

of March 15, 1917: Frank W. Taussig, of Massachusetts, for a term of 12 years; Daniel C. Roper, of South Carolina, for a term of 10 years; David J. Lewis, of Maryland, for a term of 8 years; William Kent, of California, for a term of 6 years; William S. Culbertson, of Kansas, for a term of 4 years; and Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, for a term of 2 years.

H. J. HARRIS.

*Library of Congress.*

**Porto Rican Civil Government Act.** Among the important measures adopted during the last hours of the sixty-fourth congress was the act conferring citizenship upon the people of Porto Rico. Since the adoption of the Foraker act, the Porto Ricans have occupied an anomalous position. Although they owed allegiance to the United States, they were not American citizens; nor were they aliens, according to the supreme court (*Gonzales vs. Williams*, 192 U. S. 1).

The Foraker act was intended to be a temporary measure, and its provisions were at first acceptable to the inhabitants of the island. The hope of ultimate independence led the Porto Ricans to feel no uneasiness over the fact that they were a people without a country. But the growing importance of American interests in the Caribbean and the established certainty that the United States will not withdraw from the island have brought about a change in attitude. The Porto Ricans have come to desire United States citizenship, as all of their political parties have declared.

The new measure extends United States citizenship collectively to all persons in Porto Rico. But any person may escape being covered into citizenship by filing within one year a declaration of intention to remain a citizen of some other country. The right to vote is extended to all citizens of the United States duly registered according to the laws of Porto Rico. It was at first proposed to permit the imposition of educational tests or property qualifications upon the right of suffrage; but these were eliminated, and it is declared "that no property qualification shall ever be imposed or required of any voter" by the Porto Rican legislature. The effect of these provisions will be to confer the citizenship of the United States upon more than one million people and to establish universal manhood suffrage.

Important governmental changes are likewise introduced. A new legislature is provided, in which both houses are elective. The senate is to consist of nineteen members, fourteen being chosen from seven

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-