

# "Watchful Waiting" Wins in Mexico

## A VICTORY OF PEACE

Addressing congress on the Mexican question on the 27th of August last, the president closed his remarks with these words:

"The steady pressure of moral force will before many days break the barriers of pride and prejudice down, and we shall triumph as Mexico's friends sooner than we could triumph as her enemies—and how much more handsomely, and with how much higher and finer satisfactions of conscience and honor!

Jingoism pretended to stand aghast at this sentiment, which put an end to hopes of aggression on our part, but time has established its truth.

If we had gone to war with Mexico a year ago the problem south of the Rio Grande would not have been so near its true solution today as it now is. Many bloody battles would have been fought. We should be in possession of a hostile country. An army of not less than a quarter of a million would be doing garrison duty. We should be mourning the loss of thousands of brave men and our expenditures and debt would be increasing by hundreds of millions.

Even so, our neighbors would not be pacified, and the bitterness created by our intervention would everywhere be stifling the aims of enlightened Mexicans in the direction of peace and progress. By exercising patience and self-restraint, we have done more than save ourselves the cost of unnecessary war. We have given a great country an opportunity to rehabilitate itself. Instead of assisting in the destruction of a nation, we have played an important part in its regeneration.

The venom of Huerta's valedictory was to have been expected, and ignorance and misrepresentations will no doubt prejudice many Mexicans against us for years to come; but as President Wilson finely said in the address referred to, "we shall have many an occasion in happier times to show that our friendship is genuine and disinterested."

Long after the economic and political issues of the day shall have been forgotten, Wilson and Bryan, the peacemakers and republic-builders, will be remembered and honored throughout the two Americas.—New York World.

## THE PRESIDENT'S TRIUMPH

At the present moment the critics of the Mexican policy of President Wilson stand on the defensive. It is just as well that they should realize that this is their case and prepare to answer some searching questions. They have not kept silent as to their doubts and fears. These gentlemen have been as audible as the town crier. They have filled the earth with their clamors, and, in their campaign of deprecation, have compassed sea and land to make one proselyte. They should not be spared in this day of the harvest of the policy they have been ridiculing.

Look at the situation! Huerta, the butcher, is out. He went out in good order. Not a rifle cracked. Not a barricade was thrown up. Not a drop of blood, native or foreign, was shed. He did not even imprison a congressman. The dictator resigned in form; his successor was regularly appointed. The capital felt no excitement.

Nor is this all. The promise of the future is very different from what it was when Diaz fled. Then there was no leadership to fall back on. Today the City of Mexico calmly expects the arrival of the leader of an army which has won brilliant vic-

Seldom has a specific state policy been crowned with such complete success as has the president's Mexican policy. So exalted were his ideals, and so far-flung his appeals to the human conscience, that many who sympathized with his purpose questioned his judgment, and few of his most ardent admirers expected to see such signal success. To have failed would have cost him the respect of no reasonable person, for all accorded him honesty of purpose; but to succeed, and succeed in such measure, is to raise international relations to a new plane.—The Public, Chicago.

tories, developed generals of genuine strategic sense and pacified northern Mexico. The constitutionalists have a policy and an organization.

Still the tale is not told. There is no fear of outrages on citizens of the United States, for our citizens are not there. They have withdrawn from the area of disturbance.

How much has the Wilson policy had to do with all this?

With respect to the last point there can be no question. The President caused American citizens to withdraw from Mexico while yet there was time.

With respect to Huerta's abdication, we may say perhaps trust Huerta himself. He expressly attributes his downfall to the attitude of our government. Never was a demise more gently accomplished. We have not declared war; with the exception of the Vera-Cruz custom-house, we have not occupied Mexican territory. The Tampico incident has been peacefully adjusted. We have shown that a usurper and a tyrant could be forced to lay down that which he had wrongfully seized by the passive resistance of a powerful neighbor. Non-recognition and nonintercourse are the mild but effective means the president has employed.

With respect to the constitutionalists, the fruits of the Wilson policy are no less marked. By refraining from forcible intervention we have left the constitutionalists to pursue, unvexed by us, their conquest of Mexico. It has taken time to consolidate their government, to find leaders of force, to discipline their army, to substitute an organization for a mob. The Wilson policy in Mexico supplied the necessary time. It gave the forces of growth in the north a chance.

In the face of this peaceful abdication, this instinctive turning of the Mexican capital to the strong men of the north, what further vindication by the event could the Wilson policy demand? Everything that its author anticipated from it has, thus far, resulted. What would his critics have had? Do they wish we had an army of occupation in Mexico today, and faced, on the eve of the opening of the Panama canal, a Latin-American blaze of resentment and wrath from Jaurez to Cape Horn?

Is it not time to confess that the president pursued the only policy that a rational view of the whole situation warranted, and that his critics and contemners were simply indulging the luxury of unlimited talk, without either clear ideas as to an alternative policy or exact and careful appraisal of the passing event as tidings of it transpired? — St. Louis Republic.

## WILSON AND MEXICO

The abdication of President Huerta is a triumph for President Wilson. Even the most scornful critics of the president's foreign policy will have to admit that fact. The policy that was never going to get anywhere has got somewhere—not to the ultimate goal by a long way, but to a wayside oasis which gives promise of at least temporary peace and a chance that it may be made permanent.

President Wilson was determined that Huerta must go, and Huerta has gone. President Wilson was determined that the United States should not offer forcible intervention except as a last resort. The United States walked right to the edge of intervention and even leaned over a bit, but the culmination did not come. President Wilson adopted a policy of watchful waiting in the hope that the Mexicans would work out a solution of their own. The Mexicans have worked out a solution—at least an experiment by way of solution. The consequences of the experiment, whatever they may be, can hardly be more disastrous than the consequences of the Huerta experiment.

It was President Wilson's first idea to conciliate the differences between the Mexican factions. When this proved impractical the president had to place his reliance on either Huerta or Carranza. He chose Carranza, who stood, nominally at least for the principles of constitutional liberty for which the president had declared early in his administration. After the moral support of the United States was thrown to the constitutionalists physical support was given them in the liberation of arms and ammunition shipments, without which they could not have conquered. Instead of a provisional government representing both sides, there will be a military provisional government in the hands of the constitutionalists. If this government should live up to its opportunities even measurably, President Wilson will have no reason to regret his share in bringing it about.

Should the constitutionalists' experiment prove a failure, soon or late, the last chance for avoiding American—possibly pan-American—intervention will be swept away. If, as it not at all unlikely, there should be trouble between Carranza and Villa, and perhaps other leaders, resulting in further revolutionary disturbances, all possible plans short of outside supervision have been tried. Should American intervention then be compelled it will be plain at home and abroad that it was in fact a last resort, left untried until the emptiness of all other solutions had been demonstrated.—Sioux City (Ia.) Journal.

## WILSON'S PEACE POLICY TRIUMPHING

With the passing of Huerta comes increased evidence of the wisdom of President Wilson's peace policy as relates to the Mexican trouble, for now the vexed problems of government in Mexico are nearing solution, and it is confidently expected, with the insolent dictator and usurper out, that the friendly offices of the United States will be effective in bringing order out of chaos by aiding the people of that benighted and oppressed country in setting up a stable constitutional government.

The masses of the people of Mexico have long suffered, both in times of peace, under the rule of adventurers and despots and in periods of revolution when their efforts through ignorance have been misdirected and ineffective. Investors in Mexican mines and industries living in other

countries have joined with the ruling classes in that country to exploit the many, but now there is indication of better conditions with respect to the rights of the masses, for with the aid of this country, whose efforts are for peace and righteous rule, it is now possible for the speedy end of hostilities and the inauguration of an orderly government that will offer protection to life and property and preserve the rights of citizens of all classes.

While Mexico still has a rugged road before it in setting up an orderly government and recovering from the terrible effects of war, the way has been opened by the friendly hand of this country through an administration of peace and progress, and now to those who scoffed at and ridiculed President Wilson for his policy of peace there is nothing for them to do but to confess that, "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."—Nashville Tennessean.

## WILSON'S TRIUMPH IN MEXICO

The President's Mexican policy, concerning which there have been many misgivings, has triumphed. The Dictator has resigned. A constitutional government is to be established. There will eventually be peace at home and peace with the United States.

When General Huerta on the 18th of February, 1913, telegraphed to President Taft, "I have overthrown this government and the forces are with me," he had no thought of the man who in two weeks was to be the president of the United States, or of the forces that that man would array against the Mexican usurpation.

One week after Mr. Wilson's inauguration he gave due warning to General Huerta and all other Latin-American chieftains who gain office by intrigue and assassination when he said: "We can have no sympathy with those who seize the power of government to advance their own personal interests and ambitions." Huerta laughed at this avowal, and not a few citizens of the United States pronounced it visionary and fantastic.

Yet the new American doctrine that usurpation is not to be recognized on this hemisphere has been established in the one country where its success seemed most doubtful. Against Huerta's airy assumption Wilson arrayed adamant conscience. In opposition to the tyrant's armed forces Wilson marshalled the forces of liberty and justice.

It has taken some hard fighting in Mexico to overthrow the man who overthrew the government, but moral courage of a higher order has been needed to enable the administration at Washington to hold true to its principles. The triumph is ours as well as Mexico's. The honor of victories won in the realms of morals is no less than that of battles gained on bloody fields.

Thanks to Woodrow Wilson, a great country and an oppressed people are upon the threshold of a new epoch.—New York World.

## THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

There is occasion for rejoicing that in President Wilson and Secretary Bryan this nation in the Mexican crisis was governed by decision of what was right, and steadfastly adhered to its convictions; that in the president and secretary of state we have two men who shrink instinctively from war as from a plague and yet who properly protect the nation's honor. There is reason to rejoice also, that they had patience in infinite degree, that when others lost their heads they kept theirs, that when the nation called for war they labored the harder for peace.

It is all as clear as the printed page now. It could not be clearer,