

Mexico and its Reconstruction. By CHESTER LLOYD JONES.
(New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1921. Pp. x, 330.)

In the judgment of the reviewer, Dr. Jones has done the best single book dealing with the Mexican problem in general. It is for the serious-minded reader and is not intended to be a popular message. He has given us a clear statement of what the real Mexican problem is—if, indeed, there is such a thing as a Mexican problem.

In a phrase, the Mexican state is an anomalous one and exists by virtue of the forbearance of the greater nations. The country is lacking in nearly all the essential elements which go to make up a real state in the true modern significance. Seventy-five per cent of its people belong in the period of the Phoenician and the nomadic freebooter. Dr. Jones has shown characteristically enough that only the smallest possible percentage of Mexicans is qualified to support a modern political state. The inertness of the majority of the population, mostly Indian, is emphasized, as well as the fickleness and dislike of work on the part of the mixed bloods; and finally the rivalries and lack of coöperation existing among the members of the topmost layer is pictured—all accounting for the possession by the Mexicans of the outline of a democracy along republican lines, and its degeneration into single executive control, or a paternalism which reached its height under Diaz.

The author's discussion of "Loans," "Claims," "Currency in the Banks" and "Public Income and Expenditure" comprises an important section of the book. He has given the essential facts, and but for the statement (note 2, p. 67) that the figures were in Mexican gold, one could not take exception to his data. As a matter of fact, the Mexican peso until 1905 had legally the intrinsic value of the American dollar, but it was subject of course to fluctuations in the markets.

One of the best sections of the book is undoubtedly that dealing with the people as a whole. The study of the labor problem is a clear exposition and at the same time a dismal forecast. Another important section of the book, and one upon which Dr. Jones is by right entitled to speak with authority, is that of "Industry" and "Commerce," and the two chapters dealing particularly with "Foreign Trade" have unusual merit. The whole story is told graphically and briefly. His discussion of "Foreigners' Property" is not so satisfactory; as a matter of fact no discussion of foreign investments could at this time be satisfactory, because the data is so indeterminate that more or less specula-

tion must be indulged in. His estimate as to losses and as to the investments of foreigners are in both cases, in our judgment, conservative (p. 247).

The legal difficulties in the oil situation are gone into somewhat elaborately, and the reader can gather a good understanding of this problem, which has been agitating international relations probably more than any other single factor. Considerable space is devoted to "Government" and "Elections," and divers other problems are considered, all emphasizing the fundamental weaknesses in character of the majority of the inhabitants of Mexico, and making the case of the author appear that no independent improvements may be expected for a long period of time. Dr. Jones does not advocate outright any particular form of action which should be taken, nor does he prescribe anything at all, but he does insist on an adequate understanding with this country, and in view of all that he has written his inference is plain.

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The Corner-Stone of Philippine Independence. A Narrative of Seven Years. By FRANCIS BURTON HARRISON. (New York: The Century Company. 1922. Pp. viii, 343.)

Here is the record of an American "administrator in the making." It would be too much, perhaps, to expect such a book to make an absolutely impartial appraisal of the political acts of its author. But throughout, the reader is struck by the fairness of ex-Governor General Harrison to the opponents of his régime and by his readiness to admit the failure of the program of Filipinization, notably in regard to legislative procedure (p. 220). As a statement of faith in the capacity of the Filipino for self-government, the book comes with refreshing freedom from the dogma of the mental and moral inferiority of the "backward peoples."

Two important political reforms were carried out during his administration. The commission became virtually a cabinet with a majority of Filipino members. Under the terms of the Jones Act of 1916, an elective Senate and House, with appointive representation for the non-Christian Moros and hill tribes, were created with full legislative responsibility for the islands. At the same time Filipinos largely displaced the American administrative personnel—the percentage of Americans dropped from twenty-eight to four.