

What Shall be Done With Mexico?



"PANCHO" VILLA



CITY OF MEXICO



PRESIDENT CARRANZA



GEN. FELIPE ANGELES

WHAT shall be done with Mexico? Nobody seems to be ready with a complete program, but everybody seems of the opinion that something must be done and done soon.

In this age of the world civilization cannot afford to let a country like Mexico—one of the garden spots and natural storehouses of earth—continue out of the line of march. It must join the procession and must keep up with the procession.

So it is evident, aside from the question of the killing of American and British citizens and other nationals—human life appears to be cheap these days—that financial matters and economic questions will force action by the United States and the allies against Mexico, the outlaw nation.

It is no exaggeration to say that for months no other international problem, not connected with the proceedings at Paris, has been so fully discussed as the Mexican question, and apparently sentiment in this country and abroad is rapidly crystallizing.

The exclusion of Mexico from the League of Nations was based on the ground that Mexico had been unable to give proof of intention to observe international obligations. Mexico has failed to observe these obligations in these ways:

Mexico's neutrality was more than tinged with German bias.

Mexico has made no attempt to meet her foreign debt obligations.

Mexico shows increasing inability to afford protection to the lives and property of foreigners and nationals also.

Mexico has given evidence of a studied and systematic attempt to put through schemes which would result in the confiscation of foreign property, the most glaring example of which is the case of the oil companies, although the express and railway companies' interests are in almost as great danger.

It is no secret in Washington that renewed representations on the Mexican situation are being made to the American government by Great Britain and France. For several months these countries have been urging upon the United States the desirability of putting Mexico on its feet so that it might resume the payment on national and other debts and afford adequate protection to foreign lives and property.

British citizens are holders of a considerable amount of Mexican bonds, both national and railway, while the French have extensive investments in the banks, which it has been charged were looked by the government under the guise of obtaining "loans." Nationals of both countries hold extensive interests in oil properties. Many French citizens of moderate means invested their savings in Mexican bonds, on which they have received no interest for six years.

In short, the Mexican situation has apparently resolved itself into this: The United States will soon be compelled to take Mexico in hand—unless European nations are to be suffered to intervene there in spite of the Monroe doctrine.

In official Washington the prediction is hazarded that the United States will intervene, acting as the mandatory for the League of Nations.

In congress the Mexican situation has ceased to be a partisan question. Senator King of Utah, a Democrat and one of the administration's strongest supporters, introduced the other day a very stiff resolution directing the secretary of state to report in full on Mexican conditions and what the department of state was planning to do in the matter. The resolution was immediately considered and agreed to.

In the house Representative Gould of New York, Republican, introduced a resolution providing for a sweeping investigation of American-Mexican relations and all phases of the Mexican problem since 1910. The investigation would be made by a committee of three senators and three representatives, to be selected by the foreign affairs committees of the two houses. It was stated leaders of both the houses were consulted before the resolution was introduced, and that they are favorable to the inquiry.

Mr. Gould gave figures showing that 300 Americans had been murdered between 1910 and 1916; figures for the three years following being unobtainable.

All of which seems to indicate that President Venustiano Carranza of Mexico is in bad with Uncle Sam and the allies. It seems reasonably certain that he cannot much longer stave off a settlement of the grievances which have been piling up in the United States and various European nations because of the high-handed treatment accorded to foreign interests in the Mexican republic.

Also it appears that either Carranza must come to terms with the United States and the allies, with acceptable guarantees that Mexico will meet

her obligations to these countries, or the revolutionists will shake him from power. In addition to the Villa rising there are not less than ten revolutionary movements in Mexico. There are those who say he would not last two weeks should he be thrown over by the United States.

There is no gainsaying that Carranza is in a tight place, with the League of Nations planning economic pressure from without and a growing pressure from revolutionists from within.

What are the investments of foreign nations in Mexico? No official figures are to be had, with the exception of the estimate prepared in 1910 by Marion Letcher, an American consul in Chihuahua, which is this:

American	\$1,057,770,000
British	321,302,800
French	143,446,000
Various	118,535,380
Total	\$1,641,054,180

Another estimate, prepared by an American corporation enjoying special facilities, totals nearly the same, but differs widely in the distribution of investments. It is regarded as the best obtainable. It follows:

American	\$655,000,000
British	670,000,000
French	285,000,000
German	75,000,000
Spanish, Dutch, etc.....	190,000,000
Total	\$1,875,000,000

These figures are said to include the foreign investment in the national debt of Mexico and the distribution, as far as can be worked out, of the holdings of the securities of all companies operating in Mexico.

The British government is demanding adequate protection for British subjects and property in Mexico, including specifically the oil wells the British government recently has purchased from British corporations, and also is demanding reparation for the destruction of British lives and property.

The French government is making similar demands and in addition insists that Carranza pay the interest on the \$30,000,000 Huerta loan, which was floated in France but which has been repudiated by the present Mexican government.

The \$30,000,000 loan constitutes the difference between the amount of the Mexican external debt, as estimated by T. W. Osterheld at \$173,409,067 and the figures given today by the Mexican government, which are \$143,472,125.

Regarding the internal loan debt of Mexico, the Mexican treasury department says it totals \$93,397,775, with interest to June 30 next amounting to \$17,914,672.62.

The official Mexican figures fail to take into account the entire railroad indebtedness, guaranteed specifically by the Carranza government when the lines were taken over, and which is given as \$290,504,532, United States currency.

Nor do the Mexican figures include obligations other than railroads which the Mexican government has guaranteed and which, therefore, constitute a valid claim against Mexico as a direct external loan. Chief of these is the "Caja de Prestamos" farm loan banks obligations which, with interest to June 30, equal \$31,598,742.75. Nor does the official Mexican report take into account the "infaiscible," issue of paper money, of which \$80,000,000 at 10 cents United States currency, remains outstanding, making another \$8,000,000, which the Mexican government upon issuing solemnly pledged itself to redeem, but which it later repudiated and which it will some day be compelled to pay.

Nor does the official Mexican report take into account the \$20,000,000 which the Carranza government took as a "loan" from banks of issue in Mexico City and which is now the subject of injunction proceedings by the Bank of London to enjoin the financial agent of Carranza in New York City from reaching credits in United States banks.

Also Mexico has been using the total income of the railroads and express companies as well as other public utility establishments and has steadfastly refused to make admission of responsibility. Most of the American money went into Mexico during the 34 years of the Diaz rule, ending in 1911. The following figures as to investments and damages are regarded as the most reliable.

	Cash Invested.	Physical Damage.
Railroads	\$150,000,000	\$40,000,000
Oil	200,000,000	5,000,000
Mines	200,000,000	15,000,000
Lands and cattle	50,000,000	10,000,000
Industrial and public service.....	50,000,000	10,000,000
Total	\$850,000,000	\$80,000,000

This investment of \$850,000,000 had grown in value until in 1910 it was said to be worth \$2,000,000,000.

Damage claims aggregating \$500,000,000 are said to be filed with the American state department. In this are included legitimate claims for additional losses due to the following causes:

Destruction of new values created by the American energy which has now been driven out.

Destruction of business through confiscatory taxes and uncurbed banditry, making operations impossible.

Destruction of original values through unstable government.

Destruction of entire financial and credit system of the country through government decrees.

Losses in profits which would have been made during present era of high prices.

Potential damage which would wipe out virtually all values will become actual if President Carranza carries out his confiscatory "Constitution of 1917" and his subsequent decrees, including the following:

Making foreign corporations or individuals incompetent to own property in Mexico unless foreign citizenship is renounced.

Appropriating all corporation-owned land, giving in return unguaranteed state bonds of virtually no value.

"Nationalization" of oil, making oil subject to denouement, when the entire oil-producing system is now founded on the principle of its belonging to the land itself.

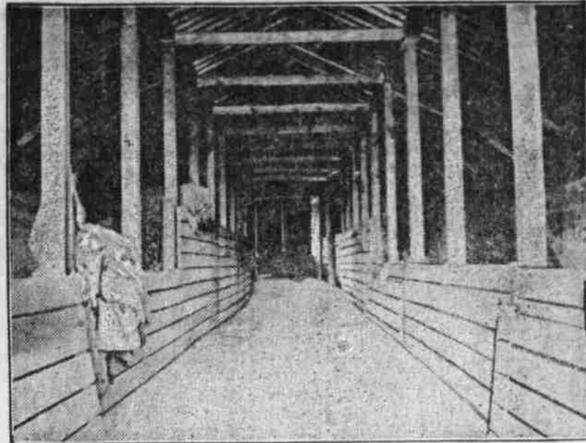
Prohibiting any foreign corporation or individual from owning anything within 60 miles of the frontier or 30 miles of the seacoast.

There are dozens of other interesting things in the Mexican situation which cannot be considered here. For example, a study of Carranza's sayings and doings shows him to be a human curiosity.

Is Villa alive or dead? Of course his name is very much in evidence. Nevertheless, who has seen him in the flesh for a year or more? He isn't being interviewed and photographed—that's sure. The personality of Angeles, who has cast his lot with the Villistas, is interesting. He is educated and personally attractive.

Then there is the national election coming on—with Carranza saying he is out of it and Obregon and Gonzales, rival candidates, talking new revolutions.

POTATOES MUST BE PROTECTED FROM EXTREME HEAT AND COLD, AND LIGHT



Proper Potato Storage Protects the Spuds Against Extremes of Heat, Cold and Light.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Storing potatoes resembles banking money, because ordinarily it results in the potatoes selling for higher prices later in the season when the supply is not so abundant as at digging time. The potatoes earn dividends while in storage just as money in the bank accumulates interest. If all the potatoes were sold immediately after digging the prices would decline, due to the excessive offerings on the market. It permits of holding the more or less perishable potatoes in a salable condition over as long a period as is economically desirable. Storage also insures a more uniform market supply throughout the season.

It is the late or main crop varieties of spuds, intended for winter use, which are stored, as the early or truck crop potatoes are ordinarily disposed of directly from the field as harvested. Potato storages are practically of all types and descriptions, from primitive shelters, such as caves or pits, up to rather elaborate, artificially refrigerated storage houses. However, the fundamental purpose of the storage house, be it simple or elaborate, is to protect the spuds from extremes of cold and heat as well as from the light, and under proper conditions of humidity and ventilation. Care must be exercised not to keep the potatoes together in large bulk where the development of high temperature and deterioration will be favored.

Specialists of the United States department of agriculture believe that a temperature of about 36 degrees Fahrenheit is generally low enough for practical potato storage, and that during the earlier portion of the storage season the temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit is just as satisfactory except where powdery dry rot infection occurs. The freezing point of the potato is between 28 and 26 degrees Fahrenheit.

Potatoes, when exposed to strong or even moderate light are soon injured for food purposes, and on this account it is essential to exclude the light from the storage house, although exposure to modified light, where the spuds are kept cool and well aired, is not injurious to tubers intended for seed potatoes.

Protect Potatoes Against Wilting. There should be sufficient moisture in the potato storage house to prevent the wilting of the tubers and at the same time to maintain a humidity content low enough to prevent a deposit of moisture on the surface of the potatoes. One investigator suggests a humidity of from 85 to 90 per cent as about correct for a potato storage room temperature of 33 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Generous provision for adequate ventilation must be made, the ventilators or air flues being arranged so as to insure a rapid and even distribution of air throughout the structure.

It is a bad practice to store potatoes in large bins or piles. Not infrequently the tubers are heaped to a depth of 10 or 15 feet, the pile being correspondingly large in the other dimensions. Such storage almost invariably results in violent sweating or curing, in which the spuds in the central portion of the pile are frequently subjected to a dangerously high temperature. This is especially true if the tubers are slightly immature or were not dry and free from moist soil when gathered, or if stored when the outside temperature was high, making it difficult to lower the inside temperature of the house. Such overheating may be avoided by inserting division walls at intervals throughout the pile. The division walls may consist of 2 by 4 inch uprights, on the 2-inch face of which are nailed 3/4 by 5 inch strips of any desired length, leaving a 1-inch space between each strip. This provides a ventilated partition, which can be of any height and length desired. By placing these in an upright position 5 to 6 feet apart as the bin or storage house is being filled, good ventilation will be secured and an easy avenue of escape for both heat and moisture provided.

Storage Adapted to Local Needs. In considering the type of storage best suited to the needs the grower should bear in mind the temperature and rain or snow likely to occur during the storage period, the character and cost of the material involved, the nature of the soil and drainage, and the length of the storage period. Potatoes may be successfully stored in pits if provided with good drainage and given sufficient covering to insulate them against extreme

heat and cold, a well-drained site being essential. It is usually not advisable to excavate more than 6 inches, making the pit long and narrow rather than square in shape. It is inadvisable to store a large bulk of potatoes in one pit.

The potatoes are stored, over a light layer of straw on the floor, while the pile is insulated against cold and heat by covering the spuds with alternate layers of straw or hay and soil. During the late fall, as the weather grows colder, more straw, as well as more soil, should be added to form a protective overcoat for the potatoes. Each layer of straw when compacted should be approximately six inches thick, while the final layer of soil should be six to eight inches deep, depending upon weather conditions. Ventilation may be provided by means of a wooden flue, the lower end of which extends almost to the bottom of the pit, while the upper end should project well above the covering, the valve being equipped with a wooden cap to prevent the entrance of rain or snow, and also in order that it may be closed entirely during very cold weather.

A pit of this sort when well made will provide perfect protection for the potatoes until spring, the objection to it being that the potatoes stored therein are not always accessible during the winter.

In regions where rainfall is slight, dugout potato cellars are commonly used, it not being necessary to provide these buildings with water-tight roofs. Usually the pit or "hog back," as it is called, is placed on a short, narrow ridge of land which permits of easy approach and a central driveway into the pit at the grade line. It is necessary to brace such potatoes by means of posts and plates in order to prevent cave-ins. Some of the pits are more expensive and substantial, with the side and end walls made of concrete. Generally it is advisable to have the storage cellars or pits equipped with some system of artificial lighting.

Central Driveway in Cellar. The storage cellar is usually provided with a driveway entrance and is considerably wider than the cellars without driveways, which often are only 12 to 30 feet wide, the entire space being used for storage purposes and the floor being either dirt, wood or concrete. Some of the best storages have driveways through the middle with bins on either side, the driveway being an earthen one with the storage bins having ventilated wooden floors laid on joists placed at right angles to the driveway and thus furnishing an unrestricted circulation of air beneath the bin.

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CORN STANDARD NOW RISING

Fraction for 1913 Was 82.5 Per Cent, Slightly Above Mean for the Preceding Ten Years.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Merchantable corn was 82.4 per cent of the entire crop during the last 36 years, and the percentage has been a declining one. In 1888-1897 the mean was 84.6 per cent; in 1898-1907, 83.4 per cent; and in 1908-1917, 80.2 per cent. The standard of merchantability appears to be rising. The fraction for 1918 was 82.5 per cent, or almost the mean for 36 years, but above the mean of the preceding ten years. The highest fraction in 36 years was 89.1 per cent in 1906, and the lowest 60 per cent in 1917.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

Every farmer should keep some kind of an accounting system.

In 1916, the chinch bugs cost farmers of this country \$60,000,000.

Do not cultivate beans when the plants are wet from dew or rain.

Cultivation is just as important now in the garden as earlier. Keep the ground stirred.

Weeds first gain a foothold through carelessness in choosing feed and seed grain, and in not tackling the first comers.

Do not leave your tractor out in the field without some sort of cover, shielding it from dust, dew and the occasional rain.