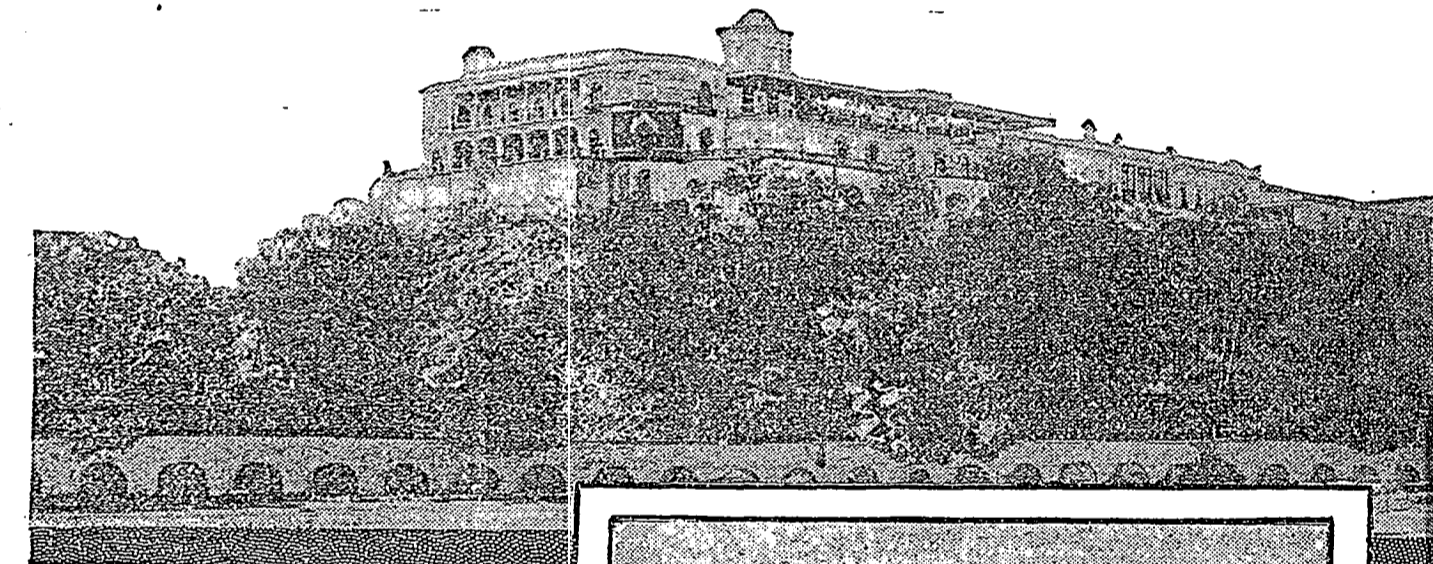
President Diaz made it clear in that interview that until then he felt that only the form of republican government was being maintained and that the people needed a patriarchal government until they had reached the point of development where they could handle their own affairs, but it gave those who wanted a change from the patriarchal system high hope to hear him say that he thought the day had come for the new order of things.

Diaz has been the Government of Mexico for thirty years. He is 80 years old now, but still the warrior and dictator, strong of body and strong of mind. In the event of his retiring from the office of the Presidency he will put up a Diaz candidate, and the autocracy will continue, say the exiles at Joel's.

Perhaps he has changed his mind about Mexicans being able to run their own Government.

"At the end of every term he promises to retire after another," said one of the banished liberators of the neighbor republic. "He always does that. He took the Government of the people from a victorious army, called it a republic, and he has ruled with a hand of iron ever since."

Of recent years there has been such a great influx of American capital into Mexico that little old Wall Street has become a factor in affairs there, and as they are connected with affairs of this Government, railroad and mining properties have been established in Mexico with American millions, and Diaz is regarded by the American financier as the best republic possible for Mexico. They are not inclined to rock the boat, however distressing may be the fact that Señor Barron, a patriotic man and one representing a republican sentiment and ideal, must remain in New York and prove more welcome to a table in Joel's than on the hustings of his native heath.



The Summer Palace of the President of Mexico.

As the Presidential candidate of the Liberal Party in Mexico, he must confine his activities to Joel's, where his compatriots meet for their concerns and other peppery dishes and for their nightly protests against the autocracy of Diaz.

The election comes off in July and at the present writing all of the Liberal Party's leaders who are not anchored and riding out the storm in West Forty-first Street are in Mexican jails. Diaz has brought his great fist down upon the movement for a two-party republic—as he has done before—and those who have not stood from under have been beaten down.

Barron and his aids in the movement to change Mexico from an autocracy to a real republic do not expect a single vote on election day. A Presidential election in Mexico has ever been more of a republican symbol in the abstract than a fact. A political officer of the Deputy Sheriff type, known in Mexico as a jefe politico, picks out in each district 120 electors. He herds them in a hotel and keeps them there under guard until time for voting. Then ballots are handed them and they vote the ballots. There is no excitement, for the opposition party is divided between temporary residency in jail and in New York. The mass of people attend the bullfights or go about their duties, leaving the election business to the selected electors.

During interviews with a number of those intimately connected with the Mexican exiles here a TIMES reporter met the constant and urgent plea that nothing be written that would bring down upon the head of Candidate Barron any further trouble.

"My friend," said Joel, "don't get Barron any more worries. He is a gentleman who has lost his fortune, has been exiled to New York, and has been compelled to work here shipping inexpensive jewelry to Mexico. He makes a living at it. His wife and two daughters are in Mexico and the Government there might make him suffer through them. His brother is incommunicado now and for no other reason than that he was interested in the Liberal Party."

a friend of Diaz until he became interested in seeing a real republic established instead of an autocracy. He was arrested in Mexico and charged with many crimes, but was exonerated of every charge. He finally had to come here. His book was printed. Nobody can find a copy of it. It disappeared from circulation mysteriously."

De Zayas is the father of an artist now in New York, whose work is well known. He is on the staff of the Sunday department of The World.

George Edwin Joseph, who was the trial lawyer in the defense of Fornaro, has only

histories of scores of cases of Mexican political exiles who have fled to this side of the border only to be extradited on charges that were trumped up for the purpose and to be liberated afterward without trial following long stays in Mexican jails.

The resolution charged that the courts of this country were being used by the Diaz Government to persecute political refugees. That a system of espionage has been established here by the Diaz Government is also charged in the resolutions.

Representative Wilson has in his possession a list of cases of Mexican per-



Carlo di Fornaro.