



The Indianapolis Times

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Swift Justice

There should be a better way of stopping banditry than a war of bullets between the bandits and the police. The lives of policemen, ready to do their duty, are too valuable to be sacrificed, if some other way can be found that will protect the public from the bandits.

These bandits have just one thing in common. They may differ in every other way. Some come from protected homes. Others have had lessons in crime. Some are drunken. Others are sober. But not one of these youths who engage in crime ever expects to be punished.

No gang or a single individual ever committed a crime with any idea that he was to pay the penalty.

It is because he believes he can get away with it that he chooses what looks like an easy way to get money.

An examination of the record shows that the one factor which persuades these bandits that crime is safe is the delay between arrest and trial.

When an arrest is made for one of these crimes, the usual procedure requires weeks and sometimes months before the accused is brought to trial and many months, where an appeal is made, before sentence is actually carried out.

During the weeks that the accused is out on bond or in jail, interest in his case dwindles. It is also very easy to manufacture a defense. It is even more easy for the victim to forget and become confused when placed on the witness stand and then the lawyer provided by friends or the gang, takes full advantage and the chances of acquittal of the guilty grows.

The one thing that would terrify any youth who contemplates a crime, whether acting alone or with others, would be the knowledge that if he was caught in Indianapolis, he would be placed almost immediately on trial and punished.

Crooks give Milwaukee a wide berth. It is known as a city where delays in criminal trials are brief. Those accused of crime are given quick trials. If innocent, they are restored quickly to their proper standing. If guilty, they do not wait for months before paying the price.

Judge Collins is doing what he can and it is commendable that he is giving up a part of his vacation that the Criminal Court may be in session.

Prosecutor Remy is not at fault. He has been vigorous in demanding quick trials, but has few deputies.

But the courts are clogged and there are many in jail and on bond who are accused of crimes of violence.

Just as a practical method of curbing the crime way, which is serious, The Times suggests that a few special judges, a few special prosecutors of experience in criminal trials, drafted for the occasion, be placed on the job and every man now accused of banditry of any sort be given the speedy trial which is a right under the Constitution and a right also for the State which expects protection.

There are vacant courtrooms now available, for the civil judges are resting.

There are many men in jail awaiting trial who should be tried and who, presumably innocent under the law, should desire speedy trials.

Let the word go out that in this city every person accused of crime goes on trial without delay and there will be fewer widows of policemen, fewer mourning families of wild youths, fewer holdups on the highways.

Remember this one fact. No one who commits crime expects punishment. They have that in common, the criminals. They expect to escape punishment.

A reputation for swift justice is a better protection than the largest police force.

Mexico's Tragedy

America mourns with Mexico. Sorrow brings the two peoples closer together in the spirit of friendship exemplified by the assassinated leader, President-Elect Obregon.

The spontaneous outpouring of sympathy by the American people and Government over the heroic death of the flier, Captain Carranza, whose funeral procession is crossing this country today, is a measure of the good will between these sister republics.

It was Obregon's privilege to strive as a public figure in pedestrian ways for the same understanding between the two nations symbolized by the flash and sacrifice of the young aviator.

For the President-elect had shared and ratified the agreement of Ambassador Morrow and President Calles, which lifted the threat of intervention. Obregon personally helped establish the present official relations of mutual respect and friendship.

The United States Government contemplated with assurance and gratification the Obregon administration, which was to have begun next December. American business men had confidence in him. And the American people, knowing less about him, were in the main sympathetic, because they believed him a man of the people.

As a nation which thrives has passed through similar crises, we can understand the horror of this experience in Mexico.

This would be a grave test of the stability and balance of any nation. It will be a trial for Mexico—

for the new Mexico of orderly progress, which Obregon helped create out of the heritage of oppression and revolt.

Fortunately, Obregon's closest friend and associate, President Calles, is a strong man, such as will be needed to guide his country through this emergency. We trust that under Calles' firm but temperate leadership this grief may unite Mexicans of all parties and creeds in the peaceful choice of president to carry on the policy of national reconstruction and international amity to which their murdered chief was committed.

Look Into the Air

Jaded and possibly a little sick from looking on the ways of man, the psalmist said: "I will look unto the hills, whence cometh my help."

Similarly depressed from too much reading of politics, war, murder and other diversions of the human race, we moderns can say: "I will look into the air, whence cometh my help."

For every few days now a beautiful story of human daring and self-sacrifice crowds the other news of the day off the front pages, in the conquering of the latest frontier. An element which at times is as savage and cruel to man as the jungles ever were is being met and slowly beaten by human courage. Lindbergh's flight was only one great example. The fliers who have day by day skimmed the arctic wastes searching for the lost survivors of the Noble expedition, and Amundsen, who apparently has gone to his death—there are only the present headlines.

There will be other headlines next month and the month beyond that, and then the next month. And every episode will have its heroes. Human beings are, after all, like that. And for every hero of whom our front pages tell, there will be countless others who, through modesty or some other factor, don't reach the front pages.

Consider the case of Lieut. U. G. Ent of the Army. He was co-pilot of Army balloon No. 3, in the recent balloon races. Up 1,200 feet in the air, the balloon was struck by lightning and his pilot, Lieut. Paul Evert, was knocked unconscious—killed, as it later proved. Ent himself was partially paralyzed. The balloon later was afire—30,000 cubic feet of burning hydrogen—within a few feet of him.

He could have leaped overboard and parachuted to safety. He had to make an instantaneous decision, as the balloon was rocketing downward at hundreds of feet a second. In his own modest memoir he confesses he almost went over before he reconsidered.

But he thought Evert was alive. And he stuck to that burning balloon all the way, was over the side of the basket, had dragged Evert out, and was trying to revive him, almost before it had struck the ground.

Of such stuff are the best of us made. There are many who would have decided as Ent did. It is a reassuring thought in a political year.

The Mind of Evil

In the middle of the famous Boston Common is a pool where little children go bathing on hot summer days. The thing is very informal; most of the youngsters come from very poor families, and most of the costumes are quite sketchy. But Boston, staid as it is, is used to them and doesn't mind.

The other day, though, a stout and testy gentleman happened along and was horrified. He summoned a group of six-year-olds and harangued them: "You children should be ashamed for appearing in such indecent attire. If I had anything to say about it I would forbid you to come on the Common. It's positively disgusting what decent people have to stand for these days."

We are very, very happy to report that a group of older people, sitting on nearby benches, promptly arose and tossed the evil-minded old meddler into the pond.

—David Dietz on Science

Slowly Dying Stars

No. 105

VARIABLE stars are divided into four groups by astronomers today. The star Delta in the constellation of Cepheus, whose acquaintance the reader has recently made in this department, is a variable star.

A variable star is one which does not shine with constant brilliance, but goes through a cycle of varying brilliance. They have been studied by astronomers since the days of Herschel, Bessel and Struve.

The first type is known as the eclipsing variable. This type of star is in reality a double star. The change in brilliance is due to the fact that one of the component stars is a very dim or dark star.

As the two revolve about each other, we sometimes get the full light of the bright component. The variable is then at maximum brilliance. Later, the dark component gets between us and the bright one, eclipsing it. The variable is then at minimum brilliance.

The other three types of variables are true variables, that is, single stars of fluctuating brilliance. These include the short-period variables or Cepheids, the irregular variable and the long-period variables.

The star Delta in the constellation is the Cepheid type of variable. Several theories have been advanced to explain this type.

One theory is that the light is periodically dimmed by the formation of spots like the spots on our sun. Another theory is that the star is in an unstable condition and that it is expanding and contracting like a huge balloon.

They are called Cepheids because Delta in the constellation Cepheus is one of the best known of the type. The irregular variables, as their name indicates, do not have regular periods in which the change in brilliance takes place. The variation in most cases, however, is not very great.

This type of variable is found only among the giant stars, the largest stars in the universe. These stars are also thought to be the youngest stars. Perhaps their instability is merely a sign of their youth.

The last type are the long-period. They have periods ranging from 65 to 800 days. Some astronomers think that they are in reality dying stars, that they are growing so cool that a crust is beginning to form over their molten surfaces. Such a crust would dim the star.

However, the gases underneath would rise in temperature and pressure until they broke through, causing an increase in the brilliance of the star. Then the crust would begin to form again. However, this theory is a little difficult to maintain in the face of the regularity of the light changes.



F.G.W. STRUVE

M. E.

TRACY

SAYS:

"Obregon's Death Has Served No Purpose More Distinctly Than to Intrench Calles and Instill in Him a Ruthlessness Toward His Opponents That He Has Never Exercised Before."

FATE is never so ironic as when she sets the stage for a great man's murder.

Here was Mexico settling down to peace after eighteen years of tumult and disturbance; here was a program which, though some might disagree with it, was still a program, and here was leadership, which, though some might oppose it, was still leadership.

Of even more dramatic significance, here was a people preparing to immortalize a young man who had distinguished himself as a messenger of good will, preparing to consecrate itself at the grave of a new kind of hero.

No one looked for trouble at such an auspicious moment, which is one reason, perhaps, why trouble came.

Way to Despotism

One thinks of Caesar fallen at the foot of Pompey's statue; of Marat stabbed while in his bath; of Lincoln shot down at the moment when his great task seemed completed and his first chance to rest was at hand; and one tries to recall a single assassination that did any good.

Not that assassins always have been common killers, or have lacked plausible excuses, but that progress is not to be had by the wanton destruction of human life.

Brutus may have been as honorable as a murderer could be when he struck to save Rome from tyranny, but he only paved the way for a despotism.

Charlotte Corday may have been moved by the illusionism that she could stop the reign of terror with a dagger, but she only made it a little easier for Napoleon to lead Europe in the bloodiest war dance of modern history.

John Wilkes Booth may have been crazy enough to believe that he spoke the truth when he cried "sic semper tyranni," after shooting Lincoln, but he only destroyed the best friend the South had.

Tool for Others

God knows what a cartoonist thought he could accomplish by killing Alvaro Obregon. No doubt he had some kind of a dream, since that seems to go with assassination. No doubt he had explained to his conscience, if not to his friends, just why such an act should be performed, and just why he was the man to perform it.

Like many another of his kind, he may have heard voices commanding him to spill blood, may have felt called upon by God to slay, may have visualized himself as the instrument of Heaven-born destiny. The chances are, however, that he was just a poor dupe, a piece of spineless putty, a brainless fool for stronger men to use.

Spreads Hate, Alarm

They will take him out and stand him against the wall, after wringing from him all the information it is possible to get, and folks will say he has paid the price of his folly.

That is sheer nonsense. He cannot pay the price, cannot repair the damage he has done, cannot calm the confusion he has wrought, cannot restore the situation he has destroyed.

It is Mexico that will pay—Mexico, with her confidence shaken, her hopes blasted, her anger aroused, her feeling of security gone.

Putting aside what the nation may suffer, there are a thousand widows and 10,000 orphans to satisfy the thirst for vengeance.

One of the most curious weaknesses of human nature is our inability to realize the consequences of invoking death as a political remedy, the evil effect of planting the idea of murder in the minds of millions of people by killing their chief.

Obregon is dead, but his friends are alive—alive with hate and alarm.

There are hundreds of marked men in Mexico today, and the man who shot Obregon marked them.

Entranches Calles

Now that the deed has been committed, a child can see its effects. Even those who egged the murderer on, if there are such, realize now not only how futile it was, but what danger it holds for them. Instead of feeling safe, they are white with fear.

Queer, is it not, how many more things we can perceive a moment after death, than we could a moment before. Of more immediate and practical consequence, the very rule it was thought to end through this assassination has been strengthened.

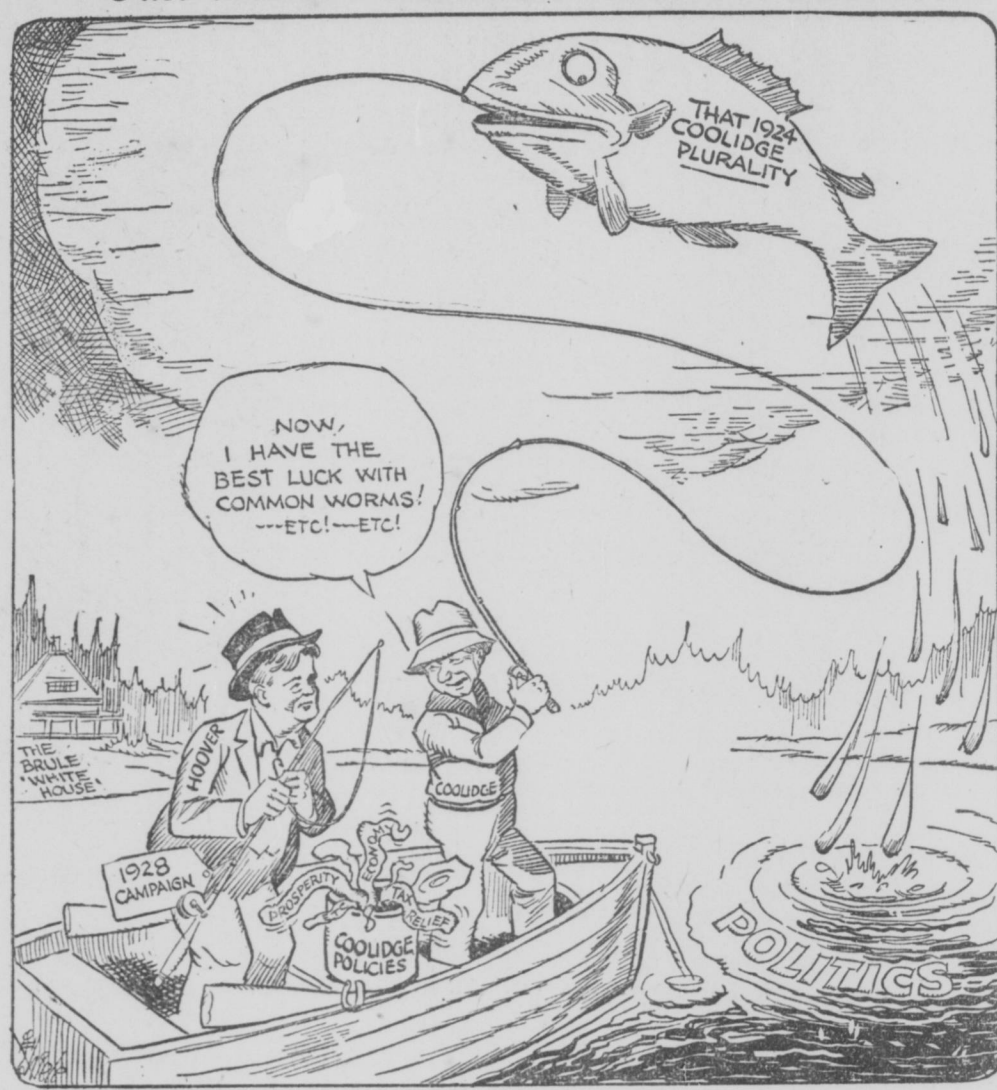
Obregon's death has served no purpose more distinctly than to entrench Calles, to crystallize around him all the liberal elements of Mexico, to afford him a protection and support such as he has never enjoyed, to visualize him as the sole hope of the present regime, to instill in him a degree of caution for his own protection and of ruthlessness toward his opponents that he has not exercised up to this time.

What ever chances the opposition may have had before, it has none now. Calles will not only be continued in office, but he will be given the powers of dictator. What ever his own inclination may be, popular feeling will demand that he exercise those powers.

For the immediate future at least, his regime has been strengthened and established beyond recall, and it is likely to be less considerate of opponents than it would have been but for this wanton, inexcusable crime.

One is justified in forecasting such results, because they invariably follow assassination.

Just a Few Pointers on 'How It's Done'



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DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Nervous Infections Crippling, Painful

This is the first of three articles treating of serious infections of the nervous system. Next: Infectious Paralysis.

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

OF ALL the diseases that afflict mankind those of the nervous system take a premier position in their crippling, painful, serious nature.

The nervous system is the great electric switchboard of the human body controlling thought, movement and action as well as sensation. Therefore, any disease that particularly selects the brain and the spinal cord is likely to result most disastrously.

In his George M. Kober lecture in Washington, D. C., Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, devoted his attention to three of the most serious diseases of the central nervous system that have recently afflicted mankind.

They include epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, epidemic infantile paralysis and epidemic encephalitis.

It was for epidemic meningitis that Dr. Flexner discovered a causative serum which lowered the death rate from almost complete fatality to a relatively low percentage.

About 1904 a large epidemic of meningitis broke out in Europe and America. Apparently it began in Prussia and spread to certain Atlantic coast states of the United States, and appeared regularly each summer with a considerable number of cases until about 1920.

Bridge Play Made Easy

BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)

AS THE bidding ends and the contract is declared, the first question which you naturally ask of yourself is, "How can my partner and I win the greatest possible number of tricks with the cards we hold?"

There is nothing mysterious about the playing of your hand. Neither genius nor a magician's skill is required.

What must you know is how to manipulate your cards to your best advantage—you must understand the mechanics of the game.

This knowledge can be gained by any person who devotes a little time to the study of bridge methods and watches others play.

As in bidding there are certain fundamental principles governing the playing of the cards. These principles you must master if you want to be an average winner.

You must know what card to lead and what card to play after your opponent leads; you must know when to take a trick and when to sacrifice one so that you may capture more tricks later.

Many conventions, rules, tables and suggested plays are included in this series. To teach them all the role is not the function of the following chapters.

The author's aim is rather to develop a rational understanding of the "working tools" of the game. In bridge it is not sufficient to know merely how to accomplish a result.

If you are to derive the maximum pleasure out of playing, demand the reason for every suggested play.

The greater your desire to know the logic of the maneuver, the keener will be your interest in improving your game and playing better bridge.

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This Date in U. S. History

July 18
1812—Frigate Constitution escaped from British.
1861—First mail stage from San Francisco reached Kansas after a trip of 17 days.
1864—Lincoln called for 500,000 volunteers; deficiencies to be made up by a draft after 50 days.

Since that time it has about worn itself out as an epidemic, and appears in the form of occasional cases here and there.

Prof. Flexner is inclined to believe that it is possible that the great wave of German immigration between 1900 and 1905 may have brought the disease to the Atlantic coast cities of the United States.

Epidemic meningitis is caused by a small round germ first isolated in 1897. The germ may live on the mucous membrane of the nose of man and is transmitted from one person to another.

Before the discovery of the serum the deaths varied from 65 to 90 per cent. Today the mortality is under 25 per cent.

Before the discovery of the serum epidemic meningitis attacking infants one year old killed about 100 per cent; now less than 50 per cent.

die because they are helped by serum treatment.

When the germs get into the body they are carried to the spinal cord and there they attack the covering of the cord, spreading even to the covering of the brain.

These coverings are called meninges, which gives to the disease the name meningitis of inflammation of the meninges.

In this disease we know then definitely the cause and we have a specific medical treatment which, if used early, will produce favorable results.

Sometimes severe paralysis result from this disease.

With modern methods of treatment it is possible to lower the incidence of paralysis and it is possible also by study of the paralyzed nerves and muscles to secure favorable results in the matter of development and movement after the disease has passed.

With Other Editors

Kokomo Dispatch

Flaming youth's passion for joy riding in stolen automobiles could be curbed by reviving the public whipping post, Emsley W. Johnson of Indianapolis told the Indiana State Bar Association at its meeting in Ft. Wayne.

While many persons may not agree with this suggestion which would mean a return to corporal punishment, supposed to be a remnant of the dark ages, all will have to admit that drastic measures of some sort will have to be taken.

The speaker estimated that his methods of dealing with these particular social delinquents would decrease automobile banditry in Indiana by 75 per cent.

It seems to us, however, that Attorney Johnson dug nearest to the real solution of our criminal class problem, when he turned to his lawyer listeners with the following declaration:

"Some of the greatest protective implements of the criminal are the technicalities of the law. They have been abused to the extreme in the United States and are generally considered of no value, except to the criminal in the protection it affords him for the deserved consequences of his crime."

With very sound argument, Johnson insisted that "there should be no such thing as motion to quash. The court should have the right to correct errors in the indictment, and the rule preventing a prosecuting attorney from commenting on the failure of a defendant to take the stand is a disgrace to our legal procedure."

He defined the jury system and spoke against the proposal that the court should direct jury verdicts.

Attorney Johnson showed that our Nation leads the entire civilized world in the number of crimes committed, and he blames part of this disgraceful record on the fact that we have too many laws and too little respect for law.

When he tells us that in the last five years 67,000 new laws have been passed in this country by Congress and the Legislatures, we are forced to the same conclusion that he makes, when he inquires: "Is it any wonder that the people do not know the law and of course, have but little respect for it?"

Certainly Johnson stated the situation correctly when he asserted that there is too great disposition to let pity and sentiment enter into our punishment of criminals.

"In order to stop crime we must detect the criminal and we must promptly punish him," he said. "We may feel a certain degree of pity for the wrongdoer, but we must have a wider charity for the victim. The life of one good citizen supporting his family is of greater value to society than a penniless family of robbers."

Let us hope that the lawyers will give serious consideration to the suggestions which have been brought out before the State bar association, for they have it within their power to be of vast service in correcting an evil to

which they themselves have in a measure contributed, through the unethical practices of the unscrupulous members of their profession.

Mr. Fixit

Need for Cutting Weeds Pointed Out in Letter by Property Owner.

Let Mr. Fixit, The Times' representative at city hall, present your troubles to city officials. Write Mr. Fixit at The Times. Names and addresses which must be given will not be published.

Need for cutting weeds in the Butler University district at Fairview was cited today in a letter to Mr. Fixit.

Dear Mr. Fixit: I wonder if it would be possible to persuade the city, State or Nation, or some other authoritative agency to cut the beautiful growth of weeds in the beautiful Butler district. If Johnny Appleseed were alive and should happen to saunter in that district I am sure he would spread his apple seeds for he would mistake the place for a wilderness. Thanks for whatever you can accomplish.

R. S. L.
City Street Commissioner Charles A. Grossart promised Fixit to order weeds cut in the vicinity of the Butler campus. If you have any particular spot which needs attention report it to the commissioner's office.

Dear Fixit—I wish you could get a fire alarm box installed at Delaware and Market St. There is valuable city property at this corner. A six-story garage and the Tomlinson Hotel both would make a big fire if a blaze ever started.

H. M.
Howard Robertson, safety board secretary, said the department investigated your request but decided a fire alarm within a block is sufficient protection.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question by writing to Frederick M. Kerby, Question Editor, The Indianapolis Times, Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps for reply. Medical and legal advice cannot be given, nor can extended requests be met. Other questions will receive a personal reply. Unassigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you desire.

How do coconuts grow?
On the tree the nut is enclosed in a soft husk which is removed before the nuts are marketed.

What was the date and cause of the Irish famine?
It occurred in 1846 to 1847 due to the failure of the potato crop.

Who received the contract to build the Coolidge dam and where is it located?
The dam is to be constructed across the canyon of the Gila River near San Carlos, Ariz. The contract has been let to the Atkinson-Spicer Company, 1315 Edward Wilkey Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

KEEPING UP With THE NEWS

BY LUDWELL DENNY

WASHINGTON, July 18.—Assassination of President-Elect Obregon may jeopardize the peace of Mexico to which American business and political interests are closely related.

This is the thought uppermost in the minds of Washington officials today, shocked and grieved by the tragedy south of the Rio Grande. But, while recognizing this danger, there is no disposition here to overestimate the Mexican crisis.

The United States Government and the Latin-American diplomatic corps look upon President Calles as a firm man, who will do his utmost to steady his people and prevent the panic and excesses possible in such emergencies.

But where can Mexico find a man to replace Obregon? That is the question troubling the friends of the southern republic.

Mexico is described as a country barely passing out of a long revolutionary period, slowly creating the conditions under which peaceful progress is possible. Will the habit of eight years of comparative order under the Obregon-Calles administrations prove strong enough now to prevent recurrence of counter-revolution in the time of crisis, it is asked.

PEACE in Mexico has been preserved in part by the prestige of Obregon and Calles. By his spectacular military service in the so-called vindictive revolution of Carranza, helping first to un