

fined, with barely enough energy left to tackle a bundle of hay. Thousands of his race were thoroughly tamed by leaden pills administered from the rear end of an overland train. So well were they tamed that they could never remove from the blistering plains their wonderful robes of fur which the white man did not then think it worth his while to take, but for which he is now willing to pay from \$100 to \$150 apiece. That is the way the buffalo was tamed, and it certainly is an accomplishment of which we should, as a race, be *thoroughly ashamed*.

The moose will soon be tamed in the same manner and his noble front will no longer be seen in the forests of the north, but will be found only, as is that of the buffalo, on the shoulders of a disgusted old specimen moping around the worn sod of a zoological garden, or adorning, with glass eyes, the walls of some museum or the parlor of some private collector.

And as to the civilization of the Indian, that has been completely and thoroughly accomplished. He has been driven from sea-board to sea-board, over mountains, through forests, across desert places, into and out of lava beds, and, at last, the few noble remnants of his race are called together in New York City to witness the beginning of a monument erected not so much to their former greatness as we might wish, but more to the "civilization," the degradation, and the practical annihilation of their people. These few representatives of a passing race are made the chief mourners at their own funeral, are given high places in the spectacle which bears testimony to the power, the wealth, and the conscienceless greed of their despoilers.

Their villages are silent, their hunting grounds are destroyed, and their valleys bare. We have laid waste their possessions and pursued them with fire and sword to a degree that should make the few remaining members of the race cherish an undying hatred against those who have introduced nothing but turmoil, commotion and disturbance into their lives.

In southwestern United States lives a tribe of Indians known to the world as the "Quaker Indians," or, more properly, the Moqui Indians. For a long, long while they were under the dominion of the Spanish nation and consequently learned many of their habits and practices, though the Spaniards made no effort to do anything with them further than to Christianize them or to teach them the principles of their religion. When these Indians came under the domination of our Repub-

lic, we at once began our practices upon them. We herded them together like sheep, and like sheep did we shear them. We interfered with their mode of living; we destroyed their mode of worship and desecrated their altars; and all this did we do in the name of "civilization" and "sanitation." Civilization! and Sanitation! O, ye Gods! with the Augean Stables in our back yard.

And for all that we have done to the Red Man, mostly wrong, what does he get? His image placed upon some of our paper money and his noble visage upon our five-cent pieces, in order that it may be a constant reminder to him of the millions of dollars of which we have robbed him.



As the few Indian chiefs who attended the recent ceremonies connected with the laying of the foundation of the great Indian monument, which is to look eastward over the Atlantic, glance upon its lengthened shadow in the setting sun, *may they not* consider it typical of the shadow that the white man has thrown over their possessions until they had been driven almost into the opposite sea, the Pacific, and all in the interests of "civilization."

If rapine and murder and a reckless disregard of human rights are to follow in the wake of civilization, would it not be better if the races we seek to civilize could live in the primitive enjoyment of their natural rights? Truly we are a wonderful people. We have *tamed the buffalo* and *civilized the Indian*, till the last of their kind are now walking the face of the globe with no place to call their home. And as a fitting emblem of these glorious, these wonderful achievements, that reflect so much credit upon our nation, a Christian nation that hesitates about expunging from its coins the motto, "In God We Trust," and to show the character of the god in which we *do* trust, we place upon the altar of Mammon a "nickel," a five-cent piece, one of the most paltry of our coins, bearing upon its two sides the images of his most acceptable sacrifices—the Buffalo and the Indian.

HOWARD E. RANDALL.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE EXIT OF HUERTA.

Mexico, Aug. 3.

On the night of Wednesday, July 15, the news that the presidential special, with a convoy of troop trains, had passed Orizaba en route to Puerto Mexico was wired back to Mexico City. During Thursday wild rumors were in circulation which were discussed in whispers for fear of another hoax, by which Huerta might hope to get some more of his

political enemies to reveal themselves so he could decimate them at pleasure. When the dailies of Friday morning confirmed the news of Huerta's resignation and departure for Europe the city resembled a Russian Easter. And just as the latter event commemorates the escape from the long Russian winter, so did the Friday rejoicing here celebrate the people's awakening from the long nightmare of the white terror, one of the most dreadful in history.

The new president, Justice Carvajal, had joined Huerta's kaleidoscopic cabinet the previous week (along with three others), and as Minister of Foreign Relations he succeeded by law to the presidency upon Huerta's exit, there being no vice president in office. Carvajal, though a conservative, is not bigoted, for last year he refused, as a justice of the Supreme Court, to sanction the legitimacy of Huerta's usurpation. In his two weeks of power he has partly removed the censorship of speech and press, has arranged to release the various political prisoners who were spared from the secret executions, and has stopped the man-stealing military levies.

The freer press is now revealing, for the first time, to many in Federal Mexico both the real happenings of the Civil War and the true motives and plans of the Rebels (Constitutionalists). The present dispute in the peace conference at Saltillo over amnesty for Huerta's associates seems academic, since most of the guilty have already quit Mexico. For the past year the more prudent of the dismissed ministers have left at once on "a special embassy" abroad, and once away they haven't returned. One minister who unwisely delayed his departure was arrested as a suspect and came near being executed. At the final collapse (along with Huerta and his family) fled General Blanquet, Minister of War and arch-traitor of the citadel mutiny, and the two directors of Huerta's organs, "El Imparcial" and "El Independiente"; also various ministers, governors and military men.

Among the vamoosing governors was General Juan Hernandez of Puebla; this old rascal was a worthy successor of the unspeakable Mucio Martinez, who so sorely afflicted the State for many years as a satrap of Porfirio Diaz. Hernandez was not only thrifty enough to save a tidy fortune during his reign of a year, but made a cleanup, on departure, of a \$300,000 balance in the state treasury, the proceeds of a supertax for the purpose of "pacification."

A judicial investigation now probing the case of Federal Deputy Revedon, who was slain by Huerta's order last summer, is uncovering a whole cesspool of official crime. From Guadalupe Hidalgo, a suburb of the capital, have already been exhumed 62 bodies of political victims. The automobiles of the secret police made night hideous last winter in Guadalupe while engaged in their dreadful work. Only a few of the bodies have yet been identified, as they were buried under false names and with false medical certificates. The "Red Book" of General Quiroz, chief of the secret police, has also been found, and this contains a list of the condemned with the names of those already slain distinguished by red crosses.

The confession of a police assassin named Mata-Ratas has just been obtained, which acknowledges the stabbing of 18 persons. He states that many of

his victims were buried while still breathing, and that all were stripped first of everything of value. Many women were among the slain. As during the recent Terror, the censorship of the mails and of the press made communication difficult, it is certain that Huerta had many victims who were thought by their friends to have gone abroad or to Rebel territory.

The cause of the resignation of the Catholic leader, Eduardo Tamariz, has just been published. At the Sta. Julia barracks in Mexico City there was a brawl this spring, in which some shots were fired, and this took place while Huerta was banqueting his friends in his nearby residence. Fearing a mutiny, Huerta sent General Quiroz with the guard to the barracks, and though the brawl was settled before his arrival, Quiroz arrested a lieutenant and three rurales and marched them over to the adjoining Federal College of Agriculture. In spite of the protests of Sr. Figueroa, the college president, Quiroz summoned all the students, and in their presence conducted a summary military execution of his four prisoners.

These astounding revelations, which have only begun, indicate the degeneracy of the Mexican public service, when not only policemen, but generals, cabinet ministers, judges and sheriffs can actively co-operate for the perpetration of secret and fiendish crimes. Nearly all these degenerates the ferocious Huerta found ready to hand, as they had held office under Porfirio Diaz. The latter used to boast that he turned bandits into public servants, but he forgot to mention that the bandits seldom changed their morals on taking office.

The obsession for murder which marked Huerta during his presidency may perhaps have been due to remorse, as stated by the martyred Federal Senator, Belisario Dominguez in his speech in the senate on Sept. 29, 1913, as follows:

"The specter of his protector and friend, President Madero, betrayed and murdered, sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by Pino Suarez, appears constantly to Huerta. It disturbs his sleep, it produces nightmares and overwhelms him with horror during banquets and orgies. When the obsession is strongest, Huerta gets frantic, and to calm his mind and his unstrung nerves he summons his most ruthless and cruel instincts and then orders his lackeys: 'Kill, ravage and burn, without pity and without pause, all my enemies both the just and the unjust, for only in this way will there be peace.'"

It is a relief to turn from the destructive record of the Mexican Borgia to a constructive agrarian decree, promulgated on June 21, 1914, by General Villareal, the Rebel governor of Nuevo Leon, whose vital clauses I have translated as follows:

Art. 1—All arable lands in Nuevo Leon which are not sown before July 10th will revert provisionally to State control.

Art. 2—The State will then proceed to rent the idle lands to any Mexican farmer who will guarantee immediate cultivation.

Art. 3—The State will deal directly with the farmers in making the leases and will charge an annual rent of \$2.00 the hectare for irrigated and \$1.00 a hectare for natural land.

Art. 4—The land rent will be payable to the local tax collectors before Dec. 31, 1914.

Art. 5—The sums collected for rent will go to the special working fund of the Agrarian Commission.

Art. 6—The cultivation of a lot under this decree will carry no future property right in the land.

Art. 7—A renter will be strictly responsible for any misuse of his lot and can use it only for agriculture.

Art. 8—In each district the highest civil (or military) official will have charge of distributing the lots. The land must be divided so as to give every applicant an arable lot and it must be handled so as to get it all into cultivation. The lots must not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ hectares in area and must be distributed impartially.

Art. 10—Any renter who fails to sow his lot at once, as agreed, will lose it and it will be assigned to another.

Art. 12—Renters shall be free to sell their harvests how and where they choose.

Art. 13—The State will record the names of those farmers who raise the best and biggest harvests and such will be favored in the definite distribution of land.

Art. 16—The difficulties which arise in administering this decree will be decided by the highest local official with a right to appeal to the central State authorities.

Art. 18—Any local officials who show partiality or bad faith in administering this decree and favor their private interests, or their relatives and friends, will be subject to fine or imprisonment; as will also private citizens who impede this decree.

Art. 19—On receiving this decree the local officials will assemble all citizens and stimulate them to get their land under cultivation as soon as possible.

On the seizure of Vera Cruz in April, Huerta organized a number of delegations to visit the Rebel chiefs and persuade them to join him against the Yankee "blonde pigs." In many cases these delegates, while pretending to parley with a chief, expected to secretly delude his ignorant followers; but they were seldom given this chance, for most delegations were arrested at once and held for ransom. Many delegates were young students and they had many adventures before regaining their liberty, as often the only ransom accepted for them was arms and cartridges. The Federal press hurrahed mightily at the acceptance by some Zapatista bands of Huerta's amnesty offers, but little was said when these same bands decamped to the hills a few weeks later, all provided with a complete new military outfit.

At present writing the Rebel armies are within 100 miles of the capital to the north and west, while to the south and southwest the Zapatistas and other irregulars have possession of everything, except the largest cities, and only allow the railroads to run by sufferance. The whole democracy is in arms and further resistance of the landed aristocracy seems hopeless.

RESIDENT OBSERVER.



TAX REFORM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington, D. C., July 15.

Disfranchised, there is nothing left for the residents of Washington to do but to conduct a campaign of education as regards reform in assessment and taxation conditions, so that when the opportunity offers and the people of the rest of the United States again give us the franchise we shall be prepared to adopt the best and most scientific methods of assessment and taxation, which the "George" report shows that we are in so much need of.

With this object in view, the Tax Reform Association of the District of Columbia was organized last fall, with Mr. H. Martin Williams from Illinois, Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives, as President, and a strong advisory committee with Mr. Herbert J. Browne, the real estate expert of the Congressional Committee, as chairman. The association adopted the following Declaration of Principles:

1. An equitable assessment of property, inequalities to be corrected.
2. Abolition of the Personal Property Tax.
3. Abolition of taxes on occupations and enterprise, except liquor license and similar restrictions.
4. Taxes on franchises and monopolies.
5. Gradual shifting of taxes from improvements to land values.
6. A graduated inheritance tax.

There are in the District of Columbia about sixty Citizens' Associations which have regular monthly meetings. These associations take up matters of interest to their respective districts together with questions of general interest, and occasionally invite speakers to address them on subjects of importance. Besides these strictly civic organizations, there are about sixty labor unions and numerous organizations of a fraternal and religious nature. In the early winter we sent circulars to many of these associations offering to furnish speakers to address them on the subject of assessment and taxation in the District of Columbia.

As a result of the interest aroused by these circulars, we received numerous invitations to furnish speakers, and during the winter and spring about 50 meetings were addressed on the subject of taxation, and an aggregate of over 3,000 persons were present to learn of modern methods of assessment and taxation. After the formal address opportunity was given to ask questions, and at the close literature was given to those interested, including copies of the "George" report on conditions in the District of Columbia. Usually reporters were present at the meetings, and we secured considerable publicity in the two morning and two evening papers. The meetings were not especially advertised, except through the regular notice sent out by the Secretary of the Association to be addressed. The maximum attendance at the meetings was 250 and the least number was 20, but often we would get the best newspaper notice with the smallest audience, so that these smaller meetings were fully as important as the larger ones.

In order to make the meetings as effective as possible we devised a series of paper charts on conditions in the District as shown by the official reports of the Assessor, Auditor, Police Department, "George" Congressional Committee, and so forth. These were later photographed and made into lantern slides, and used in this way where the organization addressed had a stereopticon. Many organizations were induced to have us address them through our advertising the use of these charts.

The season closed with a lecture, or rather addresses on taxation by two of our members on the Fourth of July at the dedication of a fire-engine house at a nearby suburb. Most of the civic organizations do not meet in the summer, but we hope