

The Sovereign Rights of Mexico

Mexico Has Forfeited Her Rights and United States Intervention is Necessary if the Munroe Doctrine is to be Upheld.

By W. W. SWANSON.

Absorbed as we are in the world-war which affects our deepest interests and which will determine the character of Western civilization for a century and more to come, the lesser drama that looms up on the horizon of Mexico and the United States must receive some consideration and attention. Not only are the United Kingdom and Canada financially concerned in the matter — Great Britain's investments in Mexico being much more extensive than those of any other Power — but their continental interests in North America are second in importance only to those of the United States. And if the New World is to play that part in freedom and civilization that all enlightened students of world politics have hoped for and expected it is of vital importance that the Mexican problem be squarely faced and solved according to the ideals of humanity and Anglo-Saxon justice.

Mexicans Not a Degenerate Race.

Unfortunately for both Canada and the United States the conception of Mexicans that has found most wide-spread acceptance is that they are a degenerate and semi-barbarous race, ignorant and poverty-stricken, with little or no moral or political character. The American Yellow Press has, in a word, manufactured a wholly abstract Mexican for us, and presented him under the contemptuous term, "Greaser." Such an individual is about as true to life as the Mexican-made "Gringo." The Mexicans are, no doubt, poor after four years and more of civil war; but many of them were rich, educated and refined before their country was rent asunder by civil strife. Their country, as all the world knows, is marvellously endowed with natural resources, and was being rapidly developed by British and American capital before an end was put to the Diaz regime. Although millions of Mexicans remained landless and poor they were in a fair way to achieving as great economic prosperity as exists to-day in the mining camps, let us say, of Colorado. That State and Mexico, indeed, show many points of similarity. In both the capitalistic organization is largely of the "camp" variety, in which the great corporations provide their employees with stores, schools and even churches, controlling the material and spiritual life of the people. In such communities there is bound to be a certain amount of friction and even lawlessness, the companies naturally assuming autocratic powers and the workmen, in turn, setting up violent and lawless standards of their own. Aside from the land problem, which had become acute in Mexico and which accounts for much of the discontent in that unhappy country, the autocratic methods of American and other mine-owners did a good deal to stir up feelings of sullen resentment and protest against their hard lot among the masses of the people.

Moreover, it should be pointed out that the Mexicans are not merely, as some suppose, a nation of ignorant and brutalized peons, composed of half-breeds and Indians, with a scattering of intelligentsia among them. Their capital, the City of Mexico, was, and is, from the architectural point of view one of the finest cities in the New World, and a centre of culture for the whole continent. The Mexican, whether of Spanish or Indian blood, has great gifts and aptitudes; and is, in general, more richly endowed with the artistic and musical temperament than the average Anglo-Saxon. Wherever American and Mexican children have come into contact, under the same conditions, these facts have been established. In addition it has been shown that, on the average, the Mexican boy is superior to the average American child, wherever they have met at school on equal terms, in mathematics and science. In no sense, then, can it be affirmed that the Mexican people are stunted in intellectual stature or devoid of such gifts as will permit them to hold a high place in the family of American nations. The only fair statement of the facts is that up to the present they have never had a fair chance to show what they can do.

The United States in Mexico.

Under present conditions, and in the midst of the chaos that has come upon the people and government of Mexico, the only possible way in which order can be restored and the Mexican people be given a chance to develop their material and spirit-

ual power, is through the intervention of the United States. But there are formidable obstacles in the way.

In the first place the de facto government of Mexico will not tolerate American interference in its affairs; and in the second, there is the attitude of the South American republics to be considered, which is, in general, inimical to the United States. All the Latin-American republics, including Mexico, insist upon a strict interpretation of national sovereignty in its legalistic implications. They affirm that a sovereign State, if it be a truly sovereign one, must have full control of its national policy, both domestic and foreign. The South American republics have always taken that position. They insist that Mexico, during this period of storm and pressure, shall be as free of foreign interference in her domestic affairs as they were themselves in their revolutionary days. They point to the fact that Chili, the Argentine and Brazil are now well governed States, making for the peace and prosperity of America, although each one in turn passed through a period of factional internecine war.

This contention is the natural outcome of Pan-Americanism and the Munroe Doctrine. The United States has, for almost one hundred years, refused European Powers the right to intervene in the domestic or foreign affairs of American States, while the Republic itself has done little or nothing to further good government in Latin America. The full result of this policy is now being realized for the first time by the American people.

What is Involved in Sovereignty.

If legal sovereignty be strictly interpreted, and if it be admitted that a sovereign nation is one that has complete control of its own affairs, then Mexico can, in a certain sense, lay claim to being a truly sovereign State. Until recently she has been free from foreign interference of any kind. Aside from the seizure of Vera Cruz, which was quickly evacuated, and the incursion of American troops under General Pershing, her territory has not been violated nor her internal affairs interfered with by any outside Power. And President Wilson, by his deliberate policy of non-intervention, encouraged the Mexican people to believe that they still preserved the rights of a sovereign State. But this conception was quite unreal, and never harmonized with the facts. A sovereign State, before it can be recognized as such, must show that it has the power to maintain peace at home and the ability to fulfil its international obligations. For years past Mexico has not been able to guarantee to the citizens of foreign Powers either adequate protection of life or of property. Spaniards, Englishmen and Americans alike have been massacred, and their property confiscated. If Mexico, then, under these conditions is still to be regarded as a sovereign State, inviolate and under no danger of foreign intervention, it must

be admitted that foreign Powers with much greater resources and military ability, shall likewise be free to run amuck without being called to account for their deeds by any of the nations suffering at their hands. This theory is plainly untenable. Mexico and the other lesser States must respond to the enlightened opinion of the world lest a much greater misfortune come upon us.

South America's Attitude.

As has been said President Wilson is largely to blame for the present unfortunate state of affairs. He should either have recognized Huerta, and thus aided the strongest Mexican in sight to establish stable government, or he should have intervened with American military power. The United States cannot expect the Great Powers to permit it to reap all the advantages of the Munroe Doctrine without assuming obligations and responsibilities as well. If, at the close of the present European war, order shall not have been restored in Mexico, and the subjects of European States still suffer at the hands of Mexican bandits, the Munroe Doctrine will become another "scrap of paper." The United States, therefore, is bound to intervene to prevent such a development of the situation, even if it were not compelled to do so for humanity's sake.

The real stumbling-block in the way of the United States is, however, the attitude of the South American republics toward this question. They will bitterly resent any overt action on the part of the United States. In recent years they have been very restive under the American interpretation of the Munroe Doctrine. They feel that it impairs their dignity, and menaces their sovereign status. Already we see that they have attempted to take joint action in this Mexican affair, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that they may yet form a League of Defence against what they regard as the illegitimate encroachment upon the sovereign powers of a Latin-American republic.

There is grave danger, indeed, that all the well-laid plans, and all the hard work involved in the attempt to better Pan-American relations in recent years, may be destroyed at a blow. It is altogether likely that the markets appropriated in South America by the United States, since the outbreak of the European war, will be lost with the opening of hostilities against Mexico. But if the American nation can still cherish its old ideals of enlightenment and freedom it will not count the material costs involved in such a struggle.

The Regeneration of Mexico.

Finally, the United States is obliged to aid in the rehabilitation of Mexico, not only because Mexican sovereignty has not been justified by its fruits, but because that State has neither the economic nor the military and moral resources available to undertake that work itself. And the Mexicans are worth saving as a cultural force, a rich and various force, in the life of this continent. The American nation owes a duty to itself, to Mexico, and to humanity at large to aid in this work of recuperation. American troops, moreover, should remain on Mexican soil until life and property are respected and the frontiers adequately policed and protected. The United States cannot shirk these responsibilities without stultifying itself in the eyes of the world.

Western Crop Prospects

Crop conditions in the West are generally good according to authoritative reports from that section of the country. The Manitoba Free Press report on Tuesday last reported abundance of moisture everywhere, and practically no damage from cutworms, gophers, weeds or frost. Growth has been slow, but the crop is well rooted and sturdy, and over a week of time has been made up since the last report, a month ago. For the purpose of this report queries were sent to 175 points and 142 were heard from.

The usual fortnightly report of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, issued on June 26, stated that "all crops are making great headway and are in a healthy and sturdy condition. Wheat is from nine to twelve inches high, oats from five to eight and barley from three to six inches.

"The weather during the past two weeks has been cool and showery, and warmer weather is wanted. Plenty of moisture is assured for the ground is practically soaked. Slight damage has been noticed owing to cutworms and in the Indian Head district

the wheat crop is slightly browned, presumably by frost.

"The constant wet weather has retarded the ploughing of summer fallows somewhat, but it is estimated that at least thirty per cent is now ploughed.

"The uncertainty of binder twine supply is causing some uneasiness among farmers."

The estimated acreage under crop follows:

District.	Wheat.	Oats	Barley
Southeastern.. . . .	775,986	378,543	5,319
Reg-Weyburn	978,449	411,000	31,049
S. Central.	1,055,117	387,060	18,364
S. Western	210,799	78,983	3,487
East Central.. . . .	475,121	704,782	80,320
Central.	1,449,141	480,345	35,575
West Central	497,084	168,485	9,801
Northeastern	263,271	222,861	28,639
Northwestern.	355,476	193,151	20,462
Prov. 1916.	6,058,441	3,025,210	281,809
Prov. 1915.	6,884,874	2,845,949	272,299