

Heads of Great Technical Museum at Munich Deeply Impressed by Our Buildings and Enterprise—Praise for the Public Library and Subways—One Institution America Might Adapt From Germany

A commission of distinguished scientists at the head of the German Museum of Munich, the greatest technical museum in the world, arrived in New York a few days ago for the purpose of looking over American museums, American libraries and American methods of building skyscrapers. Among the important members of the commission are Dr. Oscar von Miller, the engineer who organized the German Museum of Munich and who is now the president of that institution; Prof. Walter von Dyck, a member of the Academy of Science of Munich and professor of mathematics at the Polytechnical High School of Munich; Count Podewils-Duernitz, Secretary of State of Bavaria and former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. von Borscht, the Mayor of Munich.

With these came also several distinguished engineers and architects commissioned by the German Government to study the United States.

The members of the commission were entertained by the American Society of Electrical Engineers and by Dr. George F. Kuns of Tiffany's. They visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural History and the New York Public Library. On Wednesday a representative of THE SUN and accompanied the commission to the Zoological and Botanical Gardens at Bronx Park.

Although it was planned to take the party to Bronx Park in automobiles the members of the commission preferred to travel in the subway and on the elevated. On the way to the subway through Thirty-fourth street the Mayor of Munich kept exclaiming his admiration of the manner in which traffic is handled by the police in New York.

"Colossal! Magnificent! Wonderful! Splendid!" he cried as he spoke of the various sights he had seen in New York during the two days before. "The tranquility and apparent kindness of the crowds in this city are amazing. The system of communication here is marvelous!"

"The things we have read about and heard about America dwindle into insignificance beside the actual accomplishments of the American people. Why, your Public Library alone is worth traveling a thousand miles to see. Any other city would have been proud of such a

fact that there is but one class of cars for all alike and that only one fare of five cents is required for travelling the entire distance.

"What is the purpose of your visit to this country?" the president of the German Museum was asked by THE SUN representative.

"Almost all countries that have accomplished anything of importance in natural science, in technical, in scientific research and inventions are well represented in our museum," answered Dr. von Miller. "America alone is for some reason not represented. If America did not come to us we had to come to America. And now that we are here we regret all the more that the country which should have been best represented in our museum has sent us so little that is really characteristic and important.

"We have a few models of American skyscrapers, but they are so poor that they do not convey an adequate idea of what an American tall structure really is. The Public Library of New York is the greatest and best equipped library I have seen. The Museum of Natural History is better than the best of its kind in Europe. The British Museum of Natural History ranks next to that of New York. It is wonderful in every way. And we have learned a great deal from our visit at the Museum of Natural History that will be of use to us in our own museum.

"There are many things that we want to get here for our museum. One of these is a good model of a skyscraper. Another is a model of the first ferryboat, because the ferry is so characteristically American. Then we want a model of the Brooklyn Bridge, and we hope to secure from Mr. Edison a model of his first central station."

"In what particular branch of achieve-

ment can learn from Germany?" the president of the German museum was asked.

"Our system of workmen's insurance," replied Prof. von Miller. "This is something that other countries would do well to emulate. It is a system of insurance by which the State protects the family of the workman in the event of accident, sickness or death. One-third is contributed to this fund by the workman, one-third by the employer and one-third by the State."

Speaking of the Munich museum, Prof. von Miller said:

"Our museum was organized in 1908 at my suggestion. In this museum we attempt to show the development of



THE GERMAN VISITORS AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS



THE NEW MUSEUM AT MUNICH



COUNT PODEWILS-DUERNTZ HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICH MUSEUM.



DR OSCAR VON MILLER PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICH MUSEUM



DR VON DYCK, PROFESSOR OF MUNICH UNIVERSITY

public library as its most important attraction and in Europe such an institution would have been the most popular feature of the city."

On entering the subway the four members of the commission again went into raptures.

"It is by far the most elaborate and most convenient system in the world," said Prof. von Miller.

The Count was particularly struck by

ment do Americans excel?" Dr. von Miller was asked.

"Americans are superior to us Europeans in the vastness of their undertakings and their enterprises. In our country we are studying and learning things more thoroughly, but the Americans are doing things on a larger scale, with a bolder stroke, and their enterprise is of marvelously large and bold dimensions."

"What are the things that Americans

natural science and technique, a sort of living history of the spirit of investigation and research and a record of the inventions of all times and all countries. We intend to make it a hall of glory to the men whose thought and deeds have contributed so much to our present culture, a source for historical knowledge for the scholar, especially for the technologist, a model and an inspiration for future generations.

"Though the museum originated in Munich and was encouraged and organized in Bavaria, its scope was so wide that the entire German people grew interested in it and the institution now bears the name of the German Museum. But the Bavarian Prime Minister and Secretary of State and all the Bavarian Ministers are at the head of the scientific and technical departments. In 1908 the cornerstone of the new building of the museum was laid by the German Emperor, the Prince Regent, and Prince Ludwig of Bavaria.

"With the exception of America's contributions to the world in the domain of technical development and inventions our museum has the most complete departments showing the progress of civilization in its various phases.

"We have a complete mining department, illustrating the oldest methods as well as the latest appliances and devices, showing the great progress in this line.

"Our hall showing the oldest steam engines is conspicuous for the objects of historical value displayed there. It contains originals, models and drawings dating from the elementary experiments with air pressure by Otto von Guericke, the primitive efforts of Papin, Savery and Newcomen, up to the steam engines of the middle of the nineteenth century, among which there is the oldest steam engine of Watt's construction, the original model of high pressure steam machine by Reichenbach, the first 25 horse-power steam engine of Krupp's works, and so forth.

"Then we have a hall showing various means of transport on land, beginning with the most primitive sledges, coaches and bicycles and ending with the latest motor cars, steam railways and electric railways. The evolution of motor cars is characterized by early originals of carriages of the most eminent inventors, such as Serpollet, Daimler, Benz and others.

Finds Americans Amiable.

"Our departments of Astronomy, Mathematics, Mechanics, Optics, Heat, Meteorological Instruments and Methods, The Science of Waves, Acoustics, Electricity and Magnetism, Telegraphy and Telephony, Writing, Printing, Photography, Color Printing, Clocks, Textiles, Agriculture, Distilling, Chemical Industry, Electro-chemistry, Waterworks, Inland Navigation, Canalization, Navigation, Battleships, Metallurgy, Building Materials, Lighting, Musical Instruments, Aerial Navigation, Bridge Building, Tunneling, Architecture and our library and collection of plants are as complete as we possibly could make them, and now that our new building is being erected we expect to make it in every way the greatest museum in the world."

Asked what feature impressed him most during his visit in New York, Prof. von Miller said:

"You have great institutions, you have the tallest skyscrapers in the world, but I have been most impressed by the spirit of amiability and hospitality which Americans have shown us. This side of American life is the greatest revelation to me. In no other country have I noticed this so markedly as in New York."

Prof. von Dyck, Imperial Privy Councillor and author of many works on

mathematics, also spoke of America's greatness in enthusiastic terms.

"But the deepest impression I will carry away from America," he said, "was made upon me by the great number of American philanthropists who are promoting philosophical, scientific and technical work for research and public education."

Prof. von Dyck conferred the degrees of Doctors of Technical Science upon the Wright brothers at the Polytechnic Institute of Munich a few years ago.

"The Wright brothers were the first to work out systematic and scientific plans for flying and in addition to that they had the courage and energy to fly. Some are only theorists, others introduce the theories of other people in practice, but the Wright brothers have combined both and that is the reason why our institute honored them," explained Prof. von Dyck.

Count von Podewils-Duernitz, former Prime Minister of Bavaria and at present Secretary of State, a member of this commission, is the honorary president of the German Museum. The Bavarian statesman was also profoundly impressed during the first days of his stay in New York.

"The immensity of things in this city baffles belief," he said. "A visit to New York gives the impression that there is nothing impossible in the world. Your institutions should be studied by Europeans."

"You know so well how to manage these things, you know how to interest the people, young and old, in your institutions. I regret that I will not have an opportunity to study your political life here."

"American philanthropists, I believe are misrepresented in Europe. Over there we have no idea of the immense work they are doing, of the gifts they so frequently make for the purpose of advancing education, science and art. We also have people who are spending large sums on educational and scientific institutions, but our people are not so rich as the Americans. Wherever I go here I see the noble work of American philanthropists."

At the Botanical Garden and the Zoological Park the German guests were entertained by the heads of these institutions. They were greatly impressed with the various rare collections there. The monkeys, the bears and the elephants did special stunts for the amusement of the German visitors, who stood for a long time in silent meditation before the head of the white, square mouthed rhinoceros which was shot by Col. Roosevelt in the upper Sudan and was presented by him to the Zoological Garden.

Dr. von Borscht was perhaps the most interested member of the commission. He examined various plants minutely and commented enthusiastically upon the novel features of American institutions. As Mayor of Munich, a city well famed for its beer, he has some interesting views on drink and temperance.

"During the last twenty years we have reduced the consumption of beer in Munich by one-third," he said proudly. "The working people drink less now in the city of Munich than ever before. The trade unions are making every effort to get the working people accustomed to drinking less beer."

"We are of the opinion that alcohol is not always as injurious as the extreme exponents of the temperance movement would have people believe. But what we do believe in is moderation, not complete abstinence. For instance I, the Mayor of Munich, drink no wine or beer at home. But when I am invited elsewhere, or when I have guests in my house, I drink."

"What we fear is this. The people of Munich may stop drinking beer and take to stronger drinks, and that would be a calamity. The people of Munich have often jested about my views on the drink question. They say that it was laughable for Munich to have a Mayor who drank beer and who knew nothing about beer. You see, since 1903 I have not visited any of the famous beer halls in our city, and I have been one of the worst customers of the ratskeller."

"One day years ago Wall of Terz-Salam, a Mohammedan, visited Munich. He was the guest at the City Hall. Excellent wine and beer were put before him. He tasted the wine and sat reflecting for some time. Finally he said: 'If it were wrong to drink such exquisite wine God would not have created it.'

"I do not believe in extremes. I do not drink at home, but when there is a special occasion I do not mind joining my friends in a drink. For instance if you come to Munich and look me up that would be an occasion for a good glass of wine and a stein of Munich beer."

From the Bronx Park the German notables went to greet Mayor Gaynor, who received them cordially. Then they climbed up one of the new skyscrapers on Broadway which is in the process of construction, and after a survey of American methods of building "epics in stone" they hurried off to visit Andrew Carnegie in the hope of interesting him in the German museum.



FELIX DIAZ NEPHEW OF PORFIRIO DIAZ

NEPHEW OF DIAZ SAYS INTERVENTION IMPOSSIBLE

From The Sun's Special Correspondent. MEXICO CITY, April 9.—To form an estimate of the physiognomy of Felix Diaz, nephew of the former President of Mexico, it is necessary only to imagine Porfirio Diaz young again. Held up to the light a negative of Felix Diaz, a negative in which lights are dark, and shadows are sharply defined whites, and the gray hair and mustache, the dark, heavy, forceful features, the bull neck and powerful jaws of Don Porfirio stand forth. Reduce the sunlight into a Velox print and the white hair turns jet black, and you see a younger Don Porfirio—a Felix Diaz.

Don Felix is now 44. Under the rule of his uncle he served first in civil offices and then in the army. In discussing the situation in Mexico with THE SUN correspondent, he said:

"As to Don Porfirio's return to the land of his birth, I may say that he always contemplates with pleasure the day when he once more places foot on his native soil. But in order to avoid the imputation that he seeks to create a worse situation than the already sufficiently lamentable one which exists in Mexico, he will not return until order and peace are restored, unless, as he has said, Mexico should face a foreign war."

"The subject of intervention in Mexican affairs by the United States is one that cannot be lightly passed over. In my opinion, intervention is simply the bogey with which the present administration distracts the attention of the public from existing conditions in Mexico."

"I do not believe intervention will ever take place, and I form my opinion on the following facts: First, I believe in the good faith of the United States Government. Secondly, I have the highest respect for the common sense, the good judgment and the practical sense of the American people, and I cannot perceive any advantage accruing to them from intervention in Mexico.

"To show the absurdity of intervention, demanded by a few Americans and admitted as possible by a few other Mexicans, I will state that the effort to protect the interests that are imagined to be in danger would be similar to the actions of a man who loses a match in the dark and strikes ten others to find it.

"The value of this metaphor will be appreciated more fully when I state that for the sake of protecting the lives and property of some 10,000 Americans in this country (nether of which are in the slightest peril) a minimum of 100,000 American soldiers would be slain by bullets and tropical diseases; another 100,000 would be wounded and invalidated by those sicknesses which would more easily attack the invaders on the long campaign through unknown territory and without barracks and far from a base of supplies. Furthermore, in order to furnish protection for the 300,000,000 Americans are supposed to have invested in Mexico it would be necessary to be prepared to sustain an expenditure of \$1,500,000,000 for the costs of the war; the interest on many more millions would have to be spent on pensions to the families of killed and wounded soldiers, and, finally, many more millions still would have to be spent

to sustain a large army of occupation and the expense of restoring order, &c., and it may be said that Mexico would never pay all these untold millions for the very simple reason that she could not.

"The Mexican people are capable of democracy; but, unfortunately, personal ambitions which require for furtherance the cooperation of the Mexicans have succeeded in deluding the people, and instead of a broad, calm sea on which the ship of democracy may float in safety they have succeeded in dashing the vessel of state on the rocks of chaos and anarchy.

"Much discussion has been made as to the desirability of utilizing the methods employed by ex-President Diaz in governing Mexico; none has questioned their efficacy! It must be stated that these methods savored strongly of his personality, moulded by a series of circumstances such as no other man in Mexico has enjoyed.

"And for any one else to attempt his style to-day would result in his destruction, since he cannot and does not possess the almost legendary heroism of the Great Mexican, as Tolstoy called him; none other has shed his blood on a hundred battlefields for the glory and safety of his country; none other possesses the great

affection and profound respect owned by Porfirio Diaz; no other man can count on the unquestioning and unceasing loyalty and love of scores of generals, chiefs, officials and soldiers who accompanied him on long and arduous campaigns; all others lack the power to inspire the blind confidence which the Mexican people had for him and which placed the Mexican nation in his hands to do with what he wished; none other shows those remarkable innate abilities which won the respect and admiration of every foreign potentate and people who honor the absent chief in his fall more than they honor him to-day as one of the greatest statesmen the world has ever produced.

"I do not approve of any of the present uprisings, especially in view of the fact that not a single one has clearly defined what he is fighting for. But I can understand and appreciate why these men are fighting the present administration.

"In my opinion Mr. Madero in the present situation has against him and his success an absolute lack of tact, the natural result of a complete absence of ability to view things and men in a practical, common sense way. He dreams, he dreams! Like the theorist in his library,

he does not see, he only wishes! He had in his favor, to begin with, pure good luck, or fortune, and he has not known how to employ the remarkable popularity following his success. His Presidential career has been a series of irrevocable errors.

"Of Mr. de la Barra and Mr. Vasquez Gomez I can say nothing; the first has dwelt long enough in the public eye for an opinion to be formed concerning his character and ability; the latter is a good friend of mine and I could say nothing which would not be biased by our friendships.

"Grozco I understand to be a plain, upright man with the straightforward simplicity characteristic of the plainman who fights courageously for his ideals, even if he has not fully realized the sociological results attendant on their attainment. He is not of Presidential timber because he has in great degree the virtue of modesty, and he himself doubts within himself whether he could ever discharge the heavy duties of the Presidency.

"Zapata is a curious personage whose character should be judged with care. This man, a humble, obscure planter, uncouth and nearly illiterate, firmly believes he is fighting for the welfare of the Indian because he has been told that the hour for vindication was at hand, and his actions to-day should not be censured in view of the fact that he was once applauded for them by those who to-day condemn him, because he was congratulated on his ability and complimented by Mr. Madero himself as one of the most able and unimpeachable of the convictions when the latter called on him last year and embraced him in gratitude for his activities.

"The whirlwind is following the sowing of the curious seeds! Zapata is an unchained force and it is natural that he can not pass from the inertia of activity to the inertia of repose without accomplishing first what he was once instructed to do.

Zapata has never entertained any illusions as to his fitness for the Presidency.

"As to the possible success of the administration in the existing uprisings, even if it did finally win out its popularity has long since vanished and public opinion daily grows more antagonistic toward it.

"I am glad to know that in the United States there is an idea that I possess those attributes necessary to guide the country out of the maze it now wanders in. Here in Mexico, I have been told, there is a feeling akin to that which induced certain of my friends to recommend that I be elected to the Vice-Presidency instead of Ramon Corral. If I have not actively responded to the calls there and here up to this time it is because I have feared to throw into the situation, already sufficiently demoralized, another cause for unrest and excitement."



FRANCISCO LEON DE LA BARRA, EX-PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

THERE IS STILL SOME WILD GAME IN NEW YORK

There were still a great many wild pigeons, wild ducks, rabbits, squirrels, quail and partridges in New York city only thirty years ago, and some of these birds and animals are still found in their natural wild state within the limits of the metropolis.

The father of a New Yorker of the present generation tells of having had excellent wild pigeon shooting on Washington Heights where apartment houses now stand. One day in early October he stepped out of his front door and saw a dogwood tree covered with wild pigeons. There were so many in fact that they

broke down the branches, while great flocks of these now almost extinct birds were flying overhead on their annual migration south. He got a gun and killed thirty-eight. Most of these were shot on the wing.

There were a goodly number of rabbits and woodchucks on Manhattan Island at that time and he killed a great many of the former within a mile of 155th street the same fall that he had the wild pigeon shooting.

The old railroad bridge at the upper end of Van Cortlandt Lake was the site of an excellent afternoon's duck shooting. With a companion he went up there to ward evening to wait for ducks, which

come in to such lakes to spend the night. They were soon agreeably surprised to see a great flock of black ducks flying their way. These were followed by more ducks of a great many species, including mallards, canvasbacks, teal and wood ducks. The gunners had remarkably good shooting. One wounded duck flew over and fell dead in the Van Cortlandt apple orchard a short distance from the front door of the mansion. The Van Cortlandt family were living there at that time.

A short time after this occurrence a covey of quail, probably flushed by some other gunner, flew over and two of them were shot.

There were still a great many wild pigeons, wild ducks, rabbits, squirrels, quail and partridges in New York city only thirty years ago, and some of these birds and animals are still found in their natural wild state within the limits of the metropolis.