WILSON'S COURSE TERMED 'FLABBY' USE OF TROOPS IN MEXICO UNJUST

Best Time Was When Huerta Had Aroused Feeling—Three South American Powers Favor Restoration of Diaz Policy.

(By James Gray.)

Washington, Aug. 14.—While admitting the difficulties of a clean cut policy in Mexico, there is scarcely a man in Washington who does not believe that the president has adopted about the worst course possible. He seems now to be drifting in the direction of war at a time when war on Mexico is less justifiable than at any time during the last three years.

If, when he came into office he had promptly ordered General Huerta to surrender his usurped authority and threatened him with intervention if he did not comply, the American people undoubtedly would have justified his act, as at that time Huerta was universally abhorred in this country.

Might Have Forced Peace.

If, when he took possession of Vera Cruz he had issued orders to the Mexican fighters to come together and make peace and had intimated that the American troops would stay in Mexico until that was done, both congressmen and army men, with whom I have talked, believe that the troubles in Mexico would have been over in a few months and that the president would have had the credit of ending an intolerable state of affairs.

If, after he withdrew from Vera Cruz he had recognized either the Carranza or Villa faction and put behind it the moral and material force of the United States, he might have pulled Mexico out of the state of anarchy.

Turned Hate to Contempt.

Not one of these three things did the president do. He sent an agent to call on Huerta and politely invited him to retire. Huerta only laughed at his agent. He gave orders to the troops in possession of Vera Cruz that they were not even to defend themselves, and thus the awe inspiring aspect of the American land and naval force was dissipated.

The Mexicans before that had hated us. Now they began to have a contempt for us. He did not recognize either Carranza or Villa but backed and filled between the two and in his Indianapolis speech of Jan. 8, 1915, gave both reason to believe that he would recognize the party that showed the strongest military power. He declared that the Mexican people owned their country and their government, owned their own liberty if they could get it, and that so far as he was concerned while he was president of the United States, he would let nobody interfere with the right of revolution. He did not fix a time in which this revolution might run, but the only inference to draw from his speech that it might run indefinitely because the only analogy he drew was from the long bloody wars that had held the boards in Europe, in similar struggles.

American Demands Vague.

On June 2, this year, the president issued a statement or warning to the factions in Mexico in which he told them that they were to get together and make peace and restore order and intimated that if they did not the United States would have to consider what further steps we would take in the premises.

If the president gave the Mexican factions any idea of the terms on which he expected them to get together, he certainly did not issue a duplicate of these suggestions to the people of the United States. Nobody in Washington outside the government, and it is doubtful whether anybody inside the government, knows exactly what the president has demanded. It is altogether probable that he has demanded nothing specific.

Trouble Factional Before.

The most that can be said is based on a reported remark of the secretary of state to the effect that the revolution in Mexico came to an end a year ago, and that since then there had been nothing but factional fighting. The date set by the secretary of state is significant. It points directly to the time when Carranza and Villa had their falling out and Villa attempted an independent role.

It might be said with truth that this quarrel did not essentially change the character of the fighting in Mexico. It has been more or less factional before. Other leaders besides Carranza and Villa had figured in the field.

Carranza People Disappointed.

The Carranza people here feel that this statement of the secretary is really a statement from the president to the United States, and that it is made merely as a cover or excuse for not recognizing the Carranza establishment. They are disappointed at the attitude of the president because they believe that their leader has amply justified recognition. They assert that Carranza has the entire control of 23 of the 30 Mexican states and that he disputes the control of four more with the Villa forces. They claim that in international law a revolution which controls perts, custom houses, sources of taxation, and which has shown capacity to establish local self-government in all the territory conquered by its military forces, is entitled to recognition.

In this they are evidently mistaken, because recognition of a revolutionary movement is discretionary with a sovereign power. France recognized our revolution in 1776, but it was largely as a war measure, as France was already at war with Great Britain. In 1861, France and Great Britain, while strongly urged to recognize the southern confederacy, refrained from doing so. They exercised a wise and sound discretionary.

Friends Defend Wilson.

Friends of the administartion now say that the president is exercising an equally wise and sound discretion in declining to give his indorsement to any of the Mexican chiefs. They back up his efforts to find a base of accommodation which will include all of the belligerent factions. At the present time the president is attempting to do this by persuasion, argument and by mild threats of something that the United States may do. He hesitates to use force in Mexico because he has sounded the country and knows the people do not want a warlike excursion into Mexican territory.

No man can foresee the end, no man can forecast the expense of it, should it come. Every sane and deliberative American hopes the president will find a way to solve this problem without war.

Signs Point to Action.

The president entertains the same hope, but apparently he is hoping against hope. Unless all present signs fail, he will have to use something more stringent than fine words in Mexico.

Already comparisons are being drawn between the president's firmness regarding the Lusitania and his ineffective stand on the atrocious disregard of American rights in Mexico. His critics say that it is at least doubtful whether the Americans slain on the Lusitania did not elect to take a risk while there is no doubt that the Americans who have been killed in Mexico were there on the invitation and guaranty of the Mexican government, and were protected, or supposedly protected, by treaties between that sovereignty and our own. Nevertheless, they say, the president was strong on Lusitania and flabby in Mexico.

A. B. C. Differs on Policy.

If, in the end, he shall be compelled to adopt armed intervention and attempt to sugarcoat the bitter pill by making it a joint movement with the six South American powers, he will only have added to the difficulties, for at least three of those powers are favorable to a restoration of the old Diaz policy in Mexico, and have no sympathy whatever with the homestead views of Carranza. If they are admitted to a full partnership in the intervention, they will use their influence not merely to defeat Carranza as a person but the Carranza standards, which standards have been indorsed more than once by Woodrow Wilson. If he gets into Mexico in such company he will simply be saying to the helpless Mexicans: "You have fought for years for your rights, but now you shall not have them." The president of the United States will think long and earnestly before he puts himself and his country in such a position.

LIGHTNING BURNS OFF HALF HIS HAIR

Rapid City, S. D., Aug. 14.—"What are you people all doing here?" These were the first words uttered by James Rankin, a farmer, when he regained his senses yesterday, after having been unconscious three days as the result of being struck by lightning. Rankin was operating a binder in a wheat field. The bolt cut his hat in twain as neatly as though it had been divided with a pair of shears. Then it burned off half the hair on one side of his head, one of his eyebrows and half his mustache and whiskers. He was knocked from the binder and picked up for dead. He is now recovering.

NOT SERIOUS.

(From the Detroit News.)

Some of the A. B. C. countries do not agree with the United States as to the methods to be used to bring about peace in Mexico. However, this may not prove serious. No two nations have agreed on Mexico yet. Even Mexico can't agree on Mexico.

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ALL'S WELL WITH DOCTOR DERNBURG AT HOME WITH HIS FAMILY

Dr. Dernburg and his family.

Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, the unofficial representative of the kaiser, who was requested to leave the United States because it was believed at Washington that he was trying to inflame German-Americans against this government, is safe at his home in Grunewald with his family. Dr. Dernburg has three daughters and two sons. The latter are almost of military age and are eager to go to the front.

PEACE PRESSURE IS HIGHEST YET

Rebuffs Which Quieted early Peace Suggestions Are Less Effective.

(By J. W. T. Mason.)

Pressure for peace is at the maximum point it has reached at any time since the war began. There are indications, too, that the rebuffs which quieted earlier peace suggestions are not as effective now as they were formerly. Despite openly expressed refusals on the part of the belligerents to hearken to proposals for a truce, the plea for peace shows a persistence which must be considered encouraging.

The first stage of vague compromise suggestions, however, has not yet been passed. Contradictory claims as to what would constitute a just peace are being made, and nothing definite has been put forward. There is enormous potential power in neutral opinion waiting to exert itself in favor of peace, but until definite proposals are made concerning a basis for ending the war, neutral influences must be without effect.

It is probable that an electrifying effect would follow a declaration by the government of any of the belligerents concerning the terms on which it is prepared to make peace. In the very nature of the case, the Teutonic powers are in a much better position than is the quadruple entente to take the first step in this direction. Not only are the Austro-German armies in a stronger military position than the Allies, but also there is far more likelihood of Austria and Germany agreeing on a preliminary basis for peace discussion than are England, France, Russia and Italy. It is very improbable, in fact, that the latter power could come to any agreement in secret at this time concerning reasonable terms for ending the war. Concessions would have to be made with no power willing to sacrifice any of its interests.

The Germanic allies are not in so equivocal a position. They, too, would have to abandon certain ambitions in the higher interest of European harmony, but the nature of the concessions and the return sacrifices to be demanded of the enemy could be better formulated in Berlin and Vienna than in London, Paris, Rome or Petrograd. Of course, an extravagant demand for loot would destroy the case for peace and compel the war to be fought to an end mutually exhausted. But there are certain terms which would undoubtedly be considered by neutrals as just and if these were to be publicly announced by any of the belligerents probably the concluding phase of the war would be in sight.

Prince von Buelow is reported to have declared at Hamburg that Germany must have a "proud peace." The surest way to keep Europe fighting to the bitter end of mutual destruction is to talk at this time of a "proud peace." Since his failure at Rome, however, Prince von Buelow has not been in favor with his government. His Hamburg speech, therefore, may fail to interpret the peace spirit of German statesmanship.

PREPARING FOR WINTER CAMPAIGN

Dunkirk, France, Aug. 14—All along the French front, preparations are going steadily forward for the winter campaign. In the trenches the greatest possible degree of care is being taken to protect the men, not only against attacks, but also against the rigors of weather.

Tar is being exclusively used wherever the intrusion of water is likely to occur, the effort being to make the trenches as nearly water-tight as possible. Drainage of various kinds is being provided, and concrete is being freely used to provide weather proof shelters.

If it is necessary to make use of the same trenches this winter as the troops occupied last winter, they will not suffer so largely from wet and frozen feet, and it will be possible to sleep or rest with some degree of comfort instead of in the mud.

For the protection of the troops in the advanced trenches, the use of barbed wire is being largely extended. The driving of the posts for the wire, which was formerly done with heavy mallets, the sound of which was often the signal for a volley from the enemy, is now accomplished noiselessly by machinery.

NO GENERAL DISARMAMENT.

London, Aug. 14.—The dean of Durham does not believe that the war will result in general disarmament and universal peace "when the war drums throb no longer and the battle flags are furled." In an address at West Hartlepool he predicted that in England the certain consequence of the war would be "the universal obligation to military service" on the Swiss model. "Never again," he said, "can we run the risk of having the whole fortunes of our land and empire left to voluntary effort, however widely distributed and magnificently rendered."

REVOLUTION IN DOCTOR'S METHODS

Wounds Received in This War More Serious Than in Previous Fights.

London, Aug. 14.—A year of war has worked a revolution in the army surgeon's method of dealing with the ordinary wounds of the battlefield which, on account of the changed character of the projectiles, are more severe than in previous wars. In almost every instance of wounds from modern artillery, the broken tissues are found by the surgeon to have become infected by scraps of cloth or other material, on a scale without precedent. At the start, most of the surgeons relied on a stringent application of recognized methods of antisepsis to combat this infection. The tissues were deluged with powerful germicides, even strong carbolic acid being employed.

The success of this method, however, was far from complete, and gradually a new system, based on well known principles, but entirely novel in application, was substituted.

One of the elementary principles of physics is that if a vessel contains two solutions of varying strength divided from each other by an animal membrane, liquid will pass from the weaker to the stronger solution until ultimately both are at the same strength. This principle was brought into action in the treatment of wounds in order to stimulate the action of the serum of the blood, which has strong antiseptic properties. The wound is filled with a liquid solution of salt and sodium citrate at a considerably greater concentration than that in the serum of the blood. Under the influence of this liquid the serum is poured out from the body into the wound, tending both to cleanse it and to destroy the bacteria that are present.

This system has the great davantage that it leaves the tissues unimpaired by the fluids used for the destruction of germs. "The full recognition of the efficiency of this method, introduced largely through the efforts of Sir Almroth Wright," says a medical writer, "must be regarded as one of the most important advances made in surgery as a result of the war."

LOWER PRICED COAL IS SEEN

Washington, Aug. 14.—Ultimate reductions in hard coal prices were seen yesterday by dealers who have kept in close touch with anthracite production in the interstate commerce commission's decision making sweeping cuts in freight rates on the product. They explained that the decision was expected to put independents on the safe footing as companies controlled by the hard coal carrying roads.

Sweeping reductions in the anthracite freight rates on railroads handling 50 per cent of the country's anthracite production were ordered. The decision held the carriers guilty of giving illegal preferential treatment to allied coal companies.

Through Routes Ordered.

In addition to prescribing generally lower rates, the commission required the roads to establish through routes and publish joint through rates to be paid by all shippers.

Commissioner Harlan, the only member dissenting from the majority, contended that while modification of many of the present coal rates was justified, the present action was inconsistent in view of the recent authorization of a horizontal increase of five per cent in rates for practically all other traffic.

Rates Declared Unreasonable.

The decision follows an investigation of the transportation of coal from the Pennsylvania anthracite fields ordered June 10, 1913.

The commission held, among other things that the rates on anthracite coal, in pea and smaller sizes, in carloads, from regions in Pennsylvania to the water and certain eastern interior points are unreasonable, and the rates on prepared and pea sizes from these districts to other interior points are unreasonable, and fixed reasonable rates for the future.

"Offsets" Held Unlawful.

Concessions and offsets granted to allied coal companies are declared as pernicious as direct cash rebates. Such concessions and offsets are held unlawful.

Lines to which the decision directly applies are the Central railroad of New Jersey; Philadelphia & Reading; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Lehigh Valley; Delaware, Susque[illegible] & Eastern; New York, Susquehanna & Western; New York, Ontario & Western; the Pennsylvania; the Northern Central and the Baltimore & Ohio company.

SMITH, BATH BRIDE SLAYER, IS HANGED

London Murderer is Said to Have Confessed to Many Crimes.

London, Aug. 14.—George Joseph Smith, the wife murderer, was hanged yesterday at Maidstone.

It was rumored that Smith confessed before he was led to the gallows at Maidstone, and laid bare to Scotland Yard the whole of an amazing career of crime.

On the scaffold the doomed man shook his head impatiently when asked if he had anything to say. The cap was adjusted and the trap sprung. In exactly eight minutes the "modern Bluebeard" was pronounced dead.

Three Brides Found Dead.

Smith was tried in June and convicted of the murder of three wives, each of whom was found nude and drowned in their bath. The motive for his crimes was shown to be money, and it was claimed he had received $14,000 in this manner. The circumstances of each crime were almost identical. The three victims of Smith were:

Beatrice Mundy, whom he married in July, 1912; Alice Burnham, whom he married in November, 1913, and Margaret Lofty who was married to Smith under the name of John Lloyd in November, 1914.

Trial Lasted Month.

The trial at Old Bailey began in June, and Smith was convicted on July 1. He was sentenced on July 31 to be hanged yesterday. The trial was one of the most spectacular of recent years. Smith rose in a crowded courtroom and shrieked "Not guilty, not guilty! It's all a lie!" Smith is 43 years old, a tall, thin man, with shifting eyes.

ALMOST SPILLING OVER.

(From the New York World.)

Business is improving, reports the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Nervousness over the war and its possibilities is less and less wearing on the spirit of enterprise. The crops are coming on splendidly. We may add in confidence that prosperity is already here and promising to spill over almost any time.

Don't Make a Mountain Out of a Mole Hill

Whether you do your own work or employ a maid, you should make the summer duties as light as possible. Dishwashing can be made a short, pleasant task or a disagreeable, long drawn out drudgery. It all depends on the supply of hot water. Plenty of hot water makes light work of many dishes.

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