

CABRERA A NOTABLE MAN

The Recently Deposed President of Guatemala

Ruled Much Like Diaz in Mexico and Had Done Much for the Development of His Country.

Manuel Estrada Cabrera, deposed president of Guatemala, who is reported to have fled to Cuba following a revolution which began last February, had the distinction of governing the Central American republic for twenty-two years. Growth of the Unionist party in Guatemala, the members of which favored an amalgamation of all the Central American republics under one government, was opposed by Cabrera on the ground that it was "reactionary."

On his reinauguration as president in 1917 he issued a decree severing relations between Guatemala and Germany, during the three succeeding years, Cabrera's administration had been marked by internal dissensions and difficulties with Honduras and other countries close to the Guatemalan border. Numerous uprisings occurred during his regime and many attempts were made on his life. In 1917 he caused the arrest of 100 men on a charge of conspiring to assassinate him. Nineteen of these who were tried

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and sentenced to death, were executed. Many other attempts had been made to kill him. On one occasion a was thrown under his carriage. Cadets from the Guatemalan Military Academy, who acted as his escort, attempted to shoot him on April 21, 1918, when he entered the national palace to receive the American minister, William Heinke. He suffered a bayonet wound in the hand and escaped death only by his bravery.

Carlos Herrera, a financier, was chosen provisional president on April 12, upon the ousting of Cabrera, who abandoned Guatemala City the next day and announced that he and some troops who had remained loyal would cut off the capital's water supply and food shipments until "the rebels begged for terms."

Cabrera concentrated his quarters at La Palma, Matamoros and San Jose and, dominating Guatemala City, began to shell the capital, killing. It was reported, many civilians. Meanwhile the revolt against Cabrera spread over the entire country. Cabrera's government was in many respects like that of Porfirio Diaz, who ruled Mexico for years with an iron hand. He was born in Quetzaltenango on Nov. 21, 1857, and received his preparatory education in the schools of that district, the second most important in Guatemala. Later he attended a law school in Guatemala City from which he was graduated in 1883.

Rufino Barrios, then "dictator," named him as chief justice of the department of Retalhuleu, where he remained until 1886, when he was appointed to the post of chief justice of the department of Quetzaltenango, his native district. In 1888 he was made a

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justice of the court of appeals and later he became a member of the national assembly.

Cabrera soon became a leader of the assembly. When he had achieved this place, Barrios was assassinated in the streets of Guatemala City in February, 1898, an election was called and Cabrera was chosen as Barrios' successor. He assumed the presidency in the following October.

It was then that the real development of Guatemala began. Cabrera built one of the most magnificent capitals in Central America. He was the first ruler on the American continent, it is said, to adopt aviation for his army. He organized the West Point of Guatemala. He erected a score of modern hospitals and many schools. He opened up the coun-

try to railroad builders and restored the national treasury. He promulgated a decree of unconditional amnesty when he became president, thus bringing together all factions and yet he proved strong enough to hold them in check when his enemies plotted to overthrow him until the issue of Central American union arose.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE

Montreal Herald: In nearly every strike one of the objects set forth is a further advance in wages, and, after that, another advance. Instead of concentrating on the strike as a means of higher wages, why should the labor men not try and devote themselves to some plan for the reduction of the cost of living, and so increase the value of the dollar? Every advance in wages increases the cost of living. As it works out at present the possession of more money, or the present inflated currency that passes as money, leads to extravagant spending. It creates a mania for buying, which in turn so increases the demand for goods that it outruns the production, and the prices are put up. As an example of this a Montreal man went to buy a hat, the price for which turned out to be \$12. He refused to pay that price, saying that he had two or three hats and he would make them do. The storekeeper had been giving some attention to the situation, and said to the visitor, if everyone did that it would speedily reduce the consumption of goods and bring the supply up to a normal demand at reasonable prices.

He Couldn't

"Do you suppose there ever was a human being who didn't talk about his neighbors?" asked the cynical man. "Sure," said the genial citizen. "Name him." "Robinson Crusoe."—Birmingham Herald.



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