

EDITORIALS

Behind Mexico's Oil Seizure

(Christian Science Monitor)

Commendably calm is the British and American reaction to Mexico's latest expropriation measure. Remembering the excited, often untrue and never helpful comments and counter-charges which characterized Mexican-American relations before Dwight Morrow took his friendly shirt-sleeve diplomacy to Mexico about ten years ago, we can well be grateful for present dispositions to find reasonable solutions. Vigorous efforts to uphold rightful interests will only be strengthened by an endeavor to be reasonable and to understand the background of an action which appears unreasonable.

The taking of \$400,000,000 worth of British and American oil properties climaxes a long and complicated struggle. This seizure may be influenced by recent Communist penetration of Mexico, but it derives directly from the Constitution of 1917, which reserved to the Mexican people property rights in natural resources. That Constitution crystallized the results of the Mexican Revolution which Madero began in 1910 and Carranza and Obregon carried on. And the provision about property rights which now seems Communist grew out of unhappy experience with absentee ownership.

Under the not too scrupulous encouragement of Porfirio Diaz and earlier dictators foreign capital had found large opportunities for investment in Mexico. Foreign capital was necessary and did greatly develop the country. But the people were oppressed. And more than one revolution or war was caused by the influence of non-Mexican exploiters seeking to get a stronger hold on Mexico's great wealth.

Out of that background came the basic law on which the present expropriation is based. And its terms can be traced back to ordinances of 1763 which reserved to the Spanish Crown the products of the subsoil, including "petroleum" or "juice of the earth." For twenty years that law has been only partially carried out. Mexico, like the nations which signed the Kellogg Pact, has a habit of putting into writing ideals which she has not proven in practice. She is making notable progress with education, her basic need, but ignorance, materialistic ecclesiasticism and extremes of apathy and impractical reform have oppressed Mexico even more than outside ownership.

The present situation has also been precipitated by "advanced" labor laws of the last few years and even more by the new political power of organized labor in Mexico. President Cardenas has appeared to be an unusually honest and practical Mexican reformer but he has gone or been carried to excesses in the matter of labor reform. There is every indication that employees of oil companies will be unable to carry on production, that there will be difficulties in marketing and that the situation will make the Mexican Government's financial straits intractable. Altogether there is sound hope for Secretary Hull's efforts to find a fair and reasonable solution.

Brazil for the Brazilian Ruler

(Christian Science Monitor)

Brazil's new Foreign Minister, Senhor Aranha, has left little doubt that the affairs of some 155,000 Germans in Brazil are to be administered from Rio and not from Munich. His first important acts as the chief of foreign policy were to support President Vargas' decrees banning National Socialist political and cultural activity in Brazil, and to stand firm in the face of German protests which were described as peremptory. Brazil does not propose to be governed, even in part, by remote control.

Only a few days previous, President Vargas had given another indication that he is to be the only sovereignty within Brazil; the Integralist or Green Shirt fascists of Brazil were banned.

Taken together, the two moves have offered more than a few calories of comfort to those who carry the spread of fascism, and those who hoped that President Vargas would eschew the ideological throne, Aranha the democrat. It was quickly said, Aranha the stout friend of the American system with close kinship to the United States, has prevailed. Brazil will stand off the ideological invasion. Others have gone so far as to say that President Vargas, by conferring an important portion of his leadership on so able a crusader for liberty, has given a boost to the American system and

renounced, for Brazil, the fascist technique.

If accurate, these contentions would greatly hearten the ranks of the democracies, and they may yet prove accurate. But for the present it is necessary to note that President Vargas, in the last week has only been fulfilling the logic of dictatorship. Who would expect a dictator to permit the spread of National Socialist ideology among the Germans of the Italian Tyrol? Or Horst Hitler to give the direction of the Poles in Silesia over to Warsaw? The leadership philosophy requires that the leader be unquestioned master within his own house.

In a word, the allegiance of President Vargas will be discerned not by his domestic maneuvers of consolidate power, even at the expense of foreign racial doctrines; but in his economic and political alignments relative to the international balance of power. And these alignments are not yet established; perhaps not even decided upon. They will develop historically. And the proponents of democracy, meanwhile, can best themselves to the line of their powers of persuasion, to support Senhor Aranha in his able efforts to strengthen the ties between Brazil and the United States.

The Business of Living

(Ingham County News)

Just now in looking over the pages of a national magazine the advertisement of a great manufacturing corporation caught the editorial eye. It is that of a modern lad of about seven years, up in the attic of a fine old home. The boy is looking with inquiring eyes at his mother who is moving about among some discarded articles. There were elaborate pictures of his ancestors of the nineties; there were elaborate kerosene lamps of an earlier period; there were old straight-backed chairs; there was an old photograph with suspended horn.

The lad was puzzled. "Gee, Mom, were they all poor people?" the lad asks.

That picture should be given a prominent place in our modern homes. Too much is taken for granted nowadays. Too many, it seems, believe everything is due them, without effort of their own. Too many forget that even with the hard work and sacrifices under which our forebears struggled, many of the modern day conveniences, accepted now as standard, were unobtainable at any price.

It is good now and then to evaluate that for which we yearn. The poorest now are better off than the richest a century ago. Even a half century has witnessed a revolution in standards of living. Taking stock is good for any business, even the business of living.

Divorce

(Wayne, Neb. Herald)

We have just read an article written by a lawyer on reasons for divorces many of which he has handled. He says the real causes are not often those presented or those permissible under the law, but have backgrounds of trivialities which no court would consider sufficient. Frequently, men and women do not get along together harmoniously because of little conflicting habits—disagreeing mannerisms that rob no one of his or her rights, but upset the balance and open the way for estrangement and finally divorce. No national agreement in marital relations, the unimportance of complaints is seen and deeply regretted. Small differences should not be allowed to grow into a calamity, inviting separation. Each party to a marriage covenant has as much right to think and act independently as the other. Neither should be forced to accept the other's dictum in matters not germane to the original agreement. Harmony may be preserved and the rocks of divorce often avoided by conceding an equality of partnership, neither trying to change the other's taste nor break down the other's essential in home building as in business building, and neither should permit trivial differences to interfere.

DUPLICATES

Wage earners who have lost their social security account numbers may obtain duplicates from the field office of the Old Age Insurance Bureau in Pontiac. Duplicate numbers will be issued those to all residents of the counties of Oakland and Macomb who apply under the law and present proper identification.

Delicate Hairs on Some Plants Capture Insects

The Venus Fly Trap is a trapper plant and murderer, notes a writer in the New York Telegram. It is found in swamps and moist places. The leaves are divided into two parts or halves both edged with a row of teeth and nerve hairs. This plant also provides with a honey nectar and is so sensitive that the slightest touch on one of these hairs causes the leaf to close immediately. The insect is caught tight and is absorbed. It is digested. Then the leaf opens again and waits for the next victim.

The Sun Dew, Dew plant or Drosera, certainly looks delicate and harmless enough. Its leaves are arranged in rosettes and are covered with scarlet tentacles or hairs. At the tip of each is a drop of honey-like liquid which resembles a drop of dew shining and glistening in the sunlight. The insect—attracted by the scent—and also by the color—soon hopelessly entangled in the sticky tentacles which grow in great numbers.

These sun dew grows in moist, muddy land and full sunshine, at times almost floating on the water or attached to water-logged slumps. They can also be found in great numbers, but must be kept constantly moist at the roots and exposed to bright light. They are exquisite under a magnifying glass, as are many tiny plants which are never seen to full advantage with the naked eye.

Thus in the plant world we can readily see the "survival of the fittest" being carried out by these carnivorous specimens in their daily struggle for existence.

Benjamin Franklin Won Popularity With French

Benjamin Franklin, born January 17, 1706, of humble parentage, became a foremost philosopher and statesman. But he never lost his simplicity of manner, which, coupled with ready wit, won him the esteem of Americans, but was sent to Paris to represent his country during the Revolutionary war, writes Leslie Hartley in the Washington Star.

One of 17 children, Franklin was compelled to work at an early age. When only seventeen he ran away from home to Philadelphia where he married and became the Quaker City's outstanding citizen.

Of a practical turn of mind, Franklin, who was a successful printer and journalist, developed numerous inventions. His philosophy also was practical and his quaint sayings and homely wisdom, published for years in Poor Richard's Almanac, are quoted still.

When the Revolutionary war began in earnest he was sent to France to win the sympathy of that nation for the cause of the Colonies. Not only did he persuade the king to openly aid the Americans, but he won such personal popularity that crowds followed him through the streets. Upon his departure the king presented him with handsome gifts and gave him the use of the queen's litter to bear him to the coast.

Flying Library Serves Isles

Supplying reading matter to the residents of Wake, Midway and other islands along the Pacific air line has been simplified by inauguration of a flying library service. When the Pan American clipper planes take off from Honolulu, packages of books are on board, each consigned to one of the islands. The Honolulu public library is in charge of the service. The books are kept in circulation by moving them from one island to another until the entire route has been covered. — Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Ancient Filling for Quilts

Often in Colonial times filling for quilts consisted of unglazed cotton. Not infrequently quilts were filled with deer very much like wool bats. But in early days of use destined for such use was inadequately washed and consequently retained much of the natural animal oil, which in either heat or dampness gave forth a disagreeable odor, and was used out of necessity rather than choice. Worn woolen sheets and blankets also were used as quilt fills, after they had begun to fall into holes.

Alces, Medicinal Plant

Among the Great Plains Indians, alces was a most important medicinal plant. Centuries earlier, the idea of binding fresh plant leaves of various kinds on burns or other wounds was the favorite of Egyptian surgeons. Homer's heroes bound up damaged skin in the same way with herbs and oil. Roman expeditions found the savage Germans used in the art. European settlers in America learned from the Indians precisely similar skills.

Early Furniture-Making

Until comparatively recent times, woodworking did not exist. There was no need for it. Ancient peoples spent most of their time merely eating and sleeping. In the home, they used little furniture, usually prefabricated that to be made of metal. But about 400 years ago woodwork began an art. Furniture making was highly profitable and its secrets handed down from generation to generation. But machinery-made furniture ended that.

REDFORD THEATER TO SHOW THREE FILMS IN ONE

Six worthwhile shows run at the Redford Theater next week. The first three are rolled into one and called "Wells Fargo," rated as a top film for the year. The picture, showing Friday through Monday is a combined horse opera, historical drama and love story. It is as fine a historical picture as Hollywood has produced since "The Birth of a Nation."

"Wells Fargo" stars Joel McCrea and Frances Dee (McGee) and both in and out of the picture) but Bob Burns attracts equal attention as he lays aside his usual role of telling stories on his family and plays a lovable old vagrant of the plains. If you don't sleep over just a little when Burns makes his simple dinner speech on his activities with McCrea, you ain't human.

A Frank Lloyd production released by Paramount, "Wells Fargo," besides being lauded as fine entertainment, won acclaim for its authenticity. Every piece of material from cradle to stage coach

either is a replica of a like article used in early days or the article itself.

The other three pictures are "You're a Sweetheart," with Alice Faye, which is on the bill with "Wells Fargo," "Thoroughbreds Don't Cry," with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, and "Night Club Scandal," with John Barrymore, which run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Powwow of Indian Origin

The name powwow is Indian in origin. From the Algonquin language, it first meant a medicine man's ceremony for the cure of disease. That was before the white man—and trouble—came to the Indians. Then it became synonymous with a great dance, feast, or celebration held before a grand hunt or war expedition. Noise, shouts and confusion made up a powwow. Early Americans grabbed the word, gave it still another meaning. A political powwow to them meant a gathering of would-be statesmen and saviors of the nation, where soul and confusion often triumphed over anything of a deliberate nature.

PAIR COMBINES TOTAL OF 87 YEARS IN BUSINESS

With a combined service record of eighty-seven years in the telephone business, the Maben family of Fort Worth, Tex., has come to retirement. J. G. Maben, district manager, retired in December after half a century of continuous service. His wife retired last June with thirty-seven years of service. This combined record of eighty-seven years is the longest, so far as is known, of any couple in the telephone industry.

Mr. Maben helped to pioneer the telephone in Fort Worth and has seen the city grow from a small town with 255 telephone subscribers, served from a third floor office, into a metropolis city with six central offices housed in five buildings, where more than 28,000 subscribers place some 373,000 calls daily. He began his telephone career when he was only thirteen years of age, and his first duties were those of a messenger boy. He soon was on his way to whither positions and became, successively collector, bookkeeper, cashier, manager, traveling auditor, and district manager.

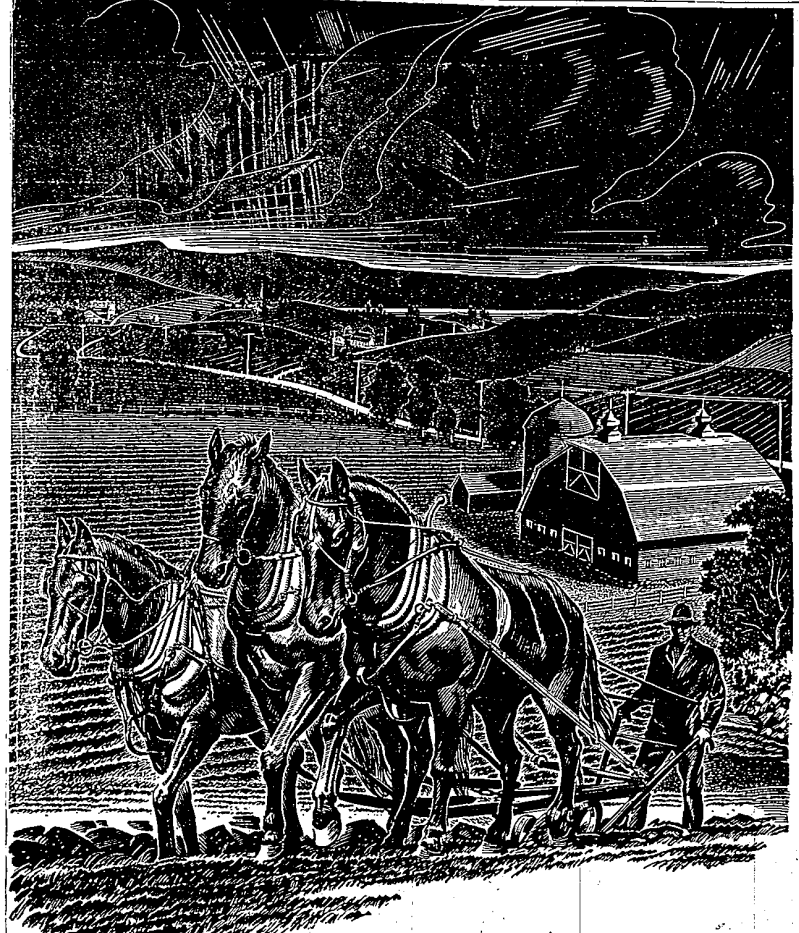
EIGHTH CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
(Detroit, Michigan)
Services held in Redford High School Auditorium, Grand River Avenue at Six Mile Road.
Sunday Services at 10:30 a. m.
Sunday School at same hour for pupils up to age of 20 years.
Wednesday evening meetings at 8 o'clock include testimonies of Christian Science healing.
A Branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.
READING ROOM
Free to the public. 17379 Lahser Road.
The Bible, works of Mary Baker Eddy, and authorized Christian Science literature may be read, borrowed or purchased.
You are cordially invited.

Send in your news items.

It's Easy To Be Mistaken About STOMACH TROUBLE

Stomach sufferers should learn the truth about ULcers, GAS, ACID, INDIGESTION, belching, heartburn, constipation, etc., due to excess acid. FREE UGGA Booklet contains facts of interest. The 8th edition, just off the press, may prove your first step to happy stomach comfort. Clip this card and you to ask for the UGGA Booklet at

OAK PHARMACY



THE GOOD EARTH...

Sun... Soil... Rain... and Electricity



Farm customers throughout the area served by The Detroit Edison Company are billed at the same rate as city residents. This rate averages 3.47¢ per kilowatt-hour

for farms and is recognized as one of the lowest average rates for electric service in the United States. This rate includes without extra charge lamp and fuse renewals, and minor repairs to appliances, as part of the same low rate. And the more you use the less it costs per unit.

chicks into the world, warms them under the electric brooder, warms their drinking water and keeps it at the right temperature, provides light to stimulate egg production and plant growth, shells corn, grades fruit, washes vegetables, hoists hay, fills the silo, saws wood, heats soil in hotbeds, sharpens tools and does many other chores. Electricity does these things better and more economically than they can be done otherwise.

One of our farm customers who keeps accurate records saved \$363 last year by using \$53.17 worth of electricity instead of doing his work by hand. Carefully detailed figures were published in THE MICHIGAN FARMER and included all items of interest and depreciation on equipment.

Sun and soil and rain... These are the elements that have brought bountiful harvests to farmers since the early Egyptians tilled the rich

land along the Nile. Now, with these age-old elements, electric power is contributing to better farming. For thirty years rural areas have been served by The Detroit Edison Company. Since 1928 groups of farmers have been able to get Detroit Edison service without any charge for line extensions, provided there are more than a minimum number of farms per mile. In 1928 this figure was 10 per mile; in 1933 this was reduced to 7½ per mile; and since 1935, 5 per mile.

Today, 27,157 farmers are served by 6,414 miles of Detroit Edison farm line; 87.8 per cent of the farmers in the older Detroit Edison territory are now connected to our lines. In the two years since we began serving the Thumb area, the farms there which we serve have trebled.

Farm electrification has been a reality in Detroit Edison territory for ten years.

The Detroit Edison Company