

Mexican territory, aside from being a trespass on the sovereignty of Mexico, is the immediate cause of the conflicts. Therefore, the withdrawal of American troops, on one hand, and the protection of the frontier on the other, are the two essential problems, the solution of which must be the directing object of the efforts of both governments.

"The Mexican government is willing to consider, in a quick and practical way, and prompted by a spirit of concord, the remedies which should be applied to the present situation.

"Several Latin-American countries have offered their friendly mediation to the Mexican government, and the latter has accepted it in principle. Therefore, the Mexican government only awaits information that the government of the United States would be disposed to accept this mediation for the purpose mentioned above or whether it is still of the belief that the same results may be attained by means of direct negotiations between both governments.

"In the meantime, this government proposes to employ all efforts that may be at its disposal to avoid the recurrence of new incidents which may complicate and aggravate the situation. At the same time, it hopes the American government on its part may make use of all efforts to prevent also new acts of its military and civil authorities of the frontier that might cause new complications.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to your excellency the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

"C. AGUILAR."

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Lansing Accepts Carranza Plan for Settlement

A Washington dispatch, dated July 7, says: Secretary of State Lansing submitted to Mexican Ambassador-designate today the following note for transmission to the secretary of foreign relations:

"Mr. Secretary: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your courteous note transmitted to me by Senor Arredondo on the 4th instant in which you refer to my notes of June 20 and June 25, and to assure you of the sincere gratification of my government at the frank statement of the difficulties which have unfortunately arisen in our relations along the international boundary, and the unreserved expression of the desire of your government to reach an adjustment of these difficulties on a broad and amicable basis. The same spirit of friendship and of solicitude for the continuance of cordial relations between our two countries inspires my government, which equally desires an immediate solution of the matters of difference which have long vexed both governments.

"It is especially pleasing to my government that the de facto government of Mexico is disposed to give quick as well as practical consideration in a spirit of concord to the remedies which may be applied to the existing conditions. Reciprocating the same desire, the government of the United States is prepared immediately to exchange views as to a practical plan to remove finally and prevent a recurrence of the difficulties which have been the source of the controversy.

"Accept, Mr. Secretary, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration. I am, sir, yours very sincerely,
"ROBERT LANSING."

Federal Control Urged by Hughes

[From the New York Tribune's Washington Bureau, July 3.]

Charles E. Hughes is strongly in favor of placing all railroad regulation under exclusive federal control. Lawyers around the supreme court today pointed out that the plank in the republican platform, adopted last month at Chicago, relating to this topic might well have been written by the then justice himself.

The republican plank states: "Interstate and intrastate transportation have become so interwoven that the attempt to apply two and often several sets of laws to its regulation has produced conflicts of authority, embarrassment in operation and inconvenience and expense to the public. The entire transportation system of the country has become essentially national. We therefore favor such action by legislation or, if necessary, through an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as will result in placing it under exclusive federal control."

Point to Rate Case Decision

This idea first was pointedly set forth, lawyers here said, in the famous "Minnesota rate case" decision of the supreme court, which was written by Mr. Hughes. The plank, they pointed out, could not have been written "to fit the candidate" better, even if the platform committee had known who was going to be nominated when the plank was framed.

Following are a few sentences from the pen of Justice Hughes in that rate decision which involved the right of a state to regulate intrastate railroad passenger rates:

"The principle which determines this classification underlies the doctrine that the states can not under any guise impose direct burdens upon interstate commerce. For this is but to hold that the states are not permitted directly to regulate or restrain that which from its nature should be under the control of the

one authority and be free from restriction save as it is governed in the manner that the national legislature constitutionally ordains."

"Congress may lawfully exercise, and has long exercised, exclusive power to regulate navigation and commerce by water, even navigation and commerce wholly local within a state. Such action implies no direct power to invade the state, but is necessarily incidental to the power expressly granted to congress to regulate commerce among the states."

"The power of congress over land commerce is identical with, and as complete as, its control over water commerce."

"Federal Power Hits Interference"

"It appears, therefore, to be a pure question of fact whether the state rates destroy or directly operate upon interstate commerce and interstate rates. If they do the federal power is shown to be ample to prohibit such interference."

"The argument that if the state rates are reasonable in and of themselves they can not be objected to, and therefore the whole inquiry is as to their reasonableness, is fallacious. The court determines only whether rates are confiscatory and can not entertain the broad question of their reasonableness; nor can this be determined by any mathematical formula. Public policy of the nation may be to permit carriers a large return. Public policy of a state may be to permit but a small one. In such a conflict national authority controls."

"State power and state action must give way to whatever extent is necessary to complete an efficient national control over the subjects committed to that control by the constitution."

"The hazards affecting railroad property inhere in the fact that while in a measure such property performs a function of the state there is no guarantee to its owners against loss."

"ENHANCING VALUES"

[From The Chicago Tribune, July 7.]

In one of his addresses last week the President said he has constantly to remind himself that he is not the servant of those who wish to enhance the value of their Mexican holdings.

The remark exposes the obsession which has perverted our policy for four years. That obsession excused in some minds Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Bryan's costly inertia and made of every honest claim of Americans in Mexico a bugaboo. Mr. Bryan's notion, which Mr. Wilson either shared or adopted, was that all Americans in Mexico were predatory invaders whose legal rights and even whose personal safety the government of the United States was not bound to defend. Any man who had property in Mexico was either refused a hearing by Mr. Wilson if he attempted to inform him as to conditions, or roundly lectured by Mr. Bryan. He was assumed to be a corrupt witness and his testimony not merely tainted with interest, but worthless.

Mr. Wilson's remark and the attitude it expresses will go a long way in the demagoguery of a campaign. But it covers a fallacy which it is to be hoped no future president will accept. Where Mr. Wilson talks about enhancing the value of American investments in Mexico he perpetrates a sardonic joke and raises a question which American statesmanship can not answer by the shallow theory which has governed our recent policy. There is no question of enhancement. The question has been one of defense, of protection of life and

legal rights under Mexican and under international law.

Mr. Wilson's only defense from a just condemnation of his policy is to give the public to believe that he was preventing us from being made the instrument of a plot to enhance by war the property values of American adventurers in Mexico. But if such a device is accepted as an excuse for failure to defend Americans legitimately in Mexico and to enforce their security and property rights as other governments in similar circumstances would support their own nationals, we shall set out upon a course which will compromise our future as a self-respecting and respected people.

Americans in Mexico were there under Mexican laws. Some were poor, some well to do, some representing wealthy interests at home. Any one acquainted with Mexican conditions, which Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan refused to be, realized that essentially the same process was going on in Mexico as in the United States—namely development through private capital. Mexico can not develop otherwise. Either it will be our enterprise and capital principally or that of other countries. In this process evils exist, as at home. As at home, the good is very much greater than the evil. If Mr. Wilson is opposed to the development of a country by private capital, let him announce himself as its enemy at home as in Mexico. If property rights under the law of the land are worthy of his respect here, they are in Mexico. If foreign capital in Haiti, Santo Domingo, Nicaragua is worthy of our protection, it is in Mexico. If

the lives of American citizens in Mexico are not worthy of our defense, they are not elsewhere.



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