

What Intervention In Mexico Means



Photos by American Press Association.

CARRANZA'S SOLDIERS—GENERAL OBREGON (SECOND FROM LEFT) IN THE FIELD—AMERICAN SOLDIERS ON MOVE IN MEXICO—VILLA AND HIS BANDIT CHIEF.

Indian Peons, of Whom There Are 14,000,000, Are the Real Trouble Makers in the Republic—Intervention by the United States Army Spells No Less Than Ten Years of Hard Work—The Sacrifice in Men Is Small in a Campaign of This Sort, but the Monetary Loss Is Tremendous.

Until the United States takes control of every city, runs down and executes the more than forty leaders of robber bands and establishes a central government strong enough to police the entire nation there will be no peace in Mexico, irrespective of who may occupy, for the time being, the presidential chair, writes Colonel William G. Sills, a captain of Mosby's men in the civil war and for forty years a resident of Mexico.

Intervention means that the United States undertakes the task of pacifying 26,000,000 people, more than 14,000,000 of whom are practically savages, and of keeping order throughout the 800,000-square miles of area of Mexico, besides being confronted with an opposition that will require at least ten years of almost continuous fighting to overcome—an opposition the barbarity of whose methods makes the warfare of Aguirre, Geronimo and other famous savages seem like a battle of snowballs in July.

The United States has been in the Philippine Islands about seventeen years, yet not a month passes in which the cables do not bring tales of attacks by native malcontents on the troops. Now, the area of Mexico is more than seven times as great as that of the islands, the population of Mexico approximately ten times as great as that of the Philippines, and the loyalty of the Mexican, low as it has been shown to be, is a thousand times greater than that of the Filipino because the Mexican for more than a quarter of a century had at least a sort of centralized government, but the Filipino never had had such a thing until the United States stepped in.

The Mexican has had nearly six years of rather strenuous fighting, in which, it is true, only about 2 per cent of the population has been engaged, but which has been so widespread that battle and death have few terrors for the average Mexican, man or woman. The Mexican leaders are able to muster an army of nearly 200,000, mostly mounted, all armed and provided with ammunition enough to last them—at their style of warfare—nearly a year.

Yet it is not the Mexican army, greater though it is than that of the United States and more practiced in actual war, that hostile soldiers need so much to guard against. It is that 14,000,000 Indians, divided into eighty-three tribes and made rebellious by 300 years of servitude, that will cause the invader, no matter how good his intentions, the most trouble. They

will give the United States at least ten years of Indian warfare, in which not a small town, not a road, not a mountain trail, are safe from attack until so many have been exterminated that there are no more raiders to raid.

Scattered throughout the republic, according to estimates given me by General Alvaro Obregon when he was in Torreon last year, are approximately 20,000 men, in small bands of from 200 to 700, unaffiliated with any faction, but merely engaged in looting because they can live more easily that way than by labor.

Including the 60,000 men of the Carranza forces, there are 200,000 soldiers under arms scattered through Mexico under fifteen separate leaders, each of whom is concerned mainly with his own ambitions.

But even the most loyal of Mexicans—and there are a few, though not many, else they would have one solid front to present to a foe, whether internal or external—must admit that these nearly 200,000 armed men are not united. This always will be so, and this will prevent any one man, no matter how well supported with money and moral influence, from restoring peace to Mexico unless he is given armed aid from the United States or from some other nation. From what I know of all the leaders in the field in Mexico, however, I believe no one of them would be allowed to accept such aid, and the United States as an interventionist can expect little aid from any Mexican save such politicians as may see therein a profit for themselves.

If the armies of Mexico are not a unit even in opposition to a foreign foe, the mass of the people are as one in their hatred of the Americans. There is not a town in Mexico, from the poorest Indian village to the capital, where an American alone is safe; not one through which even a comparatively large party of Americans can pass without being cursed and their ancestry reviled. The flag of Liberia has more influence and is more respected in Mexico than is that of the United States. No other people are so hated in all the southern republic save the Spaniards. Placards posted in Torreon, Saltillo, Monterey and Chihuahua City as late as December, 1915, read:

"The Spaniards take our money and our women; the Americans steal our lands and our cattle and our mines. Let us kill both of them, for we shall have to pay for neither. Down with the gringos (Americans) and the gachupines (Spaniards)."

The threat to kill all Americans recently attributed to Villa is by no means his exclusive property. It is the threat of all Mexico, with the few exceptions of those leaders who have seen or felt the power of the United States and realize that even long suffering patience can be strained to the breaking point.

When Madero revolutionists late in 1911 massacred 200 Chinese in Torreon and intervention by the United States seemed about to be forced by pressure from other foreign governments the then President Madero called

on the governor of every state to furnish him with 50,000 men. Instructions to the governors said these men would be supplied with arms, given free military instructions and would be called to the colors only to fight a foreign foe.

By this means thousands of young men (although not the number Madero called for, in reality the best of Mexico's youth, for they had kept out of the Madero and Orozco revolutions, were formed into state guards, armed and provided with much ammunition. Machine guns in proportion to the men enrolled were sent to every state, and they were provided with armories, drill grounds, target ranges and other necessities for their preparation for war against a foreign foe.

These forces were kept up and increased somewhat by the succeeding state governors, who, of course, changed with every new president, as a means of protection for themselves. While none of these young men have been under fire, they have had nearly five years of practice with targets and in drilling and the handling of arms. There are still nearly 100,000 of them under organization, especially in the central and southern states of Mexico.

When General Felix Diaz and General Victoriano Huerta overthrew Madero and Huerta seized the presidency the latter soon learned that the government of the United States was definitely and decidedly opposed to him. Even before troops were landed in Vera Cruz, even before the Tampico incident, which resulted in the seizure of the port, the following proclamation was sent from the City of Mexico to the governor of every state and was posted throughout the republic:

BEWARE THE DRAGON OF THE NORTH!

Mexicans, the all devouring Dragon of the North is at your doors.

The Washington government seeks to devour you as it has devoured Colombia and will consume our sister republic of Panama.

We are not so great in men or in money as the rapacious republic of the north, but our hearts are as strong. Let us watch our country and our homes lest this monster seize them; let us fight with guns if we have them, with knives if we have them and, if we cannot get them, with cuts and with our teeth and our finger nails.

Let us poison every spring, every well, every stream, let us burn every blade of grass, every spear of grain, every garden, every tree, let us kill every head of cattle and every other animal along the paths by which they seek to enter our country; let us starve that they may be starved also, for they cannot bring with them food and water for so enormous an army as must enter Mexico to conquer our brave hearts.

2,000,000 inhabitants of Mexico, comprising the small, educated upper classes and including all foreigners, who favor intervention. To them it means safety of persons, stability of money, guaranteed titles, honesty in the courts and enormous advances in the values of their holdings. Yet these are the only ones who favor intervention, and their aid to an invading force is so slight that it is valueless.

Mexico's great drawback, of course, is lack of ammunition, for of rifles, revolvers and cannon her armories have all they can use. Yet when the various embargoes have been placed on arms, in an effort to aid the governments of Madero and Carranza, the enemies of these two presidents never have been forced to stop fighting because of lack of ammunition. Only so recently as the end of January, 1916, 7,000,000 cartridges were shipped from the United States for the use of the new Felix Diaz revolution in southern Mexico. So long as there is money to pay for it ammunition will be delivered in Mexico to whatever faction has that money.

In invading Mexico the United States is going to war with 14,000,000 Indians, the greatest Indian war ever undertaken. It should also be remembered that every one of these Indians is armed, for rifles by the hundreds of thousands have poured into Mexico since revolutionary troubles began.

We should recall that there are at least ten rebel leaders in Mexico today who have as large forces as did Santa Ana when he gave battle to the Americans in the war of the forties and that practically any one of these leaders today knows as much about fighting as did Santa Ana.

And we ought not fail to count the cost in money as well as men and, what is of still more importance, the cost with relation to our position in the now so difficult field of international politics.

That the losses of men in intervention should be comparatively small, while the monetary expense will be great. But a nation of the power and ability of the United States need not fear the financial venture into a country so rich as is Mexico, so filled with deposits of gold and silver and lead and copper, so covered with fertile soil and so grown up to valuable timber.

Repudiated the Job.

"Why is old Hooker's wife so indignant at him?"

"Hooker was telling some one that his wife was the making of him and she overheard him."—Browning's Magazine.

Sporting Notes

By SQUARE DEAL.

Cann New Swimming Marvel.

The performance of Teddy Cann of the New York Athletic club in winning the 100 yard national junior swimming championship stamps him one of the



Photo by American Press Association. Teddy Cann, New Swimming Marvel.

most remarkable young swimmers of the day.

Teddy is a schoolboy, not quite eighteen years old, and he had been trained for the 500 yard title race, yet he covered the century in 55.45 seconds, or within one and four-fifths seconds of the world's indoor record, set in the same pool. At his present rate of improvement it will not take long for the lad to be bidding for international honors.

LEGEND OF WILLIAM TELL.

The Story Was Old In Denmark Before the Swiss Borrowed It.

Do you know who shot the apple on the head of the little boy? Why, William Tell, of course! Everybody knows how Tell delivered Switzerland from the tyranny of Austria. At least everybody used to know. Unfortunately for pure romance, the historian and the investigator have been unduly active in the past quarter of a century, and the result has left us few heroes with enough clothing of romance to cover their skeletons.

We have read Schiller's beautiful and inspiring play, either in our college German course or in translation, and we cling to William Tell with all the ardor of youthful enthusiasm. And along comes the historian and tells us that it is all a myth, that the dates fixed by the Swiss chronicles on the subject do not coincide with the dates of the historic events that were supposed to be taking place in Austria at the same time and that earlier records of Switzerland make no mention of the archer's master shot.

The selfsame story is told in the Danish legends, two centuries before it crops out in the Swiss narrative, and further investigation shows that it was borrowed by the Danes, the original apple having been shot from the original child's head by a German boy named Elgil, when King Nidung sought to test the man's skill and nerve. In that remote story it is related that Elgil concealed another arrow in his bosom with which to kill the king if he injured his child. John Fiske, the American historian, was largely responsible for robbing us of William Tell. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ZULU ELEPHANTS ALL GONE.

Not One Left in the Land That Used to Be Their Paradise.

There is not a single elephant left in the whole of Zululand, a country that was once a veritable paradise for the ponderous animals. The last of them, once a mighty creature, was found dead some time ago on a farm on the banks of the Unfozo river, where he had lived since the early part of the reign of the great Chief Cetewayo.

An immense herd once roamed the Duzungu forest and along the Unfozo, but it was diminished by incessant hunting until Cetewayo one day finally drove it away forever. The chief used to make medicine of certain portions of their bodies.

On the occasion referred to he organized a mighty drive in which two elephants were killed and many wounded. One of the latter turned and trampled one of his pursuers to a pulp. It was this animal, which was captured then, whose death marked the vanishing of the animals from the country. The remainder of the herd broke away, and thereafter none of them was seen again in Zululand.—New York Times.

Astonishing the Chinese.

"When I was in China," a fireworks man said, "I was astonished to find how little the people knew about pyrotechny beyond their own Chinese crackers. They can make these crackers much more cheaply than they could be produced in America. But of set pieces, rockets and such like, the Chinese know practically nothing, and their attempts to make them are crude in the extreme.

"A Chinese cracker maker living near Hongkong challenged me once to compete with him in a fireworks display, and a friendly mandarin was called in to act as judge. My Chinese opponent set off a lot of gigantic crackers and made a terrifying noise, but the mandarin had been used to that from infancy and wasn't at all impressed. My show, however, astounded him, although it was really a mean exhibit, for I wasn't going to waste my best pieces on a private competition. I got the award easily enough.—Washington Star.

Death and Life Masks.

In the preparation of death masks the usual method is to cover the face of the dead body with oil and then apply plaster of paris. The oil prevents too close adhesion to the skin and makes it possible to remove the plaster when it has hardened. A mold is thus formed, into which fresh plaster is poured. The resulting cast is the death mask. Death masks are of course exact resemblances of the faces from which they are made, and their value is impaired only by the changes of contour which may have been caused by death itself. The custom of taking death masks is very ancient and widespread as well. The Romans made them of wax, the Egyptians of thin gold plate. A few specimens have been found among the American Indians. Life masks are similarly made, but mobility of expression is necessarily sacrificed.—New York Times.

French Army Helmets.

There are sixty-four distinct operations necessary in turning out one of the plain steel helmets worn by French soldiers. The first step is stamping out disks from large sheets of steel. A special machine is used for this purpose, exerting a pressure of 150 tons and capable of cutting out 5,000 steel disks a day. Each disk is placed under a shaping machine, which presses the disk into the form of a helmet with a broad rim. Polishing and cutting machines remove all irregularities in the helmet, after which it has holes punched in the crown, some for ventilation purposes, others for fastening on the regimental crest. Each helmet is cleaned and dipped in a special mixture which makes it a dull, inconspicuous bluish-gray. A lining and leather chin straps are then fastened on, and the helmet is complete.—Pearson's.

The Sunday School Lesson

SENIOR BEREAN

The Philippian Jailer (Acts xvi, 16-40). Memorize verses 33, 34. Golden Text. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house (Acts xvi, 31).

By Order of the Court, Paul and his helpers went about the affairs of the kingdom of God in Philippi praying that every day would mark a distinct advance in the progress of the gospel. One day as they went to the place of prayer by the riverside a girl on the streets made peculiar cries after them. She was a girl who was supposed to be able to foretell future events, locate lost articles and predict the result of business ventures. She was much sought after as a sorceress, and her owners made money by her supposed powers. It was usual in the days in which she lived to attribute such powers to a demon, and the girl was said to have the spirit of the Python. From day to day she annoyed Paul by calling after him the name of God and the salvation which he preached. Finally he rebuked the spirit which controlled her and ordered it to leave her. The girl no longer told fortunes, and on that account her owners lost money. The most sensitive part of some men even in civilized lands is their pocket, and we do not wonder that a cry was raised against Paul that he was destroying business in the city of Philippi. So great was the uproar that Paul and Silas were taken before the magistrate, and the owners of the half-witted girl testified that these Jews were destroying the peace and dignity of the city and by their pernicious conduct were striking at the very foundations of the Roman government. By fuss and fury the girl's owners raised their little quarrel into a question of race superiority and persuaded these self-important provincial magistrates that they must rush to the defense of the Roman empire. Without witnesses or argument Paul and Silas were condemned to be publicly whipped and thrown into prison. The jailer was charged to make sure that these desperate characters did not escape. That functionary performed his duties well; he thrust them into the inner dungeon and confined their feet in the stocks as an extra precaution.

Songs by Night. The Roman method of scourging was a most degrading and grievous punishment, and this was one of the three times Paul suffered this penalty. He and Silas were thrust, all bloody as they were, into the dungeon. They could not sleep, but they would not complain. At midnight they were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and prisoners in other cells heard them. Suddenly an earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, broke the prisoners' shackles from their fastenings and threw the bars away from the doors. The jailer, awakened out of his sleep, saw the doors opened, and, supposing that the prisoners had all escaped, he drew his sword to end his own life. He was responsible for the safety of his prisoners, and he preferred to die by his

own hand rather than suffer the disgrace and dishonorable death imposed by the Roman authorities. From his cell Paul saw the jailer's desperate purpose, and with the instinct of a true lover of men he cried out, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." The jailer delivered, "That was an act of kindness entirely new in Macedonia. Prison wardens neither showed mercy nor expected it from others. The jailer's death would have been welcomed by the other prisoners, but Paul spoke to him as though he were a man with life worth saving. Surprised beyond measure, the jailer called for lights and ran trembling into the dungeon and cried, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Faith in Jesus Christ will free you and put your entire household upon a plane of right living." The jailer believed the words of the apostle, and before the night was ended he and his entire family were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

An Apology.—Early the next morning the magistrates sent their lieutenants, or subordinates, with the order, "Release those men." The jailer was rejoiced at the order, and he hastened to Paul and Silas with the tidings. But Paul said: "We will not leave here under any such orders. We are Roman citizens and claim our rights. They scourged us without an investigation and shut us up without hearing a word of our defense. Now they expect us to get out of the way like guilty men in order to save them from embarrassment. We will do no such thing. Let them come after us." Roman citizens! Publicly man handled and whipped! Sentenced by mob law! A word of that in Rome and their precious salaries would stop, and they could never hold public office again! If too much was said about this affair the citizens would demand an investigation of the courthouse ring! Very humbly the magistrates of Philippi went to the common jail and offered their apologies. They made what excuses they could and led Paul and Silas out, beseeching them to leave the city.

Paul Leaves the City. Paul's conduct in this case was commendable in every sense. He sought no petty vengeance, but he was jealous for the honor of the gospel. If he left Philippi without a vindication his converts in that city would suffer a disgrace from which they might never recover. He was always faithful to warn men of the hardships they must endure for the sake of the gospel, and he himself was always willing to suffer for his Lord. But he did not rush needlessly into pain and disgrace. Before he left the city the apostle visited the house of Lydia and spoke words of comfort to the church which met there. Private homes were often meeting places for the Christians in these early days, and the house of Lydia filled an important place in the planting of the church in Philippi. It is probable that when Paul went away he left Luke behind to carry forward the work in this city.