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## THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE YAQUI TROUBLE IN MEXICO

"Barbarous Mexico," the series of articles that John Kenneth Turner is writing for the American Magazine, is the most appalling revelation of atrocious cruelty that has been published in any magazine of newspaper in many years. It is even more sensational and astounding than Kennard's expose of the Russian outrages in Siberia, which created such a profound impression about twenty years ago. In the November issue of the American Magazine, Mr. Turner relates the true history of famous Yaqui Indian troubles with the Mexican government. A brief summary of the story is as follows:

"The Yaquis are being exterminated, and exterminated fast. As to whether or not the Yaquis ought to be exterminated there is more room for controversy. It is undoubtedly true that a portion of their number have persistently refused to accept the destiny that their government has marked out for them. On the other hand there are those who assert that the Yaquis are as worthy as other Mexicans and deserve as much consideration at the hands of the Mexican government.

"The extermination of the Yaquis began in war; its finish is being accomplished in deportation.

"The Yaquis are called Indians. In the United States we would not call them Indians, for they are workers. As far back as their history can be traced they have never been savages. They have been agricultural people.

"The origin of the Yaqui troubles is generally attributed to a plot on the part of a number of politicians, the purpose being to get possession of the rich lands in southern Sonora which the Yaquis had held for hundreds of years. The Yaquis seem to have had a pretty good title to their lands. The Spanish were never able to subdue them completely, and after two hundred and fifty troublous years a peace was entered into whereby the Yaquis gave up a part of their territory and, as acknowledgment of their rightful ownership of the rest of it, the King of Spain gave them a patent signed by his own hand.

"But somehow war came. Teresa Urrea Cabora, a highly educated Mexican woman, who published a history in Spanish of the Yaqui troubles, says that a certain pair of officials wanted the Yaqui lands, and they saw opportunity for graft in bringing a large body of soldiers into the state. So they harassed the Yaquis and goaded the victims into war.

"Thousands of soldiers and tens of thousands of Yaquis have been killed in battle and many hundreds of Yaquis have been executed after being taken prisoners. Finally, in 1894, at one fell swoop, as it were, the ground was literally taken from under the feet of the rebels. By act of the federal government their lands were taken from them and handed over to one man, General Lorenzo Torres, who is now chief of the army in Sonora, then second in command.

"The deportation of Yaquis to Yucatan began about four years ago. It was carried out on a small scale at first, then on a larger one. In the spring of 1908, a despatch was published in American and Mexican newspapers saying that President Diaz had issued a sweeping order decreeing that every Yaqui, wherever found, men, women and children, should be gathered up by the War Department and deported to Yucatan.

"Yaqui workmen were taken daily from mines, railroads and farms, old workmen who never owned a rifle in their lives, women, children, babes, the old and young, the weak and the strong. Guarded by soldiers and rurales they traveled together over the exile road. More than that, there were others besides Yaquis who traveled over that road. Pimas and Opatas, other Indians, Mexicans, and any dark people found who were poor and unable to protect themselves were taken, tagged as Yaquis, and sent away to the land of henequen. What became of them there? That is what I went to Yucatan to find out."

## GERMANY ALWAYS READY FOR WAR

Plans for the invasion of every European and trans-Atlantic country including the United States, lie ready for use in the drawers of special receptacles at the German War Office, and immediately on the declaration of war every officer, man and boy in the service would be informed by telegram of the outbreak of hostilities. Being in the possession of secret instructions the purport of which has been sworn not to divulge, every man in the vast German fighting machine knows exactly the place assigned to him and what he has to do within a few hours after the country has taken the field. Every officer is in the possession of secret mobilization orders that would enable him to take up his place with

his men in the gigantic military chess-board without further instructions. The entire railway would be handed over to the Military Railway Department, a branch of the service that assumes control over the transport of the army. All German railway stock is built with an ultimate idea of war. The traveler through Germany will notice that every truck, open or covered, has peculiar hieroglyphics painted on it on a front corner, which, on closer examination reads as follows: "Für 12 Mann, oder 6 Pferde, Gewicht, —." These figures denote the number of horses, men, or the weight of the guns that the car can carry during war time. Germany stands alone of all countries in the world in being financially mobilized for war and in possessing a "war fund." The amount may seem insignificant when compared to the entire cost that a Continental war might entail, yet it would enable the country to tide over the first few days to administer the first blow without delay.

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