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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1914.

IN CARRANZA'S KEEPING.

The present fate of Mexico is in the hands, not of Congress, nor of President Wilson, nor of General Huerta, nor of General Carranza.

The secretive Mexican rancher, who combines a certain patriotism with the position of an assassin, can say this morning whether his bloody rival in the National Palace shall be overthrown and a general election held, or whether Mexico will be forced into the mire of pulverizing and humiliation before its regeneration can begin. By uniting with Huerta, Carranza can force a war that will not end until the last bandit has been driven from the mountains, or standing aloof and permitting the United States to administer to Huerta the punishment he deserves, Carranza can tremendously hasten the coming of peace in his country. If he is man enough to see that the patriotism which will dictate noninterference in our quarrel with Huerta is of a higher order than that which would unite to oppose invasion, Carranza may perform a service to his nation unexcelled by that of any man in the history of Mexico.

There is, of course, the possibility of purchasing Carranza's neutrality at the price of recognizing his government. This is the cheapest, the simplest, and, in some respects at least, the surest way of restoring peace in Mexico. But still there are two objections of moment. First, to recognize Carranza would be inconsistent with the principle for which we have contended since the assassination of Madero—namely, that the President of Mexico must be chosen by the free suffrage of the people. Secondly, to recognize Carranza and to put him in the presidency would merely be to incite another rebellion as soon as we left him.

As to the former, it must be remembered that Carranza, though insisting that he is President of Mexico, has never been chosen by the people of the republic. He is no more President at law than a Roman soldier chosen by the Praetorian Guard during an uprising would be lawful Emperor. If Huerta is not President, then Carranza is not. A large element of the people of Mexico would plot against him as they have plotted against every President since the iron hand of Diaz began to relax with age. If recognized at all, Carranza would have to enter into an arrangement with the United States to hold his office only until an election could be held. And this would mean that the election would have to be under the direction of our government.

Neutrality, then, is the only attitude Carranza can afford to assume, unless he wishes to bring on a disastrous and hopeless war. And, as there is little prospect that he will remain indifferent, we may look for a deputation of our leaders to the capital of war or long peace.

If worst comes to worst, we will be with our countrymen in Mexico. We will end with our sons fighting and dying, if need be, for the principles for which our fathers fought and bled and died. We will end with our sons and our brothers, if need be, in a course up to the administration to subdue the country. We would need an army of at least 100,000 men, and that this country has neither the equipment, in the numbers, nor at a moderate cost, and in the majority of instances, Washington would be forced to hire the Mexicans to fight for us against their countrymen. We would have to pay them more than our own men would cost us, but to pursue them into the deserts and into mountain fastnesses where numbers would count for nothing against skill and knowledge of the country, they would be worse than useless. The revenue without which the Government could not exist would be cut off, and the Government would be bankrupt. The Government would also be forced to feed the Mexicans, for the people would be starving by the millions, and they would be worse than useless as soldiers. We would have to pay them, and we would have to feed them, and we would have to clothe them, they would be a source of expense without any compensation, and they would be a source of weakness in the rear of our army. We would be fighting a people who would be worse than useless to us, who would be a source of weakness and who would be a source of expense without any compensation, and we would be fighting them because we would be ashamed to be beaten by them, because we would be ashamed to be beaten by a people who we had been taught to believe were our inferiors