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## Theodore Roosevelt Denounces Wilson's Disgraceful Mexican Policy of Watchful Waiting

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, in an article in the current number of the "Metropolitan," exposes the disgraceful policy of the Wilson administration in Mexico. He shows how arms and ammunition were allowed to be imported into Mexico and delivered openly through a port of entry to the warring factions, and that those same factions have employed those arms and ammunition to kill American women and children and American soldiers.

He quotes a letter from a railroad engineer in Naco, Arizona, dated January 19, 1915, in which the engineer states that five persons were killed and forty-seven were wounded on the American side, by stray shots from Mexico. He also quotes the El Paso "Morning Times" of December 20, 1914, a Democratic paper supporting President Wilson, as authority for a statement that fully fifty persons, including American soldiers, were wounded. He also quotes an authority, no less than a district attorney of New Mexico, as writing that the exact number of killed and wounded was 57 and that some of the men shot included American soldiers walking their beat as sentries.

The Administration does not dispute these facts.

When Vera Cruz was taken possession of by the Wilson administration, twenty sailors and soldiers were killed in the streets by the Mexicans who were defending their city. The American press was filled with reports of the sadness exhibited by President Wilson at the time of their burial. Why should not President Wilson show some feeling for those who have been victims of his dilly dallying policy in the southern republic?

The article referred to is filled with a record of undisputed happenings in Mexico, a tenth part of which should fill our people with horror and cause them just to condemn any administration that tolerated such a condition of affairs.

We quote Mr. Roosevelt as follows: Recently, President Wilson has spoken on the subject of Mexico in a speech at Indianapolis. At the beginning of his speech he says: "I got very tired staying at Washington saying sweet things. I wanted to come out and get in touch with you once more and say what I really thought." Disregarding the implication as to his own past sincerity contained in this statement, we have a right to take the speech as expressing his deliberate conviction and purpose. He says that he possesses "a reckless enthusiasm for human liberty," and then speaks of his own policy of "watchful waiting in Mexico." Apparently, in his mind, "watchful waiting" is a species of "reckless enthusiasm." He asserts that the people of Mexico have a right to do anything they please about their business, saying, "It is none of my business; it is none of your business how long they take in determining it. It is none of my business and it is none of yours how they go about the business. Haven't the European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilled as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs? Shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak?"

This is the kind of language that can be used about Mexico with sincerity only if it is also to be applied to Dahomey and to outrages like those of the French Commune. It cannot in the long run be accepted by any great state which is both strong and civilized nor by any statesman with a serious purpose to better mankind. In point of public morality it is fundamentally as evil a declaration as has ever been put forth by an American President in treating of foreign affairs; and there is to it the added touch of inefficiency. Moreover, President Wilson's words, bad though they are, have not been borne out by his deed. He has actively interfered in Mexico on behalf of some of the spilling of blood whose right to "spill" blood he exuberantly champions. He has not interfered to punish the bandits and murderers who have killed American men and outraged American women. He has not interfered to protect the honour and the interest of the United States. He has not interfered to protect the lives and the property of any citizen or of the citizens of any other country. But he has interfered to help put into power the very worst among the leaders of the various murderous and thieving groups and factions. President Wilson and Secretary Bryan have refused to run the risk of shedding the blood of any American soldiers to protect American citizens and put a stop to

cry of bread for the starving. The United States has claimed the exclusive right to intervene in Mexican affairs. Will we demand the right and repudiate the obligation?"

"This is the state of affairs to which Mexico has been brought by the practical application of Mr. Bryan's doctrine as to not caring for 'American dollars' (It is American dollars that buy food for the starving. Mr. Bryan!) and of President Wilson's doctrine that we must not interfere or let anyone else interfere to stop 'spilling blood' in Mexico. President Wilson's position meets the enthusiastic approval of the bandits who spill the blood. It meets and it merits the enthusiastic support of the blood-smeared leaders to whom his inaction has given the chance to murder men and outrage women and to let little children starve. But the laughter of little children has been stilled in Mexico. It has been stilled because Messrs. Wilson and Bryan in their handling of the Mexican problem, as in their handling of every other branch of our foreign affairs, have placed this country in the position of shirking its plain duty, of seeking its own ignoble ease beyond everything else, and of declining to protect its own citizens or to fulfill its international obligations as to interfere for the weak and helpless, when rapine and murder stalk in insolent mastery over the land.

This has been a terrible thing for Mexico. It has been a shameful thing for the United States. But if this policy is permanently continued, there will be yet further shame in store for the United States. Sooner or later the war in Europe will come to an end; and then the great armed nations, after a more or less brief interval, will certainly turn their attention to us and to Mexico. We cannot forbid interference with Mexico in the name of the Monroe Doctrine and yet fail to fulfill the obligations imposed on us by common humanity if we maintain that doctrine. Spaniards, Germans, Britishers, Italians, Frenchmen, have all been wronged in Mexico, only less than our own citizens have been wronged—only less than decent and well-behaved Mexicans have been wronged—by the inhuman bandits to whom our government has furnished arms and aid for the perpetration of their crimes. President Wilson in his message has confessedly advocated that we stay unprepared and helpless in the face of military nations. He also advocates that in Mexico we pursue the policy of letting the violent and disorderly elements of the population slowly destroy all the leading men, all the reputable people, and bring destruction by fire and steel, by disease and famine, on the humble men and women and little children; and also on the strangers within their gates. The self-respecting and powerful nations of the world will not permanently permit such a course of action. We will not permanently be permitted to render ourselves impotent in the face of possible aggression and at the same time try to forbid other nations from righting wrongs which we are too weak, too timid or too short-sighted ourselves to right. In the end foreign nations will assuredly take issue with the Wilson-Bryan theory, which is that America can adopt as her permanent policy the shirking of national duty which we have shirked. Either we shall have to abandon the Monroe Doctrine and let other nations restore order in Mexico, and then deprive us of any right to speak in behalf of any people of the Western Hemisphere, or else we must in good faith ourselves undertake the task and bring peace and order and prosperity to Mexico, as by our wise interference it was brought to Cuba.

In the last four years the suffering in Mexico has been the aggregate far surpassed the suffering in Belgium during the last six months. Dark deeds have been done in Belgium, but they have not been as dark as the fiendish atrocities perpetrated in Mexico. For these Mexican atrocities the United States government must shoulder a very heavy load of responsibility, thanks chiefly to President Wilson's Administration.—"The Navy."

"The country should clearly understand the awful misery that has been brought upon Mexico by President Wilson's policy. It is extraordinary that we do not realize that, unless to our own selfishness and heedlessness, thanks to the dishonorable timidity of the Administration, the conditions of life in Mexico are worse at this moment than the conditions of life in the regions over which the contending armies in Europe have fought. We sent Christmas ships abroad to the war-stricken countries of Europe. This was well; but why did we neglect Mexico, where our own responsibility is so heavy? At that very time a pathetic appeal had been issued by a company of Mexican near the international boundary line, addressed 'To the American People and Their Exalted Authorities.' It was a plea for work for the men and bread for the women and children. Conditions like those which in Europe have shocked the civilized world have existed here right against our own borders for four years, unconsidered by us. As the wife of one of our consul-generals has said: 'Mexico is peopled with widows and famine is in the land. One sees it daily, in emaciated forms, shrunken cheeks, tightly drawn skin and burning eyes. It is in the faces of women, old men and little children. Many have died on American soil during the past year, ostensibly from obscure disease, but actually from starvation, and there are hundreds of children who have never had sufficient food in their pitiful little lives. That is the heart-breaking tragedy, in it all—the unsmiling little children who sit silently by the doors of the huts through the long hours of the long days. The sound of laughter and of playing children has been stilled in Mexico. From these people comes a

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