

# IS VILLA HERO OR JUST 'GOLD BRICK'

### Opinion Divided as to Whether Mexican Soldier Can Be Trusted.

## HE MAY BE PLOTTING

### Protestations of Friendliness Are Likely to Prove Ruse to Secure War Supplies.

BY EDWARD H. HAMILTON.

El Paso, Tex., April 25.—Washington continues to ignore Carranza and to treat with Pancho Villa.

Carranza sends out from Chihuahua to Spain, a message saying he protests against the American invasion and declaring the Mexican people will fight against the invaders to the last breath.

Over in Juarez to-day Pancho Villa said to John W. Roberts, a newspaper man and his confidential friend:

"My personal wishes are that the United States continues to blockade Vera Cruz and all the Huerta ports."

There certainly seems a flat break between Carranza and Villa, and now comes the question, which is the stronger?

"I shall not be surprised if Villa places Carranza under arrest, said one man who had been campaigning with Don Pancho.

Mr. Villa's Power.

"Why, Villa has Carranza where he can play with him as a cat does with a mouse," declared Roberts emphatically. "The cat sometimes seems to sleep, but let the mouse try to get away and how quickly the cat's paw catches it."

"Will the other Constitutionalists stay with Villa as against Carranza?" I asked Roberts.

"How does Villa know?"

"He has been in telegraphic communication with all of them."

Now the United States Federal officials hold this same view. They regard Villa as the dominating factor in the game and are negotiating with him as such to the exclusion of Carranza.

But an entirely different opinion is expressed by men familiar with Mexican affairs and by American refugees who have just come up from Torreón, Parral and Chihuahua.

For instance, Jack Hayes, superintendent of the Heurtz ranch near Chihuahua, who has fought off revolutionists after revolutionists by force of superior arms and bravery, feels that Carranza will be the stronger figure in any split, and that most of the generals will stay with him.

"I doubt whether Villa will ever go back to the front to fight," said Hayes. "He has a lot of bullion and loot to dispose of, and he has lost many of his followers in battle and by desertions and dispersals so common in all Mexican irregular armies."

It is just now a bigger figure than ever before."

This view is shared by W. W. Stewart, who represents the San Francisco capital that operates the public utilities of Parral. He says that while Villa has been in the limelight as a hero and has many of the men from Chihuahua and Sonora behind him, the Huertera brothers, MacLoy and Luis, who are among the best fighters of the Constitutional army, General Rosendo Hernandez, General Gonzalez, who is related to Carranza, and the men who are now operating near Tampico and Monterey, would very largely stick to Carranza.

May Be Hero or Gold Brick.

So it is not so easy to say whether.

## LOSS OF APPETITE IN THE SPRING

Loss of appetite is accompanied by loss of vitality, vigor or tone, which is a more serious loss. It is common in the spring, because at this time the blood is impure and impoverished, and fails to give the digestive organs what they need for the proper performance of their functions.

Ask your druggist for Hood's Sarsaparilla. It makes the rich red blood your whole system demands. It is not simply a spring medicine—but it is the best spring medicine.—Advertisement.

How long will Villa remain in Juarez? I asked Carranza.

"Until these matters are settled."

"Do you consider his statement to Roberts an honest expression of his opinion?"

"Here is just what Villa is said to have said to Roberts, his friend and press agent:

"I have personal wishes are that the United States should blockade Vera Cruz and all the Huerta ports. If Carranza will do this we are sure to have the Constitutional army in the City of Mexico in a short time, and I solemnly promise the United States that I will see to it that the drunkard, Huerta, offers a full and satisfactory apology for his various insults to the great friends of the masses of the Mexican people—the United States."

From this has grown up a story here that Villa is to give the arms and ammunition he needs; that he is to draw off his troops from the American border and concentrate them in the march to Mexico City, and that the United States is to take care of his border behind him.

There is another view, however, that the foxy Villa is merely playing with President Wilson to get the 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition he needs, and then those bullets are far more apt to be used against the United States than against the Huerta forces.

Poor Opinion of Bandit's Word.

These border Americans generally have a very poor opinion of a Mexican bandit's word. And so El Paso continues to hear an admiral's note now and then.

One story to-day was that Villa was intruding in Juarez and erecting barricades of cotton bales, and another that Mrs. Villa was packing all her El Paso belongings, particularly her beloved electric piano, and is preparing to leave this city.

From the battery of four field pieces has arrived to reinforce the El Paso defenses, while two more batteries are due to arrive from Fort Riley, Kan., which will give this city sixteen 3-inch guns for her defense.

General Pershing and his two regiments from San Francisco are due to-morrow. This will encamp in El Paso an army of about 5,000 regular troops, who would not hesitate to tackle three times that number of Mexicans, veterans or recruits.

Refugees coming in daily say that in two years Mexico will face a serious famine if she does not quit fighting.

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## FOUR AMERICANS KILLED BY MOBS

### Vera Cruz Newspaper Prints Reported Massacre in Mexico City.

## MAAS THREATENS EXECUTION

### Reports From All Parts of Country of Murder or Imprisonment of U. S. Citizens.

Vera Cruz, April 25.—El Diablan, a Vera Cruz newspaper, today said that American had been killed by mobs in Mexico City. It declared the bullet was fired from the Federal capital.

Three of the American victims were taken out of street cars and killed on the streets, while the fourth was killed in the Young Men's Christian Association building by members of the Federal team to which he belonged, according to the newspaper.

The information as to the massacre of Americans was not confirmed from any other source, and was considered doubtful in many quarters.

Maas Will Execute Americans.

New Orleans, April 25.—General Adolfo Maas of the Mexican forces, has issued a decree ordering the execution of certain American prisoners, guilty of certain charges, and that he proposes to execute them.

Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, the wireless says, has notified the State Department at Washington of the reported execution of seven Americans by Maas.

The nature of the charges brought against the seven Americans was not indicated by wireless, or whether they were given a trial.

Officials Greatly Worried.

Washington, April 25.—Reports that are coming from all parts of the country of execution, murder or imprisonment of Americans are causing intense worry and anxiety to the officials of the State and War Departments. No confirmation has been had of the reports published in Vera Cruz newspaper that four Americans had been killed in Mexico City in this.

The State Department has been without telegraphic facilities to Mexico City since Charles Chauncey's departure, the only way that the State Department can now get news from Huerta's capital is through the German embassy at Vera Cruz, so far no reports from this source have been received.

The German embassy at Mexico City has a radio equipment.

Building Permits.

Permits for the erection of new structures were issued by Building Inspector Butler yesterday, as follows:

J. M. Walker, to erect a one-story brick garage in rear of 1510 Park Avenue, to cost \$325.

Richmond Structural Steel Company, to erect a one-story steel frame foundry on the north side of James River, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, to cost \$200.

J. E. Crass, to erect a detached two-story brick dwelling on the west side of the Boulevard, between Monument and Park Avenues, to cost \$11,000.

William C. Camp, to erect a detached two-story brick garage in rear of 2000 Monument Avenue, to cost \$950.

MANY DELEGATES ATTEND.

Great Baraca-Philathea Convention is in progress at Durham.

Durham, N. C., April 25.—The largest assembly of religious people in the history of this State met in the Academy of Music to-night. Twelve hundred delegates to the fourth Baraca-Philathea convention from local ministers and citizens, made an audience of more than 2,000.

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Music was furnished by a union city choir. Addresses of welcome and responses were given by the Y. M. C. A. building and was held at the Y. M. C. A. building.

Six big meetings will be held on Sunday afternoon and evening. The convention will get under way Monday morning, and the sessions will last through Tuesday night. Delegates are here from all over the State.

## Mr. Phillips had Stomach Trouble for More than Five Years.

### House Members Fear Plan to "Sit Tight" May Result in Serious Complications.

## WANT MORE TROOPS SENT

### Urge Upon Cabinet Officers That Declaration of War Cannot Long Be Averted.

Washington, April 25.—An undercurrent desire in Congress for more aggressive action in Mexico became apparent to-day, several members of the House and chairmen of important House committees agreeing that the plan to "sit tight" at Vera Cruz, awaiting retaliatory developments, might result in embarrassing international complications.

Some members argued that this government eventually would be forced into war against Huerta, and that more troops should be sent at once to the Mexican border and also to Vera Cruz. That Congress would take some action as soon as the troops arrive at Vera Cruz to reinforce the naval forces there was predicted by several, who declared that they were refraining from a public expression of view until the regular troops of the United States could reach Vera Cruz on Monday.

Some members have urged upon Cabinet officers that a declaration of war could not be long averted, asserting that congressional action soon would be taken. Representative Hay, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, conferred to-day with Secretary of War Garrison with reference to the situation.

BULLET MOUNTED AS CHARM

Presented to Frank L. Polk by Mayor Mitchell.

New York, April 25.—Mounted as a charm, the bullet from the gun of Michael P. Mahoney, the demented blacksmith, which passed through the victim's chin a week ago, yesterday was presented to Frank L. Polk, corporation counsel.

The presentation was made at the New York Hospital by Mayor Mitchell, for whom the bullet was intended. The bullet was removed from the cheek of the corporation counsel after he was taken to the hospital. The Mayor had it mounted and increased in a handsome box. Mr. Polk left the hospital for home to-day.

Reappropriates Balance.

Washington, April 25.—The Senate has agreed to the resolution reappropriating any unexpended balance of appropriations previously made for the naval station at New Orleans.

Those who object to liquid medicines can now procure Peruna Tablets.

Our files abound with testimonials of people who have been the victims of stomach trouble. Peruna seems to be peculiarly adapted to these cases. In no class of human ailments are our testimonials more enthusiastic and numerous than in cases of stomach ailments. Some of these are slight, arising from ordinary indigestion. Others are serious, reducing the patient to almost a skeleton. Peruna, because of its tonic laxative qualities, seems to be specifically adapted to catarrh of the stomach and similar ailments.

Badger Further Extending Lines

No Contest With Mexican Forces and None Expected at Present.

Washington, April 25.—Admiral Badger to-night reported from Vera Cruz that he was extending his lines of bluejackets and marines further beyond the city. The battalion of marines from the South Carolina are well entrenched two and one-half miles west of the city. No contact has been had with the Mexican forces, and none was expected in the immediate future.

Admiral Badger's fleet included 5 P. M. Saturday, said.

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"THE STRAND"

The soft roll lapel and scant lines on the "Strand" show an adaptation of the latest thoughts in fashion for men.

THREE BUTTONS, FALSE CUFFS, HIGH VEST, AND NO PADDING IN THE COAT.

These features added to its already distinctive grace make it one of the most popular models of our shop Tailored especially for the Quality shop to sell for \$25.00

JACOBS & LEVY  
705 E BROAD  
QUALITY SHOP

## MEDIATION OFFER IS BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO END CRISIS

### Acceptance Will Not Halt Original Program of Operations.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington, April 25.—The acceptance by the United States of the offer of mediation, made by the South American republics, provided the same conditions are accepted by the Mexican authorities, is the best possible way of settling the present critical situation, declared Congressman Flood, of Virginia, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, to the correspondent of The Times-Dispatch upon coming out of the conference at 6 o'clock this evening with President Wilson.

Shively, chairman and Cooper, ranking Republican on the House committee.

The Senators and Congressmen on the Foreign Relations Committee of the House, and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the White House at 6 o'clock, and discussed with President Wilson every phase of the mediation proffer for about forty-five minutes, at the end of which President Wilson made public this government's reply.

"The reply made to the South American republics by this country," said Mr. Flood, "means that we will agree to arbitrate our differences with the defacto government of Mexico in regard to the salute of twenty-one guns, provided Huerta will do the same. While the negotiations are going on, we will carry out our original program of operations, which contemplated the seizure of the ports of Vera Cruz, Tampico, Guaymas and Mazatlan."

While awaiting the reply of Huerta and Carranza, we will proceed under what might be termed our 'present head of steam,' that is, our battleships already under order to go to the ports will continue on their way, as will the thousands of marines, and the Third and Fourth Brigades, composing the regular regiments of infantry. We will not for the present make any unusual condition greatly change, order any more ships or army detachments to the front, provided, of course, our forces already there are not threatened with serious danger, in which event we will reinforce both branches of the service as conditions warrant.

Operations Will Continue.

"The seizure of two custom ports was all that was originally intended by President Wilson, and these operations will continue, pending negotiations. Should Huerta refuse to arbitrate, the friendly offices of the South American republics will then probably adopt a different course. For Huerta to refuse, however, would already under order to go to the ports will continue on their way, as will the thousands of marines, and the Third and Fourth Brigades, composing the regular regiments of infantry. We will not for the present make any unusual condition greatly change, order any more ships or army detachments to the front, provided, of course, our forces already there are not threatened with serious danger, in which event we will reinforce both branches of the service as conditions warrant.

It is not the intention of the United States to attempt a settlement of the imbroglio over the twenty-one gun salute incident, but to