

HOW THE PEON TRAVELS IN MEXICO.

The term "peon" has become familiar to Americans. It is frequently seen in print and is known to refer to a low class of the Mexican population. Though the meaning of the word is generally understood, still there are many things connected with the people to whom it applies that are new, and interesting because of their uniqueness. Among these is their manner of railroad traveling.

A person need not cross the Rio Grande to get a fair idea of this the lowest stratum of Mexican society. By passing through the train that is to bear him into the land of Porfirio Diaz, as it stands on the American side, he may learn much by inference. The empty cars tell a silent story but one that cannot be misinterpreted. Each shows the class of people that daily occupy it—whether rich or poor. Some, nicely furnished and conducive to ease and comfort, give evidence of existing wealth, or even opulence. The absence of all conveniences in others speak of a population whose lives are narrow and whose enjoyments are crude. The varied equipment of different coaches demonstrates the fact that the caste element is thriving in Mexico, and that there is but little fellowship between the orders.

On the Mexican Central, and on nearly all other railroads in the Republic, there are three grades of passenger accommodations, the first, second and third class. The fare varies with these, that of the third equaling half the first and that of the second being intermediate. The third class is furnished especially for the lowest, or peon, population, and affords interesting subjects of study. The second class also is peculiar to the country and smacks of peonage.

To get an adequate conception of a second class car in Mexico, imagine one with all the upholstery torn off the seats and these turned back together and securely nailed. Place them far enough apart that, sitting on one, the feet can hardly reach the next in front. Take the carpet from the aisle. Unfasten the blinds from the windows and substitute lattice shutters for them. Smash all the mirrors; remove the smoker and give free use to the cigar and battle-ax plug, though no cuspidors are in evidence; melt the loss from the water tank and fill it with water that tastes of the tropics; cover the interior with a dull, dark paint, and append to all this the fact that there is but one toilet for both sexes, and you have an exaggerated picture of second class accommodations in Mexico.

The third class has some distinctive features. It contains no double seats. A continuous bench, narrow and bare, stretches along, extends its entire length. In the center are two others, with backs together, running nearly from door to door, thus forming four long seats and two aisles. The windows are without shutters and there is no attempt at inside decoration. It is wanting, likewise, in all the other conveniences noticeably absent in the second class car.

To make this tour of inspection of the train is a good introduction to a visit to the Mexican capital. It gives a foretaste of that which afterwards awaits.

Twenty minutes before the train starts a few Mexicans with large bundles of bedding tied up with ropes, or a sack or two of "what not," push their baggage in at the door. They place it on one of the seats, throw open the windows, take out their tobacco and brown paper, and settle down in perfect contentment. Nearly all wear the broad-

brimmed, high-crowned sombrero, some of felt and others of straw. Their outer clothes of dress, however, are much after the style and quality of American workmen—heavy shoes and coarse clothing—while a few have on the white cotton shirt of the peon. Many carry pistols, prominently exposed. Ten years ago these were seldom seen in the possession of the natives and have been introduced by foreigners. Being on the frontier they show in their appearance the influence of American custom.

After reading the city of Chihuahua one may begin to study real peon life. From there south its native coloring remains unchanged by contact with aliens. Each hour whisks into view new characteristics of peonage, all of which are displayed to advantage and in a compact form on the train or from its platform.

The southbound passenger stops at Chihuahua about 9 o'clock in the evening. The station is thronged with a motley crowd. A rush is made to get seats in the peon car, of which, generally, there is but one, and from its appearance at times it would seem that it does the service of two or three. Often, in a car of second class, it resembles a corral of close-packed sheep. In boarding the train, the better to secure accommodations as are available, the people have assistants. They hurry inside, open the windows, and attempt to get the numerous unwieldy bundles inside. When the rush is over all manner of paraphernalia, boxes, grips, rolls of blankets, small pieces of furniture, baskets of fruit, and well filled sacks are piled upon the seats. In the corners and under the seats are fettered chickens. More often, however, these are carried concealed by the blankets of the men or the "rebozos" of the women. When a family moves to another settlement, they take their household effects and board the train, and are soon set down in their new home. Accompanying this confusion is a tumult of sounds outside, coming from the station vendors, the cries of the lunch counters, the pleas of the beggar, as he passes from window to window all the while extending his hat in supplication, and the earnest solicitations of the "vendedores." "Bolo!" sings out a lusty-voiced female as she shoves into your face a plate of fried chicken served with cooked rice. "Enchiladas buenas!" is shouted on the other side. You are almost tempted to purchase until you see that the euphonious phrase is applied to a dish of tortillas placed in a bath of red pepper and clove onions, and, to the uninitiated, as hot as the essence of fire. "Cafe con leche!" calls out the man with a tray of cups of black coffee as he pushes through the crowd toward some prospective customer leaning from the car window. The milkman elbows his way inside and offers the unsavory contents of his cup at three cents a cup. Besides, there are fruit, rope, and curio dealers each with his high sounding catch words.

In this city you get the first glimpse of that important functionary in Mexican society, the "vendedor," or carrier. Judging by his cheap leathern sandals, scant clothing, and hungry appearance, the occupation is not very lucrative. He stands at the landing begging patronage, and carries off upon his back valises, trunks, and all kinds of freight. Often the amount equals five hundred pounds in weight. He wears an apron of partially tanned hide, which he folds up and converts into a cushion to ease the pain of his burdens. If his trust-

he shows a brass plate or check attached to a chain about his neck. By taking its number, in case of any loss through him, he may be brought to justice, as he is registered by that number in the city records.

When the train pulls out quiet is restored. The occupants of the third class car arrange for the night. How readily they adapt themselves to these hard conditions, and what contentment! Smoking is the universal diversion and luxury. You feel to excuse their excessive use of the cigarette as it appears to be their only source of comfort. Both men and women have a quantity of tobacco tied up in a rag handkerchief, or contained in a small box. For paper the lowest generally use corn husks. The place becomes hazy with smoke, and tends strongly to drowsiness.

It is a wonder how they can find rest under such circumstances. But they seem to do so. Becoming sleepy, if there is room, they stretch themselves upon the benches and soon are in oblivion. If it is crowded they hold themselves up with their baggage and sink into a peaceful sleep. During the night a prolonged stay in the car would not be appreciated were it not for the entertaining exhibition that it presents. The windows are down, there is but little ventilation, and the air is foul. Personal cleanliness is not peculiar to these people, and the car is belittered by the waste of so many crowded together, and before morning the place is a stench. With the break of day they arouse themselves, stretch, roll and light their cigarettes, and anxiously wait for the next station that they may buy their "enchiladas."

I had read of many devices resorted to by the beggars of Italy to touch the sympathy of tourists, feeling sickness, liberating the dog, etc., but was hardly prepared to see a similar condition in Mexico. At Tereon my attention was attracted by a piteous picture of the side of the car. "Por el amor de Dios dame un centavo!" (By the love of God give me a cent). It came from a man lying upon the ground and leaning upon his elbow. His matted, coarse hair, streaked and smeared face, filthy and tattered shirt and trousers, and bare feet formed a spectacle fit to excite pity. He was dragging himself along as though his lower limbs were paralyzed, stopping to hold out his hand when any one chanced to look toward him, and continuing to moan out petitions, sometimes only moving his lips, as though too weak for audible utterance. As the train started I looked for him again. He was sitting upright, pleasantly chatting with a companion.

The occupants of the peon cars, as they come and go, reveal, in a trip from Mexico to the north, the varied characteristics of the lower classes in different sections of Mexico. This is especially noticeable in their temperament, their language, and their manner or dress. In the north, having come in contact with American life and principle, the inhabitants are more liberal in their views than they are farther south. They are more independent-minded and less given to strong prejudices. In the mining districts, the states of Durango and Zacatecas, the desperate element is more apparent. In past ages the place has been too far from the centers of Spanish power in the south to have felt its subduing and leveling influence, and too remote from the northern frontier to have been affected by the more peaceful American spirit. The men, many of them vicious in appearance, come armed into the train. Again the change is manifest as the capital is neared. It was the ancient seat of peonage and Spain has left her imprint upon her former vassals. They are submissive, sycophantic, and dispirited.

The language, likewise, undergoes a modification. The farther south the more perfect becomes the pronunciation, the purer the dialect, in fact, the more nearly it approaches the Castilian, until, it is said, in no place in America is there better Spanish-American spoken than in the City of Mexico.

In the north of the republic a pair of O. K. shoes, overalls, etc., that have come from American factories, are frequently seen, or, at least, the clothing of native make is often after American pattern. But farther south all things are strictly peon—mounds of raw-hide of leather, trousers and shirts of white cotton goods, and wide-brimmed hats of straw.

An American is sometimes seen among third class passengers, having made the selection as a means of economy or from necessity. Tiring of the unenviable society in which he is placed, he ventures to appropriate to himself the better facilities of the car behind. The conductors are very sympathetic of such movements, not having the facility to discern between an unfortunate countryman and a company "aporter." Profiting by the sad experience of many other passengers, however, who have lost their positions by mistake or of force, the "other car" sends the weary foreigner to his proper place.

On other lines, where there is less American travel, this strictness is not manifested. If a well-dressed person, by mistake or of force, gets among the peons, the conductor very generally invites him into another car, "that they do not kill you."

MOLCOLM LITTLE.

AMERICAN "SNAPS" IN PARIS.

No one will deny that living in Paris this year is somewhat higher than usual; but, even so, it is not now higher than one would have to pay for the same quality of entertainment in New York or Chicago. So the salaries paid to some of Director-General Peck's associates and assistants should leave them very near little sums of pocket money as compared with the Fair. For example, let me quote some of the official figures with regard to salaries and their recent increase.

H. A. Smith, director, \$4,900, increased to \$5,500; with Paul H. H. director of affairs, \$4,000 to \$5,500; A. S. Capenhart, director, \$4,000 to \$4,800; J. P. Caldwell, director, \$3,000 to \$4,500, and J. L. Farmer, assistant director, \$2,400 to \$3,000. Here would seem to be a goodly "outfit of general assistants" to the commissioners-general, drawing a total salary of \$24,000, and doubtless acting with them is the director general's son, Mr. F. W. Peck, Jr., listed as an officer who has been raised from \$2,400 to \$3,000.

Of experts in various departments there are half a dozen or more; drawing from \$2,400 to \$3,000, all of whom have had their salaries increased. A librarian (of just what is not stated) draws \$2,600, and a designer draws \$2,250, while four "clerks" have had their salaries raised, the best paid of them receiving \$2,200.

E. J. V. Skiff, director of mines, now receives \$5,200, with an assistant, W. S. Ward, paid \$3,400; F. E. Drake, director of machinery, receives \$4,500, and his assistant, James S. Anthony, receives \$2,600; while Charles Richards, director of agriculture, receives \$4,500, with J. A. Wilson, an expert in agriculture, receiving \$2,000, and W. B. Snow, expert in grains, \$1,500. It would certainly seem that \$3,300 was an ample allowance for a force designed to look after the agricultural interests of this country, here. But it should be added that the department of agriculture at Washington has sent here ample appropriations, so that the force whose salaries I have just enumerated, seems to be rather supernumerary, and this is so of a number of these departments of special direction.—Cram's Magazine.

SALVATION FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

Sermon by Elder Charles W. Penrose. Just printed in pamphlet form by the Deseret News. A valuable document to send abroad. Price, 3c; 2 for 5c; 15 for 10c.

ADVERTISEMENT.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.



For State Senators,
H. P. HENDERSON,
HENRY W. LAWRENCE,
D. O. RIDEOUT, JR.
For Representatives,
MRS. ELIZABETH M. COHEN,
RULON S. WELLS,
D. O. WILLEY, JR.
W. B. LAVERIE,
JOSEPH C. HAYES,
JOSEPH S. HYDE,
JOHN A. MAYNARD,
JAMES THOMPSON,
MAHONRI SPENCER,
JOHN HANSEN, JR.
For County Commissioners,
MARCUS S. WHITTELY,
GEORGE A. WHITTAKER,
W. J. ROHNE,
For Treasurer,
WILLIAM H. DALE,
For Sheriff,
G. H. NAYLOR,
For Auditor,
GEORGE H. WOOD,
For Clerk,
BEN T. LLOYD,
For Recorder,
THOMAS ALSTON,
For Attorney,
H. A. SMITH,
For Surveyor,
W. H. EVANS,
For Assessor,
JAMES E. LYNN.

DEMOCRATIC JUDICIAL TICKET.

Third Judicial District.

For District Judges,
WILLIAM C. HALL,
Salt Lake County,
JOSEPH T. RICHARDS,
Salt Lake County,
SAMUEL W. STEWART,
Salt Lake County,
For District Attorney,
DAVID B. HEMPHREY,
Salt Lake County.



80 PER CENT
of all chronic headaches are due to some form of eye trouble, requiring glasses as the remedy. Other disorders, arising from an over-expenditure of nerve force, occasioned by defective eyes, are also entirely cured by removing the original source of the trouble. Now, instead of taking at once to medicine, if you are a victim of off-repeated headache, come and have your eyes examined, then you will know whether medicine will be beneficial or not. Examination free.

Jno. Daynes & Sons
Jewelers and Opticians.
26 Main St. Opp. Z. C. M. I.

Buyers of Royal Bread are protected by this label.



PUTNAM NAILS and SUNOL.

New York, Nov. 12, 1899.

PUTNAM NAIL CO.

Dear Sirs,—

In reply to your favor I would state that I have used the Putnam Nail for several years, and have advised my friends to use it only. It is hardly necessary for me to add that I prefer it to all others.

Very truly,
Robert Bonner.

The Putnam Nail enjoys the distinction of being the only Hot-Forged and Hammer-Pointed nail made by machinery, and which initiates the old hand process.

ROBERT BONNER INSISTS ON ITS USE.

All others are GOLD ROLLED and SHEARED, as an examination of their edges near the point will show, and are liable to SPLIT or SLIVER in driving, to injure and perhaps kill the horse.

The above picture, from a photo representing Mr. Bonner in the act of handling his smith a Putnam nail, while superintending the shoeing of Sunol, will be sent in the form of a half tone, size, 5x8, on thick, white paper, with wide margin, on receipt of 2 cent stamp for postage, etc.

PUTNAM NAIL CO., NEPONSET, BOSTON, MASS.

For sale by Z. C. M. I. Clark, Eldredge & Co., Salt Lake Hardware Co., and George A. Lowe, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Lewis' 98 % Lye.

Powdered and Perfumed.

(PATENTED.)

The strongest and purest made. Unlike other Lyes, it is easily powdered, packed in a can having two lids, one easily cut and the other removable for constant use. It will make the best Perfumed Hair Soap in 20 minutes without boiling. It is the best for cleansing waste pipes, disinfecting sinks, closets, cleaning paints, bottles, jars, etc.; washing floors and killing insects; for engineers and machinists' uses; for painters to remove old paints, etc.

My book "How to be Beautiful" will be mailed free to all who will send for it.

Time, Ruppert's Egyptian Balm for softening and healing the face and hands.

Time, Ruppert's Hair Tonic positively removes dandruff, all scalp diseases, itching, falling hair, and in many cases restores hair.

Time, Ruppert's Almond Oil Complexion Soap, made of pure almond oil and wax. Delightful for the complexion and warranted not to chap the most delicate skin.

All of the above toilet preparations are always kept in stock and can be had from our local agents.

Mine, A. Ruppert's Celebrated Complexion Specialties are for sale in Salt Lake City by

The Lace House Co.



FREE
An Eminent Medication
Photograph from which
a dozen photographs
during July.

Shipley & Son,
Hooper Block.

A BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXION FREE

MME. A. RUPPERT'S WORLD RENOWNED FACE BLEACH AL-

MOST WITHOUT COST

NO MATTER HOW BLEMISHED THE SKIN, FACE BLEACH WILL MAKE IT PERFECT

My book "How to be Beautiful" will be mailed free to all who will send for it.

Time, Ruppert's Egyptian Balm for softening and healing the face and hands.

Time, Ruppert's Hair Tonic positively removes dandruff, all scalp diseases, itching, falling hair, and in many cases restores hair.

Time, Ruppert's Almond Oil Complexion Soap, made of pure almond oil and wax. Delightful for the complexion and warranted not to chap the most delicate skin.

All of the above toilet preparations are always kept in stock and can be had from our local agents.

Mine, A. Ruppert's Celebrated Complexion Specialties are for sale in Salt Lake City by

The Lace House Co.

Cannon Book Store.

Cannon Book Store.

SALE OF STATIONERY FOR ONE WEEK

COMMENCING MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th.

25% Discount

On Hurd's and Crane's Fine Stationery
And Hurlbut's Elegant Boxed Papers.

NEW STOCK of All Textures and Finishes, Wove, Linen, Bond, Vellum in all the New Shades, Fashionable Styles and Sizes JUST RECEIVED, Including Also Following Well Known Brands;

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Crane's Superfine. Crane's Distaff Linen. Hurd's Irish Linen. Crane's Bond. | La Monte French Quadrille. Hurd's Overland Mail. Hurd's Linen Cloth. Hurd's Royal White. | Crane's Old Style Bond. Crane's Twilled Flax. Hurd's Early English. Crane's Kid Finish. | Prince of Wales. Hurd's Madras Linen. Crane's Yachting. Hurd's Holland Linen. | Royal Red. Hurd's Blue. Hurd's Swastika. Crane's Underlaze. | Cran's Hand-Made. Hurd's Satin Wove. Regimental Gray. Crane's Early English. |
| Hurlbut's Boxed Papers! | Persian Bond. Russian Vellum. Egyptian Wove. Devonshire. Royal Court Perfection. Irish Linen. Royal Exeter. India Parchment. Regular Price 25 cents. During Sale Week. | Keswick Bond. Puritan Wove. Court of Empire. Roman Parchment. Court of Russia. Court of Netherlands. Court of England. Saxony Bond. Stafford Vellum. Parisian Wove. Regular Price 25 cents. During Sale Week. | Hurlbut's Royal Arms. Prince Imperial and Other New Papers. Regular Price 40 cents. During Sale. 30c PER BOX. Hurlbut's Old Holland. Medallion Initial Stationery. Hand Stamped Initial Stationery. Regular Price 50 cents. During Sale. | JUVENILE NOTES, all shades and sizes, regular price 20c and 25c, now 15c and 19c Per Box. Also a Fine Assortment of Boxed Papers and Writing Tablets, ruled and unruled, at 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c each. During Sale Week— 4c, 7c, 12c, 15c, 19c | Hurlbut's Boxed Papers! |

We carry the Public School, University and College Text Books and General School Stationery, Blank Books and office Supplies.

NEW GOODS, LOW PRICES AND COURTEOUS TREATMENT.

CANNON BOOK STORE.

Successors to Geo. Q. Cannon & Sons Company.
Deseret News, Proprietors.

11 AND 13 MAIN STREET.