

HOW WE WHIPPED MEXICO IN '47; YEAR OF WAR

MEXICO IN '47; BARREN OF RESULT

Lessons Learned Then Are of Value Now—Bold Move Ended Tedious Conflict.

Victory Came With Shift of Scene of Action, Making Capital Pivotal Point.

SIXTY years ago it cost the United States the lives of 25,000 men and \$200,000,000 to defeat Mexico. It took two years of fighting to win back peace between the two nations.

Critics of the war department and of the administration took up the cry that the war's cost in blood and money was tremendously increased because of our unpreparedness. That the losses were not greater, says a writer in the New York Press, was due to the fact that the campaign was undertaken with the single view of subduing Mexico—of punishing her for objecting to our annexation of Texas and of forcing her to recognize our ownership of the territory.

The campaign was begun in northern Mexico only because we had troops there and because it was the natural place to begin it. When we saw peace never would come that way the scene of operations was shifted south, and the City of Mexico was taken.

Causes That Led Up to War.

President Andrew Jackson in a message to congress in 1837 had said that insults to Americans in Texas would more than justify war. At that time, however, he advocated mildness and toleration.

For some years before that the United States had been trying to acquire Texas by purchase. Texas then was a part of Mexico, but was even less under the control of the central government than are the northern states today. The population was made up largely of American settlers.

From 1829 to 1835 Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams made Mexico offers of from \$1,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for Texas, all in vain.

Then, on March 2, 1836, Texas declared her independence as a republic. The Mexican army under Santa Anna was defeated by the Texans under General Sam Houston, and the independence pretty well established. Mexico would not recognize it, but the American congress did.

Texas wanted to join the United States, but Jackson would not conclude a treaty of annexation. Mexico had said American annexation of Texas would mean war.

Nine years later it was learned that Mexico was preparing to recognize the independence of Texas on condition that she would not enter the United States.

In February, 1845, congress admitted Texas as a state. Texas claimed the Rio Grande as her southern and western boundary. Mexico claimed the territory to the Nueces river, about 150 miles north of the Rio Grande. Texas agreed to leave the settling of the boundary to the United States.

Invasion by Mexico.

To settle this boundary line General Zachary Taylor, in command of the American troops in the southwest, in July, 1845, was ordered to take his men into Texas and defend her ports. At the same time the American squadron under Captain Stockton was ordered into the gulf of Mexico.

Jan. 13, 1846, Taylor was ordered to take up positions opposite Matamoros, Mier and Laredo, Mexican towns within 150 miles of the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Beginning the march on March 8, Taylor in ten days had fortified a position on the left bank at the mouth of the Rio Grande. In another ten days he was within cannon range of Matamoros.

The American and Mexican forces were facing across the river. General Arista, in command of the Mexicans, demanded that Taylor retire to the Nueces. Taylor refused, and the Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande.

On April 24 a party of sixty-three American scouts was ambushed by the Mexican forces, eleven killed or wounded and the rest captured.

May 13, 1846, congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Mexico and voted 50,000 men and \$10,000,000.

These were the conditions. Taylor had about 4,000 men at the mouth of the Rio Grande. American ships—what there were of them—were in the gulf of Mexico. We were confronted with the problem of raising an army of 50,000 or 100,000 men and raising it quickly—and getting it into Mexico.

General Winfield Scott, in command of the American army, took charge of the campaign from Washington. It was decided to send three distinct armies into Mexico. The army of the west was to march into New Mexico and take Santa Fe, the army of the center was to take Chihuahua, the capital of the state of that name, and carry on the fight in the northern provinces, and the third army, under General Taylor, was to be sent into central Mexico.

The difficulties of recruiting our forces and getting them into fighting shape made it impossible to undertake these three campaigns immediately and together. It was several months before they were well under way.

Meanwhile, three days after the first

attack on American troops, Captain Walker, in command of a camp of Texas rangers at Point Isabel, on the gulf coast, a few miles north of the mouth of the Rio Grande, was attacked by the Mexicans. Several of his men were killed or wounded.

General Taylor at once left his camp opposite Matamoros, under Major Brown, and went to defend Point Isabel. He drove the Mexicans south and on May 8 engaged Arista's forces at Palo Alto, between Point Isabel and the Rio Grande.

Our Troops In Enemy's Country.

May 17, four days after war had been declared, Taylor crossed the Rio Grande, and the invasion of Mexico began. Two days later he took Matamoros.

These fights had been little ones, but they had been won over the odds that



GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT.

were fought against during the entire war. The Mexican forces were utterly routed and retreated in the direction of San Luis Potosi.

Taylor with 7,000 men advanced into the state of Nuevo Leon, and on Sept. 21 laid siege to Monterey, its capital, which he entered Sept. 24.

Saltillo, in Coahuila, was taken in November. Taylor sent Generals Patterson and Puttman on into Tamaulipas, and the next month they took its capital, Victoria.

Meanwhile, the American flag had been raised in California and New



HOW AMERICANS INVADDED MEXICO.

Mexico, both then part of Mexico, and the army of the center had advanced into Mexico.

Washington believed that New Mexico and the northern Mexican states were in a condition bordering on revolt and were ready to declare their independence. All haste, therefore, was made as soon as war was declared to get the armies of the center and the west ready for the field.

The latter part of June the army of the west departed for Santa Fe, the plan being to take New Mexico by capturing its capital.

Aug. 18 General Kearny entered Santa Fe. The Mexican army, under General Armijo, had evacuated the place, and the American flag was raised without the firing of a gun.

Sept. 25 Kearny set out for California and the Pacific. He met a returning party, however, and was told that Captain Fremont was in possession.

Santa Anna Raises Army.

In July the army of the center, comprising 3,000 men, under General John E. Wool, had started down the Mississippi. In September it entered Mexican territory, planning to march direct to Chihuahua.

But the ignorance of the war department of Mexican topography was so

great that they had not planned for the Sierra Gorda range of mountains, directly in the path of General Wool's march.

When Wool saw the peaks looming up 4,000 feet into the air ahead of him he decided not to cross them. He started south toward Saltillo.

On Oct. 29 Wool took Monclova and proceeded on to Saltillo. He abandoned the idea of attacking Chihuahua. In December he reached Saltillo and joined forces with General Taylor.

Tampico was taken by Commodore Perry's fleet and garrisoned by Taylor's troops.

Meanwhile Santa Anna, who was captured in 1836 by the Texan army under General Sam Houston, had been permitted to return to Mexico in the belief he would be friendly to American interests and help bring the war to a close.

He landed at Vera Cruz, became chief magistrate of Mexico and immediately began reorganizing the defenses. Leaving the government in the hands of Gomez Farias, the vice president, he gathered his troops together and set out to check the advance of General Taylor.

He met the American forces under Taylor at Buena Vista, just south of Saltillo, and one of the bloodiest battles of the war ensued. Santa Anna's forces numbered 20,000. Taylor had barely 4,500.

Finally, after 800 Americans had been killed or wounded and 2,000 Mexicans killed, Santa Anna was forced back. He returned to San Luis Potosi. From there he was called to the City of Mexico to check a growing insurrection against Gomez Farias.

Capital Now the Goal.

In the early part of 1847, nearly a year after the opening of the war, the campaign of the Rio Grande was practically at a close. The only advantage the United States had gained was the assurance that the territory east of the Rio Grande was lost forever to Mexico.

Finally it was determined to transport an army by sea to Vera Cruz and march directly against the City of Mexico. General Scott was directed to lead this army.

By March 22 Scott's investment of the positions about Vera Cruz was complete. The place had a population of 7,000 and was strongly fortified, but four days after the bombardment commenced the city and the Castle of San Juan de Ulla, a harbor fortification, surrendered together. Scott took possession of Vera Cruz March 27.

Delayed at Vera Cruz waiting for supplies, it was late in April when the army started for the capital. On the way Scott took Jalapa and Puebla, halting at Puebla again for supplies and re-enforcements. Aug. 7 he set out on his eventful march to the capital.

Three Battles Won by Scott.

Aug. 19 Scott met the Mexican forces and defeated them overwhelmingly in three battles that really were part of one general engagement—Contreras, Churubusco and San Antonio.

Meanwhile the United States had been doing all possible to end the war by a diplomatic adjustment. An armistice was declared, to begin Aug. 23. The negotiations fell through, however, and the armistice ended Sept. 7. Scouting parties sent out that day by Scott discovered the army of Santa Anna was entrenched, with its right wing resting on the fortifications of Casa Mata and its left on those of Molino del Rey.

Sept. 8 the Mexican positions were stormed and carried. Scott's army was at the doors of the City of Mexico.

But before the capital could be entered Scott thought it necessary to take Chapultepec, a strongly fortified hill towering above the city and between it and the American army. The Mexicans made a desperate, but unavailing defense.

The Americans pushed on fighting against desperate resistance until they were in the suburbs of the city outside the Belen gate.

A deputation asked General Scott for terms of capitulation. His terms were refused. Thereupon Scott ordered the divisions of Generals Worth and Quitman to enter the city.

Flag Over the Palace.

The American colors were raised over the National palace shortly after 7 o'clock in the morning of Sept. 14, 1847. By Sept. 16 our forces were completely in possession of the Mexican capital. Feb. 2, 1848, five months after the City of Mexico had fallen and a year and nine months after war had been declared, a treaty of peace was signed. It was ratified by the Mexican congress May 25. Before the end of June the American troops were out of Mexico.

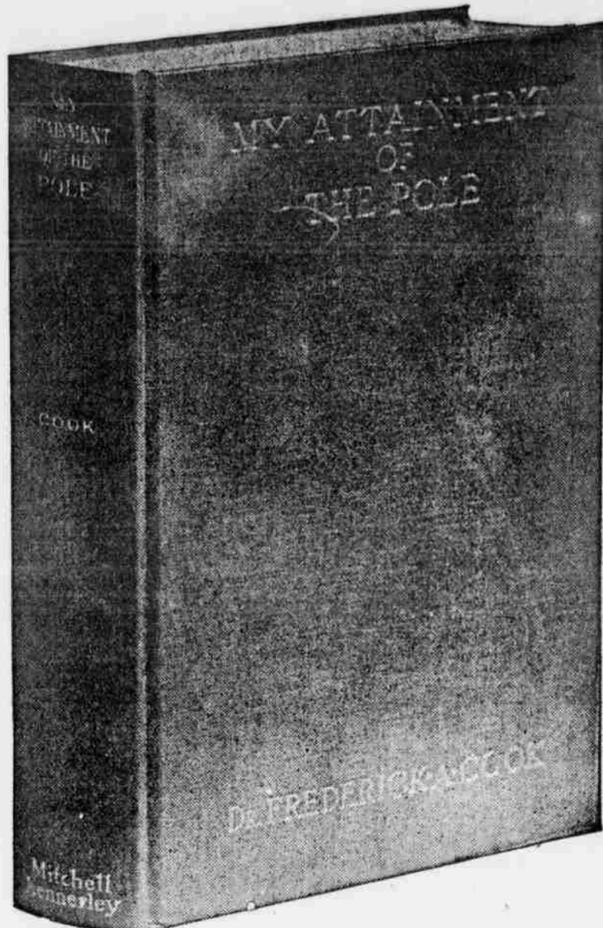
The treaty recognized the Rio Grande as the southern and western boundary of Texas, and ceded California and New Mexico to the United States. In return the United States paid Mexico \$15,000,000 cash and assumed \$3,500,000 in claims of American citizens which the Mexican government had agreed to pay, by the convention of 1840, but had later repudiated.

Polk was urged to annex all of Mexico. He refused to consider it.

Aliens' Postal Deposits the Biggest.

New York leads all other American cities in the use of the postal savings banks, according to the report of Postmaster Morgan transmitted to the department at Washington. It showed that 33,839 depositors in the city have to their credit in the local government savings institution a total of \$3,092,100. Italian born residents lead immigrants from other countries by a wide margin, while the deposits of foreign born white persons lead those of Americans by 83 2-10 per cent.

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UNKNOWN DANGERS AHEAD.

Interior Country of Brazil Inhabited by Savages and is Almost Impenetrable Jungle—Expedition Undertaken in Interest of Science.

That the great inland trip through the center of South America that is soon to be undertaken by Colonel Roosevelt and his party, in the interest of science, will yield a richer harvest in increased knowledge by the world than his African journey, and that it is also of a more difficult and dangerous nature is the opinion advanced by Rt. Rev. Dr. Lucien Lee Kinsolving, bishop of Southern Brazil, at Rio Grande do Sul, capital of the southernmost of the United States of Brazil. Dr. Kinsolving visiting in Washington, in a conversation a few days ago, spoke of the vast territory to be traversed and touched upon some of the dangers of such a tremendous trip.

"It is hard to realize the length of such a journey and the vast variety of country to be passed through," said Bishop Kinsolving. "Nearly the whole length of the South American continent must be passed over, as you can readily realize if you look at the map in connection with the verbal outline of the trip."

Colonel Roosevelt and his party, which is to be a large one and which, owing to the absolutely wild state of the interior, must proceed almost entirely by waterways, is to start on or about Dec. 15 from Buenos Aires, in Argentina. He will be accompanied by representatives of the National Geographic society, by experienced white guides and by native guides and crews and many others, either hired for the occasion or anxious to go along in the interests of geography, zoology, botany and other sciences. They intend to proceed up the La Plata to its large branch, the Parana, and up that stream past Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, into the wild back district of Brazil, a state named Mato Grosso, or, translated, "big woods" or "wild woods."

An immense wilderness. "No one really knows much about this section," said Bishop Kinsolving. "It is a wilderness of thousands of square miles, filled with jungle you can

hardly hack your way through and estimated to contain a million Indians.

"The party is to proceed as far as possible up the Parana waters and portage over to the nearest northward flowing tributary of the Amazon. Once arrived at that main stream, which will in all probability be a thousand or more miles from its mouth, they will then ascend one of its branches that flows south and repeat the portage over to the most available branch of the Orinoco. They will descend this stream and the main river and emerge at the northern end of South America on the Caribbean sea. That is, they will if all goes well with them."

"Do you think the chances are that all will not go well with them or that ex-President Roosevelt may lose his life?" the bishop was asked.

"I would hardly say that," replied he. "But it is a pretty big undertaking and one beset by dangers that are to a great extent unknown. No one really knows what is to be found there. Travel in that region is too infrequent to give any data for generalizations. One party might get through swimmingly and another easily might all die of disease or be killed by natives. The Indians are savages—not turbulent ones, perhaps, but savages none the less."

More Dangers Than In Africa.

"I have heard it said by people who should know that the African trip, both from a standpoint of danger and of severity, was simple compared to this one that he now contemplates. This may be an exaggeration, of course. But remember that this country has no trails or roads whatever. The waterways are the only roads, and to the waterways you must stick. "The more that is learned of this interior country of Brazil the less safe and attractive it appears. That insect life abounds there is well attested. I have heard myself, from returned explorers, of the swarms of mosquitoes and other pests, and a country that abounds in insect life is not apt to be very pleasant or healthy. But I should say that on the whole the fact that so little is known of the region is the greatest danger."

White House Functions For the Season.

Announcement has just been made at the White House of dates on which official receptions and dinners will be given by the president and Mrs. Wilson during the coming season. They are: Dec. 18, dinner to the cabinet; Jan. 6, reception to diplomatic corps; Jan. 13, dinner to diplomatic corps; Jan. 20, judicial reception; Jan. 27, dinner to the United States supreme court; Feb. 3, congressional reception; Feb. 10, dinner to the speaker of the house; Feb. 17, army and navy reception.

At Sheffield, two big black bears fought to death over a hollow tree full of honey, and a farmer got both carcasses and 400 pounds of sweet stuff.

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