

menace, of the inactivity of the Carranza forces, of the lack of co-operation in the apprehension of the Villa bands and of the known encouragement and aid given to bandit leaders, it is unreasonable to expect the United States to withdraw its forces from Mexican territory or to prevent their entry again when their presence is the only check upon further bandit outrages and the only efficient means of protecting American lives and homes—safeguards which General Carranza, though internationally obligated to supply, is unable or unwilling to give.

"In view of the actual state of affairs, as I have outlined it above, I am now in a position to consider the conclusions which you have drawn in your note under acknowledgement of the erroneous statements of fact which you have set forth.

#### INTENTIONS OF UNITED STATES

"Your government intimates, if it does not openly charge, that the attitude of the United States is one of insincerity, distrust and suspicion toward the de facto government of Mexico and the intention of the United States in sending its troops into Mexico is to extend its sovereignty over Mexican territory and not merely for the purpose of pursuing marauders and preventing future raids across the border. The de facto government charges by implication, which admits of but one interpretation, that this government has as its object territorial aggrandizement, even at the expense of a war of aggression against a neighbor weakened by years of civil strife. The government of the United States, if it had designs upon territory of Mexico would have no difficulty in finding, during this period of revolution and disorder, many plausible arguments for intervention in Mexican affairs. Hoping, however, that the people of Mexico would, through their own efforts, restore peace and establish an orderly government, the government of the United States has awaited with patience the consummation of the revolution.

#### WAITED IN VAIN

"When the superiority of the revolutionary faction led by General Carranza became undoubted, the United States, after conferring with six others of the American republics, recognized unconditionally the present de facto government. It hoped and expected that that government would speedily restore order and provide the Mexican people and others who had given their energy and substance to development of the great resources of the republic opportunity to rebuild in peace and security their shattered fortunes.

"This government had waited month after month for the consummation of its hope and expectation. In spite of increasing discouragements; in spite of repeated provocations to exercise force in the restoration of order in the northern regions of Mexico where American interests have suffered most severely from lawlessness, the government of the United States has refrained from aggressive action and both by appeals and moderate though explicit demands sought to impress upon the de facto government the seriousness of the situation and to arouse it to its duty to perform its international obligations toward citizens of the United States who had entered the territory of Mexico or had vested interests within its borders. In the face of constantly renewed evidences of the patience and restraint of this government in circumstances which only a government imbued with unselfishness and sincere desire to respect to the full the sovereign rights and national dignity of the Mexican people would have endured, doubts and suspicions as to the motives of the government of the United States are expressed in your communication of May 22, for which I can imagine no purpose but to impugn the good faith of this government, for I find it hard to believe that such imputations are not universally known to be without the least shadow of justification in fact.

#### NOT SEEKING TERRITORY

"Can the de facto government doubt that, if the United States had turned covetous eyes on Mexican territory, it would not have found many pretexts in the past for the gratification of its desire? Can that government doubt that months ago, when the war between the revolutionary factions was in progress a much better opportunity than the present was afforded for American intervention if such had been the purpose of the United States as the de facto government now insinuates; what motive could this government have in refraining from taking advantage of such opportunities other than unselfish friend-

ship for the Mexican republic? I have, of course, given consideration to your argument that the responsibility for the present situation rests largely upon this government. In the first place you state that even the American forces along the border whose attention is undivided by other military operations, find themselves physically unable to protect effectively the frontier on the American side.

"If there is no means of reaching bands roving on Mexican territory and making sudden dashes at night into American territory it is impossible to prevent such invasions unless the frontier is protected by a cordon of troops. No government could be expected to maintain a force for the purpose of resisting the onslaughts of a few bands of lawless men, especially when the neighboring state makes no effort to prevent these attacks. The most effective method of preventing raids of this nature, as past experience has fully demonstrated, is to visit punishment or destruction on the raiders. It is precisely this plan which the United States desires to follow along the border without any intention of infringing on the sovereignty rights of her neighbor, but which, although obviously advantageous to the de facto government, it refuses to allow or even countenance. It is, in fact, protection to American lives and property about which the United States is solicitous and not the methods or ways in which that protection shall be accomplished. If the Mexican government is unwilling or unable to give this protection by preventing its territory from being the rendezvous and refuge of murderers and plunderers, that does not relieve this government from its duty to take all the steps necessary to safeguard American citizens on American soil. The United States government can not and will not allow bands of lawless men to establish themselves upon its borders with liberty to invade and plunder American territory with impunity and, when pursued, to seek safety across the Rio Grande, relying upon the plea of their government that the integrity of the Mexican republic must not be violated.

#### RAIDERS NOT MOLESTED

"The Mexican government further protests that 'it has made every effort on its part to protect the frontier,' and that it is doing 'all possible to avoid a recurrence of such acts.' Attention is again invited to the well known unrestricted activity of De la Rosa, Anciento Piscano, Pedro Vino and others in connection with the border raids and to the fact that, as I am advised up to June 4, De la Rosa was still collecting troops at Monterey for the openly avowed purpose of making attacks on Texas border towns and that Pedro Vino was recruiting at other places for the same avowed purpose. I have already pointed out the uninterrupted progress of Villa to and from Columbus, and the fact that the American forces in pursuit of the Glenn Springs marauders penetrated 168 miles into Mexican territory without encountering a single Carranza soldier. This does not indicate that the Mexican government is doing all possible; this is not sufficient to prevent border raids, and there is every reason, therefore, why this government must take such preventative measures as it deems sufficient.

"It is suggested that injuries suffered on account of bandit raids are a matter of 'pecuniary reparation,' but 'nevertheless not cause for American forces to invade Mexican soil.' The precedents which have been established and maintained by the government of the Mexican republic for the last half century do not bear out this statement. It has grown to be almost a custom not to settle depredations of bandits by payments of money alone, but to quell such disorders and to prevent such crimes by swift and sure punishment.

#### FAILED TO DO DUTY

"The de facto government finally urges that 'if the frontier were only protected from incursions from Mexico there would be no reason for the existing difficulty,' thus the de facto government attempts to absolve itself from the first duty of any government, namely, the protection of life and property. This is the paramount obligation for which governments are instituted and governments neglecting or failing to perform it are not worthy of the name. This is the duty for which General Carranza, it must be assumed, initiated his revolution in Mexico and organized the present government and for which the United States government recognized his government as the de facto government of Mexico. Protection of American lives and property in the United States is the first obligation of this government, and in Mexico is, first, the ob-

ligation of Mexico, and second, the obligation of the United States. In securing this protection along the common boundary, the United States has a right to expect the co-operation of its neighboring republic; and yet, instead of taking steps to check or punish the raiders, the de facto government objects to measures taken by the United States. The government of the United States does not wish to believe the de facto government approves these marauding attacks, yet as they continue to be made they show the Mexican government is unable to repress them. This inability, as this government has had occasion in the past to say, may excuse the failure to check the outrages complained of, but it only makes stronger the duty of the United States to prevent them, for if the government of Mexico can not protect the lives and property of Americans exposed to attack by Mexicans, the United States is in duty bound, in so far as it can, to do so.

#### WILL NOT RECALL TROOPS

"In conclusion, the Mexican government invites the United States to support its 'assurances of friendship with real and effective acts,' which 'can be no other than the immediate withdrawal of the American troops.' For the reasons I have herein fully set forth this request of the de facto government can not be entertained. The United States has not sought the duty which has been forced upon it, of pursuing bandits who, under fundamental principles of municipal and international law, ought to be pursued and arrested and punished by Mexican authorities. Wherever Mexico will assume and effectively exercise that responsibility the United States, as it has many times before publicly declared, will be glad to have this obligation fulfilled by the de facto government of Mexico. If, on the contrary, the de facto government is pleased to ignore this obligation and to believe that in case of a refusal to retire these troops there is no further recourse than to defend itself by an appeal to arms, the government of the United States would surely be lacking in sincerity and friendship if it did not frankly impress upon the de facto government that the execution of this threat will lead to the gravest consequences. While this government would deeply regret such a result, it can not recede from its settled determination to maintain its national rights and to perform its full duty in preventing further invasions of the territory of the United States and in removing the peril which Americans along the international boundary have borne so long with patience and forbearance.

Accept, etc.,

"ROBERT LANSING."

(Continued on Page 26.)

#### LITTLE STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST ABOUT WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Have you personal knowledge of some incident in connection with Mr. Bryan that would make a story of human interest?

During my senior year in college, I was pastor of the little church near Mr. Bryan's home at Fairview, Lincoln, Nebraska. That was during the fall and winter of 1902 and the spring and summer of 1903, the last year the Bryan family were all at home. As they attended my church I was often in the Bryan home, and later performed the marriage ceremony for each of the three children.

Believing that there will be a great many stories related about Mr. Bryan, I recently asked him for his consent to gather such material. It will be of distinct advantage to history to have these stories looked over and the spurious ones eliminated.

If you know of any incident you think would be of interest, send it to the undersigned. When these stories are published the contributor's name will be attached unless he states in his communication that he does not want his name to appear. Write your story and send it now.

(REV.) HARRY F. HUNTINGTON,  
Columbus, Nebraska.

The Nebraska republican state committee demonstrated just how eager the republicans are to please the ex-progressives. At its recent meeting it gave all of the places of honor at the state convention to men who belonged to the old Taft faction.

#### STILL FOR THE PEOPLE

Mr. Bryan's speech at St. Lou's was a great appeal to the people, and it makes one feel that the great Commoner is still for the people.—Plattsmouth (Neb.) Journal.