

T. R. DENOUNCES WILSON.

SAYS PRESIDENT HAS MADE U. S. RESPONSIBLE IN MEXICO.

Colonel Declares Administration Looked on White Americans Were Being Murdered or Robbed.

New York, Dec. 8.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt, in an article copyrighted by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc., and published today, makes a scathing arraignment of the Mexican policy of President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan. Mr. Roosevelt denounces this policy not only as futile but as carrying with it responsibility for the frightful excesses committed by all the contending parties in Mexico. He says, in part:

"An astonishing proof of the readiness of many persons to pay heed exclusively to words and not at all to deeds is supplied by the statement of the defenders of this administration that President Wilson has 'kept us out of war with Mexico' and has avoided interference in Mexico. These are the words. The deeds have been: first, an unbroken course of more or less furtive meddling in the internal affairs of Mexico carried to a pitch which imposes on this nation a grave responsibility for the wrongdoing of the victorious factions; and, second, the plunging of this country into what was really a futile and inglorious little war with Mexico, a war entered into with no adequate object, and abandoned without the achievement of any object whatever, adequate or inadequate.

"The seizure of the leading seaport city of another country, the engagement and defeat of the troops of that country and the retention of the territory thus occupied for a number of months constitute war; and denial that it is war can only serve to amuse the type of intellect which would assert that Germany has not been at war with Belgium because Germany never declared war on Belgium. President Wilson's war only resulted in the sacrifice of a score of American lives and a hundred or two of the lives of Mexicans; it was entirely purposeless, has served no good object, has achieved nothing and has been abandoned by Mr. Wilson without obtaining the object because of which it was nominally entered into; it can, therefore, rightly be stigmatized as a peculiarly unwise, ignoble and inefficient war; but it was war nevertheless.

The general course of the administration toward Mexico has been worse and even more productive of

wide and far-reaching harm. The simple fact is that, thanks to President Wilson's action—and at times his inaction has been the most effective and vicious form of action—this country has become partially (and guiltily) responsible for some of the worst acts ever committed, even in the civil wars of Mexico.

"When President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta, he committed a definite act of interference of the most pronounced type. At the same time, he and Mr. Bryan looked on with folded arms and without a protest of any kind while American citizens were murdered or robbed or shamefully maltreated in all parts of Mexico by different sets of banditti who masqueraded as soldiers of the different factions. He maintained for a long time a friendly intercourse with one set of political adventurers through irregularly appointed diplomatic agents, and he adopted an openly offensive attitude toward the chief of another set, although he was then the de facto head of whatever government Mexico had.

"His defenders allege that he could not properly have forbidden the transmission of arms to the revolutionaries across the border. The answer is that he did forbid it at intervals. He thereby showed that he was taking an active interest in the arming of the revolutionaries; that he permitted it when he chose to do so and stopped it intermittently whenever he thought it best to stop it, and was, therefore, entirely responsible for it.

"The nominal rights which the contending factions championed, and the actual and hideous wrongs done by all of them, were in no sense our affair, save in so far as Americans and other foreigners were maltreated. We may individually sympathize, as, for instance, I personally do, with the general purpose of the program for division of the lands among the Mexican cultivators, announced by Carranza, Villa and other revolutionary leaders, but this no more justified interference on our part than belief in the wisdom of the single tax for the United States by some foreign ruler would warrant his interference in the internal affairs of the United States. Moreover, nothing in the career of Carranza and Villa or in the conduct of the Mexican people at present justifies us in any certainty that this program will in any real sense be put into effect.

"When the administration did interfere, it was bound to accept the responsibility for its acts. It could not give any aid to the revolutionaries without accepting a correspond-

ing share of responsibility for their deeds and misdeeds. It could not aid them because of their attitude on the land question without also assuming a corresponding share of responsibility for their attitude toward religion and toward the professors of religion.

White House Silent.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The White House this evening was absolutely silent regarding the attack by Colonel Roosevelt. It is thought probable that the president will ignore it.

ADVICE FOR NEGRO FARMERS.

Booker T. Washington Writes on Problem of Changing South from Cotton to Food Growing Section.

The following letter to The Item will no doubt be read with interest by both white and colored readers of the Item and Watchman and Southern. The letter is from Booker T. Washington, president of the Tuskegee Institute at Alabama and recognized as one of the leaders of his race. His suggestions are good and it is hoped that they will be adopted in every county in the South. In Sumter county it does not apply, as this county has for several years had a colored demonstration agent, R. W. Westberry, who has been doing earnest and successful work along the lines suggested. The results are already noticeable and no doubt his services will prove of more value this year than ever before, because of changing conditions.

The letter follows:

Editor Daily Item:

Some weeks ago, through our Southern papers, I made a suggestion that each negro family raise one or more additional pigs this year in order to help bring about more prosperity in the South. I have been surprised to note how well the suggestion has been received, and how many are following it; one minister in Uniontown, Ala., went so far as to organize a Pig club in his church.

Now, I want to make one other suggestion, that, in my opinion, is of still greater and more practical importance. For months the great cry has been all through the South to stop growing cotton or reduce the acreage.

Chambers of Commerce, Business Leagues, State Legislatures, and other bodies have passed resolutions without number urging that we in the South stop growing so much cotton. To stop growing cotton is very easy; in fact it is always easy to stop work, but merely to stop growing cotton is

a mere negative proposition and will not, I fear, leave the South much better off than it is at present. If we destroy, or cripple a great industry, we should be very sure to have one, or a number equally good to put in its place. In this connection it should be kept in mind as a matter of great importance, that if the labor once leaves the farm by reason of changing crops it will be very difficult to get the labor to return to the farm in after years.

The great cry is to grow field crops. That is well, but one must keep in mind that the great masses of negroes who have actually grown the most of the cotton in the South for years, and who live upon the most valuable land in the South do not hear of the resolutions that are passed by these various bodies. These people have been trained to grow nothing but cotton and do not know how to grow anything else. In fact, in many cases, they have not been permitted and are not now permitted to grow anything else!

We must also bear in mind that the largest land owners seldom visit their plantations—some not more than once or twice a year, and hence can be of little service in teaching these negro tenants how to change all at once from a cotton producing crop to a food producing crop.

If permanent results are to be secured, the negro who actually cultivates the land must be reached and trained into growing a food-producing crop. How can this be done? My answer would be, by putting a negro farm demonstration agent into every county of the South where there is any considerable number of negro farmers. This negro demonstration agent should be a man of good common sense. He should be a man who knows the characteristics of the colored people, who knows how to reach them in and through their societies, their churches and their various organizations of one kind and another. He should be a man required to travel from one farm to another throughout the country training the negro farmer how to produce a food crop. Wherever these demonstration agents have already been at work in the South, they have done work which has been most helpful and commendable.

If this important work is to be done, no time should be lost in selecting these demonstration agents. The cost should not be very large. Either through county appropriations or from some part of the State funds appropriated for agricultural purposes, a portion of the money for the salary

perhaps could be provided. Appropriations are also being made by the United States government to encourage and promote various kinds of agricultural work. Some part of this money, I feel sure, might be secured from the Smith-Lever fund or from the United States demonstration fund administered through Dr. Bradford Knapp. While I am not in position to suggest just where the money may be secured, I think that if an earnest effort is made, some portion of it can be secured from some of the funds or agencies here mentioned.

Booker T. Washington.

DEAD MAN FOUND.

Body of J. C. Whitman is Discovered Near Greenwood With His Throat Cut.

Greenwood, Dec. 7.—The body of J. C. Whitman, white, was found about noon today on the other side of Hard Labor creek, near town, with his throat cut from ear to ear. He was an employee of Grendel mills and had been missing since Sunday. His wife and father had just reported his disappearance to the chief of police, J. P. Riley, when a negro who had been hunting and who had made the ghastly find of the murdered man reported his discovery. The body was identified as that of Whitman.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 8.—Nine miners were killed in the Diamond coal mine this morning when a miner dropped a stick of dynamite which exploded in the cage lowering the men to their work. The cage dropped two hundred feet.

West Orange, N. J., Dec. 9.—Fire destroyed virtually the entire main plant of the Edison company here tonight, causing damages estimated at nearly \$7,000,000 with insurance that it is expected will reduce the loss to approximately \$5,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator E. D. Smith, who recently held an examination of applicants in Columbia to designate a principal and three alternates to fill a vacancy which he will have at Annapolis on March 4 next, today announced the result of the examination. The principal is J. A. Mood of Summerton, now a student at the Citadel. The first alternate, A. B. Alexander of Spartanburg; the second alternate, W. P. Martin of Blackville, and the third alternate, C. L. Hunter of Trenton. Senator Smith will make the nominations in accordance with the results of the examination.

STATE BUYS MUCH OATS.

Charleston Market Each Year Absorbs Over Million Bushels—Cost Exceeds \$620,000.

Columbia, Dec. 9.—More than 1,000,000 bushels of oats are received in the Charleston market each year from points without the State, according to data collected by agents of the State department of agriculture, who are investigating the cost of living problem in South Carolina. The 1,000,000 bushels represents an outlay of \$620,000. Of this amount oats to the value of \$165,000 worth were consumed in the city of Charleston.

"With these facts staring you in the face, there are some people who declare that you can find no market for grain in South Carolina. Elevators are needed to prepare the grain for market," said Commissioner Watson.

MRS. EMMA J. RIGGS DEAD.

Orangeburg, Dec. 7.—Mrs. Emma J. Riggs, widow of the late Harpin Riggs, died at her residence on West Russell street yesterday afternoon. Although she was rather advanced in age, Mrs. Riggs' death came as a shock. She had been ill for a very short time.

The curb market is an experiment and will be given a trial. If it is found to be mutually profitable to the farmers and housekeepers it will become a permanent institution. It cannot be given a fair trial, however, unless the farmers bring their produce to the market and the housekeepers patronize it regularly and liberally.

COLDS & LaGRIPPE

5 or 6 doses 666 will break any case of Chills & Fever, Colds & LaGrippe; it acts on the liver better than Calomel and does not gripe or sicken. Price 25c.

DEATH TO VERMIN



RAT CORN
Best rat and mice exterminator made. Kills quickly and absolutely without odor. Mummifies—thus preventing decomposition. Better than all the traps in the world. Insist on genuine RAT CORN. 25c. 50c. \$1 at dealers or by mail, post-paid.

BOTANICAL MFG. CO.
4th & Race Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE CURB MARKET

The Sales Place for Country Produce → (Canal and Harvin Streets, Adjacent Court House Sq.)

Opens Thursday Morning, December 17th, 1914,

And Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Thereafter Until 11 O'clock A. M.

The Farmers of Sumter County are Invited by the

Retail Merchants' Association and The Sumter Civic League

To Cooperate with the housekeepers of Sumter in eliminating the Middleman and keeping at home the money that is now spent for vegetables, poultry and other products shipped from distant states.

The farmers of Sumter County can supply the homes of the City of Sumter with practically all their necessities in the way of food-stuffs, and the people of this city prefer to buy home-raised products whenever obtainable.

The Curb Market is on trial—it has great possibilities of good for county and town.

→ Will You Not Give It Your Support and Patronage? ←