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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THE MEXICAN SITUATION.

The processes of Gen. Carranza's mind are explicable only on the theory that he believes the United States to be a dangerous liar, or on the theory that there is foreign influence behind him urging him to break with the United States. It may be that both these things have conspired together to create his entirely foolish attitude.

It is natural for Mexicans to feel the humiliating condition to which internal political strife has reduced their country, and that foreign troops are necessary to hunt bandits within its borders. But as these troops are there by the express permission of the Mexican government, and as the United States has given every assurance of its good intention toward Mexico, nothing would seem more uncalled for than spasms of fear as to the outcome.

Of course, one great and almost insurmountable difficulty to any satisfactory dealings between this country and Mexico is the Mexican's ingrained belief that every man is a liar, and that the fairer a man's promises and principles seem to be, the bigger the liar he is.

Mexico lives by a finely balanced system of falsehood, which is only saved from complete collapse by the fact that truth is thrown over so completely that it does not exist to tangle the system of doing business by opposites—by lies. No Mexican believes another, except by accepting the opposite of what he says. Thus, the assurances of the United States that we only want to get rid of bandits who are disturbing the peace of the two countries, that we simply do not want any Mexican territory, that we should be extremely sorry for Mexico to create a situation which would make intervention necessary, because intervention must almost inevitably lead to military subjugation—all these the Mexican regards as fair veils of lies to cover our ulterior purpose. The American government is dealing with an entirely alien type of intelligence and morality when it deals with the true Mexican. Pretty nearly as satisfactory diplomatic intercourse could be had with a tribe of Philippine head-hunters. The American Indian, in his natural state, is a gentleman, a monument of probity and honor, compared with the Mexican.

The other difficulty—that of influence bearing on Carranza to stir up trouble here—is not an imaginary one. There are interests at home and abroad that are jealous of our peace. Particularly here at home there are men who would count it worth many millions to embroil us with Mexico. They have tried every device on this side of the border to start a war; now they appear to be working their tricks on the other side of the border. They are the real traitors of the twentieth century. Who they are and what they are doing are matters known to the government.

We shall now see with what skill President Wilson handles the new development. All the war that Mexico can make will be a border skirmish. We shall not need to invade or subdue her, but simply hold her. The chief alarm concerns those Americans in Mexico who have refused to heed the frequent warnings of the United States government to leave that country.

"Bat the rat" is the latest health slogan. It is a more sporting proposition than "swat the fly" since a rat is not as foolish as he looks.

A league having as its slogan "Roosevelt for Secretary of State" forgets the colonel never did take orders from anybody in his life.

Men with bad feet, said a physician at the medical convention, can't fight. In fact, they can't even retreat rapidly.

Bryan nearly took a drink of near beer in St. Louis. One sip would have driven him back to grape juice.

It begins to look as if someone will have to thrust peace upon Europe.

To the Public

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PHONE MAIN 17

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