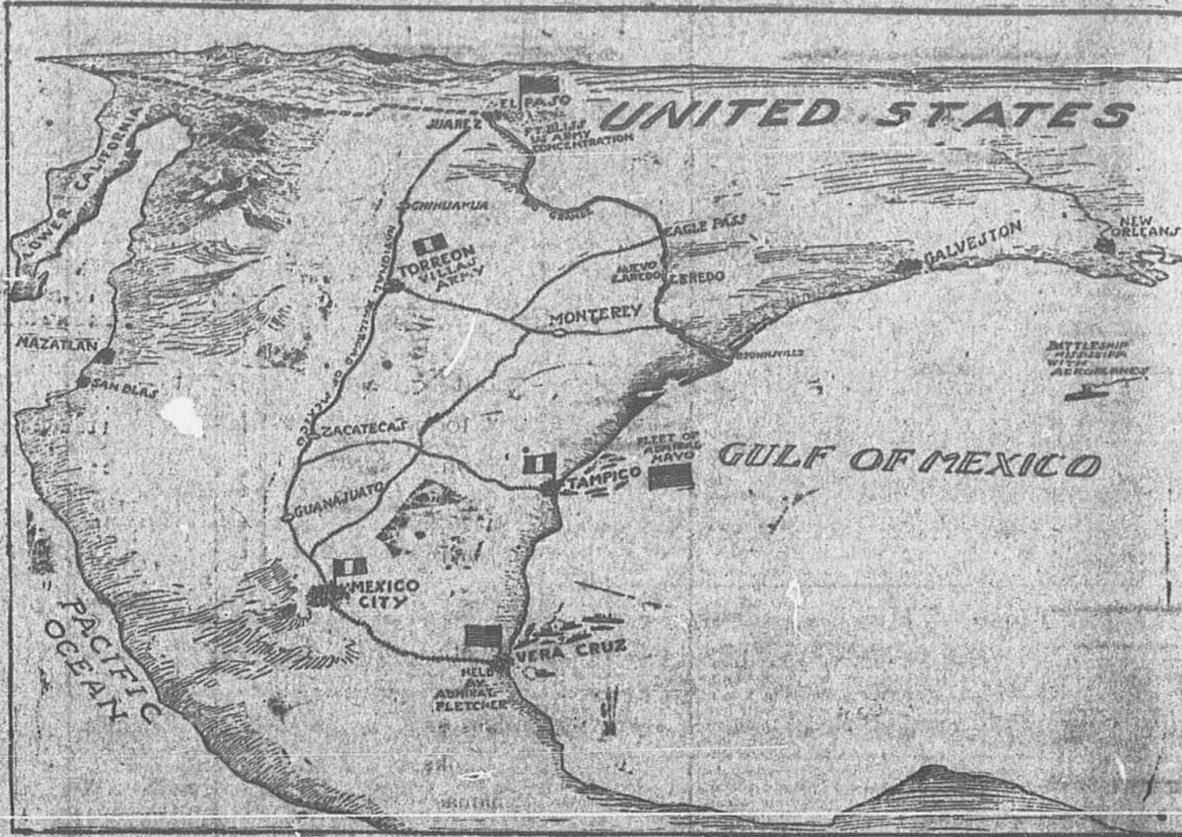


Some Information About the Geography of Mexico



Courtesy of "The State" Columbia. With reference to Vera Cruz—El Paso, Texas, and Juarez Mexico, might be compared with the situation of Chicago in relation to Charleston, Juarez, or to give it the full name, Ciudad Juarez, formerly known as El Paso del Norte, is in the very middle of the northern boundary line of Mexico, and Vera Cruz is the principal port, and is located on the eastern coast, toward the southernmost part of Mexico.

This gives some idea of the wide area covered by the American forces at this time. Secretary Daniels has had a patrol arranged to scout along the Gulf of Mexico, and the 1,500 miles of the northern border of Mexico is being patrolled by the United States army.

The population of El Paso, Texas, is given at 39,279 in 1910, but there are of course many more residents there, because this count does not include the suburbs. Half of the residents are said to be Mexicans. There are a great many South Carolinians in El Paso, among whom might be mentioned W. D. Mayfield and family, formerly of Greenville. Mr. Mayfield went there for his health directly after he finished his term of office as state superintendent of education. From the root of his name he and his family have witnessed many battles and skirmishes in Juarez, which is just across the Rio Grande river.

Juarez has been in the hands of half a dozen different factions in the last three years. Madero, Zapata, Villa and others have started their way to success in far northern capital of the revolutionists. Juarez is a wicked city, given over to horse racing, and chicken fighting, and other half civilized pursuits. It is 1,000 miles northwest of Mexico City, and Mexico City is 263 miles from Vera Cruz, and almost due west. Mexico City is almost equidistant from Vera Cruz on the Atlantic and Acapulco on the Pacific. The port at Acapulco is now blockaded by the battleship California, which was built and is now commanded by Capt. N. A. McCully of this city.

One hundred miles due south of Juarez is the considerable city of Chihuahua, which is now the capital of the Constitutionalists, under Gen. Carranza. Three hundred miles southeast of Chihuahua is Torreon, the strategic point where the bitter fighting was carried on a few days ago between Villa on the one side and Velasco and Maas on the other. And five hundred miles southeast of Torreon is the capital city, "the home of the Montezumas," that proud and gentle aristocratic race of kings that was butchered by Cortez, who came in the name of Christianity, under the banner "in Hoc Signo Vincas," and drenched with blood the lovely Aztec city and looted the palaces and the temples, and gave to the simple and confiding race of people their first impressions of greed, treachery, rapine and blood-thirstiness. Mexico has been a charnel house and a shambles ever since.

Brownsville is the southernmost point on the coast of Texas, and just across the mouth of the Rio Grande river from Brownsville is Matamoros. Tampico, sprung into worldwide notoriety in the last few days, is 150 miles south of Brownsville and midway between Vera Cruz and Brownsville. Galveston is about 200 miles north of Brownsville, and in the environs of Galveston is Texas City where 10,000 regulars have been hardening and training for a year.

Among the citizens of Anderson who have more than a passing acquaintance with Mexico is C. J. DeCarps, the well known real estate man and engineer who some years ago was engaged in railroad construction in that country. He declares that while the climate at Vera Cruz is wretched, being subject to malaria and yellow fever on account of the outlying lagoons, yet this territory, at sea level soon gives way to foot hills and then to towering mountains. Within twenty miles of Vera Cruz is the railroad bridge which holds the key to the situation in approaching the capital city. Forty miles out from Vera Cruz one has passed the fever infested jungles and morasses and has begun to ascend, in fact the altitude here is something like 4,000 feet, Asheville, N. C., being only about 1,900. This whole backbone of Mexico, flanked on each side by narrow coastal strips, is of volcanic origin. The rail line ascends to a maximum of 10,000 feet before it begins to approach the City of Mexico, which is one of the most beautiful in the world, and is on a plateau 7,500 feet above the sea. The highest mountain east of the Rockies is Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, which is 6,711 feet and towers above the other spurs of the Blue Ridge.

The danger of Mexican bullets, therefore, is not the only terror to be encountered in Mexico. While the climate of the plateau country is equable, more so than in any point in South Carolina, yet in Vera Cruz, Acapulco and Tampico there is to be encountered the dread yellow fever and the approaching season of the year is the period when yellow fever is most prevalent.

An important point near the American border. Diaz now attempted to make terms with the Revolutionists, but Madero insisted on his retirement, and Diaz finally agreed to resign on March 25, 1911, he left the capitol and a few days later he sailed for Europe, where he has since been watching with keen interest the course of events in the country where for more than thirty years he had exercised the supreme power of unlimited despotism.

Under the terms of the arrangement with the revolutionists, General Francisco de la Barrera became the Provisional President until Madero was elected five months later. The work of reform which he had undertaken was a gigantic one, and though he set about it, it was one which in the nature of things could not be completed in a day. Insurrection broke out, one of them under his former associate, General Juarez, who was defeated by Madero and captured, and continued in the other quarters from time to time, and delayed the plan of national reconstruction. In October, 1912, General Felix Diaz, a nephew of the dictator, started a revolt at Vera Cruz, but was arrested, sentenced to death and imprisoned, pending a trial in Santiago prison, in Mexico City, where General Fernando Reyes, a close friend of the elder Diaz, was at that time confined for attempting to organize a revolution against Madero about a year previous, February 8, 1912, marked the beginning of the

of the Diaz tyranny and commencing sweeping constitutional and economic reforms, which were a major and important system of agricultural reform.

Starting in the mountains of Chihuahua, Coahuila and Sonora, the uprising had become formidable by February when Madero was killed by Blanco and Pacho Villa, and in May the combined forces captured

that date a number of regiments of the capitol revolted and military orders ordered the Santiago prison, and released Felix Diaz, who set himself at the head of the rebels and captured the streets and arsenals, with stores of arms and ammunition. For days the capital was the scene of a terrible and destructive battle, General Huerta commanding the law

which remains loyal to the

dero. On February 18, the Mexican senate adopted a resolution "declaring Madero incapable of holding office" and ordering General Huerta and Blannet to put an end to the fighting and arrest the President, who was accordingly locked up in his apartments under guard. Late at night five days afterwards, Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez, while on their way to the state penitentiary under an armed escort, were shot and killed by the soldiers who were supposed to be guarding them.

General Huerta at once organized a provisional government with himself as president, and was recognized by the diplomatic representatives at the capital with the exception of the United States, President Taft leaving to his successor, Mr. Wilson, the task of dealing with the situation as best he saw fit. The blood of Madero proved to be the seed of a new revolution. Villa, Carranza and other

visitors, good and bad, joining forces against Huerta.

The events of last year are fresh in the general recollection. In July, 1913, President Wilson, who had firmly refused to recognize Huerta's suspicious title, sent Mr. John Lind to Mexico City to investigate the situation, and, as was reported to advise Huerta not to be a candidate in the approaching election. A few weeks later the so-called elections took place an insignificant vote being nullified, of which Huerta naturally received a majority. The election was plainly a mockery that it was de-

clared invalid and another election appointed for July of this year. Since the beginning of 1914, the revolutionists under Villa have achieved a number of notable successes, among them, early in January, the capture of Ojinaga, by which a Mexican Federal army was forced to retreat into the United States, and more recently the bloody battle at Torreon and those just reported at San Pedro, forty miles east of Torreon. On February 3 of this year President Wilson lifted the embargo on the importation of arms into Mexico and, thus, together with his unchangeable attitude of determined, though passive hostility to Huerta, has continued largely to the success of the revolutionists. Let us hope that the present complication may not necessitate a pressure of another sort.

NOTHING PERSONAL, BOB. The State, Columbia. Quoth the Anderson Intelligencer: "The punny man on the Columbia State has a column headed 'Aftermath: Look out, Math.'"

If it were the college kind, it would be in no danger. As we remember them days, as they would say in Anderson, we were always after Math—about 500 yards after.

In the second oratorical contest of the high schools of the State held in Columbia Thursday night, A. L. Wardlaw of Wofford College School won first place.

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Bulletin Board

ANARCHY IN MEXICO.

Vera Cruz, April 24.—A train bearing 500 foreign refugees arrived here late Thursday from Mexico City. They reported the situation of the Americans left in the capital as critical. Hope are trapping the American flag under foot, and threatening pedestrians in the streets. American club windows had been broken out with stones. American jewelry shop looted. The police declined to interfere. Bands of hoodlums roam the streets shouting "Death to Americans."

Washington, April 24.—The Senate Friday passed the volunteer army bill as agreed to by the House and Senate conferees.

San Antonio, April 24.—4:30 p. m.—Long distance telephone message received here at 2:35 this afternoon, said the Mexican Federal army had been at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and were being across the border into the city of Laredo, Texas.

WAR ON THE BORDER.

Laredo, Texas, April 24.—4:53 p. m.—Mexican Federal troops turned their guns on their city after dynamiting the principal buildings in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, setting fire to that town.

It was reported that three Americans were killed by Mexican fire. The United States troops returned the fire and it is believed they killed at least a dozen Mexicans on the other side.

After receiving a wireless message from his residence in Mexico, in which she is said to have killed the Count Domestico, called an Italian, she jumped into the sea from the ship at Tampico and was lost.

That his husband stated her name with certainty and forced her to swear that to silence her presence had become formidable by February when Madero was killed by Blanco and Pacho Villa, and in May the combined forces captured