

# BATTERED DURANGO, SAMPLE OF DEVASTATED MEXICO



Large clothing house looted by rebels. Loss estimated at \$500,000.



All that was left of the largest clothing house after the rebels had dynamited and looted it.



What the rebels did to Durango's most famous cafe.

## State of Once Prosperous City Shows Havoc Warring Factions Are Doing to the Country

What the Constitutionalists did to Durango they or other factions in revolt against Huerta have done to many other Mexican cities. The photographs and the story printed here came from an American miner who was in Durango at the time and saw the city dynamited and looted.

At 10 o'clock one beautiful morning Durango, a city of 50,000 population, situated in a valley at the foot of Iron Mountain, in the heart of Mexico, presented a fairly prosperous appearance. At 11 o'clock that summer night the business section of the city had been laid waste with fire and dynamite, houses and stores had been looted and the property loss amounted to 14,000,000 pesos, or \$7,000,000 in American money. In addition to

order to loot them. There were no expert safe crackers among these men, but whenever they found a safe they put enough dynamite under it to shatter it and, incidentally, a good share of the building. Further than this they destroyed many costly buildings apparently solely through revenge because they had met with armed resistance even though it was slight. Many of the Mexican business blocks, especially in the older part of Durango, are noted for their portales, which consist of extensions of the second story



MEXICO'S DEFENCES AGAINST FOREIGN INVASION  
Small white streak at point of land is fort known as "The 21st of March." Buildings at right are part of a soap factory.

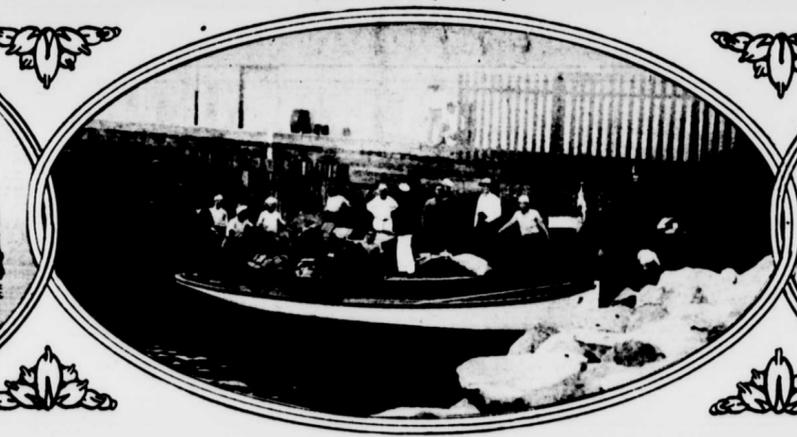
## Will Take Years to Build Up Cities and Towns Laid Waste by the Constitutionalists

clothes were given out to the most ragged of the rebels, and then the building itself was dynamited until only the four outer walls remained. But even with all this, the French flag remained flying at the corner of the building, nor did the rebels take it down. The loss to this concern alone in stock and cash was nearly a million pesos, or about half a million dollars.

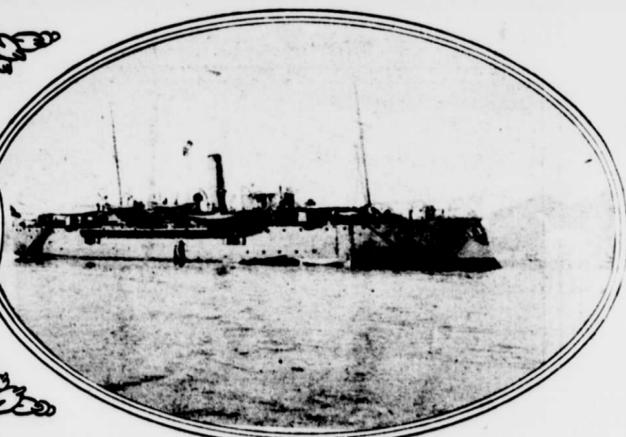
An immense store owned by a Spaniard named Suiza was looted and then dynamited until only a pile of crumbled masonry remained. Another clothing house, larger than that of the French concern, was blown to bits after it had been sacked. Iron Mountain, in the outskirts of Durango, is just what its name indicates, a great mountain of iron ore. More than three thousand men were employed there, but when the rebels got through with their visit in Durango



Mexican gunboat Tampico, an American-built vessel of about 800 tons, carries two three-inch American guns and about eighty men.



Launch of U. S. Army transport Buford, removing destitute American refugees from Manzanillo.



Mexican gunboat Guerrero, flagship of three vessels on Pacific Coast, carries 130 men, six three-inch guns and two nine-pounders on bridge.



One of the largest forts on the Mexican West coast, at the entrance to Acapulco Bay.

then the rebels deliberately dynamited the place until only the outer shell remained. This was the celebrated "Cafe la Union." The rebels did exactly the same with other buildings. One clothing house, the "La Francia" was flying, was looted of its entire stock and everything else of value. The

all operations were tied up because they had put the railroads out of commission. Several squads of rebels marched to the station and the freight yards, where they proceeded to burn all the cars in sight; hundreds of them, mostly freight cars. The steel cars were taken by the rebels to use as travelling forts, but the wooden cars were burned on the tracks. Altogether in Durango and its vicinity \$500,000 worth of rolling stock was destroyed.

The rebels got many recruits, for since they had destroyed the railroad and put a stop to mining operations many of the miners had to join the army or starve. Throughout the next day hundreds of refugees, whose property had been laid waste in the country round about as the rebels advanced on Durango, came straggling into the city with their few belongings and camped in the streets, the park and in many other places.

Durango's fate was the fate of many other cities and towns throughout that portion of Mexico over which the rebels advanced. There was one phase of the rebels' activities that cannot be shown by photographs, and that was the manner in which forced loans were made. "On many occasions," declared a New York man who has owned and operated

this \$1,500,000 in cash and forced loans had been taken and the streets were full of refugees. The Mexican rebels, or Constitutionalists, did all this with 6,000 men in less than twelve hours. Not satisfied with simply looting, they destroyed nearly all of the better business blocks in the commercial district by means of dynamite.

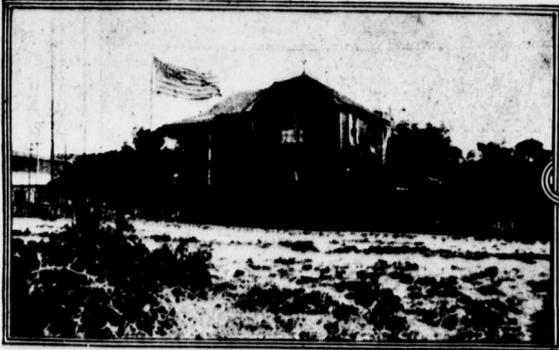
The rebels had begun to enter Durango just before midnight. Detachment after detachment had marched to the city by several routes and gathered at railroad stations. About 10:30 A. M. they began action. There was some armed resistance and during the day there were brief periods of sharp fighting and a rapid exchange of shots. After it was all over some 150 men had been killed and as many more wounded. For the most part the citizens beat a hasty retreat to the outskirts of the city. Storekeepers who attempted to stand guard over their property were forced to leave the premises and it was not long before the rebels were in sole possession of most of the city. Various detachments were ordered into the stores under able leaders in

over the sidewalk, and arcades of fine masonry. Wherever these were found the rebels seemed to take delight in exploding a few sticks of dynamite at intervals along the supporting columns of the arcade and watching the overhead structure fall into the street, much as a boy would knock the underpinning from his castle of blocks and laugh in glee to see it topple over. It was not necessary to destroy these beautiful portales, as the overhead stories were first looted and any property left in them would have been pretty much destroyed in the crash.

There was one building that was not molested, and care was taken not to injure it by dynamiting buildings close to it. With rare discretion the rebels kept carefully away from it. The reason of this was the fact that the Stars and Stripes floated from an upper window. It was the American Consulate.

While the rebels looted Durango because they needed funds, provisions and other necessities to carry on their campaign, there seemed to be no necessity for doing as much damage as they did. For example, in the case of Durango's most famous cafe—whatever good silver was in it was taken away, together with table linen for bandages, stores of canned food and other property, and

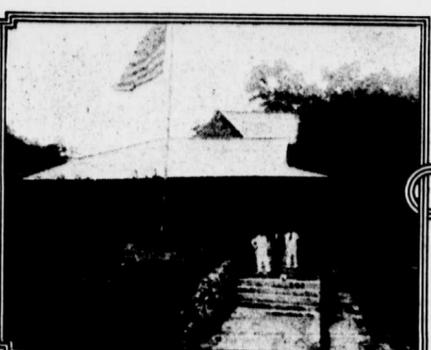
Hungarian Road to Slimness  
THIS is a method for reducing weight is practised in Hungary. At night just before retiring fill the bathtub with hot water and in this dissolve three pounds of epsom salts. Get into the tub and lie with the body as flat as possible. Keep the hot water faucet open all the time so that the water never cools. Remain in the bath for fifteen minutes, then take a cold shower or spray. At first the baths may be enervating if so take one every second day. The oftener they are taken the quicker the reduction will be. They are said to be quite harmless, though a bit strange at first. Practically the same method is used for curing a severe cold in the chest, except that only two pounds of epsom salts are used and a very hot drink, preferably a toddy, is drunk before getting into the bath, as well as in inducing perspiration. After the bath go directly to bed and pull up all the covers possible. In two hours the bed will be quite damp from the perspiration, or should be.



At Salina Cruz.



At Mazatlan.



At Manzanillo.



At Acapulco.

## A Few of the American Consulates in Mexico Which Have Been Havens of Refuge for Americans Seeking Protection and Transportation