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A TOAST

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➤➤ What Wilson Did To Mexico ◀◀

A Continuation of the Red Thread in the Mexican Maze

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How President Wilson's policy influenced the course of the revolution in Mexico appears in this third article in the series, which the writer carried in the two preceding articles up to the point of the overthrow and assassination of Madero and the rise of Huerta to power.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S Mexican policy was at first one of silence except for a general statement that he would not recognize any ruler, coming into power by force. At about the same time all sorts of rumors, which rapidly grew and took the form of a well-organized propaganda began to spread in the United States.

With the fall of Madero, it was intimated, the Mexican people had lost all chance at self-government. Further, it was whispered that Huerta had assassinated Madero with the approval, if not with the connivance, of the Ambassador of the United States; that Carranza and Maitorena, the governors who had refused to recognize Huerta, were the real representatives of the Mexican people; and that Huerta was held in power by the same wicked minority who dominated the government of Porfirio Diaz, enslaved the people, and exploited them to their own gain and to the advantage of the foreigners.

Such propaganda undoubtedly impressed President Wilson. Instead of relying on the reports of the Ambassador at Mexico City and acting through regular diplomatic channels, he sought the help of private advisers and used personal representatives to put into practice his policy.

His first move was to send John Lind, a former Governor of Minnesota, to the Government at Mexico City, carrying the astounding proposal that Huerta should at once eliminate himself by the appointment of a Provisional President acceptable to the revolutionaries, and

that a presidential election should be called, in which Huerta must not be a candidate.

This unwarranted interference flatly repelled Huerta.

LIND was then instructed to negotiate a compromise which would permit Huerta to continue in power until a successor other than himself should be constitutionally elected; and was also instructed to offer the following proposition:

"The President further authorizes me to say that if the Government *de facto* acts immediately and in conformity with the indication mentioned, then the President will assure the American bankers and their associates that the Government of the United States would view with pleasure the contracting of an immediate loan in sufficient amount to cover the necessities of the moment of the *de facto* Government of Mexico.

"The hope is sincerely entertained that the Government of Your Excellency will consider it in keeping with the best and highest interest of Mexico to accept immediately these propositions, which are submitted with the same object as the first ones, but in this more restricted form, with the ob-

ject that the Government of Mexico may act with regard to them without the necessity of the co-operation or aid in the present circumstances of any factor foreign to the situation."

AGAIN Huerta refused. The Lind memorandum and Huerta's reply were made public, and the immediate effect was greatly to strengthen Huerta at home and abroad.

"Huerta right or wrong, rather than foreign imposition," was the response among Mexicans, and the press of South America and Europe commended the Mexican President.

When Lind was sent with his ultimatum, Huerta had most of the country well in hand and had demonstrated his ability to the satisfaction of other Powers that had accorded him recognition. The ultimatum was unwarranted and direct interference in Mexico's internal affairs; the promise to see that bankers made the much needed loan, on condition that Mexico change its Government, may be classified as moral suasion, coercion, attempted bribery, or blackmail.

CARRANZA and the Sonora radicals took advantage of this strange attitude of President Wilson against Huerta, and instead of submitting to the national authority, openly declared themselves in revolt.

The Carranza rebellion was crushed within a few weeks, and Carranza with a handful of followers, fled westward into Sonora, where the radicals were augmenting their ranks with all the