

MEXICAN INVASION NOT EASY, OPINION OF ARMY EXPERTS

Would Probably Cost United States \$500,000,000 and 50,000 Soldiers.

Army of 250,000 Men Necessary to Invade Mexico Effectively.

THERE was a time when the general staff of the United States army did think an invasion of Mexico an easy matter. It was thought then that a certain phenomenal military success, which landed the American troops in Mexico City before the world had thought it possible, could be repeated at pleasure. Today a different view prevails in the war department. To it is due the fine control of the governmental temper.

Three years ago everybody would have laughed at the statement that it would take 250,000 men to invade Mexico effectively, writes George Albert Schreiner in the New York Evening Post. It was the habit then to assume that a company of Texas rangers could cross the Rio Grande and subdue the entire republic just as fast as their mounts could cover it. The Mexican army was then known as a most unsoldierly aggregate of hordes who had discarded the rags of the penitentiary for the cheap cotton trousers, gaudy tunics and headpieces of the army. In a way this impression is yet held, though the continuous insurrections and revolutions of the last two years have modified it in at least one important respect.

Mexican Can Fight.

It is admitted today that the Mexican can fight when he has a mind to do this. But something is likely to be overlooked here. The incessant turmoil has made soldiers out of Mexicans

fantry into mounted infantry, the desideratum being greater mobility, but the change involved was a slow and trying one and led to the great protraction of the campaign. The United States would have to meet the same problem before it could hope for success, but the British infantryman at least knew how to handle his rifle. The American militiaman and volunteer would have to be taught even that.

Initial Success Important.

In modern warfare, though this has been badly overrated, the initial success is everything. With this naturally goes a great degree of mobility. It is as necessary to penetrate well into the country invaded as to win big engagements. With this in view, the



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general staff of the United States army has recently revised its plan of attack. As late as the mobilization of the "maneuver division" in 1911, in some quarters the opinion was held that an invasion from the north was indispensable, though secondary to the main movement from Vera Cruz and an advance from Tampico. It is still somewhat fashionable to seize capitals, though in the light of recent experiences it does not always serve any particular purpose. The present plan of the war department provides for a concentration upon Vera Cruz and the capital.

Vera Cruz offers the best opportunity as a base for the main attack upon Mexico City. The distance to be traversed is not very great—204 miles by the best route. There would be no difficulty landing at that point a force sufficiently large to penetrate to the capital in time. But there are considerations of terrain that make operations from this point difficult. At Jalapa, but eighty-two miles from the coast, the country has already risen to an altitude of 4,610 feet, or nearly fifty-seven feet to the mile. Beyond Jalapa and until Puebla is reached the country is every bit as difficult.

125,000 Men Needed.

It is doubtful whether Mexico City could be taken via Vera Cruz with less than 125,000 men. The only hope of the officer in charge of these operations would lie in the superiority of numbers—the possibility that an extended front, or line of attack, would develop weak spots in the defensive tactics of the Mexicans. Individual courage is a sadly futile thing in a terrain such as this, and the fortune of war generally is with the man behind the boulder up on the hill. It is almost unnecessary to have seen panting infantrymen scale heights to understand this.

Mexico City might be taken via Vera Cruz in six weeks if no severe reverses had been suffered. Seven miles per day with the country to be carried is no mean performance.

Needless to say, the railroad to the capital could not be used by the invading forces, and such is the territory which the line traverses that in many places it could be put out of commission for months. The line between Mexico City and Vera Cruz is as difficult a piece of railroad engineering as can be found. The same is true of most of the other railroads operating east and southeast of the capital. Estimating the cost of military operations at \$2 per diem for each man employed, we find that the taking of the Mexican capital, outside of the mobilization expenditure and cost of equipment, would amount to \$12,000,000.

Reverses Possible.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the case as here presented does not discount even a single serious reverse. With the Mexicans hard to dislodge, the invading army might find itself checkmated to such an extent that weeks would be consumed in the carrying of points of strategical importance. It must be remembered here

that the American army would fight uphill from the moment it set foot on Mexican soil and that every military crest would be a point of vantage for the Mexicans. Most of the fighting would occur in the defiles between the escarpment walls. With fanatical Mexican soldiery holding the heights, this would become bloody work indeed.

The diversion movement upon Tampico would have little value, except it sustained an invasion across the lower courses of the Rio Grande. Strategically Tampico is hardly on the map, and the American military sphere to be established there would extend to the north rather than to the west and south. The country's topography determines that.

But with Mexico City taken and with the territory toward the coast cleared the pacification of Mexico would not yet have commenced. To all intents and purposes that part of the republic is as tranquil today as it ever has been or probably ever will be.

Capture of Capital.

To what extent would the taking of the capital influence the Mexicans is now the question to be considered. To be sure, when the Germans had taken Paris in 1871 the backbone of all resistance had been broken. There are many instances of this sort of history, but in this respect the City of Mexico means so little to the Mexicans that such a result could not be hoped for. The pacification of Mexico—for that could be the only reasonable objective of intervention—would have to be carried into the most remote parts of the republic. In that would lie the difficulty.

There is the hope, of course, that the saner element of Mexico would by that time realize that law and order were all the American army demanded. But this is merely a hope, not well supported by the country's antecedents. One has to know the intimate history of political Mexico, from Hidalgo and Juarez down, to understand how little justification there is for such a conclusion. The Mexican is not above de



© by American Press Association. TYPICAL MEXICAN SOLDIERS.

manding that before he would treat with the invader for his own good there would have to be a complete evacuation. Naturally to this the United States government could not consent. Intermittent guerrilla warfare would be the consequence.

An Unpleasant Picture.

With bases established at Vera Cruz, the City of Mexico and Tampico, military operations in the republic would be less difficult. But before the country could be swept clean of roving guerrillas and order established the American army would have to be greatly augmented. Nothing short of 250,000 men would be needed for this work, entailing an expenditure of at least \$500,000 per day, or \$182,500,000 in a year.

The claim made now and then that it would take from ten to fifteen years to subdue Mexico is very extravagant, of course. Yet the task might stretch over three to four years easily enough.

This is hardly a bright picture, but it is the best that can be given of the subject. Probably the cost of pacification would be not a cent less than \$500,000,000, and casualties could not be expected to number less than 50,000 men killed and invalided.

Those who may have been unable to understand the inaction of the government can rest assured that the magnitude of the pacification of Mexico is fully appreciated by the war department. Intervention in Mexico might become a retreat or a job badly done.

MAKES BODY TRANSPARENT.

German Scientist Finds Strange Fluid Which May Obviate Dissection.

A new method of giving medical students instruction which, it is said, will largely obviate the necessity of dissection will be put into practice at the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia at the beginning of the next term. Physicians and surgeons connected with the department of anatomy are now perfecting the process, which originated through the recent discovery by a German scientist of a fluid by the use of which the human body can be rendered transparent.

The fluid, which is composed of several oils, turns the flesh into a sort of transparent jelly when injected, enabling the student to study the veins, muscles and bones far better, it is asserted, than if they resorted to the dissecting knife. It is said to be one of the most valuable discoveries in medical science of late years.



Miss Louise Todd, of Lake Como, will enter the West Side hospital, Scranton, to become a nurse.

The neighbors of a certain amateur farmer on Straw Hill have been having considerable fun at his expense the past few days. He had a small meadow to mow and had only one horse. He engaged a mowing machine and a neighbor to drive and then he got into the harness and helped the horse pull the machine, making an assistant of himself to the other horse.—Sidney Enterprise.

The first load of cauliflower for the 1913 season was taken to the Margaretville depot on Monday. Cauliflower is bringing an excellent price at present and the local growers out-distance the Long Island raisers in the matter of an early crop. Cauliflower raising has become a very important industry in Dunraven and New Kingston.—Downsville News.

Surveyors are going over the Bovina, New York State road again. It is stated that the purpose is to ascertain if the contractor removed the number of yards of dirt claimed, etc. With the original survey costing \$900 a mile, this will bring the amount to over \$1,000 a mile for the survey.

Dyfed, the Welsh poet laureate, has been granted a pension of \$250 per annum by the British government. He was recently entertained by the Welsh Americans of Scranton. He and Rev. D. W. Jenkins, of this place, wrote for the same publication years ago in Wales.—Forest City News.

The D. & H. company must pay \$33,534 to Shoemaker estate in Luzerne county for small sizes of coal mined since 1878 according to an opinion handed down by Judge Strauss of the Luzerne court.

Clyde Pratt, a member of the Nicholson Rod and Gun club won first prize in the amateur events held by the United Sportsmen at Scranton with a score of 130 out of 150 shots.

Susquehanna borough council awarded the contract for the paving of Main and Front streets of that town to W. E. Bennett, of Laneshoro for the sum of \$21,467.

Minute "Movies" of the News Right Off the Reel

Cherry pies in Chicago were found to be made of watermelon pulp.

Entire church congregation of 800 in Milwaukee has been formally placed under arrest on a charge of illegal liquor selling.

One thousand Kansas churches have been abandoned because of automobiles, it was declared at a conference of ministers there.

Woman in Sandyston township, N. J., felt something bite her at night and found a copperhead snake two feet long in her bed.

Policemen have been placed on the Northwestern University campus, in Chicago, to keep students and co-eds from promenading together.

In a barber's chair when called to preside over the senate, Senator Clark hurried to the rostrum and from the Republican side appeared clean shaven, while those on the Democratic side saw a day's growth of beard.

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Honesdale Dime Bank Honesdale, Pa.

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LEGAL BLANKS for sale at The Citizen office: Land Contracts, Leases, Judgment Notes, Warrants, Deeds, Bonds, Transcripts, Summons, Attachments, Subpoenas, Labor Claim Deeds, Commitments, Executions, Collector's and Constables' blanks.

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© by American Press Association. AMERICAN OFFICERS SIGHTING RAPID FIRE GUN OF TYPE NOW IN SERVICE IN THE ARMY.

who formerly were not soldiers. In the states of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and elsewhere there has come into an existence fighting material that is highly respected by all who know it—los fueros auxillares, a sort of mounted police, under state supervision, that would be heard from most disagreeably in case of intervention.

The men forming this contingent are probably superior to anything the republic has in its military establishment. The first demonstration of this was given when, though recruited from the rural population in the insurrection districts, they refused to adhere to any but the de facto government. Like the regular army, this institution recognizes nothing but el gobierno. What individual happens to be president does not matter. The auxillares of Nuevo Leon haunted General Reyes until he thought it well to surrender, in spite of the fact that this old rebel had hoped to win them over to his side, as, according to all precedents south of the Rio Grande, he had good reason to hope.

Strong National Spirit.

A word must be said here for the remaining human elements that would take up arms. Even the most prejudiced must admit that the Mexican, no matter what his station in life, is warmly attached to his country—his republic. So great is this love of country that only the supply of arms could limit the number that would go into the field in case of an invasion. Since this is estimated at over a million stands of rifles, there would be no dearth in that direction. In a united Mexico, moreover, there would be no lack of ammunition for a long time. The republic not alone has acquired large stores of artillery and small arms ammunition, but it has also the mechanical equipment to manufacture these in case an inevitable blockade should make the importation of them impossible.

The Mexican army would confine its efforts to the most trying sort of warfare—guerrilla, a sort of military operation to which their kinsmen in Spain gave the name and with which the Mexicans themselves are fully acquainted. To an army organized like that of the United States this is very disastrous until such time as the necessary modifications are made. Great Britain, to meet similar conditions in South Africa, had to convert her in-