American Traveler Says Diaz is Trouble Maker in Central America

MERCHANTS who have recently returned from Central America have brought to New York news and views of the recent trouble between Guatemala and Mexico, with Zelaya of Nicaragua more or less in the tangle, which put an altogether new face on the matter. One thing stands out sharply in the talk of some of these merchants, namely, they are disposed to blame President Diaz of Mexico for the outbreak.

Diaz is represented as a troublemaker and a very wily and unscrupulous intriguer, and also as the real backer of Zelaya in his scheme of uniting the Central America states by the simple cement of gunpowder. His motive is asserted to be jealousy of Guatemala, the most orderly, rich and progressive state of the little republics, and fear that it will attract too much foreign capital away from Mexico. The policy of Diaz is declared to be to support any man in Central America who will be a disturber and to keep all Central America in as unsettled and disorderly a state as possible, so that all the capital which can be attracted to the country south of the United States will flow into the developing but yet not fully developed mining states of Mexico.

John M. Brewster of the West Coast rubber company, which owns rubber forests on the Pacific shore of Guatemala, has traveled extensively in Central America and is one of the returned merchants who hold this view. He is an admirer of Estrada Cabrera, president of Guatemala.

"Zelaya, backed by President Diaz of Mexico, has already done a great deal of harm," he said to a Sun reporter. "He will do more. The present attitude among the republics toward him is one of uneasiness and fear.

"So much is this so that Costa Rica, in spite of the well-known tendency of the Central Americans to disintegrate into smaller states, desires to consolidate with Panama to the south in order to get under the wing of the United States and obtain that protection against the menacing apparition of Zelaya and Diaz in the north.

"Diaz is not doing this out of pure devilry by any means. He is looking for all the capital he can get to complete the development of the mining states in the north of Mexico and to undertake other great works of development in the southern states, still in a very primitive condition.

"He has become alarmed at seeing Guatemala become under Estrada Cabrera's administration orderly, prosperous and every year flourishing more and more under the stream of money from abroad which the president's guarantee of safety and order is bringing in. That money Mexico could use very well, and if unrest and revolution once again walked abroad through the rubber bush of Guatemala, to Mexico that beneficent stream would be directed.

"Fortune offered a firebrand to Diaz. Zelaya springs up from the thinly populated plains of Nicaragua and promises to throw the whole peninsula south of Mexico into confusion. What has happened and what will happen is the result of that combination and the resistance to it of the present forces of order and the status quo in Central America headed by Estrada Cabrera.

"Another motive of Diaz's espousal of Zelaya's cause is that Chiapas and Tobasco, the Mexican states which border on Guatemala, were in Spanish times and until recently under the same government as Guatemala, and by tradition, racial affiliation and common interests the inhabitants of Chiapas, Tobasco, Campeche and Yucatan, being all farmers, have today more interests in common with the Republic of Guatemala, whose wealth comes from agricultural pursuits, than with the mining states, which have today the predominating influence in the affairs of the Republic of Mexico.

"When riding through these states last December I found among the Indian natives much dissatisfaction with the Mexican rule, as they expressed a strong feeling that they were heavily taxed but got little from the government, which is spending its money in the development and beautifying of the northern cities.

"Between Tepachula and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec the Mexican government quarters large garrisons, out of all proportion to the number of inhabitants, if these are contented.

"Among many of those best informed on both sides of the border, there is a strong feeling that with a weaker man than Diaz as president of Mexico and a strong stable government in Guatemala, there would be an overwhelming sentiment for a larger republic, which would include the Mexican territory below the isthmus and the republic of Guatemala.

"On the other hand, Zelaya is working purely for his personal self-aggrandisement, and today the only person strong enough to stand in his way to the accomplishment of his ambition is Estrada Cabrera, who is ambitious to develop the prosperity of his country and give it a stable government; therefore, by appearing to advocate a Greater Central America, Diaz gives a moral support to Zelaya which enables him to foment and aid revolutionists in the neighboring countries.

"I reached Guatemala City early in April. The republic and particularly the capital were, while apparently at peace, much excited over the outcome of the struggle between Nicaragua on the one hand and Honduras and Salvador on the other, as it was felt that Zelaya's success would mean the rushing of troops to the Guatemalan frontier in order to be prepared for any aggressive steps which he might take.

"The American charge d-affaires, Philip M. Brown, had gone to Honduras and was following the course of the fighting across that country until he reached Amapala. Soon after Bonilla left the country an organized resistance to the Nicaraguans ceased.

"Then, as the remaining combatants were almost exhausted, Mr. Brown saw his opportunity and by hard work succeeded in framing up the treaty of Amapala, in which Salvador and Nicaragua signed articles of peace and agreed to submit all future questions to the joint arbitration of Mexico and the United States. The cause of Dr. Alfaro, a revolutionary leader in Salvador, had already been taken up by Zelaya, who is understood to have promised him money and men when Dr. Alfaro was prepared to rise. But after the treaty had been signed it was believed that peace, for a time at least, had been secured in Central America and much relief was felt in Guatemala.

"During this period I made many trips into the interior and found that the general desire of all with whom I came in contact was that political questions should be dropped and that they should be allowed to devote their energies to the development of their estates, but in every Central American capital there is the revolutionista element, looking for a chance to hold office in order to procure the means of easy and abundant livelihood.

"Then things happened. Rumors blew thick and fast. There was a cabal of 200 Guatemalans who had sworn to kill the president and overturn the government. The president was aware that something was up, but did not feel that he could take any definite steps until some overt act was committed.

"The attempt on the president's life of April 29 then came. A mine was exploded under his horses and the president had a very narrow escape. Stringent measures were taken to unravel this plot and to apprehend the conspirators, with the result that something like 100 arrests were made within the few days following the crime. Of these, all were released except sixteen, who were placed on trial for being parties to this attempt at assassination.

"Quite a number of those arrested bore names of prominent families of Guatemala. But this is not to be wondered at because Estrada Cabrera, just as Diaz, springs from the people rather than from the aristocracy. It was through personal privation that he was able to gain the education which made him a successful lawyer in Quezaltenango and pushed him through the legislative body to the office of vice president, from which, on the assassination of Reina Barrios, he leaped to the office of president.

"There is no use of going into the details of the plot to assassinate Estrada Cabrera. It is positively certain that Rodil, Dr. Blanco and the two Echeverria brothers purchased the firing batteries, rented the house near the American legation and laid the mine, which, when the president drove over it, they exploded. Of the sixteen persons who were arrested, I positively know from overwhelming evidence that many were more or less mixed up in the manufacture of the bombs, etc.

"It was an exciting time to be in Guatemala City, I can tell you. Immediately after the explosion, Rodil, the Echeverria brothers and Blanco disappeared and nothing was heard from them for a space of over two weeks. Then a discharged servant went to the chief of police and stated that these four men had found refuge with her former mistress.

"Soldiers were ordered to assault the house. Revolver shots killed two before a breach was made. Then the four men were found, suicides, each with a significant hole in his right temple.

"The state of affairs can be imagined from this incident. A few doors from where I was living, in the Callejon de Luna, one of the handsome streets of the town, a squad of soldiers appeared before a gentleman's house and a prominent officer in charge told the owner that he had a warrant of search for the house. The owner was apparently not connected with the revolution.

"In this country an innocent man would say to an official armed with a regular order of search, 'Come in. The house is at your disposal.' What does this hysterical Spanish-American do but lose his head entirely and begin to scream at the top of his voice. Before he was through he had whipped out a revolver from an inside pocket and shot the official through the heart.

"He made his escape through the patio behind his house into the room of an American lady, a Mrs. Bellows, who was living with her son in the house whose patio abutted on his. The soldiers got in there a few minutes later. He refused to come out and surrender until some seven or eight shots were exchanged. When calling at the house I was shown the little holes in the plaster made by the rifle balls.

"But Estrada Cabrera was as moderate and as just as any man could be under the circumstances. The women relatives of some of the prisoners went in a body to see him and ask for clemency. He replied that when his courts had decided on the cases it would be time for him to act. Still, although he knew that none present wished him well, they could rest confident that the prisoners would receive all the consideration consistent with justice.

"But all this trouble in the capital was apparently too great an opportunity for Mexico to resist. It was then that General Barillas, a relative of Estrada Cabrera's predecessor and an enemy of his, was assassinated in Mexico City. Who assassinated him I don't know. I do know that General Limea and Commandante Bone did not do it.

"They were among Estrada Cabrera's right hand men and their loss would cripple him badly. Mexico demanded them. Estrada Cabrera is too wise a man to have a man assassinated, to take him at the value Mexico puts on him, at a time when it would make a convenient pretext for war. Mexico demanded the two men and the Mexican minister, Gamboa, in order to press matters as much as possible, delivered an ultimatum to the Guatemalan government.

"It was a very tense moment in the history of Guatemala. Any other man but Estrada Cabrera would have made a false step somewhere and lost the game right there. There was sedition in the capital. Nicaraguan troops under the Pacificator Zelaya—the name has an ironic ring—at the frontier on the Honduran side, and Zelaya was giving every encouragement to a revolutionary movement which should enter the republic from that state.

"At the same time he was giving both moral and financial support to Dr. Alfaro, who was endeavoring to overthrow President Figueroa of Salvador and attack Guatemala from that side. All this after the treaty of Amapala.

"And from the Mexican frontier came news of the massing of a Mexican army and a possible declaration of war, together with the known fact that Mexico was, as it has repeatedly done before, permitting the revolutionists to organize in and around Tapachula. It was only a year ago that Colonel Perez of Guatemala was allowed to make his headquarters at Tapachula and openly recuit natives, whom he supplied with the Remington rifles and whom he afterward led in an armed attack on Guatemala.

"Well, Estrada Cabrera was up and doing. It looked as if they would overwhelm him in another week. But he made up his mind that most of the Zelaya and Diaz show against him was bluff. The bluff he would call and the rest of it he would fight.

"All of Guatemala was the scene of warlike preparations. The capital presented the appearance of an armed camp. New levies were being hurried into the city to be drilled into shape. Soldiers were being sent to both the Mexican and Honduras frontiers.

"I was on the Mexican frontier and saw many troops posted at strategic points and the river crossings covered with batteries of artillery trained by European officers. It was understood that some 8,000 or 10,000 troops were in the field.

"Well, Mexico backed down. There was no declaration of war. Whether this was because there was no cause which would stand examination by the powers or that it looked as if Guatemala could put up too nasty a fight altogether, no one knows. There was certainly no other reason.

"Honduras elected a provisional president. And with the bush along the borders once more emptied of bayonets Estrada Cabrera was once more on top, again master of a situation which had threatened to engulf him in ruin.

"Oddly enough, during this period of intense excitement business went on in Guatemala City as usual and there was not a day in which foreigners and their wives did not feel at perfect safety to go about the streets. In many country towns through which I passed there was not even knowledge of any of the disturbances which were occurring in the capital, as the Indians, contentedly going about their business, have very little interest in any happenings outside their own community.

"Zelaya, as a force for good in Central America, is a hopeless proposition. Within a month of the ratification of the treaty of Amapala, which bound him to keep the peace, he sent one of his gunboats with 600 bravos to the port of Acajutla, Salvador, where they landed and captured a train and attacked the city of Sonsonate with no other pretext except the hope that the followers of Dr. Alfaro would rise in revolution against the established government.

"This rising did not take place and so in true buccaneering fashion they looted the bank, taking some $75,000 in coin, and retreating to the port, stole the launches and lighters used by the Pacific Mail Steamship company and sailed back to Corinto.

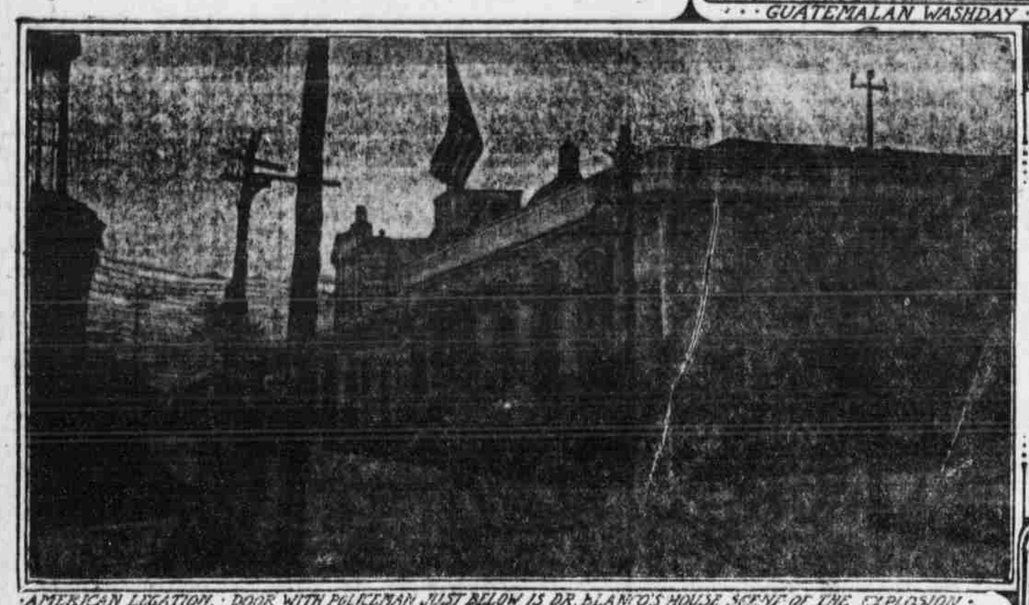
"Although past administrations burdened this country with debt and political agitators both inside and outside its boundaries, have created a condition where one-half of its expenditures are for police and military purposes, this country is naturally very rich. In the last ten years, with a population of less than 1,500,000, the value of its exports has exceeded the imports about $23,000,000 gold in spite of the extremely low prices now paid for coffee.

"Even in the smaller villages throughout Guatemala one finds schools, and in the larger cities, such as the capital, Quezaltamango, Escuintla and others, schools giving a good course in manual training are either established or in course of construction. In the capital there is a good university with post-graduate courses in law, engineering and medicine.

"As for the future of Guatemala and the other Central American republics, I should say that the United States ought to interest itself more in them. Insist that the states desiring peace, such as Guatemala, be left alone and apply to the less prosperous and unsettled states the Santo Domingo plan. And put down the unrest of revolution, the rule of the rifle. That is the key to the prosperity of Central America."

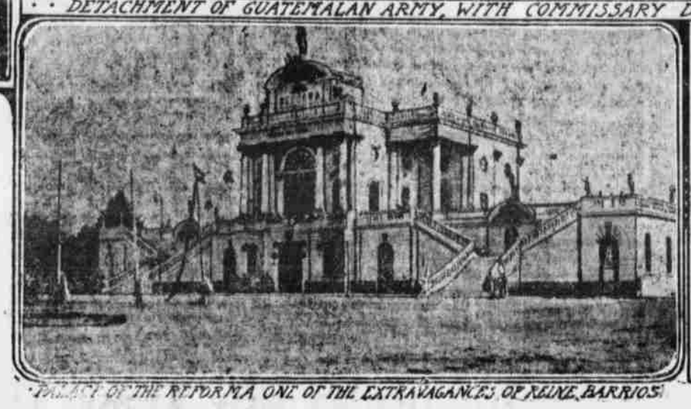
GUATEMALAN WASHDAY

A CORNER OF AN AMERICAN HOME IN GUATEMALA CITY



AMERICAN LEGATION. DOOR WITH POLICEMAN JUST BELOW IS DR. BLANCO'S HOUSE, SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION

DETACHMENT OF GUATEMALAN ARMY, WITH COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT



PALACE OF THE REFORMA ONE OF THE EXTRAVAGANCES OF REINE BARRIOS

GUATEMALAN FREIGHT LINE

No Longer Wield Power

(Continued from Page One.)

operations would afford relief, but the American Indian shrinks from the knife for surgical purposes applied. And so they simply die.

The cemeteries are fast receiving more inmates. Caskets made from dry goods boxes or the like are either placed a couple of feet under the sod or are left upon the surface of the earth to the mercy of the winds and rains.

Efforts to induce the Indian to do real work have not yet been successful. They have inherited just enough of the heartless and cruel instincts of their forefathers to enjoy burning the dumb brutes with branding irons, and at this they will work like tigers. But efforts to induce them to enlist as hard-working tillers of the soil have been practically fruitless. Here and there you will find a patch of corn, but the weeds which outstrip the maze indicate the field's red skin ownership. The federal government provides each Indian with a quarter section of land, a team of fine mares, weighing not less than 1,050 pounds, a substantially built lumber wagon, a harness, plow and harrow. But these tools, which might ring wealth from the ground for an industrious white man, do little more than rust away under the red man's supervision.

Children of the reds attend school under the whip. All of them are required to respond in person to the school bell's ring, and little school houses are stationed at convenient points over the reservation. In the school houses live the teachers. For those children who fail to attend, Indian policemen are dispatched. Teachers find that most of the young reds, even though they have been able for years to speak English, will for months pretend that they know not a word other than their native tongue. Most of the older youths are sent away to college, many of them to Carlisle, but upon their return they quickly drift back into the unclean and shiftless methods of their fathers, preferring to return to the old life rather than accept the ridicule that is turned upon new innovations in ways of living. For there is nothing so effective upon an Indian as a laugh. It cuts him to the quick.

The Rosebud Sioux are just now receiving monthly payments in cash as a part of their treatment with the government by virtue of which they ceded to the government the Gregory county portion, or 416,000 acres, of their reservation lands, three years ago. Next summer they will receive as a tribe $6,000,000 for the Tripp county portion, about 1,000,000 acres, of their reservation, which is soon to be thrown open to the white man's settlement. With Gregory county and Tripp county both gone, the Indian of the Rosebud Sioux will be crowded still further to the westward into what is popularly termed Meyer county, that last remaining tract, consisting of a couple of millions of acres. And it is forecasted that the white man, crowding even further and further upon the heels of the native Americans, will within a few more years ask the Sioux to cede over for a cash consideration the Meyer county portion of their reservation.

Thus the white settler, ambitious to till the soil and coax from its recesses corn and wheat with which to feed the world, is gradually closing upon the last remaining territory set apart for the nation's red-skinned wards. And, in a way, this closing out tends to mark the beginning of the end of the red race in America forever; for, while the Indians are just about "holding their own" today in the matter of numbers, the time is close at hand when the race will rapidly be trimmed down by disease and fall away.

He Got Two

Mother—Harold, did you get a good behavior card at Sunday school today?

Small Harold—Yes, ma'am; I got two.

Mother—How did that happen?

Small Harold—The stingy teacher didn't give me any, so I took the money you gave me for the heathen and bought a couple from the other boys.

WORMS

"I had for years suffered from what medical men called Dyspepsia and Catarrh of the Stomach. In August I purchased a box of Cascarets and was surprised to find that I "had 'em"—yes—a wiggling, squirming mass left me. Judge our doctor's surprise when I showed him thirty feet, and in another day the remainder; about the same length of a tapeworm that had been sapping my vitality for years. I have enjoyed the best of health ever since. I trust this testimonial will appeal to other sufferers."

Chas. Blackstock, 1319 Divinity Place, West Philadelphia, Pa.

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