

PORT OF VERA CRUZ FALLS INTO HANDS OF ALIENS FIVE TIMES

Fever Ridden Port on East Coast of Mexico Has Figured in Nation's History.

ONCE CAPTURED BY U. S.

Troops Landed With Little Trouble, but City Was Taken With Great Loss of Life.

By a Veteran.

Washington, D. C., May 2.—The fever port of Vera Cruz had been captured four times before Uncle Sam seized it on April 21. Once it fell to General Winfield Scott; once to the allied forces of France, England and Spain, and twice to the buccaniers of the Spanish Main.

It was March 7, 1847, when the fleet bearing General Scott and his little army appeared off Mexico's principal seaport. The troops landed without much trouble after the city had been bombarded; but it took a sanguinary siege of 13 days to capture the defenses. Trenches were dug and regular operations conducted.

So our troops this time commence their march toward the capital with much less of a handicap than General Scott's.

While the troubles of the United States which culminated in the civil war were brewing Mexico grew arrogant to this country, and to Europe.

The crowning insult was President Miramon's seizure of \$500,000 in specie from the British consulate. Great Britain, France, Spain and Prussia decided to move. Meantime the great Benito Juarez, the General Washington of Mexico, was conducting a revolt in the north. He overthrew Miramon, but the foreign troops kept on their way. On December 14, 1861, Vera Cruz was seized by a Spanish force under General Prim. The result was the elevation of Maximilian to the throne, and after the European troops had been withdrawn, the unfortunate Austrian's execution.

The pirates with force equal to a respectable army captured Vera Cruz in 1633. They burned, slew and robbed for many days before they were driven to their ships. In 1712 the notorious buccanier, King Laonides, seized the port and held it 10 days. They killed hundreds of Mexicans, carried away women captives, and did an immense amount of damage.

To this day the nurse girl of Vera Cruz, seeking to still the fretful child, says: "Be quiet, or I will give you to Van Horn."

A Japanese Execution.

I was much amused by the ill-informed, if well-meaning, persons who cried out that Dictator Huerta had given sufficient reason for the suit to the flag at Tampico by his mesager and half-hearted apology.

From the files of the navy department I have secured the report of Commander J. Blakely Creighton, U. S. N., commanding the Onetida, who witnessed Japan's atonement for an offense against our bluejackets. It reads:

"Hiko, Japan, March 14, 1888. Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the United States Navy, Washington, D. C.

"Sir: I have the honor to communicate the particulars of the execution of the Japanese official, Taji Zanuzawa, retained in the Madraza Bizen, No Kaori, who ordered his troops to fire on the foreigners at this place on the 4th ultimo.

This execution was witnessed by me at the request of our minister, General R. B. Van Valkenburgh, and is as follows:

"I left the legation about 3 P. M. we were conducted by the Japanese officials into what appeared to be the principal room of the temple, which was lighted with candles, and in front of the altar was a platform of about a foot in height which extended across the room, and which was placed on the right of the altar, within a few feet of where the execution was to take place with the Japanese officials on the left.

"In front of the altar was a green cloth, and in front of that a red one. We were informed that the execution would take place on the red cloth. Seating ourselves upon the mats on the platform, we awaited the execution.

"In a few minutes the prisoner came in, dressed in the usual Japanese dress of a person of rank, accompanied by the executioner, who was his uncle and most intimate friend. He walked with a steady, firm step in front of the altar, where he knelt in prayer. He then arose and went to the red cloth, where he knelt with his back to the altar, and the executioner stood behind him. He was the officer that confessed his troops to fire upon the foreigners, and also to fire upon them when they were ordered to disband, and that he was sorry for what he had done.

"He then disrobed himself to his waist and reached out for a knife that was near him, which he thrust into his bowels, and drawing it toward his right side, and leaning forward at the same time the executioner, with one hand from his sword, seized his head from his body. This occurred at about 10:30 P. M.

"The Japanese then bowed to the floor, on which he did the same. We were informed that all was over when we were asked if we were satisfied with what we had witnessed, when we replied in the affirmative.

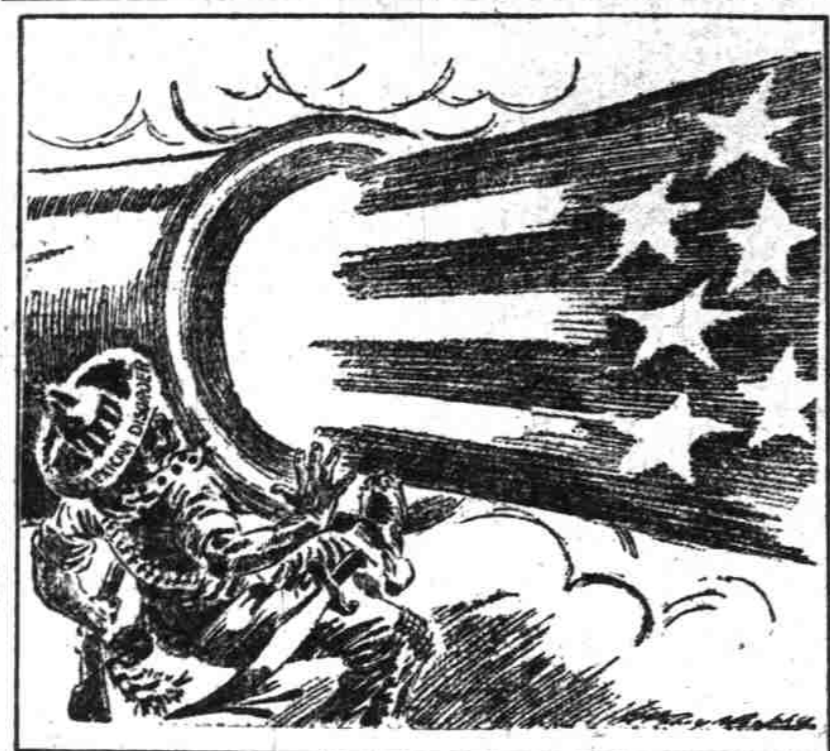
"After the lapse of a few moments, we were informed that all was over when we arose and took our departure. The whole scene was one of great solemnity, and very impressive.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. BLAKELY CREIGHTON, "Commander."

Lima was one of the earliest materials used to improve soil, being mentioned in the writings of Plato and Aristotle.

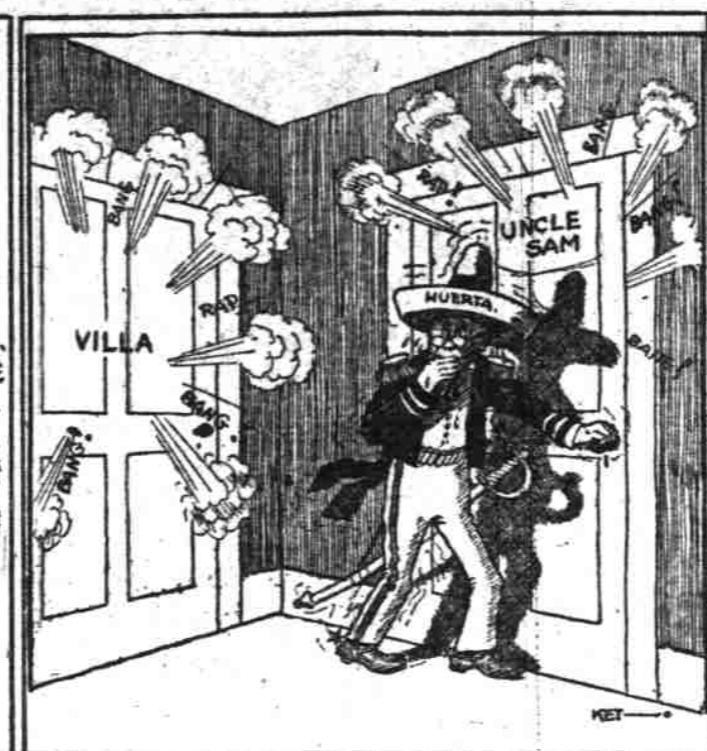
THE MEXICAN SITUATION AS SEEN BY MEN WHO EXPRESS THOUGHTS IN PICTURES



—From the San Francisco Call. Vera Cruz.



—From the Philadelphia Ledger. "Wherever you steer, I'll pull, Mr. President."



—From the Oakland Tribune. The lesser of two evils.



—From the St. Louis Star. Opening of the cyclone season.

REAR ADMIRAL BLUE WINS PROMOTION BY MERITORIOUS WORK

Heroism in Locating Cervera Fleet in Santiago in 1898 Awarded Recognition.

By Herbert Corey.

Do you remember what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina? Well, the application of that immortal principle made Victor Blue famous.

Just now he is Rear Admiral Blue, in command of the bureau of navigation of the navy department. The application of that immortal principle made Victor Blue famous.

Blue admitted that his ignorance was still abysmal. "That," said the officer, "is where Secretary Hunt comes from."

Blue did not argue the case with him. He in his slender baggage was two bottles of the best whiskey that ever softened the heart of man.

"A man you asked me for," whet the general, "and I refused you. Alas, che! Take 100 men, my hero!"

Blue took eight men and wriggled through the tall grass until he came to the precipitous edge of Santiago harbor. Sparkling in the darkness below him he saw the lights of Cervera's ships. He reported to Sampson, but that was not enough. Sampson wanted the position of every man mapped, so that the Americans could elevate their guns and shell them over the hills which locked Santiago harbor.

"Between times he had to come down out of the tree and boot his impetuous patriots into giving up their guns at back another night—in danger of his life at every wriggle through the grass—and climbed a tree which overhung the harbor's edge. There he mapped the position of the Spanish ships. Between times he had to come down out of the tree and boot his impetuous patriots into giving up their guns at back another night—in danger of his life at every wriggle through the grass—and climbed a tree which overhung the harbor's edge.

Blue is a tall, heavy shouldered, thin waisted man, with a brown mustache and an acute case of ingrowing toenails. In profile his eyes seem heavy, giving him a rather sleepy look. When one directly confronts him he seems almost startlingly awake. He is a North Carolinian by birth, a South Carolinian by adoption, is 49 years old and looks to be about 35. The navy holds that he is one of its most valuable officers. For a time he was in charge of the bureau of ordnance, at that time the American guns were not shooting as straight as they should, or as often as they should, or as far and hard as they should, in spite of the compliments we used to pay each other in the press. When Blue got through with them they compared favorably with the guns of any other nation on earth.

Promotion is rapid. Between commands—and he has held many and important ones—he has been promoted several times. Every now and then he would be sent to this shipyard or that, to see that the contractors delivered the goods. When Blue got

BRAZIL ACTS AS NEXT FRIEND TO THE U. S. OUT OF GRATITUDE

In 1893 American Navy Puts Prompt End to Mutiny in Brazilian Navy at Rio.

By Herbert Corey.

Washington, May 2.—Diplomatic bread cast upon the waters sometimes returns after many days. Brazil is acting as the "next friend" of the United States in Mexico today because the United States once saved the Brazilian bacon.

When Charge O'Shaughnessy got his walking papers in Mexico the other day Germany and France, not to mention smaller powers, offered to care for the interests of American citizens in that semblance of a republic. Brazil was selected, possibly because the administration at Washington hoped that thereby the fears of Yankee aggression which have been entertained by some of the smaller South American republics might be allayed. Brazil's offer was prompted by the gratitude Brazilians have felt for their larger neighbor in the north ever since Admiral Benham came to the rescue of the established government in Brazil in 1893. The Brazilian navy had revolted and

HUERTA DEPENDS UPON UPPER CLASSES FOR SUPPORT; DICTATOR HAS LITTLE TO EXPECT FROM THE PEONS



—From the New York Sun. The mailed fist—My most humble apologies.

(By the International News Service.) Washington, May 2.—The case with which the marines landed in Vera Cruz has led many Americans to conclude that the march to the City of Mexico, were it to occur, would be a simple matter, more or less of a parade. But the heads of the army and navy here are suffering under no such delusion. The Indians did not know why they were taken for granted that the United States would win in the end, but victory would only come on vanquishing the flower of the descendants of the proud Spanish conquerors, that small fraction of the Mexican nation which possesses almost all the property of the country which is not in the hands of foreigners and which holds the peon class almost in serfdom.

Huerta's principal reliance is the cultured upper class. They don't love Huerta, but they love Mexico. They would fight.

Huerta's principal weakness is the vast peon class, sunk in ignorance, and unable to fight and run away to fight another day. The peons possess no national spirit. They must be impressed into Huerta's army. They cannot be disciplined. But they are cruel and bloodthirsty like their ancestors who offered human sacrifices on stone altars in Montezuma's time. In his desperate efforts to arm himself against the constitutionalists, Huerta sent squads from the tired troops he kept as his bodyguard in the capital to impress men of the nearby Indian villages which cluster in the valley of Mexico.

Coast Artillery to Handle Large Guns

Annual Training Stunts Will Be Held at Fort Stevens, at Mouth of the Columbia River.

Officers of the various companies of the coast artillery, O. N. G., are in Portland today and are scheduled to leave at noon for Fort Stevens, where they will put in a week practicing with the regulars handling the big guns at the fortress, camp hygiene, artillery drill, and general discussions of their duties.

Decision to hold the school was not definitely determined until late in the week, owing to the disturbed conditions in Mexico. The fact that mediation is being attempted, however, puts a different complexion on the situation and Adjutant General Fisher issued orders for the artillerymen to proceed to Fort Stevens.

There are eight companies of Coast artillery in Oregon stationed as follows: Two companies in Portland and one each at Ashland, Medford, Roseburg, Cottage Grove, Eugene and Albany.

Among the officers who will attend the school are Colonel Crel Hammond of Eugene; Lieutenant Colonel B. K. Lawson of Salem; Major George F. Willoughby and Stanley J. Hammel, Captains George E. Spencer, William G. White, John A. Buchanan, Frank M. Powell, James C. Johnson, Artemus W. Deane and Charles O. Brown.

Mining Is Mexico's Greatest Industry

Mining is the most productive industry of Mexico. Mines of some description are to be found in 26 of the 31 states and territories. There is also considerable production of coal, copper and iron.

The mineral resources of Mexico also include petroleum, asphalt, platinum, graphite, sodium and marble. The most celebrated iron deposit is that of the Cerro del Mercado, on the outskirts of the city of Durango—a mountain 540 feet in height, 1100 in breadth and 4800 in length, reported to be almost a solid mass of iron.

Admiral Mello was in practical command of the situation. Rio's fortifications would not have withstood a sincere bombardment from the heavy guns of the fleet. Mello had served notice upon President Peixoto to resign forthwith. Peixoto had not resigned. But the time was coming when resignation would be forced on him. Commodore Stanton reached the harbor of Rio in command of the American squadron, bearing instructions to preserve absolute neutrality. Stanton meant well—but in the opinion of Washington he erred. He saluted the Brazilian flag upon the shore. Then he fired the same salute in honor of the Brazilian flag floating over the war vessels held by the rebels. A protest was promptly lodged and Admiral Benham succeeded Stanton in command. Stanton was recalled.

The rebels had maintained a "peaceful" blockade of Rio harbor. For months vessels of all nationalities had lain there, gathering most of their valuable cargoes could not be unloaded. American vessels were numerous among them. Their skippers protested to Benham that their owners were being reduced to bankruptcy. Benham thought it over. Then he served notice on Admiral Mello.

"I have directed the captains of American vessels lying at anchor here to discharge their cargoes," was Benham's statement in effect. "Do not interfere."

MEXICO IN PARAGRAPHS

Mexico is officially called "Estados Unidos Mexicanos" and "Republica Mexicana."

Mexico has an area of 767,290 square miles. The greatest length of the country is from northwest to southeast, 1900 miles; its greatest width 726 miles, and its least width a little short of 140 miles.

The outline of Mexico is sometimes compared to a huge cornucopia, with the opening toward the United States. There are 4574 miles of coast line on the Pacific side, including the Gulf of California.

The coast lines on the Gulf of Mexico are 1,500 miles, and on the Caribbean Sea are 327 miles on the Caribbean Sea.

Sweet potatoes are exposed to the attacks of about a dozen serious insects.

CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED HIMSELF

ANDY WEINBERGER HAS RUN CONSTABLE'S OFFICE MORE THAN SUCCESSFULLY.

Looking over the list of three candidates for the office of constable, one can see, at least those that understand the success of the present office, only Andy Weinberger. Andy, as he is called by all who know him, is a man above everything and a man for the position above all others.

The success of this office under his management has been more than pleasing to all. It shows double profits and has put itself above its old station—a petty collection agency. These little articles we are glad to publish as paid advertisements.

For Governor REPUBLICAN "PROTECT THE HOME" LOWER COST OF LIVING Encourage home industries. Author extensive petition to cut off superfluous boards and commissions. VOTE FOR WM. A. CARTER OF MULTOMAH (Paid Adv.)

SENATE CONFIRMS CLAYTON NOMINATION

President's Choice for United States District Judge for Northern, Middle Alabama is Favorably Acted Upon.

Washington, May 2.—President Wilson's nomination of ex-Congressman Henry Clayton as United States district judge for middle and northern Alabama was confirmed by the senate this afternoon.

Clayton is a native of Alabama and has spent most of his life in that state. He was a member of the Alabama legislature and served as a member of the Alabama bar.

Clayton was born in 1854 and graduated from the University of Alabama in 1876. He practiced law in Alabama and served as a member of the Alabama bar.

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ROOSEVELT'S NEW RIVER STORY GIVEN SORT OF BLACK EYE

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TRIBE YARN ALSO SCORED

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