

in February 1910.³ It took the efforts of the owner of "the best hacienda in the state and perhaps in the Republic," Ignacio de la Torre y Mier, Díaz's own son-in-law, to get him discharged. In return Zapata had gone to work for him as chief groom in his Mexico City stables.⁴

While Zapata was out of Morelos in the spring of 1910, his fellow villagers ran into serious trouble. Anenecuilcans had complied with the new real-estate law and properly claimed their fields, but these happened to include lands Hospital wanted to keep them out of. In revenge, just at the time for preparing the fields for planting, the Hospital manager warned the Anenecuilcans they would be driven out if they dared to cultivate the disputed area. Then followed the pitiful correspondence with Escandón's office, when their increasingly desperate appeals met with blander replies. When their request was forwarded to the Hospital owner for him to "say what he considers proper," he said it: "If that bunch from Anenecuilco wants to farm, let them farm in a flowerpot, because they're not getting any land, even up the side of the hills."⁵

The villagers kept trying, however. On May 24 they won an interview with Lieutenant Governor Hurtado de Mendoza, who asked them for a list of the persons who had previously cultivated the lands in question. Two days later the list was handed in, along with a new plea for a quick ruling—no longer on the title or possession of the land but just on whether it could be farmed at all, on loan, rented, however possible. Hurtado de Mendoza's other business distracted him, and the village got no answer. Delay followed delay. The rains had already begun.

In the words of Anenecuilco's historian, "Anenecuilco was in fact breaking up and going under." Without these lands the villagers could not support themselves. They would have to split up and move away, which

³ On February 11, 1910, Zapata was inducted into the Ninth Cavalry Regiment, stationed at Cuernavaca under the command of Colonel Ángel Bouquet. He was released on March 29, 1910, with the same rank he received at first—*soldado*, private. See the documents reprinted in Hector F. López: "¿Cuándo fue consignado Emiliano Zapata?" *El Hombre Libre*, April 5, 1937. The legend persists that Zapata served in the army in 1908, although the best-informed Zapatista chronicler confirmed López's dates. See Serafin M. Robles: "Emiliano Zapata sienta plaza como soldado el año 1910," *El Campesino*, December 1951.

⁴ Sotelo Inclán: op. cit., p. 173. De la Torre y Mier was also a federal deputy for Morelos at this time. For the description of his Tenextepango hacienda, see *El hacendado mexicano*, XIII, 148 (April 1907), 484.

⁵ For this and following episodes, see Sotelo Inclán: op. cit., pp. 182-8.