

## THE DAY BOOK

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### CARRANZA HAS A PRECEDENT.

—That the recently promulgated decree of Gen. Carranza, requiring that all foreigners who own or would own agricultural or timber lands, or mines, or city lots, or any kind of real property within the republic of Mexico must make declaration of their intentions to become citizens of Mexico and renounce allegiance to their own countries is unjust, may be true, but surely it is not unprecedented. Ample precedent for Carranza's action may be found in the laws of several of the United States. In Virginia, Illinois, Tennessee, Iowa and South Carolina, as well as other states, non-resident aliens can hold land only by becoming residents.

The right of any sovereignty to prescribe conditions under which it will permit aliens to acquire and hold such properties as are specifically listed in Carranza's decree is undisputed under the laws of nations and the common law. The Mexican decree may differ in spirit from the laws of our own states in that its purpose is to raise revenue for the bankrupt Mexican government, but it differs not one whit in the letter.

Carranza is clearly within his legal rights and our department of state must be cognizant of that fact. To remonstrate against the action of the Mexican de facto government on the grounds that it is an act not calculated to foster the friendly rela-

tions which should exist between the two countries is all right, but to violently protest—as is being urged upon the administration—upon the theory that the decree is unlawful, unprecedented and confiscatory would be folly. We would not be left a leg upon which to stand when the firing ceased.

### THE MAN WHO SQUEALED.

Here is a case where the blind goddess shifted the scales, which are popularly supposed to shade her eyes, and peered out from under.

A Mexican caballero, guest of a prominent San Diego, Cal., hostelry, appeared before the district attorney and demanded a warrant for the arrest of a pretty waitress on a charge of robbery. He was accompanied by the Mexican consul.

"Did Miss Gorham rob you?" queried the district attorney.

"She did," was the reply.

"Where?"

"In her room."

"Were your relations improper?" was the next question. The irate guest admitted that they were considerably so.

"Just wait a minute," said the D. A., leaving the room.

When he returned he held in his hand a warrant for the complainant's arrest on the charge of contributing to the delinquency of a woman, which in California is a rather more serious offense than in some other states.

The senior was shocked. But he went to jail, and we trust that when he leaves there he will have a truer conception of California two-handed justice. The world hates a squealer.

### IN THE CITY

A Wisconsin man caught a sucker that had a diamond ring in its stomach. Here it works differently. The sucker usually has a diamond ring on its finger until the shark deftly removes it in a quiet little game.—Bartlesville, Okla., Examiner.