

THE PRESIDENT AND MEXICO.

From a recent interview with President Wilson it appears that the present trouble with Mexico is primarily agrarian—in that it concerns land distribution. It seems that large grants from Spain vested most of the valuable land in aristocracy, which has gradually secured all the rest of the land which the peons had in the beginning, and that Diaz sided with the landlords, but permitted the establishment of common schools. The Madero revolution was the result of the enlightenment a small number of peons obtained from these schools. But although Madero drove Diaz out of Mexico, he was so surrounded by the landed interests that he could not put any land reform laws into force, and finally, he was assassinated. Huerta taking charge of the government, still in the interest of the landlords, will stand for the peons and the landless.

What, asks the President, will be the good of eliminating Huerta if someone representing the landed interests takes charge of the Mexican government? Will not Villa's revolution come? Or if it is suppressed now, will not another soon arise, because of the unrest of the landless people? He will, therefore, insist, not only that Huerta shall retire, but that the government shall be reorganized on a constitutional basis in which all the people shall have a voice. After that, he would have the new government devise a legal method by which the common people of Mexico shall have their lands restored to them in perpetuity. He insists that under proper guidance the Mexican peons can govern themselves. If mediation effects reorganization, then the United States will not seek to gain a foot of Mexican territory. Americans will not be permitted to exploit Mexico, and we shall seek to settle the land question, or aid the people of Mexico to settle it by some such means as that adopted by New Zealand. Again, we shall ask for no war indemnity, insisting only that just claims for wanton destruction of the property of Americans and foreigners shall be paid.

The president thinks this a good time to prove to Europe and our South American neighbors that the Monroe doctrine means an unselfish friendship for them and not a cloak under which we shall rob them of their lands. To use his exact words, "a disinterested friendship in the sense of not being interested in our aggrandisement—and that our motives are only the motives that are inspired by the higher humanity, by our sense of duty and responsibility, and by our determination that human liberty shall prevail in our hemisphere." He insists that Villa has shown that he and his followers are constantly on the lookout for new information that would relieve them of the stigma of being barbarians; that his "passion is for the submerged eighty five per cent of the people of the Republic who are now struggling toward liberty." He says that history shows no instance where liberty was handed down from above, and that all liberty has come from below in all times of the past. He will help the struggling peons as long as he is president to regain their lands along with a government by themselves and for themselves and of themselves. Surely, there could be no higher ideals. Surely, there could be no peace in Mexico as long as 85 per cent of the people are landless and ignorant.

Now that the actuating motives of the President have been revealed, many of the steps in his announced policy of "active waiting" become plain. Our ambassador was withdrawn because his longer retention in the City of

Mexico involved the recognition of the arch enemy of the peons and the representative of the land and obligarthy; but John Lind was sent in his stead, unofficially to keep the government advised of the general status of affairs, while our consuls throughout Mexico were busily preparing the people for what was inevitable—our interference, in one way or another, to put an end to the existing anarchy. We had a representative of our state department constantly at Villa's right hand during all that time that an embargo was in force against the importation of arms into Mexico from our territory. When Villa, representing the landless peons, had been made to see the light, the embargo was withdrawn long enough to enable him to take Tampico and most of northern Mexico. A little later occurred the arrest of our sailors in the port of Tampico. Why did not we seize that port in reprisal for the insult to our flag? Why, instead, did we take Vera Cruz? Because Villa had Tampico invested by his army, and a German vessel was about to enter Vera Cruz, loaded to the gunwales with arms and ammunition for Huerta. Then it was that Huerta and the world expected Villa and Carranza to join forces with Huerta and resist the United States in its attempt to obtain redress for the insult offered our country.

But what happened? Carranza, Villa's chief and the president of the Constitutionalist faction, did insist that we withdraw from Vera Cruz, but Villa, Carranza's subordinate, actually overruled his superior, and refused to take a stand against the United States! Instead, he hastened to the Texas border and kept the ignorant peons, for whose cause he was fighting, in subservience, and so prevented an uprising along our border. Then Tampico fell into the hands of the constitutionalists, thus opening that port to the importation of arms and ammunition not from our border, but from the world at large. Thus, we hold Vera Cruz in reprisal for the Tampico affair, Villa holds Tampico, and most of the revenues are shut off from Huerta, while Villa rearms and re-supplies himself for further advances upon Huerta's forces. Meantime, whether by prearrangement or otherwise does not yet appear, representatives of the three largest and most powerful of the South American governments offer to compose the differences between our country and Mexico. Why these representatives, of all others? Because, probably, they were made to understand that Wilson wished to avail himself of this opportunity to demonstrate to the world that the Monroe doctrine is intended to prevent the establishment of kingly governments in America—north and south of the equator—and not to enable us to take our neighbors' territory from them.

Thus, whatever the result of the mediation may be, is it not better that we should have tried to reach a permanent settlement of the Mexican situation in a peaceful way than that we should have declared war against the offending peons, with the result of bloodshed, famine, pestilence and all the other horrors of war? Is it not better that our South American friends, whose commerce and trade we so much desire—now that the Panama Canal has been completed—should know us as friends rather than as secret and designing enemies, bent only on the acquisition of their territory under cloak of the Monroe doctrine? Is it not better, if we are to reach any settlement with Mexico, to reach one that will be permanent, by removing the prime cause of all the revolutions—causes that will continue as long as the people of that country are deprived of their land rather than to conquer that country by force of arms, and to remain in it, as a sort of policeman, when by peaceful methods we can restore constitutional government and turn the management of its affairs over to the people—the natives—for their own good, instead of that of a landed aristocracy?

If there is a just and righteous God, surely he is on the side of Woodrow Wilson in this crisis, the sneers of the jingoes to the contrary notwithstanding.

MOLEY'S URINO LAXATIVE

FOR STOMACH TROUBLE AND CONSTIPATION. NOTICE. North Carolina, Watauga County, In the Superior Court, Before the Clerk. In the matters of the petition of lands of Sarah Morpheu among her heirs at law and for which a petition has been filed in this court and whereas J. M. Norris, Henry Norris, L. D. Norris, Sylvania Rominger and R. L. Gearty, are non residents of this state and that they are necessary parties to said partition of land. Now, therefore the above named parties are notified to appear before the undersigned at his office in the Court house in Boone, N. C., on the 26th day of June, 1914 then and there to answer to the petition filed in my office or the prayer of the petition will be granted. W. D. Farthing, C. S. C.

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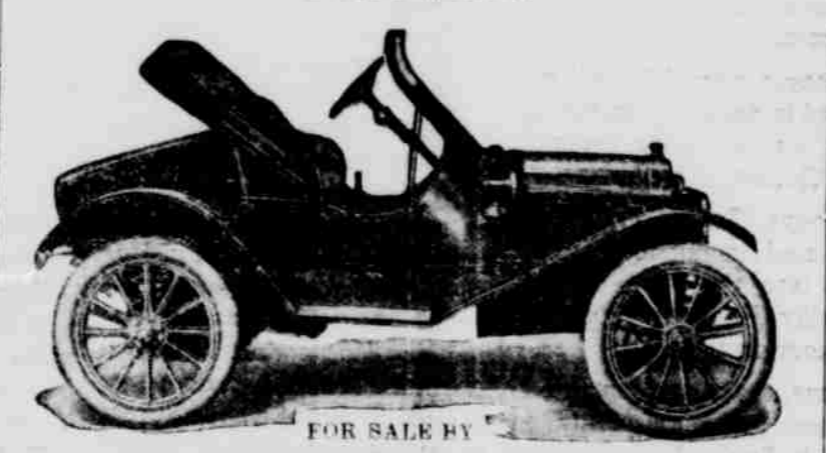
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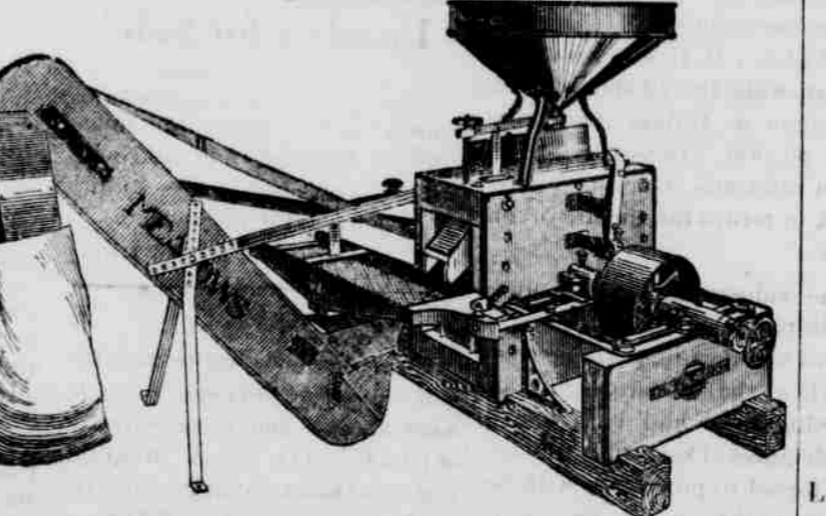
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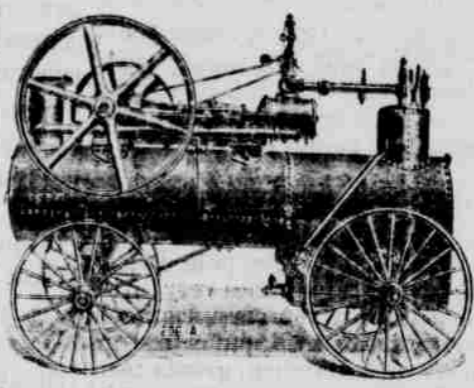


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