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Genl. Obregon
Mexico City
D.F.

My Dear Sir

As a friend of twelve years ago and one who through all the trouble of those years has never ceased to admire the course you so fearlessly pursued, I am sending you a limited expression of opinion by a few of our leading journalists. Can safely say this does not half express the good feeling towards you by the people of the United States. The writer was for some time connected with Suna Park Mexico City. Wishing you every success as President of the Republic. Dear Yours Very truly
Laurie R. Rutherford

Daily Editorial Digest

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Mexico's Bloodless Election

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General Obregon's election, the first since the days of Diaz to pass without bloodshed, is welcomed by most of the American newspapers as the first light of a new dawn for weary Mexico. While some point out that the vote was small and the recorders partisan, the writers who take the new president-elect seriously believe that with his inauguration will come better relations with the United States and peace and economic progress to his own country.

From the border state of Texas the San Antonio Light (Ind.) heralds Mexico's "new era," which General Obregon and acting president de la Huerta have made possible. It says:

"They have ushered in bright prospects for the two countries in their relations with each other, in addition to giving Mexico a greater measure of peace and prosperity than she has known for more than a decade, and a better government than she ever had before."

The New York Tribune (Rep.) feels the same confidence in Obregon, for it explains, he is not one of the Cientifico faction, which ruled under Diaz, but a member of that group of Mexicans who "prefer civilization to anarchy and economic progress to a succession of barren military revolutions." His selection, the Christian Science Monitor (Boston, Ind.) believes, "is a promise of good for Mexico" and this "cannot fail to be good for Mexico's neighbors."

Obregon's militaristic training is touched upon by several writers but for the most part it is not considered a danger. The Pittsburgh Dispatch (Ind.) however, hints at a conservative tendency:

"From all accounts Mexico seems to have run the gamut of revolution and is due to settle down to another period of strong government, perhaps not as repressive as that of the elder Diaz but with the same general policy of peace and exploitation."

While the opposite idea is expressed by the Atlanta Constitution (Dem.) which explains that "the successful candidate is a democrat" and pledged to democratize the country to the fullest extent possible. As to his military past:

"While he is nominally a general—he is not a militarist in the sense of standing for rule of sword and might against the supremacy of civil justice in the affairs of the government."

His title to his new office, the Boston Transcript (Ind. Rep.) believes, rests on "unassailable constitutional grounds," and although a soldier with a fine fighting record, he seems to prefer "the unspectacular deeds of peace rather than a continued rattling of the sword." As an example of this predelection, the Transcript quotes the General to the effect that "he would rather teach the Mexican people the use of the toothbrush than how to handle a rifle."

The New York World (Dem.) points out that Obregon "does not really belong to the professional soldier class which has been at the bottom of so many of Mexico's political troubles" and seems to possess more of the "solidity of conduct that goes into the making of an intelligent ruler than any of the Generals who have come to the fore in Mexico in the last twelve years."

"Brighter days for Mexico" is the caption under which the Providence Tribune (Ind. Rep.) prints an optimistic editorial, hinting that "it may be that whoever is elected President of the United States will have no Mexican problem to meet." This it thinks

may be brought about by continuation of the de la Huerta policies by Obregon. "There is a possibility," it adds, "that Mexico may even join the League of Nations before the United States." These policies of Provisional President de la Huerta, which the Tribune praises and which have caused Mexico to show an "extraordinary improvement," as the Buffalo Express (Ind. Rep.) puts it, the latter believes originated with Obregon himself.

There seems to be a general agreement that the President-elect is sincere in his protestation of friendship for the United States, and likewise that this country finds him "simpatico." The Syracuse Herald (Ind.) says:

"On this side of the border we have every reason to believe that the new President cherishes friendly feelings towards the United States; and that his administration, whatever it may be able to accomplish for the Mexicans themselves, will be signalized by an improved understanding between the governments at Washington and Mexico City."

Bolshevism threatens Mexico, declares the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press (Ind.), but America can help to check it with reconstructive assistance, and since "Obregon is a real friend of America" it is not unlikely that "the temper of the American people is such as to facilitate the aims of the new head of the Mexican government." The Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.) bears out this supposition by asserting that "it is no secret that the Washington government looks with favor upon the party of which Obregon is head," and it further predicts that "General Obregon can take up the reins with the knowledge that he has the best wishes of his American neighbors for the fullest possible success." Almost the same words come from the Utica Observer (Dem.) which mentions his neighbors to the South as well.

"He has the good offices and wishes of the United State as well as the South American countries and he is inspired by the ambition to help his country take its place with the other countries of the world."

An interesting variance of opinion concerning the man himself is noted in the comment of some of the writers. The Atlanta Constitution (Dem.) credits him with being "a highly cultured gentleman" while the Springfield Republican (Ind.) calls him a "two-fisted roughneck." This the Syracuse Post Standard (Rep.) declares to be "figuratively accurate, but not anatomically, as he has only one arm."

The New York Evening Post (Ind.) refuses to commit itself one way or the other as to future conditions in Mexico under Obregon; "whether Obregon has any statesmanlike qualities, neither we nor the Mexican know" and the Washington Post (Ind.) is still further from being convinced of his merit. It believes he is merely following the methods of Diaz and his election will probably cause a revolution if "the spark of independence and democracy is not dead" in Mexico.

But the Boston Post (Ind. Dem.), like the majority of newspapers, is confident. It quotes a statement made at the beginning of Obregon's career by an American who knew him:

"Watch Obregon. He is the ablest, the most honest, and the most patriotic man in Mexico. He is the country's best hope for peace and order."