

districts and the remaining five at large. In the lower house there are to be thirty-nine members, thirty-five of whom are to be chosen from seven districts and the remaining four at large. A power of veto over the acts of the legislature is vested in the governor; but this may be overcome by a majority of two-thirds, upon reconsideration in the legislature. However, in some cases where the veto shall have been imposed and overridden, the matter may be referred to the President, who has an absolute veto.

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The Mexican Constitution of 1917. From conviction that the democratic spirit of the constitution of 1857 was not obeyed and enforced, and that there were other irregularities in Mexican political and social life, sprang, toward the close of 1910, a revolutionary movement. The revolt had as its motto "*sufragio efectivo y no reelección.*" But it aimed also at economic reforms, so as to win over the masses who cared nothing for voting. It ended in the exile of Diaz and the election of Madero.

Then began the sanguinary drama we have been witnessing. Madero resigned and was succeeded by Lascuráin, who in turn handed over the reins of government to Huerta. Carranza promptly took up arms against him, and issued the plan of Gaudalupe, of March 26, 1913, in which he embodied his political promises. His party was called "constitucionalista," because, as he asserted to the United States government, "its sole mission was that of restoring the rule of the Constitution of 1857."

The plan of Gaudalupe was a political platform without legal sanction. It was amended December 12, 1914. To mark the evolution of the leading democratic principles it originally embraced, it will be sufficient to quote from the amendatory decree:

"I, Venustiano Carranza, *have seen fit to decree* the following: [Article 1]. . . . Venustiano Carranza shall continue at his post as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Revolution . . . [Article 2]. The first Chief of the Revolution . . . shall enact and enforce during the struggle all the laws, provisions and measures tending to meet the economic, social and political needs of the country, carrying into effect the reforms which public opinion demands. . . ."

Article 4 reads: "Upon the success of the Revolution . . . the First Chief . . . shall issue the call for election of congressmen . . . In September 19, 1916, a call for an election of members to a consti-

tutional convention was issued in direct contravention of this article. This body met in Querétaro December 1, 1916. The first chief presented a draft, and in a lengthy speech explained the character and spirit of the reforms. The constitution was signed on January 31, 1917. It was promulgated without the sanction of the state legislatures as provided for by the constitution of 1857 (Arts. 127, 128); and it is intended that it shall become effective May 1, 1917. The legality of the action taken is highly dubious. Indeed, taking the charter of 1857 as a basis of judgment, the new instrument is itself unconstitutional.

Viewed as a whole the document of Querétaro is a piece of "advanced legislation"—so advanced, indeed, that it may be considered as distinctively class legislation. It provides that no law shall be given retroactive effect (Art. 14); yet, its agrarian clauses have to be retroactive in order to produce the desired results. In proof, attention is called to the provisions of Art. 27 that, "all legal actions which may have deprived properties held in common by co-owners, hamlets situated on private property, settlements, congregations, tribes and other settlement organizations still existing since the law of June 25, 1856, of the whole or a part of their lands, woods and waters, are declared null and void. . . ." The same article further provides: "All contracts and concessions made by former governments from and after the year 1876 which shall have resulted in the monopoly of lands, waters and natural resources of the nation . . . are declared subject to revision, and the executive is authorized to declare those null and void which seriously prejudice the public interest."

Again, the constitution of 1857 provided (Art. 29) that "in cases of invasion, grave disturbance of the public peace, or any other emergency . . . the president of the republic of Mexico, and no one else . . . shall have power to suspend the guaranties provided by this constitution, except those which protect the life of man . . ." It is most significant, however, that the document of Querétaro, while reproducing almost verbatim the language of 1857, omits the clause "except those which protect the life of man."

Economically, the document of Querétaro is dangerous because the precarious tenure system it provides will surely throttle foreign initiative and alienate foreign capital; socially, it is impracticable, for the economic conditions of the country do not justify the enactment nor permit the enforcement of legislation of the type proposed; politically, it lacks the sanction of the majority of the people because it disregards the very promises of the party, and because it denies to the inhabitants

of the republic those rights generally recognized and respected in all civilized communities, including the right of conscience and even the right to life.

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Parties and the Cabinet System in Japan. The Japanese political crisis of recent months is no new development. It rather forms a link in the long chain of political struggle that has time and again been waged since the opening of the imperial diet in 1890. It is, in fact, the conflict between two schools of political thought, each contending for mastery in practical politics.

One of these schools is well represented by Marquis Okuma. When the marquis resigned the premiership last autumn on account of old age, he recommended to the emperor as his successor Viscount Kato, foreign minister in his cabinet and leader of the Kenseikai, which commanded at that time a workable majority in the lower house. In doing so, Marquis Okuma was acting upon the principle of which he has so long been an ardent advocate, that the government should be operated under a party system, as is the English. The contention of this school is, in brief, that as the emperor has granted to the people the constitution with the avowed object of ruling the country in conformity with their wishes, the ministry appointed to carry out the imperial will should logically be chosen from among those statesmen who enjoy the confidence not only of the emperor but also of the people. In other words, this school advocates that the cabinet should be formed in major part, if not entirely, by the leaders of the party which has the majority in the imperial diet. This majority party in the diet, however, amounts in practice to the majority party in the lower house, for the upper house has not yet incorporated into its organization any well-defined political parties. Moreover, the house of representatives is elected directly by the people, whereas the major part of the house of peers is composed of the appointees of the throne.

The recommendation of Marquis Okuma as to his successor was not accepted by the emperor, who followed the advice of another group of "Elder Statesmen" by appointing Count Terauchi to the premiership. Thereupon the Terauchi cabinet was organized, with the program of a non-party cabinet and administration conducted by the best intellects of the united nation. The statesmen now in power are