

MISCELLANEOUS.

MORMON FAIR IN MEXICO.

COLONIA DIAZ, Mexico,
October 9th, 1896.

Dear Sir:—About the 1st, of last June, The Board of Directors of the Colonia Diaz Agricultural and Manufacturing Association decided to hold their Annual Fair for 1896, on the 16th and 17th of the following September. The board also thought it advisable to invite the attendance of quite a number of the prominent men of the country, with the President of the Republic and the Governor of the state of Chihuahua, at the head of the list.

In accordance with this resolution President William Derby Johnson sent the following note to President Diaz.

COLONIA DIAZ, Mexico,
June 12th, 1896.

General Porfirio Diaz, President of the Republic of Mexico, City of Mexico.

Dear Sir:—At a meeting of the Directors of the Agricultural and Manufacturing Association of Colonia Diaz, on the 7th inst., we were instructed to send you an honorary membership, and invite you to attend our Third Annual Exposition to be held in the colony September 16th and 17th, 1896.

If you are unable to attend in person will you please send a representative or a delegation to inspect our Fair.

These annual expositions are gotten up solely for the promotion and advancement of the Industrial arts in Northern Mexico, our adopted country. Any attention from you will be highly appreciated.

Hoping, dear sir, to receive a favorable reply to our solicitation, we remain,
Yours truly,

W. DERBY JOHNSON JR., President.
A. E. JOHNSON, Secretary.

A similar note of even date was mailed to Sr. Miguel Ahumada, governor of the state of Chihuahua.

In answer to the above notes the following were received, from President Diaz and front Governor Ahumada.

MEXICO, June 20th, 1896.
Sr. W. Derby Johnson, Colonia Diaz.

Esteemed Sir:—I am very thankful as well for the distinction which you have conferred upon me, making me an honorary member of the Agricultural and Manufacturing Association of which you are the honored president, as well as for the invitation which you were pleased to make me, which, although I am not able to accept because of multiplicity of official duties, I esteem highly and I will send at once to Governor Miguel Ahumada asking him to represent me in the ceremony of the inauguration of the fair.
Your faithful servant,

PORFIRIO DIAZ.

CHIHUAHUA, June 27th, 1896.

Sers W. Derby Johnson, President, and
A. E. Johnson, Secretary.

Sirs and Friends:—Your esteemed note of the present month is at hand, in which you were pleased to communicate to me that the directors of the Agricultural and Manufacturing Association of Colonia Diaz have honored me with a diploma as an honorary member of the same, which distinction I accept with pleasure, and to invite me to the

fair which will take place in that industrious colony, on the 16th and 17th of the coming month of September.

I accept your kind invitation and that which the President of the Republic was pleased to nominate me to, to represent him in that important fair, because his excess of official duties do not permit him to come in person as he would desire. Therefore, with double motive I accept with pleasure a trip to that colony, for which I have the greatest sympathy, to inaugurate its third Exposition; but as on the 15th of September referred to, the State Legislature commences its session, and the Constitution imposes on me the obligation of being present at that important ceremony in the progress of the government, I would wish to know if you could not arrange to have said fair from the 20th to the 25th of the month of September referred to, so that I may be able to attend to both duties, and that I may have the pleasure to be present at so important a celebration, which, as you well say, will tend to promote the progress of art and industry in the State.

With the greatest respect I offer myself at your service as your affectionate friend and most attentive servant.

MIGUEL AHUMADA.

A note of invitation was also sent to the Secretary of State to which he responded as follows:

CHIHUAHUA, September 9th, 1896.

Sr. W. Derby Johnson, Colonia Diaz.

My dear sir and friend:—I have the pleasure, in answer to your favor of the present month, to communicate to you, that I accept your kind invitation, which you are pleased to make me, to attend the Exposition which will take place in that industrious and progressive colony, on the 23rd and 24th, and that I will have the honor to be present in company with the Governor, in my official character as general secretary of the government.

With the greatest respect, I repeat that I your most affectionate and obedient servant,
JOAQUIN CORTAZAR.

It will be seen by the correspondence that the date of the fair was changed to suit the convenience of the Governor.

By arrangement it was expected the Governor and party would arrive in La Ascencion, four miles south of Colonia Diaz, at 3 o'clock p. m. of the 22nd of September. About that time two messengers were sent to that town to see if the Governor had arrived there as expected.

The Casas Grande river which runs between the two towns was so high as make it necessary to cross in a boat. They found the Governor had arrived and was expecting to hear from the place of his destination.

The night of the 22nd, was mostly spent, by some of the colonists, in gathering teams and escort to bring the Governor from the neighboring town. In the meantime men had been sent to examine a ford four miles above, and reported that it was practicable for teams and horsemen.

At two o'clock a. m. of the 23rd, the teams and escort started for La Ascencion, and crossed the river with

only the loss of some harness which was cut to save a drowning horse.

When the party arrived in La Ascencion, early in the morning, a note was handed President Johnson, which the Governor had written the evening before, stating that he had arrived at that place the previous p. m., and that he considered himself in the hands of President Johnson to direct his further movements.

The Governor was soon astir, and in a short time entered the carriage prepared for him. The party leaving La Ascencion consisted of Miguel Ahumada, Chief Executive of the state of Chihuahua; Sr. Joaquin Cortazar, Secretary of State; Sr. Ciro V. Amarillas, Chief of the Governor's Staff; Captain J. Marquez, Lieutenants Jose J. Elecsiri and Severo C. De La Fuente, aid de camps; Sr. Jose M. Gandara State Prosecuting Attorney, Sr. Carlos A. Nieto, General Inspector of Government Telegraph lines; Sr. Salvador Arellano, civil engineer and Editor of the Mining Gazette, Chihuahua; Sr. Joaquin Cortazar, son of the Secretary of State and attorney at law; the members of the municipal council of La Ascencion; Sr. Don Carlos Gonzales, merchant; a small detachment of soldiers acting as guard for the Governor, a band of music which had accompanied the Governor's party from Sabinas. This band was engaged for the day by President Johnson and occupied a conveyance which had been prepared for the Juarez brass band that had been billed, by previous arrangement, for the Fair. The teamsters and mounted escort consisted of a large proportion of the available men of Colonia Diaz.

The party arrived in the town at 10:30 a. m. As they approached the Exposition building on Main Street they found the Sunday School children, in holiday attire, arranged in line, under the shade trees on the west side of the street, and the adult population on the opposite side. These gave the Governor a cordial reception with the salutation in Spanish, "Long live the Governor," who courteously acknowledged the ovation with uncovered head. With music by the band the party was escorted to the commodious bowery which had been erected on the north side of the exposition building, for assemblages of the people during the fair. The opening exercises for the fair were commenced by the choir singing the national hymn in Spanish.

Prayer by the chaplain, James A. Little.

The choir sang, "O, sweet the Lord."

As there was no stenographer available the speeches which followed were only partially reported; but they were short and pertinent to the occasion.

President W. D. Johnson arose and said, I am thankful for the privilege of welcoming to Colonia Diaz, Governor Ahumada and his companions, as well also our friends and neighbors from La Ascencion. I feel grateful that in the day of trouble we found a home and protection on the soil of Mexico. We highly appreciate this blessing, and I will add: we have come to stay.

We not only welcome Sr. Ahumada as Governor of the state of Chihuahua, but also as the representative of his Excellency Porfirio Diaz, President of the Republic of Mexico.

Elder H. Pratt, one of the presidency of the Juarez Stake of Zion, addressed