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EDITORIAL

A Glorious Victory.

Huerta's resignation was not needed to justify the policy of watchful waiting. No good reason for any other policy at any time existed. But his hold on office prolonged conditions in Mexico, which have been held up to the American people by designing interests as provocation for war. Now that he has gone peace in Mexico can not be far off, and there is ground for hope that when order has been established it will not be the kind that prevailed in Warsaw. In passing, Huerta honored President Wilson with his abuse. And, in spite of the Vera Cruz affair, to President Wilson belongs the glory of having accomplished more for Mexico and for honest foreign interests in Mexico, through some months of patience than could have been obtained through a bloody conquest. It is something new in the history, of the world. Theorists have long claimed that aggressive warfare is not the most effective way to secure a righteous object. A practical demonstration of the correctness of this theory has now been furnished. There will probably occur perplexing situations in the future for which hotheads will urge war as the solution. But the peaceful ending of the Mexican incident will always serve as a convincing illustration of the needlessness of an aggressive policy. The American people may well be proud of this achievement.

S. D.



Watchful Waiting Wins.

Seldom has a specific state policy been crowned with such complete success as has the President's Mexican policy. So exalted were his ideals, and so far-flung his appeals to the human conscience, that many who sympathized with his purpose questioned his judgment, and few of his most ardent admirers expected to see such signal success. To have failed would have cost him the respect of no reasonable person, for all accorded him honesty of purpose; but to succeed, and succeed in such measure, is to raise international relations to a new plane.

A year and a half ago our attention was arrested by internecine strife in a "savage" nation on our southern border. "Bandits," "guerillas," and "adventurers" sprang up on every hand. Every American who had a dollar invested in Mexico demanded that we go in and restore order. Many would have us stay there to keep order. And not a few gloated over the Jingo maps showing the United States extended to the Panama Canal. The soldiers and sailors were eager to go, and the chauvinistic patriots clamored for action. It would have been a popular war. There was every justification that underlay any foreign war. But a firm hand was on the helm; and despite the abuse of the Jingo press, and the nagging of the Little Congressmen, he steered serenely on. Mr. Wilson's handling of Congress in a way to secure constructive legislation marks him as a clever politician; his management of the Mexican problem proclaims him a great statesman.



Americans can congratulate themselves on the fact that their country has vindicated itself in the eyes of the world; but in a deeper sense they can rejoice in the thought that their country has opened the way for a sorely stricken neighbor to find justice. Had we recognized General Huerta's government, and aided him in raising money for war purposes there might have been temporary peace; but it would have been the peace of an armed camp, to be broken by the next bloody-minded adventurer, or by a new generation of groaning peons. Justice was absent from every department of government, and from every phase of society. Permanent peace was impossible. Now we see the head of that government a fugitive from his own country, seeking asylum abroad where, if report and circumstantial evidence be trusted, a fortune awaits him. At no time during his exercise of authority did he betray evidence of capacity or inclination to do aught but serve the parasitical oligarchy that has so long ridden on the backs of the peons. He had the dogged determination of the soldier, and might have repeated, had he been permitted to make terms with foreign capital, the regime of Diaz; but President Wilson stood in his way.



People are asking, What next? After Huerta, what? To begin with, too much should not be expected. When we consider the amount of injustice in our country, despite fifty years of internal peace, it is unreasonable to expect ideal conditions to follow immediately the incoming govern-

ment in Mexico. Liberty is not a thing made to order. It cannot be imposed upon a people from without. It must grow. Not until a people has learned to know its rights, and to exercise the self-restraint necessary to stop at those rights can a just government be established. General Carranza may or may not be the man of the hour; but the spirit back of him gives hope of success. Madero had the right impulse, but he lacked the strength to withstand the influence of vested interests. Animated by high ideals in the field, he was helpless when confronted with the beneficiaries of privilege in Mexico City. The Constitutionals hope to avoid Madero's mistake by confiscation, repudiation, and execution. This is the crucial test. It remains to be seen how far they will be permitted to go in completing the revolution before outside interference takes place. Moderation may well be counselled by our government, but no exercise of force should be used to deprive the people of their triumph. Mexico must be restored to the Mexicans.

S. C.



Inconsistent Land Grabbers.

Advocates of wholesale land grabbing will be the ones to utter the loudest protests against proposed confiscation of the big estates in Mexico. Hearst, Taft, Otis and others, who want to make the Panama Canal the southern boundary of the United States, do not relish the idea of having their own logic applied by the new Mexican government to their haciendas. It is all right, say these reactionaries, to grab land that does not belong to us, but all wrong to restore land to the people who have a natural right to its use. But it is not reasonable to look for consistency in reactionaries.

S. D.



The Extent of Land Monopoly.

The exact extent of land monopoly in the United States has not been officially determined. While the census of 1910 showed the extent of ownership and tenantry of farms, it went no further. Whatever may have been the reason for this limitation, its effect has been to shut off from the people official information regarding concentration of land ownership. But there is much reliable information on this matter which the census does not give. A year ago the Department of Agriculture issued a report showing only twenty-seven per cent of the tillable land of the country to be in use. This year a report issued by Commissioner Davies of the federal Bureau of Corporations shows that of the timber lands of the United States 105,600,000 acres are owned by 1,694 holders. That is, one-