

MEXICO TODAY

COLONEL IRVING SPEED WALLACE

Buenas Dias!



Michael

MEXICO TODAY

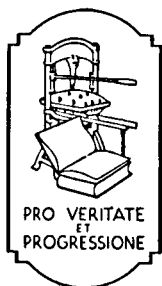


Charley Paddock (left) and Col. Irving Speed Wallace. Paddock, Now a Prominent Newspaper Publisher in California Earned the Name "The World's Fastest Human" During His College and Olympic Years.

MEXICO TODAY

By

COLONEL IRVING SPEED WALLACE



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By

Irving Speed Wallace

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To
THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN
To Whom White Man Has Been Most Unkind

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FOREWORD

“ ‘MEXICO TODAY’ splendidly pictures our neighbor nation. It delivers painlessly a most valuable lecture on a country of which the majority of us have little knowledge and it sustains our interest through each and every one of its colorful chapters.

Colonel Wallace has caught the spirit of both the old and the new Mexico and as soon as you have crossed the border with this colorful writer you find yourself living in each page just as though you were the actual companion of the beloved adventurer.”

CHARLES W. PADDOCK.

APPRECIATION

"MEXICO TODAY, is by that adventurous traveler, sportsman, athlete and lecturer, Col. Irving Speed Wallace, who knows and appreciates the country of Mexico and its people as few outside that Republic know it. He has been a frequent visitor over a period of years. He has approached it from all sides. He has sailed around it and over it. He has played with the people of all classes, studied their culture and history and lived with them in their homes.

"The title might well have been, MEXICO YESTERDAY AND TODAY, because of his treatment of the remains of that country's earlier civilization. The allure and suggestiveness of Mexico's earlier day lie in the background of his work. Although he is a loyal citizen of the United States, Colonel Wallace finds himself in ardent sympathy with the people of Mexico as they are today in their progressive struggle to improve the conditions under which they live. His lectures from the platform and radio in the United States and Canada have extended his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Mexican people to his numerous audiences.

"The readers of this book, by pictures and story, may participate in the author's adventures and get informative glimpses of the rich variety of customs, resources, geography and climate of this interesting and varied country, and of the hospitable and affectionate peoples who occupy it. Those readers who may be interested in the sociological aspects of Contemporary Mexico and the profound changes that are rapidly transforming that country, from the wooden rake and plow, the crude native handicrafts, to more modern industrialism will get a colorful and moving picture of a people emerging from a low economic state. Through his knowledge of these

movements and his acquaintance in the official circles of our Southern Republic, he is in possession of information that enables him to write a book which will hold the interest of the reader to the last vivid paragraph."

GEORGE A. MCFARLAND.

PREFACE

No doubt many nations in the world have interest, beauty, and show great progress, yet they appeal only to the few. Such races might attract one individual and not interest another. It seems no two travelers have the same interests and it is no doubt true that what pleases age might not be appreciated by youth. By the same reasoning, a business man would not find interest where an agriculturist would stop to study. Even a college man might not be concerned with matters that would deeply interest a student of archæology. It is due to this vast difference, that individuals of varied temperaments find respite in widely separated places.

However, now and then, a tourist visits a country that holds appeal for him by its variety of attractions. Here he finds what interests him, and also knows that his friends, though their tastes be different, will find enjoyment too.

To me, it appears that Mexico is a country every traveler will enjoy. No matter how often you visit this interesting region, below the silvery Rio Grande, you will still find many fascinating problems waiting to be solved. Mexico is so interesting it will hold the attention of both the historian and the layman.

As you travel about this grand old country you will see earmarks that will carry you back into the days of the mystical Indian tribes, who lived there prior to recorded history.

Then, too, the visitor to Mexico will find traces of the days of Cortez and his fellow countrymen. From that period it is evident the country passed through three centuries of turmoil, until one never-to-be forgotten midnight. This historic hour is registered in Mexican history books as September 10, 1810. It was during that

night the words, "Mexico must have independence," spread from the National Capital to the most remote sections of New Spain, which was later to be an independent Mexican nation.

The trials and tribulations of the blood flowing yesteryears have taken no little part in building up of the Mexico of Today. After reading about the history making days of Mexico one can hardly conceive that this once riled group of natives could have molded so progressive, safe and tranquil a nation.

Bright colored birds, varieties of fruits, many flowers, and an ideal climate, makes Mexico interesting and healthful for both children and adults.

It seems that many tourists return from this historic and romantic land with the same question, "Why does the sky seem bluer and the moon bigger in Mexico?" Remembering the coat-of-tan I so often acquire I must also admit that in some places their sun seems mighty big—and closer, too.

The Mexico of Today is very cosmopolitan; and as you journey you will come into contact with visitors from many foreign countries. After traveling to all parts of Mexico, I feel somewhat qualified to say, that the tourist will find interest in all sections of the nation—regardless how extensively he may have wandered; as the lower part of the continent seems to have everything the traveler might wish for to make his trip complete.

In the following pages I shall attempt to bring to you the interesting points about the Mexico of Today as I have seen them. Long names, as well as tiresome figures and Spanish phrases have been omitted. It has been my wish to bring you a book upon Mexico in "Common every day language."

IRVING SPEED WALLACE.

Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX

STATE NAMES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS.	CAPITALS	POPULATION OF STATE CAPITALS.
Aguascalientes	Ags.	Aguascalientes 62,000
Baja California (Northern Territory)	B. C. T. N.	Mexicali 15,000
Baja California (Southern Territory)	B. C. T. S.	La Paz. 8,000
Campeche	Camp.	Campeche 20,000
Chihuahua	Chih.	Chihuahua 45,000
Chiapas	Chis.	Tuxtla Gutierrez 13,500
Coahuila	Coah.	Saltillo 43,500
Colima	Col.	Colima 21,000
Federal District (Nat'l Cap'l.)	D. F.	Mexico City 1,250,000
Durango	Dgo.	Durango 35,000
Guerrero	Gro.	Chilpancingo 7,500
Guanajuato	Gto.	Guanajuato 16,000
Hidalgo	Hgo.	Pachuca 41,500
Jalisco	Jal.	Guadalajara 176,000
Mexico	Mex.	Toluca 37,000
Michoacan	Mich.	Morelia 36,000
Morelos	Mor.	Cuernavaca 9,500
Nuevo Leon	N. L.	Monterrey 155,000
Nayarit	Nay.	Tepic 16,000
Oaxaca	Oax.	Oaxaca 32,200
Puebla	Pue.	Puebla 115,000
Queretaro	Qro.	Queretaro 32,300
San Luis Potosi	S. L. P.	San Luis Potosi 75,000
Sinaloa	Sin.	Culiacan 27,400
Sonora	Son.	Hermosillo 20,150
Tabasco	Tab.	Villahermosa 15,600
Tamaulipas	Tamps.	Victoria 16,750
Tlaxcala	Tlax.	Tlaxcala 2,650
Veracruz	Ver.	Jalapa 34,500
Yucatan	Yuc.	Merida 97,750
Zacatecas	Zac.	Zacatecas 19,900

INTERESTING STATISTICS SUPPLIED THE AUTHOR
BY MEXICO'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
STATES, DR. FRANCISCO CASTILLO
NAJERA, AT THE MEXICAN EM-
BASSY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Population: 16,552,722 (1930 Census).

Area: 1,969,365 square kilometers.

Total Exports in 1933: \$364,967,039.00 (Mexican Currency).

Total Imports in 1933: \$244,475,056.00 (Mexican Currency).

Annual imports from the United States:

59.94% of the Nation's total imports, estimated at \$146,544,-
913.00 (1933) and consisting of: machinery and tools, auto-
mobiles and accessories, chemical and pharmaceutical products.

Annual exports to the United States:

47.91% of the Nation's exports, estimated at \$174,871,105.
(1933) and consisting of: silver, zinc, gold, copper, lead,
coffee, crude oil, gasoline, skins, sisal, fruits and vegetables.

Railroads: 23,811 kilometers, other lines under construction.

Highways: 42,539 kilometers (Federal and State).

All-weather roads: 10,967 kilometers (Federal and State).

Roads to be constructed under the Present Administration:

Projects for highway construction are so vast in scope that
there is not an accurate estimate. The road program includes,
however, completion of the International Pan-American high-
way and a complete network of roads from coast to coast.

Automobiles:

59,628 automobiles (1932)

5,296 buses, and

20,702 trucks.

Airplanes: 153 (1933, all kinds).

Crops:

Sugar: 3629,445,834 kilograms per year (1930)

Corn: 2043,384,973 " " "

Wheat: 278,040,193 " " "

Beans: 131,840,352 " " "

Coffee: 41,255,779 " " "

Rice: 72,391,538 " " "

Mineral resources:

Silver: making 36.35% of the value of the total mineral out-
put. 2,170,306 kilograms were produced in 1932, valued at

\$61,748,678.00. During the year 1928, silver reached the highest point of production, that year's output being valued at \$131,336,521.00.

Oil: In 1933, the total output was valued at \$90,636,000.00.

Total mineral production:

During the year 1929, the mineral output was valued at \$373,342,398.00. In 1932, its value was \$169,886,662.00.

At present, however, it is believed the industry is constantly increasing its production and is expected to regain its former status.

Live stock:

Asses:	4.56%	of the total, valued at \$511,850,768.00
Cattle	70.55%	" " " " " " 60,627,438.00
Horses:	8.36%	" " " " " " 51,344,868.00
Mules:	7.08%	" " " " " " 29,521,411.00
Hogs:	4.07%	" " " " " " 32,885,556.00
Goats:	3.51%	" " " " " " 22,852,873.00
Sheep:	2.32%	" " " " " " 16,214,373.00

Border line between the United States and Mexico: 2,727 Kilometers.

Standing army: 39,979 troops, and 9,059 officers.

Air force: 137 officers, in 1935. (on duty)

Tourist Trade:

Tourist Trade in recent years increased considerably, although the rate of increase is difficult to determine due to the fact that the years 1934 and 1935 registered an inflow of tourists without precedent.

NOTE: The Metric system is used in Mexico. A kilometer is about 2-3 of a mile (.621). A kilogram is slightly over two pounds (2.205). At this writing the Mexican dollar is worth a little more than 28 cents, U. S. money.

MEXICAN FESTIVAL DATES

These festival are held in Mexico every year, at the same dates, with the exception of the religious celebrations, the dates of which vary slightly from year to year.

February 5th.—Constitution Day. Popular festivals throughout the entire country.

February 23rd.—Merida, Yucatan and Mazatlan, Sinaloa,—Mardi Gras festivities.

- February 24th.—Amecameca. Traditional celebration at Sacromonte.
- February 28th to March 7th.—Chalma. Traditional festival,—Indian dances.
- April 3rd.—Mexico City. Traditional celebration at the Viga Canal. Boat races at Xochimilco.
- April 10th.—Ixtapalapa. Traditional celebrations.
- April 16th.—Villa Obregon (formerly San Angel). Traditional festival of the "Amapolas" or poppies.
- May 1st.—Celebrations over entire nation. Labor Day.
- May 5th.—Entire country celebrates in commemoration of the victory of Puebla against the French.
- June 24th.—Traditional bathing fiestas. Swimming contests.
- August 15th.—Papantla. Great Indian festival. Games of pre-hispanic origin, among them the famous "Volador" or flier.
- September 8th.—Los Remedios. Native dances.
- September 8th.—Tepoztlan. Traditional festival in honor of the idol "Tepoxteco," of the Aztec mythology.
- September 15-16th.—Independence Day. Popular celebrations throughout nation.
- October 2nd.—Mexico City. Opening of the bull fighting season, which continues each Sunday until April.
- October 12th.—Hispano-American Day. Known as the "Dia de la Raza." Celebrated throughout country.
- November 7th.—Agriculture and Cattle Fair. Mexico City.
- November 20th.—Anniversary of the Revolution. A very popular celebration over entire nation.
- December 8th.—Patzuaro. Popular festival. Typical native dances which create wide interest.
- December 12th.—Gustavo A. Madero (formerly Villa de Guadalupe). Traditional festival with native dances.
- December 16 to 31st.—Mexico City. Traditional celebrations called "Posadas."