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THE MEXICAN SITUATION.

It looks as if Uncle Sam would eventually have to step into Mexico and, after, in a nice way, explaining to the Mexicans the real significance of the Stars and Stripes it will then be up to Uncle Sam to take Mexico under his fatherly and more experienced governmental guidance.

Mexico should rightly belong to the United States—it is part of our continental body, through which the arteries of trade circulate. Mexico has vast undeveloped resources—there is much American capital already invested there—this should be protected and conditions made possible whereby Mexico could be thrown open to systematic American development.

There are far more reasons why the United States should welcome Mexico into the statehood family than there were for the mixing into the Philippines, Porto Rico or Cuba.

The fact of the building of the Panama canal with American capital is sufficient reason alone.

The Panama canal is the result of American brains, capital, energy and perseverance—it is the birthright of succeeding American generations and it is up to the present generation to protect that birthright.

American sentiment seems to be in favor of the acquiring of Mexico—and the indications are that President-elect Wilson will prove to be the man of the hour.

No matter how political views may differ concerning Roosevelt, it is safe

to say that were he president during the culmination of the Mexican trouble the United States would have stepped in long ago, for two reasons, if no others—first that Teddy would have seen his opportunity—and second Teddy likes the fighting game.

President Taft, perhaps, saw the opportunity—perhaps he did not—but anyway, it's too late for him now.

Will Wilson act? The chances are he will, and quickly, too.

The press dispatches state that the Turks and Allies are resting. The Allies will probably be called into action before the Turks unless some special occasion arises—because Thanksgiving and Christmas are a long way off.

Mayor Steeves and gentlemen of the council—the columns of The Capital Journal are open—city attorney salary, etc., etc.—you know. If—when—how soon—lan't there any answer—or does this continued silence mean a veiled admission that you were wrong?

It has been decided that there will be no donkeys in the inaugural parade at Washington on March 4th. Wise decision. In view of the harmony, unity, organization and sweeping victory which characterized the recent Democratic landslide there is no need of continuing the donkey as the Democratic party emblem. It should be loaned to Roosevelt until again needed.

It will be a step toward assimilating the hordes of people who will flock to this coast upon the opening of the Panama canal.

"We realize that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure in handling the problem of congestion with its attendant evils of bad housing, vice and disease. Earth education through school garden contests will be a topic for discussion as well as the question of the wider use of schoolhouses for educational and recreation purposes for adults as well as children."

COAST CONFERENCE FOR THE CHILDREN

Great Gathering Will Be Held in San Francisco.—Playgrounds, Recreation and Earth Culture.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 21.—The first Pacific Coast Playground and Recreation Congress will be held in San Francisco, February 25 to 28. This gathering will be of great interest to all concerned in the coming of immigrants to this coast and has been called with the special idea of preparing educators and social workers for the problems that will have to be met on the opening of the Panama canal and the consequent rapid growth of the coast centers.

Leading educators of the United States will address the meeting, among those of national reputation being E. B. DeGroot, of the Chicago Playground and Recreation League of America, and, until recently, superintendent of the playgrounds and recreation centers of South Park Chicago; Edward W. Sitt, superintendent of schools and of evening recreation, New York City, and Semmas McManus, the noted Irish story-teller of New York. Two thousand children will participate in an immense athletic demonstration, giving exhibitions of playground gymnastics, etc.

L. H. Wier, field secretary of the Recreation and Playground Association of America, will go to Portland to attend the Congress and make an address.

He said: "Business men and teachers, as well as social workers, will hear much of interest and value at this congress. This is a part of a nation-wide awakening to the need of providing wholesome recreation for children and adults in all cities."

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MEXICO CITY NOW A SHATTERED WRECK

Full Narrative of Thrilling Events of Past Week—Panorama of Death 4500 Killed and 7000 Wounded.

The following narrative is a complete description of the ten-day battle at Mexico City by a staff correspondent of the United Press who witnessed the entire fight and succeeded in getting the first detailed story to the United States over the clogged wires via Vera Cruz.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]

Mexico City, Feb. 20.—So swift were the current and startling events since Tuesday's conclusion of the 10-day conflict here that it was not until today that the half-crazed population found time to look about at the havoc it wrought. It is a panorama of death and destruction that is presented to the eyes of thousands of curious citizens and foreigners who are swarming the streets.

The spectacle here is infinitely sad. Hundreds of beautiful homes carrying gaping holes and tottering walls can be seen on all sides. Scores of the splendid public buildings and business structures are battered and marred. But in the poorer districts the tragedy manifested is most terrible. Hundreds of houses in this quarter are literally in ruins, while upon the doors of a thousand scarred and crumbling dwellings hang bands of crepe.

This city which Porfirio Diaz decided to make the most beautiful in all America, is shattered and wrecked. Its destruction could not be more complete if it had been visited by a mighty earthquake and riven and twisted.

I witnessed the opening act in the fearful war drama in the Zocala and the plaza before the national palace. On Sunday morning, February 9, the news was flashed over the city that a new revolution had begun and that General Diaz and Reyes had been liberated. I saw both those leaders escorted to the palace by soldiers through a crowd of cheering and excited people, filling the huge plaza, and overflowing the blocks into the streets opening up on it. Long lines of infantry stood backed against the palace wall and scattered lines of skirmishers who were lying on their bellies a few paces in front of them. Facing the ranks of infantry, a hundred feet distant, the first cavalry regiment stood in single line, troopers knee to knee and the officers drawn up before them. Thinking it a demonstration in honor of the liberation of General Diaz, I walked between the lines, curious to see what was going on. I strolled half way to the length of the palace and back.

I noted many machine guns ranged on the palace roof, but did not imagine they were to be used in real warfare. I was slowly crossing the plaza, en route to the cable office to send out the news of the liberation of Diaz and Reyes, when the lines of soldiers I had so casually inspected opened fire with scattering volleys. The machine guns instantly answered, sweeping the crowded Zocala and sending a storm of bullets into the throngs of unsuspecting women, children and men.

With the first volley the terror-stricken crowds scattered everywhere—the women shrieking and falling, to be trampled on by the fleeing thousands. I ran with the rest for San Francisco street. I saw men and women fall on every side from the bullets of the federal machine guns which flew high and wide in every direction, except into the ranks of the rebels.

On reaching San Francisco street, I ran another block before I saw an open doorway. I darted in, followed by seven men, every one of whom was wounded. Thence I watched the flight of thousands down San Francisco street.

Into the horde of refugees swept riderless cavalry horses, their hoofs beating down men and women and trampling those who already had fallen. I could see dozens of the refugees fall from the bullets of the machine guns which soldiers from the palace trained directly on the crowd until the streets were swept clear of all but the dead and the wounded. Two hundred and eighty bodies were removed from the streets around the Zocala as the result of the first massacre and fully 800 non-combatants were seriously wounded.

After the first slaughter, Diaz led his cavalry and artillery on the gallop to Cuadadela and the arsenal, which were captured after a sharp battle. Diaz then immediately arranged to withstand a protracted siege, assisted by General Mondragon, the most expert artilleryman in the Mexican army. The government was caught unprepared and could not immediately assault the rebel position. Madero spent all Monday in sending troops and placing batteries advantageously in the streets leading to

the arsenal. Early on Tuesday the artillery duel began in earnest with six federal batteries concentrating their fire on the Diaz fortifications. Diaz captured with the arsenal an enormous supply of shrapnel, which he poured on the federals in the surrounding buildings with disastrous effect.

Then war's real horrors were brought home to the citizens. A scene unheard of in modern warfare then began to unfold itself before the terror-stricken gaze of 500,000 people. The capital became a great battleground for crowded thousands of women and children, none of whom had been warned or given the slightest chance to escape. Practically every one in the city was exposed to the chance of death and wounds, even when in their own homes. The deaths of Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Griffiths, American women, are an instance of this.

Scores of non-combatants were killed in similar circumstances by bullets, flying far and wide from the shrapnel shells bursting in every part of the city. These exploded over the most populous sections of the city, scattering the deadly hail of leaden missiles. Others crashed into the walls of high buildings, entered the windows of clubs, hotels, banks and stores, wrecked buildings by the dozens, and killing and wounding hundreds of innocent persons. Day after day and often at night the same frightful conditions prevailed. Added to the thunder of the siege guns, came the almost incessant rattle of the quick firers and the whining song of bullets.

On many streets the bodies of the dead and wounded lay throughout the day. These were removed only when darkness brought partial protection to the rescuers. Until Sunday morning at 2 o'clock when a supposed 24-hour armistice was declared, the stricken city knew hardly a moment's peace.

On Sunday the people ventured timidly outdoors, hardly believing the news of the temporary cessation of hostilities. As the morning hours passed the sound of church bells, which had been drowned by the bombardment for days, were again heard and again the people flocked into the streets. The city took on a new life and the people, quickly forgetting and ever ready for a fiesta, assumed a holiday spirit. They promanaded the streets, gathered in the actual zone of the week's fighting and watched the preparations of the soldiers to resume the warfare.

Suddenly and without warning, a rattle of small arms and the shrieks of bursting shells broke the stillness. Caught unawares by the action of Madero's forces in breaking the armistice, hundreds of non-combatants were shot down in flight.

Madero's soldiers had taken advantage of the armistice to improve their positions. They fired upon Diaz' soldiers on the pretext that the rebels had broken faith. The battle waged fiercely all day and far into the night and was resumed Monday and again Tuesday.

On Tuesday came the fearful tidings that the federals were preparing to use mortars to hurl dynamite shells at the citadel. A tortured populace stood trembling, expecting the complete ruin of the city, when word came of a sudden and significant change in the situation. General Huerta and Blanquet, federal commanders, had arrested President Madero and Gustavo Madero. Then the battle ended.

Soon the streets were quickly filled with thousands shouting "vivas" for Diaz and Huerta. The events following wrought kaleidoscopic changes in the situation.

General Huerta and Diaz addressed the populace and others of the provisional government scurried about, assuring the citizens that the reign of terror had ended and that a new era of peace and prosperity had dawned. General Huerta assumed the role of military dictator with General Diaz commander-in-chief of the new allied forces, which shortly before were flying at each others throats.

The senate elected a provisional president and Wednesday President Madero and Gustavo Madero, the president's brother and evil genius, were removed to the citadel, where Gustavo was executed.

The total cost of human life was enormous. Besides the destruction of property it is estimated that 2500

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soldiers and 2000 non-combatants were killed. About 4000 soldiers and 3000 non-combatants were wounded.

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