



These Mexican burros, beasts of burden that carry mezcal to the factories, do not look as though they had any further appetite for war.



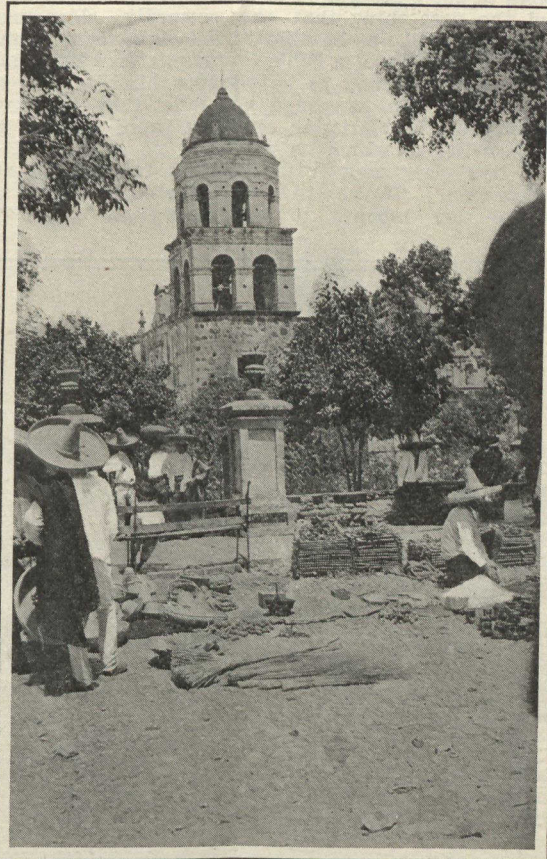
As picturesque a water-girl as was ever mentioned in the Bible.

PRESIDENT WILSON has been censured by some long-distance, armchair critics, because he did not long ago do as Roosevelt would have done—rush in and settle Mexico by force of arms. The Peace Conference has finished its work. The war "short of war" is over. Huerta has ceased from troubling. Mexico is to have a provisional president, either a constitutionalist or a neutral. Villa's capture of Zacatecas made it seem almost inevitable that a president approved of by him would be selected according to the known wish of President Wilson. But the Huerta delegates at the Conference insisted upon a neutral. These men are said to represent the very class upon whose behalf mainly a settlement of Mexico is desired by the Federals—the land-holding interests, those whom President Wilson has described as *hidalgos* or overlords.

It is the President's determination that the settlement shall be in the interests of the common people. He says: "My passion is for the submerged eighty-

MEXICO AND ITS PEOPLE

*Character Impressions of the Plain People who, According to President Wilson, are More to be Considered than the *Hidalgos* in the Settlement of Mexican Affairs*



Spanish architecture in the Plaza Compostela at Tepic.

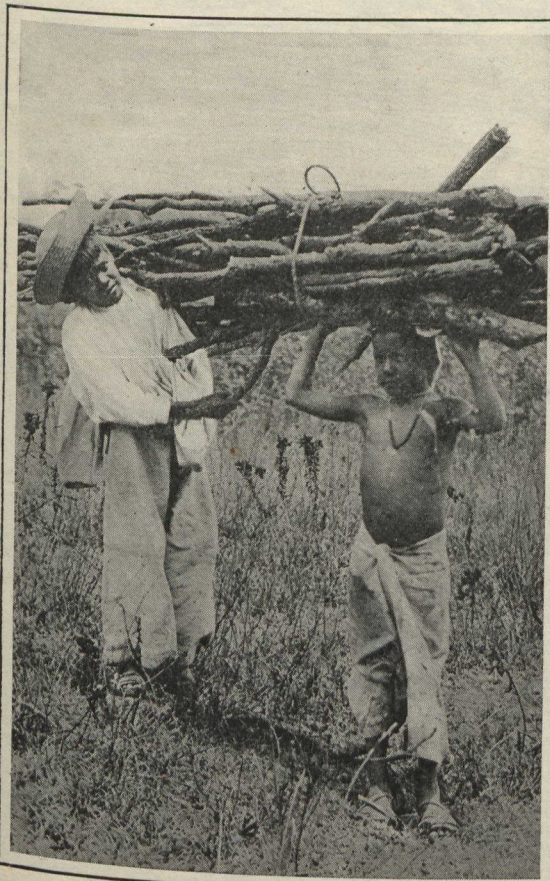


The street vendor of Guadalajara prefers a bread basket to a rifle.

five per cent. of the republic who are now struggling towards liberty."

He said further, in the same interview, as published in the *Saturday Evening Post*: "It is a curious thing that every demand for the establishment of order in Mexico takes into consideration, not order for the benefit of the people of Mexico, the great mass of the population, but order for the benefit of the old-time regime, for the aristocrats, for the vested interests, for the men who are responsible for this very condition of disorder. No one asks for order because order will help the masses of the people to get a portion of their rights and their land; but all demand it so that the great owners of property, the *hidalgos*, the overlords, the men who have exploited that rich country for their own selfish purposes, shall be able to continue their processes undisturbed."

If a settlement in the interests of the plain people and the industrial producers of Mexico can be finally accomplished, the critics of the Wilson administration will probably conclude that pacific methods and "war short of war" are better than gunpowder, dynamite and fire. A country, which was intended by nature to contribute to the world's wealth without impoverishing the people has been permitted to exploit its resources in order to bloat the big interests. Curbing the predatory organizations in Mexico is as much an essential part of the Wilson policy as in the United States.



These young wood-carriers found by experience that the big boy's shoulder is about the same height as the little fellow's head.



These phantomish-looking people, with the inverted toadstool hats, are not priests, but peons who work for next to nothing on the plantations.