

The Mexican people also feel that in their dealings with us as individuals their finer sensibilities have been studiously insulted. The American people have never learned that courteous and urbane treatment counted for more with them than any other consideration, and that our lack of policy in this regard was largely the foundation of their prejudice. The lesson we failed to learn in the Philippines, though we had ample opportunity, was that the polite latin races were outraged by the brusque and aggressive conduct of the Anglo-Saxons.

Generally speaking, American criticism of the Mexican people centers around his ignorance, lack of thrift and improvidence. The Mexicans of to-day are a product of the cruel masters, who held them under the bondage of ignorance, serfdom and poverty ever since the days of the Conquest. For four long and grueling centuries the peon or laboring class has been ruled by three dominant factors from which they could find no avenue of escape, the church, the government and the wealthy landowners, not one of which has ever shown a willingness to advance the material interests of the common people along the lines of education or higher civilization. "Amuse the Indian but keep him ignorant and poor", has always been the slogan of the Mexican leaders toward the peon or laboring class.

From 1521 until the recognition of Mexican Independence by Spain, the history of Spanish America shows that "New Spain" was simply a monopoly that was worked for the king and privileged classes. After three centuries of smoldering discontent a revolution broke out, which led to the establishment of the Mexican Republic, with a change of masters but without a change of policy in the treatment of the peon class.

With the exception of Francisco Madero, no Mexican president has ever taken the interest of the laboring class to heart, although they represent nine tenth of the population. Though wealthy and a born aristocrat in 1911, Madero started a movement which would have revolutionized the sociological condition of the Mexican people, had it not been for that brutal monster Huerta, who, under the pretence of friendly protection, had him cruelly assassinated, and there with the brazen effrontery of a buccaneer asked President Wilson to recognize him as Madero's successor.

It is true that our Spanish-American population of the border States has not kept pace with the ambitious and hard driving Anglo-Saxons with whom they have lived since the cession of their territory in 1848. In their defense we must acknowledge that practically no encouragement or assistance has ever been rendered them by the national government, state or community in which they live up to the present time, while

The Mexican people also feel that in their dealings with us as individuals their responsibilities have been seriously neglected. The American people have never learned that courteous and urban treatment counted for more with them than any other consideration, and that our lack of policy in this regard was largely the foundation of their prejudice. The lesson we failed to learn in the Philippines, though we had ample opportunity, was that the polite Latin races were outraged by the crude and aggressive conduct of the Anglo-Saxons.

Generally speaking, American criticism of the Mexican people centers around his ignorance, lack of thrift and improvidence. The Mexicans of to-day are a product of the social changes, who held them under the bondage of ignorance, serfdom and poverty ever since the days of the Conquest. For their long and grueling centuries the poor or laboring class has been ruled by three dominant factors from which they could find no avenue of escape, the church, the government and the wealthy landowners, not one of which has ever shown a willingness to advance the material interests of the common people along the lines of education or higher civilization. "Always the Indian put keep him ignorant and poor", has always been the slogan of the Mexican leaders toward the poor or laboring class.

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on the other hand they have always been ignored, treated as aliens, and often shown less consideration than the Indians, or even the negro since his emancipation.

So little consideration has been shown them as individuals, that even to-day though native born, few regard themselves as citizens of the United States, as was shown during the draft of the recent World's War. Thousands of the Mexican boys in the border states failed to return their questionnaires and when called to account by the local authorities frankly stated that they did not return them because they were not considered American citizens. Later thousands of them were sent to France where they rendered an excellent account of themselves in the trenches and on the fighting line -- many of them lie among the honored dead on the fields of Flanders and France, while hundreds of others returned home wearing the highest military awards for heroic deeds.

Under the auspices of the International Reform Bureau, and with the financial assistance of Mr. A. A. Hyde of Wichita, Kansas, who has taken a great interest in the welfare and betterment of these people, I went to the Mexican border during the past winter and spring to make an educational, industrial and sociological survey of the Spanish-American population living on our side of the line. My investigation extended from Texas to California and included many of the small and large towns of the four border states.

Although I had served fifteen years on the border, while in active service in the army, was very much surprised to find such a large increase in the Spanish-speaking population of San Antonio, which twenty years ago numbered 20,000, while to-day it numbers 75,000. Owing to the disturbed conditions in Mexico, hard times and poor wages, there has been a constant stream of Mexican immigration into the United States during the past two decades, which has proven a veritable god-send to the people of the Southwest and should be encouraged. Mexicans have largely superseded the negro on the farms, ranches, and in the cotton fields, and are also employed in great numbers on the railroads, in the mines and reduction works.

The largest portion of this population in Texas lives in the towns along the Southern Pacific Railway and all that territory south, especially along the Rio Grande. More than half the population of Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, Eagle Pass, El Paso and many of the small towns in that portion of the State consist of native or foreign born Mexicans. In New Mexico they occupy the valley of the Rio Grande and tributary streams as far north as Taos and the San Juan river while in Arizona and California we find them in the southern parts of those States, clinging to the Mexican border, where they find the climate and conditions more congenial.

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Although Texas was taken over by the American people nearly one hundred years ago, as an independent government or by the Union, we find Spanish almost exclusively spoken among the Mexican people there to-day, whether native born or alien. In some of the border counties petit and grand juries are empaneled which are composed of Spanish-speaking American citizens, who do not understand English, and it is not uncommon to find many of the county officials, including magistrates and sheriffs, who are likewise unable to speak English. I was informed that 40% of the State legislators of New Mexico were unable to speak English as well as many of the school trustees of the State.

Generally speaking, I found that our Mexican population had made little progress along the lines of Americanization, even among those families resident of the State since the Mexican War. Few of the adults could read, write or speak English and differed very little from the recent comers in their customs and habits of living. They are naturally a timid and shrinking people, living apart in separate pueblos and districts, with little or no social or business intercourse with the English speaking population, by whom they are held at arms length. Thus ostracized as it were, by their American neighbors, they have little opportunity to learn our language or to become useful American citizens.

With few exceptions our Mexican population lives under the poorest economic conditions. Their houses, generally rented, consist of adobe buildings, of one or two rooms with dirt floors, or miserable wooden shacks unprovided with proper heating, bathing or sanitary arrangements. Naturally under such conditions, with poor food we should expect to find a diseased people with a high death rate. As a rule the women are ignorant, know little of domestic science, especially along the lines of food preparation, which largely accounts for the great mortality among the infant class.

Tuberculosis, stomach troubles and anaemia are very prevalent, due largely to overcrowding, insufficient and improper food and poor sanitary conditions. They are frequently forced to sleep closely together in small rooms where one or more members of the family are infected with tuberculosis. During my survey of the living conditions in San Antonio I found a compound or corral, located on a city square of less than one acre, containing fifty five miserable habitations with a population of more than 350 people. Similar conditions exist in many other cities and especially in Los Angeles. From a recent survey made of that city by Mr. G. Bromley Oxnam, we find the annual death rate of the Mexican infant population to be 152, while the American infant rate was 54. Of the 10,075 deaths in Los Angeles in 1918-1919, 1121 or 11.1% were Mexican, and this from 5% of the population.

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government pass a law and appropriate sufficient funds to construct and maintain a school in each of the four border states for the care and education of our Mexican Boys and girls, each school to have a capacity of 1000 pupils.

Such schools would not only improve the condition of our native Mexican population, but would also be the means of preparing much needed young Mexican men and women for educational work in old Mexico. In addition to the regular academic courses, such schools should be organized on agricultural and vocational lines, where some useful trade or occupation might be learned. Such studies should be very wide in their range and should also include instruction in stenography, typewriting, telegraphy, wireless, aviation, book-keeping, besides the useful trades. There should be a course in domestic science for the girls, where they could receive instruction in cooking, washing, sewing, dress making and all other occupations especially suited for women.

Not only do the Mexican people living within our border need our sympathy and assistance, but the people of old Mexico. For years their republic has been torn to pieces by designing men, who have had no real interest in their country or fellow-countrymen. Mexico needs at the present time the financial aid of our government and the sympathetic interest of our people. With our help as a nation and a national propaganda of friendliness, Mexico could rise from the ashes of her dead past and take her place among the nations of the world.

With the recent election of a friendly President and a growing peaceful sentiment among their people, the United States never had a greater opportunity for rendering them a much needed service and cementing better relations between the two governments. The organization of an International Commission, composed of representative Americans and Mexicans, to study the social, industrial and economic conditions affecting the two countries would serve an excellent purpose at present. With proper representatives it is possible that Mexico would agree to declare a sixty mile white zone south of the border, in which gambling, drinking, and the red light district would be prohibited.

Under the present conditions the border has become the refuge of the worst elements of both countries which has not only become a menace to the respectable people living there, but to the peace and security of both republics. With a white zone of sixty miles south of the border not only the moral life of thousands of our young men and women who go there as tourists would be protected, but nine tenths of our present armed force on duty there could be moved.

April, 1924. - WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Not only do the Mexican people living within our borders need our sympathy and assistance, but the people of old Mexico. For years their republic has been torn to pieces by despotic men who have had no real interest in their country or fellow-countrymen. Mexico needs at the present time the financial aid of our Government and the sympathetic interest of our people. With our help a nation and a national propaganda of righteousness, Mexico could rise from the ashes of her dead past and take her place among the nations of the world.

Under the present conditions the border has become the refuge of the worst elements of both countries which has not only become a menace to the respectable people living there, but to the peace and security of both territories. With a white zone of thirty miles south of the border not only the moral life of thousands of our young men and women who go there as tourists would be protected, but nine tenths of our present armed force on duty there could be moved

APR 11 1961 - WASHINGTON, D.C.