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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Calles, Gil and Mexico

In choosing Portes Gil as provisional president, Mexico won a moral victory over as great a temptation as a nation ever had.

Mexico had two outstanding national figures to guide her destinies. One was President Calles and the other was President-Elect Obregon.

An assassin's bullet removed Obregon, so as a matter of practical politics and for the sake of the country's immediate good the thing to do was to continue President Calles in office.

Calles' calibre had been proved. He had demonstrated his statesmanship, his talent for national reconstruction and his almost religious determination to lift his people as a whole to a higher standard of living.

Considered purely from the standpoint of Mexico's immediate future, we repeat Calles clearly was the man to carry on with the job.

Fortunately for Mexico, however, President Calles is thinking of tomorrow as well as today. He insisted that another man be selected to succeed him, completely ignoring the strong pressure brought to bear upon him to remain. He felt the time had come definitely to prove those critics wrong who insisted that only a Diaz could rule his country.

So a young lawyer—not a soldier with an array of bristling bayonets behind him—has been named provisional president. His name is Emilio Portes Gil. Despite his youth—he is just 37 years old—he has made an enviable reputation as a governor, builder of schools and roads, and as a cabinet member, and it is believed he will continue the Calles policy of rapprochement and friendship with the United States.

But to us, somehow, the important thing is less the kind of man Gil turns out to be—vastly important to Mexico, and us, though this is—that than he or any one else should have been chosen at all to succeed Calles, the circumstances being what they were. Mexico is fooling her enemies and—let's be frank about it—surprising even her friends more and more every day by her steady progress.

Her latest, and perhaps greatest, moral victory will in time greatly outweigh the momentary advantage, great though that would be, of retaining Calles in power. For Calles, by his renunciation, has created a precedent destined to have enormous influence on the future of his country.

"Old Soak's" Author for Hoover

Striking evidence of the cross currents that prevail in prohibition's relation to the presidential campaign is found in the fact that the author of "The Old Soak" comes out for Hoover.

One of the greatest ironies on prohibition was "The Old Soak." Yet Don Marquis, a wet, will give his vote to Hoover, the first time in his life he ever has voted for a Republican.

And his reasoning is clear-cut. It expresses what we believe to be true of this campaign as it affects the prohibition question. What Marquis says is a concise and true tribute to Hoover.

Quoting Marquis:

"I don't think the liquor issue is ripe to spring on the voters. There must be more education first. When it is put before them, then it should be put before them directly, uncomplicated with other issues. It is not a clean-cut issue in this campaign; that is to say, Smith, if elected, will have a tough job changing the Eighteenth Amendment; Hoover, if elected, will have a tough job enforcing it."

"I never before have voted for a Republican for any office, but I intend to vote for Hoover. I like the man, his tone, his manner, his essential character. He is an experienced administrator."

"He not only understands politics in the larger sense, but he is in close touch with the economic and industrial situations, which, more and more, in our intensely complex civilization, have their influence on national policies."

"This Republic is taking a foremost place among the powers of the world by virtue of its economic position in the world. It is essential to have at the head of it not only a man who understands the relation between industry and politics in America, but a man who understands in a broad way the relations of this country to the general economic-political-industrial situation throughout the world."

"I am going to vote for Hoover because I think he is better equipped to be a leader in this new statesmanship than any other man prominent in political life in America."

The prohibition question is a question in itself. It does not belong in either party as things now stand, for the simple reason that neither party is unified on the issue.

There are scores of thousands of dry Democrats and scores of thousands of wet Republicans. Since prohibition cuts both ways through party lines, it cannot dominate the 1928 election, no matter how much the ardent drys or the ardent wets would like to have it be the determining factor.

Good Luck, Prince and Princess

Every American has special reason to wish all happiness to Prince and Princess Chichibu, married yesterday in Tokio.

The heir presumptive to the Japanese throne himself visited the United States not so very long ago and made many friends during his stay. But his beautiful young princess, we feel, is almost an American. She attended school in Washington, where her father, Ambassador Matsudaira, represented his government for some time.

Miss Setsuko Matsudaira, now Princess Chichibu, studied, attended classes, recited, played tennis and engaged in other school activities just like any healthy American girl. She always was a great favorite among the other students. Her English is faultless and she was genuinely fond of American ways and customs.

Now she has become an imperial princess, second in line from the throne and the presumptive next empress of Japan. It all sounds like a page from a book of Japanese fairy tales.

Good luck to her and her Prince Charming. In their years to come—which we hope will be very many—we may be sure they will not forget us.

An organization for the improvement of divorce laws suggests that lonesomeness be made sufficient grounds. As an added starter we recommend the quotation, "My mother said that father never contradicted her."

One of the big college football teams is to travel 10,000 miles this year. A football player has to get an education some way.

People and Their Votes

Actors, like all the rest of us, are merely people. When it comes to politics they have their prejudices as other people do. Probably most of them are Republicans or Democrats because their fathers were before them. If they can find any vital difference between the two parties they have sharper eyes than most of us.

So it isn't surprising that each of the party organizations can trot out a long list of actors who will support that party's candidate. In almost any class of citizens it is possible to find both sheep and goats, because there is little real relation between a citizen's political opinion and the special line of thought he develops in his manner of making a living.

Authors, actors, educators, priests, preachers, editors, captains of industry, carpenters, bricklayers, clerks and all the rest of us walk up to the polls and vote one way or another, without much knowledge of what that vote means.

In general, we figure it out that the country will be better off if the Government is controlled by this party or that.

Aside from the several issues that a few get excited about, none of us can see that it is going to make much difference in our daily lives whether Hoover or Smith is elected. If there is any advantage it is on the side of Hoover, because of the natural reluctance of many people to favor a change when things are going as well as could be expected.

It generally takes a financial panic or an industrial depression to tempt people to take a chance and make a change; and there's nothing like that this year, despite unfavorable conditions in coal, textiles and agriculture; and no political party can be blamed for that.

New Strike Tactics

Money makes the mare go, said our ancestors. And now it has been found to be true in solving a strike problem.

If the capitalists will not employ you, why not turn capitalist and employ yourselves? No sooner said than done, reply the Amalgamated Garment Workers and their unusual leader, Sidney Hillman.

So, in Milwaukee, having come to a deadlock with the Adler Clothing Company, the strike or lockout has been ended by the workers hiring an old brewery and going to work on their own account. Hart, Schaffner and Marx, who are always the big brothers of the Amalgamated, have agreed to buy all their product.

Of course, money was the answer. But what is money when the Amalgamated has a bank in New York and a bank in Chicago with ten or twenty millions in their vaults? When the sun was shining little Sidney Hillman advised his friends to lay aside for the rainy day. And now that it is raining in Milwaukee, they start their own factory.

It is an entirely new answer by strikers to an obstinate employer. It will be watched with interest.

So Much, So Good

It is possible to see good in everything.

Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt has been mentioned in the past frequently as a probable appointee to a Federal judgeship. But her lack of the judicial temperament being proved now day by day, we are not likely to hear her mentioned in that manner again.

It is a good idea to be as bad with regard to water power, which was selected for the third round.

Now we are back to be tolerant and Mrs. Willebrandt.

Wordless Struggle

The great weakness of our political system consists in the fact that we demand just about so much talk, whether there is anything to say.

The Croats pursue an opposite course in their struggle for fair treatment. Instead of talking, they have adopted a policy of silence. They absolutely refuse to speak to the Serbs.

The Serbs simply do not know what to make of it. Neither do they know how to retaliate. The result is that for the first time since the nation of Jugo-Slavia was formed, the Serbs are showing a desire to give the Croats what they want.

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Shout Party Loyalty

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