

gether an important set of documents dealing with Mexican-French relations from 1870 to 1880. When Juárez returned to power in 1867, Mexico had diplomatic relations with only one major power, the United States. The Mexican president was willing to re-establish diplomatic ties with the European powers, but under two conditions: 1) they must take the initiative; 2) they must agree that previous treaties were no longer in force. Germany made the first move in 1869 and other European nations soon followed. By way of the United States, France indicated that she too wanted to restore normal relations, but it took over ten years before this could be accomplished. The major area of disagreement came over the Mexican position on the treaties, which France refused to accept. Mexico held firm, however, and finally, before the formal presentation of credentials, an exchange of notes confirmed Mexico's point. Emilio Velasco was the Mexican government's chief negotiator.

Most of the documents published here are from the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México, but a few are from French and American archives. The material is arranged, as it should be, in chronological order.

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A Southwestern Utopia. By THOMAS A. ROBERTSON. Los Angeles, 1964. The Ward Ritchie Press. Maps. Illustrations. Appendix I. Appendix II. Notes. Index. Pp. 266. \$5.95.

Thomas Robertson, the author of *A Southwestern Utopia*, was the son of a Dane name Lajos Proschowski, who came from a Greek Orthodox Polish family converted in Hungary to Lutheranism. Perhaps it is not surprising that a man of such complex antecedents would be born among Mayo Indians in Sinaloa, nor that he continued the pursuit of social idealism that led his forbears from Poland, through Hungary, Denmark, the United States, and into Mexico. He was born and spent all of

his boyhood in a "Brook Farm" type of colony at Topolobampo, a name with the rippling sound of a rondo that seems fitting to the bubbling enthusiasm that almost two thousand settlers brought to northwestern Mexico.

The colony was promoted and founded in 1886 by a persuasive civil engineer named Albert Kimsey Owen, at a site where he envisioned the growth of a "great metropolitan city," with ships lying in the harbor flying the flags of many nations. However, Owen was not only persuasive but a practical enthusiast; it was he who planned and started the construction of a railroad that was to reduce the distance from Kansas to the Pacific Coast by 400 to 600 miles. Although his venture failed, the lines projected for his Kansas City, Mexico y Oriente railway were the basis for the recent completion of the Chihuahua al Pacífico railway; and members of his colony took the first steps pointing the way to the prosperity of the city of Los Mochis and its agricultural hinterland.

But the colony collapsed. Dissension tolls the bell; adversity deflated enthusiasm and antagonism grew between the "practical" private property group and the "idealist" socialists. Directly instrumental in the demise of the colony—although disintegration had already advanced toward an obvious denouement—was a hardheaded organizer named Benjamin Francis Johnson. Gradually acquiring rights to lands and water, he emerged with control of colony lands, and ultimately with four hundred thousand acres in the area, before expropriation ended his operation.

The book is divided into two parts: Part I concerns the founding of the colony, its tribulations, and ultimate decline. The latter fact was not due to bad choice of an area; failure was the result of naiveté. The settlers thought that success would come to them because of their devotion to an ideal. They had too much enthusiasm and too little understanding of simple principles of geography. Hard working and generally intelligent, the fact did not occur to them that a new en-

vironment might mean problems in economy beyond their experience.

Part II, "Memories of Sinaloa," is a straightforward account as perceptive and enlightening as "Two Years before the Mast." It is told with sympathy for the Indians and an understanding of the problems of the owners in an outmoded economic system.

The book is written with affection, affection not only for the colonizers but also for the land and its earlier inhabitants. Even though one feels that the author's affections give an idyllic coloration to his tale and that he speaks too cursorily of the disaster that came to so many of the settlers, it is an excellent account of an interesting experiment in an interesting place.

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Documentos históricos de la Revolución Mexicana. IV. El Plan de Guadalupe. Edited by ISIDRO FABELA and LA COMISIÓN DE INVESTIGACIONES HISTÓRICAS DE LA REVOLUCIÓN MEXICANA. México, 1963. Fondo de Cultural Económica. Notes. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. xiii, 220. Paper.

The fourth volume of Isidro Fabela's documentary history of the Constitutionalist revolution and regime headed by Venustiano Carranza follows its predecessors in spirit, but varies somewhat in format. Although small in physical dimensions, this volume devoted to the internal history of Mexico from 1913 through early 1917 is of considerable significance.

The earlier volumes consisted in large measure of documents with commentary limited to an introductory essay, explanatory paragraphs preceding each document, and appended discussions. While documentary materials constitute an important part of the present volume, they are interwoven with a chronological and analytical text. As for the spirit of the book, Fabela is once again the defender of Carranza, "the eponymous hero of the

Mexican Revolution, grander than all his enemies."

Carranza's conduct is viewed as exemplary from start to finish. With a profusion of reproduced and excerpted documents, the author seeks to defend and justify Carranza's conduct during the final days of the Madero government as well as vis-à-vis the new Huerta regime. Carranza's talks with other revolutionary governors during the waning days of the former administration are justified on the grounds that he was concerned with threats to the stability of Madero's regime. The allegation that he might have been plotting against Madero is not deemed worthy of a reply. The documentation on the period of the *decena trágica* is particularly rich.

However, the principal task assumed with enthusiasm by the author is to demonstrate that Carranza not only was aware of the socio-economic character of the Mexican Revolution, but that despite internal and external difficulties of considerable magnitude he did concern himself with the social reforms needed by the Mexican people. Just as in the volumes devoted to external affairs, Fabela endeavored to establish that the "Carranza Doctrine" had identifiable threads early in the movement and that it evolved into a fully developed foreign policy ideology, so now the editor of this series endeavors to reveal all the threads of Carranza's awareness of and contribution to the social revolution.

Fabela begins by citing Carranza's reasons for delimiting the program of the movement rejecting Huerta's usurpation. This section focuses attention on Carranza's remarks of March 23, 1913, the Plan of Guadalupe, and the Act of Monclova. There follows a section treating Carranza's decrees and circulars, largely emanating from Veracruz, during the 1914-1915 period. Emphasis is on the creation of the National Agrarian Commission, documents relating to municipal autonomy, marriage and divorce, and petroleum, and the Additions to the Plan of Guadalupe. Key links in Fabela's chain of evidence are Carranza's speeches at Matamoros