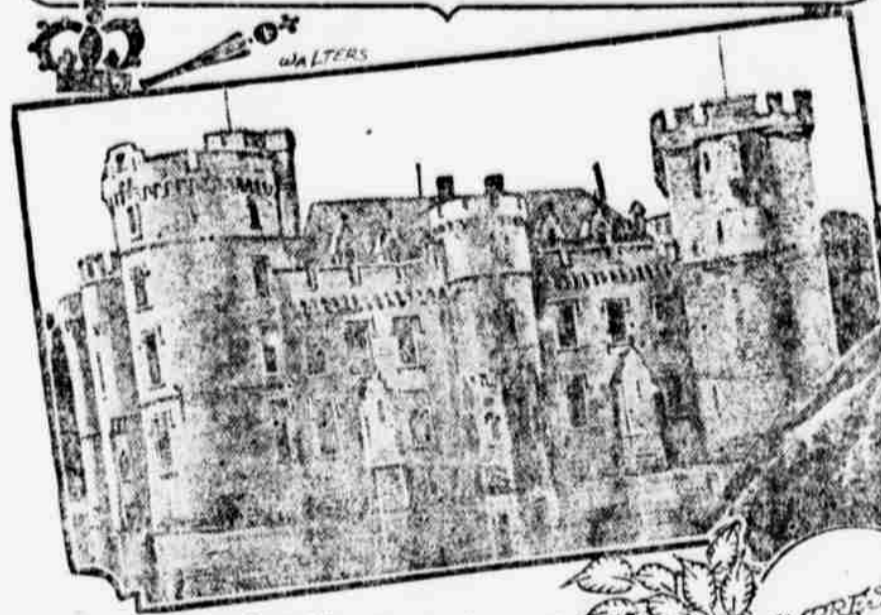


Carlotta of Mexico

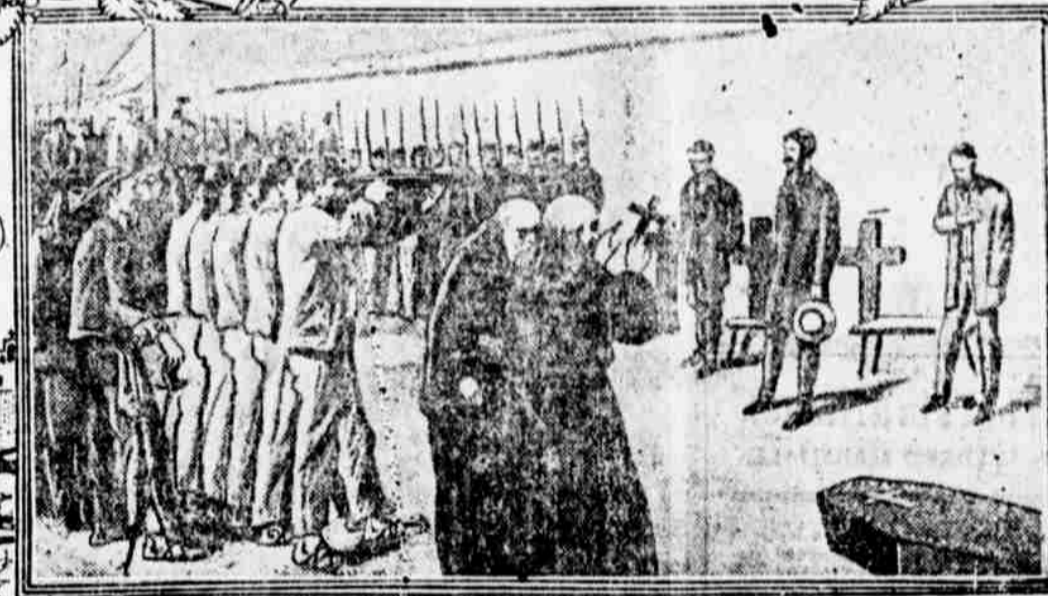
Romance and Tragedy of the Mad Empress, Now at Life's End . . .



CHATEAU BOUCHOUT



EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN



EXECUTION OF MAXIMILIAN

MAXIMILIAN-CARLOTTA CHRONOLOGY

1857—Maximilian (1822-67) appointed governor Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. Married Carlotta (1819).
 1858—Benito Pablo Juarez (1806-72) elected president of Mexico; civil war.
 1859-63—Maximilian resigned governorship; literary work at Miramar (Trieste).
 1860—Mexico suspended payments; France, Great Britain and Spain intervened.
 1862—French troops entered Mexico City; Juarez retreated to mountains.
 1864—Maximilian entered Mexico City as emperor of Mexico, supported by French army.
 1866—Napoleon III told by United States to get out of Mexico and take Maximilian away. Carlotta fled to Europe, vainly asked aid of Napoleon and pope; became insane.
 1867—French troops left Mexico. Maximilian captured by Juarez, tried and executed. Juarez resumed presidency.

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN



THIS year of 1923 is the centennial of the Monroe Doctrine. And Carlotta of Mexico is reported dying in her old chateau of Bouchout in Brabant, Belgium, at the age of eighty-four, after fifty-seven years of madness. Therefore the story of the attempt of Napoleon III to establish a French empire in Mexico in defiance of the Monroe Doctrine makes timely reading.

Benito Pablo Juarez, an Indian, was elected president of Mexico in 1858, after eleven years of public service. Juarez, in defeating Miramon in the civil war that followed, exhausted the Mexican treasury. Suspension of payments in 1860 caused England, France and Spain to intervene. Napoleon III saw here a chance to establish in Mexico the French empire that had failed of establishment in Canada (1765) and in Louisiana (1803). The United States government was too busy with the Civil war to make forcible resistance to violation of the Monroe Doctrine. As the British and Spanish withdrew, he sent over large French forces. These made war on Juarez, drove him into the mountains and in 1863 entered Mexico City.

Napoleon III selected Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, second son of Archduke Francis Charles of Austria and brother of Emperor Francis Joseph I, as emperor of this French empire in Mexico. Maximilian, then thirty-one, was handsome and soldier-like, with a fine education and a taste for the fine arts. He was living with Carlotta at Miramar, near Trieste, a palace that he had built for residence. Carlotta—Marie Charlotte Amelie—the only daughter of Leopold I of Belgium, was twenty-three and a royal beauty, tall, beautiful, graceful, with a gentleness that won all who met her and of courtly and gracious manner. She spoke fluently in tongues of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. She was popular in every court of Europe.

Through French wire-pulling in Mexico, in September of 1863, a deputation of Mexican notables arrived at Miramar to ask Maximilian to become emperor of Mexico. Maximilian, history says, was reluctant to accept. But Carlotta was as ambitious as she was able. Francis Joseph was presumably glad to see his popular brother go. Maximilian, after the form of a popular election in Mexico had been gone through with and Napoleon had made a secret agreement with him to support him with French troops, accepted the throne April 10, 1864, and arrived June 12 in Mexico City to establish his empire.

Maximilian attempted to establish a mild reign. Some of the Mexican leaders accepted him. But a large proportion of the Mexicans did not. Juarez, to whom Maximilian made friendly overtures, would have none of him. A hitherto unpublished letter, from Juarez to Maximilian, recently brought to light, reads:

"I admire your generosity in leaving the fatherland in coming to Mexico. But I tell you it isn't true we ask you on your own free will to accept the throne. On their own responsibility some traitors went to Miramar, only eight or ten of our citizens approving.

"You came here without any knowledge of the country's needs or conditions and your advisers are the most dangerous people in Mexican society. You promise me security, but I don't trust a man who deals with traitors. You say that by an understanding we could work together for the benefit of Mexico if I would give more of my talents and patriotic assistance.

"It is a true history of our time that glorifies people who give up their principles and tradition

only to serve their personal passions, ambitions and imperiousness. But I, who hold the office of president of the republic, and who came up from the lowly classes, will only succumb if Providence decrees.

"I shall hold out until the end and fulfill the hopes of my countrymen.

"Sometimes it occurs, it is true, that people are allowed by fate to attack the holy rights of others and threaten the rights of those who defend their nationality. But I believe in the judgment of history, which stands apart from wrong and evil. This will give its verdict on us. 'Justitia regnum fundamentum.'"

Juarez soon took up arms and civil war followed. In 1865 Maximilian proclaimed all those in arms to be outlaws—a fact that probably sealed his fate when tried for his life.

In the meantime, the United States, in the throes of the Civil war, had refused to recognize Maximilian. With the close of the Civil war the United States government found itself in possession of the strongest military force that the world had ever seen. Thereupon Gen. Philip H. Sheridan appeared at the Mexican border with an impressive force and the United States government said in effect to Napoleon III of France:

"You are violating the Monroe Doctrine. Get your French troops out of Mexico forthwith and take Maximilian with them!"

Napoleon had no choice but to do exactly as the United States government commanded. He warned Maximilian that he must withdraw the French troops from Mexico. Maximilian declined to abdicate. Carlotta saw that they were lost without French support and fled to Europe to appeal to Napoleon.

The last of the French troops withdrew from Mexico in 1867. Juarez promptly besieged Maximilian in Queretaro. May 14 Maximilian was captured, the night before he had fixed upon for escape. He was tried by a council of war, condemned to death and June 19 faced a firing squad on the Hill of the Bells. He gave each of the five soldiers a gold piece and asked them to aim well. He died like a brave man and a gentleman.

Juarez, an able man of few words and honest purpose, resumed the presidency and held it till his death, five years later.

Carlotta's vain attempts to secure aid in Europe were as dramatic as tragic. Napoleon III feared to face her and evaded a meeting until she forced an interview. The meeting was without witnesses. Napoleon refused to aid her. He may have wanted to keep his pledged word to Maximilian, but he did not dare to defy the United States. Just what was said behind those closed doors is not known, but Carlotta was heard to shriek at its close:

"I ought never to have forgotten what I am and what you are. I ought not to have forgotten that there is Bourbon blood in my veins, and should not have disgraced my descent by lowering myself before a Bonaparte and being led away by an adventurer!"

Attendants, entering, found her unconscious on the floor.

Carlotta next saw Pope Pius IX, who received her at a reception in the throne room at the vatican and accorded her the honors of a reigning monarch. She suspected that this was a ruse to prevent the discussion of her affairs. Later, the pope returned the visit, as etiquette demanded. An ample escort accompanied him, and again Carlotta could not find opportunity. But she made another effort. Dressed in mourning, with one woman attendant she had an audience. At its close

she was so overwrought that the pope's physician declared it unwise to remove her. So, contrary to all precedent, she passed the night at the vatican. She awoke the next morning bereft of reason. She was placed in the care of her family.

During the invasion of Belgium in the World war a German commander passed Bouchout at the head of his troops. He halted in astonishment at the sight of the Austrian flag flying over the chateau. He demanded to know who had the insolence to display it.

"Her majesty the Empress Carlotta of Mexico, widow of Archduke Maximilian of Austria, emperor of Mexico," was the answer.

"Who are you?" asked the German.

"Baron Goffinet, her majesty's major domo."

"Take me to her!"

"It is forbidden. Her majesty is an invalid and sees no one."

To the German in Belgium nothing was forbidden and the major domo took him to an upper window, from which he saw a very old woman, dressed in black and leaning on the arm of an attendant, walking in the garden. The German went back to his troops and affixed to the gate this placard:

"This property, belonging to the crown of Belgium, is occupied by the widow of Archduke Maximilian of Austria. I instruct German soldiers not to disturb the household, not to ring the bell and not to sing in passing." And Carlotta's home remained untouched through the devastation.

Many stories about Carlotta have been circulated during her long seclusion in Bouchout. It is known that at first she was violently insane, her mad obsession being that everyone was trying to poison her. Later she became more rational—so rational that her actual insanity was questioned.

Her royal family never took any steps to have her declared legally incompetent, and it is said she has never spoken or written anything that settled definitely whether she was sane or insane, or realized that she had lost her place.

Although ill, she managed for a long while the most minute details of her lavish establishment. Every day she wrote out her orders in one of the grand folios, and these commands were executed by the servants. With her toilet she was scrupulously careful, and attired herself with the same taste and distinction that she used when moving in the court circles of Europe. Her painting and drawing occupied hours each day, and she passed much of her time playing the piano.

It has also been broadly hinted that Leopold II kept her sequestered as insane, though she was not so, to conceal the fact that he had taken and squandered her fortune.

One question is still unanswered: Has Carlotta read this final letter from Maximilian which he penned shortly before his execution?

"My Beloved Carlotta: If God permit that your health be restored and you should read these few lines you will learn the cruelty with which fate has stricken me since your departure for Europe. You took with you not only my heart, but my good fortune. Why did I not give heed to your voice? So many unforwaid events! Alas! So many sudden blows have shattered all my hopes; so that death is but a happy deliverance, not an agony, to me. I shall die gloriously like a soldier, like a monarch, vanquished but not dishonored. If your sufferings are too great, and God shall call you soon to join me, I shall bless His divine hand which has weighed so heavily upon us. Adieu, adieu."

"YOUR POOR MAXIMILIAN."

The American Legion

(Copy for This Department Supplied by The American Legion News Service)

WILL ATTRACT LEGION MEN

Pretty Girls to Help Entertain Visitors Attending National Convention at San Francisco.

When San Francisco opens its gates to the 150,000 members of the American Legion expected to be present at the fifth annual convention, some of the nation's prettiest girls will be ready to show the "doughboy" and "gob" visitors about the city. An official committee, composed of the city's society matrons and debutantes, has been named to work in conjunction with the convention committee and will act as hostesses to sponsor the many affairs to be held for the men and women who will attend the convention.

Special entertainment has been arranged for the women of the American Legion auxiliary and other women guests by the committee of the city's society leaders. Banquets and dinner dances will be tendered the guests while the Legion men are busy with convention matters. Hostesses at these affairs will include national leaders and workers of the auxiliary and women prominent in Legion affairs in addition to the local reception committee.

Mrs. Alfred Carlier, wife of a Belgian war veteran and a former war worker in army cantonments herself, has agreed to return from New York to assist in entertaining the Legion visitors during their stay in her native city. Mrs. Carlier will have



Mrs. Alfred Carlier.

charge of several important social events during the week of the convocation. Other San Francisco women have promised to take charge of a number of "canteens" to be established throughout the city in order to assist in providing food for the visitors.

The popularity of canteen workers was well known during the war, and it is not likely that the average Legion man has forgotten them since his return to civil life. As a consequence, a "buddy" is likely to be found hanging over the counter of one of these places, talking to some pretty San Francisco miss.

MANY POSTS SEEK TROPHIES

Legion Organizations Display Great Interest in Honors to Be Awarded at National Meeting.

Competition for membership is keen among departments of the American Legion this year, due to the plan to present national trophies and awards to the departments making the best showings before the fifth annual national convention in San Francisco this fall.

Legionnaires will strive for two principal trophies—the Hanford MacNider and the Franklin D'Oiler trophies. The department that has the highest percentage of members as compared with the membership total for the year 1922 will win the MacNider cup, which is presented by the Iowa department. The Georgia department won this cup at the New Orleans convention and is leading in the race this year.

The D'Oiler trophy has not yet been awarded, as it was first announced at the New Orleans convention. The department obtaining as members the highest percentage of eligible ex-service men in the state will receive this trophy, the gift of the Pennsylvania department.

The trophies will not remain the permanent property of departments, but must be turned over each year. A gold plate will be awarded to each department winning a trophy. This will be suitable to be attached to the department's banner, which will bear an inscription reciting the honor won. There will be presented each year a silver one hundred per cent membership honor plate to each department maintaining or increasing its preceding year's membership, in addition to the two trophies and their plates.

STOP BUILDING AIR CRAFT

American Legion to Recommend International Disarmament Conference—Conduct National Referendum.

An international air disarmament conference to stop the present air construction race will be recommended by the American Legion, which will conduct a national referendum to obtain the views of prominent Americans as to the advisability of such a conference.

All members of congress, governors of all states, 1,000 editors, 100 college presidents and a number of prominent citizens will be asked by the Legion to express an opinion on the proposal which would involve the holding of a meeting in Washington, similar to the naval disarmament conference, to be attended by representatives of all leading world powers for the purpose of reaching some agreement as to the number of fighting and observation planes to be maintained by each.

If the opinion of the national leaders is favorable to the Legion's project, President Coolidge will be asked to call an international conference. A necessity for immediate action in the matter of limitation of air armament exists since France took the lead in an air-construction program, and the remaining European powers have entered the mad race to overtake the French. France at the present time has 140 squadrons of the military machines and plans to have 220 at the end of 1925. The planes will carry 75-millimeter cannons and will also be used to transport six machine guns and their crews. The plans include machines which will serve as actual troopships of the air.

England is the nearest competitor, having appropriated \$27,500,000 to enlarge her air armada. It has been estimated that by 1925 England will be able to send aloft only 624 battle machines in comparison with France's 1,530 air fighters. Italy and Russia have actively entered the race, the latter planning to have 19,000 planes in operation.

A statement issued recently by National Commander Alvin Owsley calls attention to the fact that naval and land forces have been reduced by national agreement and that the Legion proposes to attempt to obtain similar measures governing aircraft.

"The crying need of the world today is peace—industrial, commercial, economic peace—a restoration from the ravages and horrors of war, a settling down and getting back to the sane pursuits of industry, quietude of heart and mind, to live in safe seclusion away from the covetousness of the invader," the statement reads.

"Can we of the Legion who were their comrades in arms not ask the nations to pause and see what they are doing? Preparedness in a larger sense means a temptation to use that which is being prepared to fight. The wounds of the last titanic trouble are still gaping open; the life blood of the nations is still pouring out because of too much preparedness for battle.

"I propose to the world preparedness for peace—a coming together in a great world conference for the limitation of airplanes for war instead of war to destruction. I challenge the right of any nation to prepare any instrument of destruction and claim the name of defender of world peace. Peace will come when the people of the world will to have peace and express their will in solemn declaration and covenant sealed with honor.

"America is ready to lead the way to secure peace in the air and she has gone far by example to make war impossible on land and sea."

DRAWING CLOSER TO LEGION

Public Is More Interested in Members of Organization, Commander Owsley Believes.

The American public is drawing closer to the American Legion in the opinion of Alvin Owsley, Legion national commander, who has recently completed a speaking tour which carried him into eight states, Cuba and Panama.

"I believe the people are more interested in the question of disabled veterans obtaining ample hospitals and sanatoriums for the sick and wounded than they ever were before," he said. "They are beginning to understand that the first duty of the United States is to care for these defenders."

Commander Owsley said that the stand of the Legion for exclusion of immigrants and in opposition to those who preach radical doctrines had found immediate response.

Other Legion policies which were met with favor by the public, he said, were the stand for a universal draft act, under which capital and labor and all the resources of America would be called for national defense; support of the action of the French and Belgian troops in occupying the Ruhr, and war on profiteers.

Declaring that the Legion members are rising to responsible positions in the state and nation, Commander Owsley pointed out that three governors, four lieutenant-governors, four United States senators and more than thirty members of the lower house in the congress are members of the Legion.

Subtle Taunt.

Wife (reading newspaper)—American soldiers brought back from Germany beer steins, in the bottoms of which are music boxes which make noises like birds! Wonder what kind of birds?

Veteran Hubby (dryly, very dryly)—Mocking birds.—The American Legion Weekly.