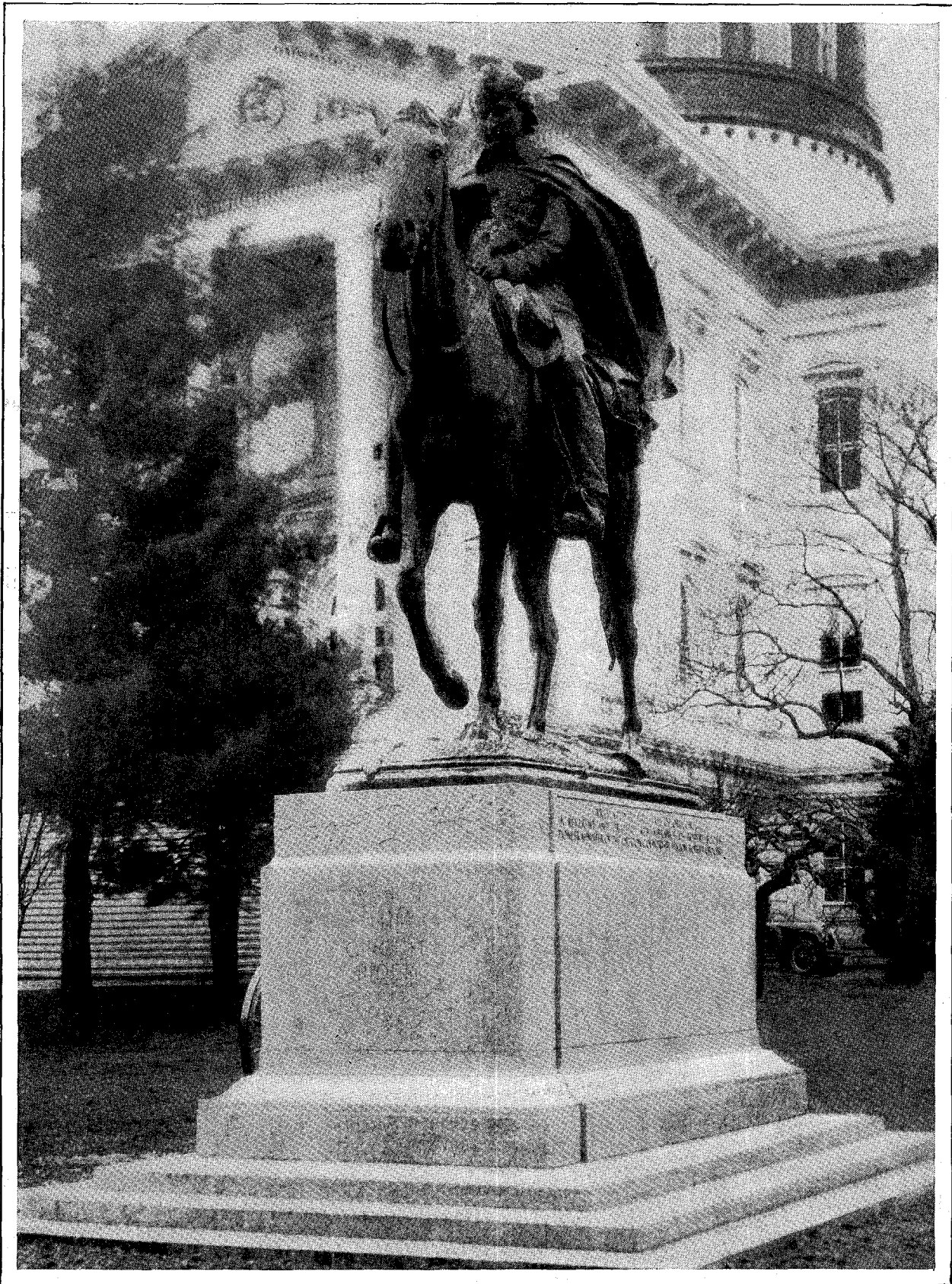


# The Circuit Rider—A Memorial to Pioneer Ministers



Ewing Galloway

This statue, representing a pioneer minister of the West, is one of the recent works of a well-known New York sculptor, Mr. A. Phimister Proctor. It is placed on the Capitol grounds in Salem, Oregon. It was presented to the State of Oregon by Mr. R. A. Booth, a prominent business man of that State, in memory of Oregon's early itinerant preachers, among whom was his own father

# General Calles—Mexico's New President

By EDWARD CORSI

**T**HAT General Calles would succeed his friend Obregon to the Presidency of the Republic was known to the Mexican people many months ago. The result of the recent elections merely confirmed an old suspicion.

Up to the outbreak of the last revolution the Government of Mexico was in the hands of a triumvirate consisting of three Sonora generals—Obregon, Calles, and de la Huerta. Rumor had it that this triumvirate (known in political circles as "the Sonora News Company") was planning to keep itself in power indefinitely by giving each of its members a turn at the Presidency. Calles was to succeed Obregon, de la Huerta to succeed Calles, and, in 1932, if all went well, Obregon would again be President. The plan was a simple one, and, with the aid of the army, a very feasible one. For a time it was only a rumor, and accepted as such, but when, in September of last year, Calles resigned from the Cabinet to enter the Presidential campaign it became more than a mere rumor. People saw the plan of the triumvirate taking on definite form. The various labor and agrarian organizations loyal to the Government, the "official" press, political and military leaders known to be close to Obregon, the hangers-on ready to serve the purpose of any one in power, all flocked to the support of Calles. The handwriting on the political wall became clear. The triumvirate would have its way.

Matters were proceeding very harmoniously and according to schedule when, unexpectedly, de la Huerta, the junior member of the Sonora firm, broke the faith. Encouraged by the support of various groups inimical to the Calles cause, he declared himself in the race. Now in Mexican politics the rule for ambitious office-seekers is, or rather it has been, to resort to arms when victory at the polls is uncertain. De la Huerta was to be no exception to the rule. He knew Calles's strength. He knew the power of the organizations and the men who backed him. He knew, furthermore, that, however righteous his cause might be, the cards were stacked against him and he could not win. There was but one course open to him, a course in keeping with historical precedent, and that he chose.

Obregon in 1917 had taken the field against Carranza, because Carranza,

**R**ESTLESS Mexico is—half blindly but instinctively—working out for herself a form of democracy. Since the days of Diaz she has been in a process of revolution. Bullets have as much to do with her politics as ballots. She has recently elected a new President. What sort of man is he? The answer is given by the author of articles published in *The Outlook* earlier in the year, who made a first-hand study of conditions during the stormy and somewhat warlike Presidential campaign.

benevolent despot that he was, sought to have one Ignacios Bonillas, a willing favorite, succeed him to the Presidency. It was a pure case of unwelcomed paternalism, quite incompatible with the ideals of the Revolution. The Mexican people had backed Obregon against Carranza; why would they not back de la Huerta against Obregon? Was not Obregon's support of Calles as clearly an abuse of official power as Carranza's? Thus argued de la Huerta, and there was logic in his argument. But, whereas Obregon had proved himself a better soldier than Carranza, winning on every battlefield, de la Huerta was no match for the one-arm President. The story of his fiasco, the echoes of which may be heard to this day, is too well known. Suffice it to say that it insured Calles's election, eliminating the only serious opponent to his candidacy. In other words, the de la Huerta rebellion dissolved the triumvirate, but did not impede the realization of its plan.

## *The Master Mind*

**L**ET us concede that the Mexican people were mistaken as to the intentions of the triumvirate. It may be that the Sonora generals never dreamed of monopolizing the Presidency. But there was one thing that the public knew for certain, upon which it entertained no doubts. It knew that Calles was the master mind and the inflexible will of that triumvirate. Obregon, as President, was the acknowledged spokesman of the

Government. De la Huerta, as Minister of the Treasury, controlled the public finances. But Calles—General Plutarco Elias Calles—as Minister of Gobernacion, was the silent dictator of both the administration and the triumvirate. His will was law, and all Mexico knew it.

A remarkable man is this Calles, perhaps the most remarkable man produced by the Revolution. He is the *enfant terrible* of the forces that are striving to create a proletarian democracy south of the Rio Grande. Born in Guaynamas, of humble parentage, forty-seven years ago, he has risen to fame and power in a rapid, almost phenomenal way. Destiny placed many obstacles in his path, obstacles that would have defeated any other man, but it endowed him with a will and a courage that know no obstacles. Think of Mussolini, the soap-box orator turned statesman, and you will know what Calles, the Mexican Mussolini, is like. I have seen him but once, many months in Mexico City, and I still remember the massive figure, the prominent forehead, the deep, dark, penetrating Indian eyes, the determined mouth, and the square jaw. His is the personality and the presence of the dictator, the leader who understands human nature and is capable of dealing with it. In Calles there is neither sentimentality nor poetry; there is only a cold, merciless shrewdness. There is also much that is cruel and unsparing. They say in Sonora that he once advocated the extermination of the Yaqui Indians, many of whom were his faithful followers in the campaign against Carranza. The ghost of Villa haunts his banquet table.

He first gave evidence of his executive ability at Hermosillo, where he served as Superintendent of Schools. We later find him at Agua Prieta and Fronteras, Chief of Police in one place and Mayor in the other. His popularity was fast growing, especially among the workers, when reports of his radical activities began to reach Mexico City, and he was compelled to give up public office. For the next few years we hear of him merely as an agitator, addressing revolutionary meetings here and there, haunted by the police, hated by the well-to-do and loved by the mob. The Madero Revolution found him ready to serve. He was among the first to enlist in the war on Diaz, rising rapidly from the ranks. He held the rank of colonel when Obregon,