

# PRINCIPAL ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN IS MEXICAN CRISIS

### Question to Be Decided at Polls Is Whether Voter Wants Hughes and War With Mexico or Wilson and Peace—Political Situation Summed Up by Expert.

By H. N. Riekey.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—It is evident Candidate Hughes considers Mexico the weakest spot in the Wilson defense for he has devoted more words to it than to any other subject since he opened his campaign.

A Mexican crisis faced President Wilson the day he was inaugurated. Crisis has followed crisis and each one has called for a decision by the president, involving the question of peace and war.

The president has had to make these decisions without regard to their popularity or unpopularity. He has had to consider their effect on the relations between this nation and foreign nations, especially those of South and Central America. He has had to consider the future as well as the present welfare of his people, and last, but not least, the rights of Mexico.

**Keystone of Policy.**

I am betraying no confidence when I say President Wilson's determination to keep this nation out of war, at any price short of absolute sacrifice of national honor, has been the keystone of the arch of his Mexican policy.

It is charged in the Republican platform, and the charge is being repeated in every speech by Hughes, that Wilson has neither kept us from war with Mexico nor saved our national honor; that as the direct result of the vacillating Wilson policy, conditions in Mexico are worse today than when he took office; that hundreds of Americans have been killed and millions of American property destroyed in Mexico in defiance of our right.

**Republicans Limit Selves.**

Unfortunately, both the Republican platform and the republican candidate limit themselves to a bitter and sweeping criticism of the Wilson Mexican policy, without suggesting what should have been done or promising what will be done if they get control of the government.

Hughes has expressed a high regard for the late Huerta, but has not said that had he been president he would have recognized him as president of Mexico.

Considering the well-known public and private character of Huerta, that he attained whatever power he had in Mexico by the cowardly assistance of friend and foe; that no considerable number of the Mexican people believed in him or wanted him for president; that he represented the same clique of grafters that for years without number, under Diaz, had looted Mexico and kept the great bulk of its people in ignorance and virtual slavery; it is not strange Hughes has hesitated to say that he would have recognized his right to govern.

**People Against Huerta.**

The simple fact is, that aside from any question of morals, the recognition of Huerta by this country would not have solved the Mexican problem. The Mexican revolution would have continued and Huerta would have been killed or driven from the country. No one who knows Mexico and has studied its problems with an open mind has the slightest idea that Huerta and his methods would have been tolerated by the Mexican people very long.

His recognition would have been notice to every cut-throat brigand in every South and Central American country that the United States stood for government by assassination.

The "easiest way" for President Wilson would have been to recognize Huerta. It would have saved a lot of trouble, much criticism, and it may have been good politics. But it would have been wrong and President Wilson is not the man to purchase political prestige at such a price.

Having determined not to recognize Huerta, the president began to apply the "pressure of moral forces" which finally pushed Huerta from his seat of power and drove him from Mexico.

It was during this pressure that Admiral Mayo demanded that Huerta salute our flag. This was a perfectly insane thing to do and President Wilson knew it just as well as anybody else.

**Wilson Disagrees.**

The president was at White Sulphur Springs trying to get a little rest when Admiral Mayo's action was reported to him. It is an open secret

that he was disgusted and his first impulse probably was to repudiate the admiral's demand and reprimand him for lack of judgment.

Had such a demand under like circumstances been made of England, France or Germany or any other nation with an organized government, whose people could understand that its repudiation did not necessarily mean cowardice on our part, there is no doubt President Wilson would have promptly repudiated it.

But Mexico was different. For years the Mexican people have been fed on the idea that the gringos are cowards and bluffers.

President Wilson backed up Admiral Mayo's "salute the flag" demand because it seemed impossible to make the Mexican people understand that any other course was not due to our fear of them.

To be sure, the flag was not saluted and this has been the cause of much caustic comment and many flippant remarks.

**Did Not Want Salute.**

President Wilson never cared a rap whether the flag was saluted or not. He certainly did not propose to have war with Mexico if it could be avoided, whether or not the flag was saluted. The naval and military demonstrations which followed were just sufficient to impress the Mexicans with the fact that we had teeth if we cared to use them.

There may be an honest difference of opinion as to whether the president used good judgment in backing up Mayo's demand, but there can be no doubt that Wilson believed at the time that the necessities of the situation demanded the action, which he took.

The worst that can be said of the "salute the flag" incident is that several American marines and quite a number of Mexicans were killed and that the flag was not saluted.

The best that can be said of it is that it increased the pressure against the assassin, Huerta, who very soon fled the country.

The more recent events in Mexico are familiar to all newspaper readers. **President is Sincere.**

Whatever action the president has taken, or failed to take, has been based upon his sincere desire to give the common people of Mexico every possible chance to gain for themselves the political and industrial freedom which they never had but which is their right.

There have been many times when the president's patience has been tried almost to the breaking point; when less wise, less determined, less patient men would have weakened.

Only those very close to the president know of the tremendous pressure which those financially interested in Mexico have exerted on him directly and indirectly to force him to send a great American army into Mexico, ostensibly to pacify the country in the interest of humanity, but in reality, to prevent the common people of Mexico from working out their own salvation in the only way in which the common people of any nation have been able to work it out—by the sword.

**The Big Question.**

In the final analysis, when the voter considers the president's Mexican policy in connection with how he shall vote in November, he must ask himself this question: "Does America want war or peace with

# TODAY IS HOTTEST DAY OF YEAR WITH THERMOMETER 102

The hottest weather of the year prevails over the northwest—the first heat wave since June 16. The thermometer reached 100 Wednesday and stood at 102½ at 2 o'clock Thursday, with prospects of going still higher. The percentage of humidity, however, is light, so that the heat is not oppressive. The nights continue cool, with a 45-degree drop in temperature.

There has been little hot weather during the summer, which has been the coolest experienced for several years. On June 16 the maximum of 101 was reached, but the hot spell was of short duration.

The weather bureau predicts continued fair and warm, with chances favoring cooler weather Friday.

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 24.—The highest temperature of the year was recorded here today. The mercury at 1 p. m. stood at 96 degrees, three degrees higher than yesterday.

# OPEN SHOP CAUSES STEVEDORE'S STRIKE

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24.—The open shop was inaugurated here today by 38 firms affiliated with the Retail Lumber Dealer's Association and the Ship Owner's Association of the Pacific Coast, with the result that more than 300 stevedores, according to union officials went on strike in the lumber yards, with a promise that 300 would be out by night.

Secretary Eston of the Riggers and Stevedores' union said the union had no argument with the lumbermen. The lumbermen and the lumber schooner operators declared open shop yesterday when union stevedores quit two lumber yards, refusing to work with non-union stevedores.

Mexico? He must answer that question for himself and should bring to bear on it, all that he has of reason, heart and conscience.

He should not answer until he has calmly considered what war with Mexico would mean—that it would mean an army of at least 500,000 men, tens of thousands of whom would be killed and wounded and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars.

He should realize that intervention in Mexico would mean war against a united people, a war which might last for years and which would eventually result in the spoliation and probable annexation of the country.

He should ask himself whether such a war would be worthy of the great American nation and whether there has been, or is likely to be, an affront to our honor by revolution-torn Mexico, which would justify it.

# GRIZZLIES HIKE AROUND RIM OF CRATER LAKE

Five representatives of the Grizzlies, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Bunce, Roscoe Johnson, Miss Hurd and Mr. Noren, recently motored to Crater lake for a two weeks' stay. Camp was established near the lake and several interesting trips were taken. The one main event was a hike around the lake, which deserves mention since it was accomplished for the first time this season, and as far as is known to Mr. Steel, Mr. Parkhurst, owner of the hotel at the lake, and the government engineers, it is the first time that any women have performed the feat. The trip was made in three days and the necessary blankets and grub were packed.

The route taken followed to a great extent the survey for the proposed highway around the lake. From camp the rim of the lake was followed to Victor Rock, then the route leading around the back of it, thence along the rim to the Watchman, over its face, then over Glacier Peak, Lino Rock, Rugged Crest, Round Top, Cloud Cap (the highest point reached). From here the constructed highway was followed to Sun Meadows, then the way led across Vidue Ridge and along the rim to Eagle Crags, and then skirted the outside of Castle Crest, this being the finish and by far the roughest part of the trip, on account of the loose rock formation. During the greater part of the trip the lake was in plain view. Variety was added by mountain peaks looming up and valleys and lakes appearing sometimes at great distances, as Mount Jefferson, 140 miles to the north; the Three Sisters, Mount Thielsen, Diamond lake, Mount Scott, Mount Shasta, 110 miles to the south; Mount Pitt, upper Klamath lake and large forested regions sometimes broken by large pumice flats and winding streams.

North of Glacier Peak a snow field about four miles wide was encountered, in the crossing of which the party found that rapid progress could often be made by sliding down the steep slopes and clinging to the packs. Crossing the snow changed the complexion of each one to a rosy burn which was none too comfortable. And at night it seemed as if the extreme Arctic cold were upon us. A rain the last night made it impossible to climb Mount Scott, as originally planned. Melted snow furnished the water for drinking and cooking and when the foreign tastes were too noticeable the coffee was made extra strong.

The first night out camp was made on the north slope of Lino Rock. A large bonfire built on the rim of the lake was seen at the hotel, on the other side of the lake, and was answered by signals with auto headlights. The second day rain forced early camp on top of Cloud Cap. A second bonfire was built and was answered as before.

The party pronounced this the most wonderful as well as pleasurable

sight-seeing trip ever taken. The grandeur of the lake and surrounding country cannot be appreciated before taking a similar trip. The highway, when completed around the lake, besides being an engineering feat, will unquestionably be the most wonderful drive in the world, and should of itself be an attraction to tourists. It follows the rim most of the way, often crossing precipitous cliffs, wide banks of pumice, winds through forests and over meadows. Much credit is due Mr. Steel for his untiring efforts in securing favor-

able legislation and the appropriation which is making this highway possible.

Professor Wheeler of Eagle Point spent Wednesday in Medford.

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