

## Why Not Loan to Mexico?

The following dispatch appeared in the morning papers of July 19th:

"Mexico City, July 9. — President Carranza sent to congress tonight a message asking for special authorization to negotiate a loan of 50,000,000 pesos, to be used to rehabilitate the rail and other roads. This is the third special permission asked within a few days, the first being for a loan of 100,000,000 pesos to start a government bank and 150,000,000 pesos for the expenses of the government.

"Reports are in circulation that the government has been assured that it could borrow 500,000,000 pesos, equivalent to \$250,000,000, from American bankers, but no firms are mentioned."

Why not a government loan to Mexico? The Spanish-speaking republics are being eaten up by high interest rates and the United States is the only nation that can help them. All they need is our credit—the people will furnish the money. Let Mexico be invited to issue a 5 per cent bond to be exchanged for 3½ per cent bonds of the United States. Then let the one and one-half per cent difference be put in a sinking fund to retire the principal of the Mexican bonds and Mexico will be in a position to develop her resources.

In other words, let the United States show her interest in Mexico by underwriting bonds issued for internal improvement and education, and our friendship will have a cash value. Mexico will have no fear of the Monroe Doctrine when it is accompanied by concrete evidence of our willingness to help our sister republic on the south. The same aid ought to be extended to Nicaragua and other Latin-American countries, but Mexico, our nearest neighbor, would be a good country to begin with.

W. J. BRYAN.

Following is an extract from an address delivered by Mr. Bryan before the Pan-American Scientific Congress, Washington, D. C., January 3, 1916, in which he suggested the need of financial co-operation between the United States and the republics of Latin-America:

"I ask your pardon for repeating here a suggestion which I made last June at a banquet given in connection with the Pan-American Commercial congress then assembled in Washington. It is that the government of the United States should, if desired by any of the republics of Latin America, underwrite bonds issued by them for the development of their resources. During my connection with the state department I had opportunity to learn of the enormous burden thrown upon the smaller republics of Central and South America by the high interest rates which they were compelled to pay, and I became convinced that these high interest rates not only worked an injustice to the countries that paid them and retarded the proper development of those countries, but that these loans, often the best that could be secured under existing conditions, sometimes caused insurrections and revolutions. After dealing with these conditions officially for two years I reached the conclusion that the government of the United States could show its good will toward Latin America in no better way than by playing the part of a prosperous friend to these republics, by lending its credit to support loans necessary for legitimate development work. The United States, being able to borrow at a low rate, could ACCEPT THE BONDS OF NEIGHBORING REPUBLICS DRAWING A MUCH LOWER RATE OF INTEREST THAN THOSE NOW ISSUED, AND HOLD THEM AS SECURITY FOR ITS OWN BONDS, ISSUED AT THE NORMAL RATE. To illustrate what I mean, let us suppose a case. If one of the republics of Central or South America, now paying 6 per cent interest or more, desired to enter upon some work of development, it could issue its bonds drawing, say 4½ per cent, and our government could accept them as security for its own bonds drawing 3 per cent, or such higher rate as the market demanded, the difference between the rate paid by the borrowing republic and the rate paid on the United States bonds to be turned into a sinking fund to retire the

development bonds. This plan would give to the borrowing countries the advantage of the credit of the United States and enable them to make a large IMMEDIATE saving in interest, besides the saving that would accrue to them in the retirement of their bonds. Such assistance could be rendered by the United States without any appreciable risk, and it would not only aid the republic assisted but it would furnish conclusive proof of this country's disinterested friendship."

### "AND PHARAOH HARDENED HIS HEART"

News from Berlin recalls the language of the Bible when Moses was seeking to free the children of Israel from bondage: "And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go."

As the people of Germany grow more insistent in their demands for reforms the kaiser, supported by the military party, grows more determined not to yield up the arbitrary power that makes him the lingering representation of autocratic authority.

To know the fate that awaits him one need only read Exodus — history will repeat itself: "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." It is evident that the kaiser is mad. The fall is only a matter of time.

### AN EASY CHOICE

A German-American who left the Fatherland to become an American citizen ought to have no difficulty in deciding which to choose now, for the United States has been growing better while Germany has surrendered more and more to militarism. If we win we will to some extent at least Americanize Germany; if Germany should by any possibility win she would Germanize the United States. It is an easy choice.

### THE CHINESE REPUBLIC SAFE

The defeat of the Manchu attempt to overthrow the Chinese republic will be gratifying to every American. In thus thwarting for a second time the attempt to return to monarchy the people of China prove their devotion to the principles of popular government. Success to the first republic of the Orient and its sturdy defenders.

### THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM

The change in ministry at Berlin does not indicate improvement, but a reactionary step at this time may be the thing necessary to bring about the opposition. Watch for an explosion. The steam is there and the military party is sitting on the safety valve.

Things are happening in government affairs these days that must cause considerable pinching of themselves by old-time populists to find out if they are awake or dreaming. They are even talking at Washington of government warehouses now, and that was held, in the early nineties, to be the climax of absurdity.

The United States department of agriculture is very active now in assisting farmers, through the bureau of markets, to market their products. It is giving special attention to the marketing of perishables and their conservation through canning, drying and similar processes.

The argument, as we understood it, was that it is a bad thing to allow liquor to be sold in the vicinity of the cantonments where the soldier boys are, but entirely proper for it to be sold in the vicinity of the homes where the soldier boys came from. Why the discrimination?

### SAFETY ZONE AT ALL CAMPS

A Washington dispatch, dated July 12, says: A "dry" zone five miles wide, unless there is a city or town within that limit, is to be thrown around all camps for the mobilization or training of troops under new regulations made public today at the war department.

If a municipality is within even one mile of the camp the dry zone is to be limited to that width in that direction. But if the camp is located on the edge of a town the prohibition will extend to a width of one-half mile into the town.

Prohibition under a penalty of \$10,000 fine also is imposed under the same law against the maintenance of any immoral houses within the limit of five miles in any case, even where the camp is on the edge of a town.

## The Kentucky Contest

The voters of Kentucky are engaged in the important task of selecting a legislature which will act upon the question of prohibition. The commonwealth will go dry by a hundred thousand majority if the people are given an opportunity to vote on the proposition, but Kentucky does not have the initiative and referendum, and her constitution gives the liquor interests a decided advantage in requiring a three-fifths vote in both houses of the legislature for the submission of a constitutional amendment. If the wets can control ONE MORE THAN TWO-FIFTHS OF EITHER HOUSE THEY CAN PREVENT SUBMISSION. That is what they are now trying to do, and knowing that they are in a minority in the state, they are working under cover and relying on their ability to deceive the public. They are putting up candidates who publicly express their willingness to vote for submission, but who are SECRETLY PLEDGED to INSIST UPON CONDITIONS WHICH WILL MAKE SUBMISSION IMPOSSIBLE.

One of the conditions which they have in mind is "compensation" for the breweries and distilleries that will be closed—condition which, because unjust to the public, would drive away thousands of votes without bringing any to the amendment.

DO NOT TRUST THE CAUSE OF PROHIBITION TO THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST IT. No man who favors the saloon as against the home should be put in a position to betray the people into the hands of the liquor interests.

In Texas the democrats last year voted in their caucus for submission, and a large majority in both branches of the legislature favored submission, but the wets controlled a little more than ONE-THIRD of the legislature and they used their power to prevent submission, even though to do so they defied a democratic caucus, a democratic majority in the legislature and a majority of the people. In Nebraska they did even worse. AFTER THE PEOPLE HAD ADOPTED A PROHIBITION AMENDMENT BY TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND MAJORITY, the democratic state senate WITH A BREWER AS PRESIDENT PRO TEM, tried to nullify the amendment by the enactment of a statute out of harmony with the spirit of the amendment.

This is no time to put enemies on guard. The fight for prohibition is a real fight against an unscrupulous foe—to entrust submission to those who favor the saloon, are in daily conference with the liquor interests, would be like putting an army under the command of spies.

The Democratic Forward league, officered by men like Dr. Alexander and P. H. Callahan, has endorsed candidates who can be trusted, and the voters will make no mistake by co-operating with them.

Success to the prohibition movement in Kentucky — strength to the Democratic Forward league.  
W. J. BRYAN.

### IOWA'S DRY

The highball has gone from the haunts of good fellows,

The bloom on the julep is wilted and dead,  
The rickey of gin and the highball that mellow,  
Away to fresh conquests have hurriedly fled.  
There's a lock on the door of the place where we lingered

And sipped at the bourbor and guzzled the beer;  
Where the stories were told and the glasses were fingered,  
For Iowa's dry since the first of the year.

No more can we plank down the bright silver dollar

On top of the rosewood and point at the gin;  
Nor kick on the beer wearing such a high collar,  
For the Wets have gone out and the Drys have gone in.

The White Ribbon crowd now sit tight in the saddle—  
And nation-wide drought they declare is quits near—

And on the red noses they've put the skeddaddie,  
For Iowa's dry since the first of the year.

—Contributed.