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DR. PAUL VON SCHWABACH,  
BERLIN

April 17, 1928

Walter S. Rogers, Esq.,  
Institute of Current World Affairs,  
522 Fifth Ave., NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am returning to you herewith the articles by Mr. Simpson on education in Mexico. I am very much obliged to you for letting me read these. They are very interesting, and they give me a much better picture of the situation than I had before. It is a pity that they cannot be made available to a larger number of readers, or perhaps melted into one article for more or less general reading. They give me a very clear picture of the difficulty of the problem and suggest that the Mexican Government is making an intelligent effort to start to solve it. That it will take a long time should be evident, I think, to everyone, but that is no reason to make light of what is being attempted.

Yours very sincerely,



Mexico City,D.F.,  
Apartado 538,  
April 22,1928.

My dear Mr.Rogers:

It is with some hesitancy that I undertake to write this letter, but your telegram of recent date announcing that you will not be able to visit the Mexican post of the Institute until some time in the early fall leaves me with no other choice. My hesitancy arises from the fact that, like Balaam's ass,(I believe it was Balaam) I am torn between two conflicting desires. On the one hand I feel very keenly the need of talking over with you and of soliciting your advice on a number of problems, both large and small, which have arisen in the course of my work. On the other hand, I do not want to burden your time and attention with the details of my procedure here to such an extent as to leave you with the impression that I am in need of a wet nurse. In this dilemma I have decided to sacrifice my pride, for I do not propose to suffer the unhappy fate of the above mentioned ass and starve to death. Wherefore, my dear Sir, you must listen to my tale of perplexities. If some of the matters which I present appear to involve questions concerning which you cannot ( not knowing the situation here) advise me, please be kind enough to overlook them. At least the record of my problems may be of some slight use in working out the future policies of the Institute; and certainly the putting of pen to paper in this fashion will serve to clarify my own mind. With this mountain of labor as my introduction, I will now proceed to bring forth my mouse.

I. Standard of living. As I understand the matter, the standard of living of any given member of the corps should be

determined solely on the basis of its relation to achieving the aims and objects of the Institute. I mean by this that the necessity for anything over and above that minimum of comfort and decency required for the maintenance of good health and self-respect, should be measured in terms of an investment in the business of the Institute and not in terms of personal tastes and preferences. In short, the very processes of living- the kind of clothes one wears, the kind of house one has, the kind of food that is set on one's table etc. etc.- must, for members of the Institute, be regarded as means rather than ends.

Now, if to this generalization we add a statement of just what the ends of the Institute are, we will have a complete formula. For the latter purpose I take what you have written: The Institute will expect its representatives (a) to acquire an understanding of the social, religious, racial, political, economic and other forces in their respective areas; and (b) especially to come to know rather intimately the people holding key positions, exerting exceptional influence, or commanding special knowledge- in a word, the effectuals.

When I attempt to apply this formula to my situation here in Mexico the matter shapes up in about this fashion: After nine months, so far as I can see, practically the only way that one can "come to know intimately people in key positions" (in Mexico) is to entertain them in your own home. Or if it is too much to say that this is the only way, then, at least, from my experience so far, this appears to be the best technique to use. The newspaper men, it is true, seem to get along in the main by what I may call a "bar and bibbling" process. Unfortunately, however, neither by temperament nor by capacity do I seem to be fit-

ted for this.( I admit that this is one of my weak points and perhaps I should start on a course of serious drinking in the interest of improving my capacity to "have and to hold" more liquor.) Also, I am not sure that the kind of contacts one might make in the Regis Bar et al would, in the long run, be the most desirable... The theater in Mexico as a means of becoming better acquainted with or of entertaining "effectuals" simply does not exist. Restaurants and cafes, such as they are, can be utilized only to a limited extent.

There remains, outside of one's own home, one other possible line of attack- namely the clubs. There are in Mexico City numerous clubs of all sorts- tennis clubs, country clubs, town clubs etc. Futhermore, it appears that people of importance do foregather at these clubs and, no doubt, one could come to know them with a reasonable degree of intimacy. There is, however, one danger- since such organizations are, for the most part, dominated by "gringos" one runs the risk of becoming too closely identified with the American colony.

Until recently Keith and I have lived in a two room kitchenette apartment. This, however, proved unsatisfactory for two reasons: it gave me no privacy for my work; and, having no dining room, we found it difficult to entertain. We have now moved into a larger apartment which gives me a study, Keith a bed room and both of us a dining room.

Now, in view of the foregoing facts and theories, the question which presents itself is: should we during this first sojourn in Mexico rock along as we have up to this time, putting the major emphasis upon organizing the field and gathering information (i.e. carrying out the first part of your state-

ment) or should we begin now to make a more determined effort to ensnare a few effectuals? Specifically, should we go ahead and furnish up this new apartment in a style which, without being pretentious, would yet be acceptable for the entertainment of anyone from the President up or down, or should we do nothing more than is necessary for our own comfort? Should we join clubs, or not join clubs? In a word, should we raise our standard of living?

II. Present Organization of Work and Future Plans. I have from time to time in previous letters outlined for you my plan of work for the rest of this year. This includes, you will perhaps recall, finishing my study of the land problem and undertaking similar studies of oil, mining, labor, religion, and if possible a few more surveys of regional industries similar to the ones I did on henequen and chicle ( for example, coffee, sugar, and cotton). This program will call for two more rather long trips- one to the oil fields on the east coast and one up the west coast through the states of Sinaloa and Sonora and the upper part of lower California. Just when I will make these trips will depend on a number of circumstances. For the present I do not ~~want~~<sup>not</sup> to leave Mexico City until I finish my agrarian studies. After that I want to tackle oil. (I had previously planned to leave this until the last, but now that the oil question is "settled" I believe that I can go ahead in relative safety.) If more revolutionary activities do not break out on the west coast I will make my trip there some time during the summer. In any case, whatever the order in which I take them, these problems will be more than enough to keep me occupied until Christmas.

The foregoing, I believe, has had your tacit approval. I now wish to submit my plans for the more distant future.

I find that there are two gaps in my previous training and experience which should be filled in if I am to do my best work for the Institute. One of these concerns my relative ignorance of money, banking and public finance. The other is more general in nature and concerns my lack of any adequate knowledge of other countries on approximately the same economic level as Mexico. In order to remedy these deficiencies I would, therefore, like to leave Mexico in December for a period of about nine months. Three months, I think, could profitably be passed in the United States and more specifically in Washington. There I could (perhaps under the direction of Moulton or of someone at the Brookings school) undertake a course of reading in the fields mentioned. At the same time I could work out a series of questionnaires or guides for my future work on Mexican economic problems (see below). After finishing my work in Washington I would like to spend the rest of my time in Spain. Six months in Spain would, of course, serve the double purpose of allowing me to study the cultural antecedents of Mexico and at the same time acquire some knowledge of a country comparable in its economic development to Mexico. I am convinced that many aspects of Mexican life which now puzzle me would be explained by a study of their origins in Spain. I am also convinced that much of what the "experts" are wont to describe as characteristically Mexican is in reality characteristically "peasant" and will be found in any country similarly situated to Mexico.

III. Problems of Procedure. Under this heading I wish to raise briefly a number of points. Some of these are new; others I have asked your advice on in the past but have not yet received any reply.

1. From time to time I have been asked by people.

editing magazine here or by government officials for short articles. These articles would for the most part be published here in Mexico in Spanish. What is the policy of the Institute in matters of this sort? Should such individuals be referred to the New York office or should the men in the field use their own judgement about how much of this sort of thing they can afford to do?

2. I feel that it is now the appropriate time for both my cards and stationery to bear the name of the Institute. Can you see any objection to this? and, if not, would you prefer to send me stationery from New York or shall I have my own printed here?

3. Recently JOC sent me a copy of an outline of "Economic Indices" prepared by the Institute of Economics. This is the kind of thing which I was talking about above when I mentioned the possibility of working out a series of questionnaires which would serve as guides for field investigations. I feel that some such notion worked up in the shape of a manual would be of the greatest help. Do you? and, if so, how do you think is the best way to do it?

4. I find it advisable on certain occasions to give copies of my reports to people to whom I have become indebted in one way or another. For example, the American Commercial Attaché here, while I was working up the materials which I gathered in Yucatan, put at my disposal not only a number of government publications which it would have taken me several weeks to get from Washington, but also his confidential files. In return for these favors I gave him copies of my reports on chicle and henequen. Do you see any objection to this?

5. I was greatly interested in your idea to send outstanding books to members of the staff. Do you intend to go ahead with this plan?

6. The clippings which you send me from time to time are helpful. Why could'nt this be organized in a more systematic way? About once a week, for example, the New York World, The Wall Street Journal, and the Herald-Tribune have interesting articles on Mexico. Some of these are reprinted in the papers here, but only in an abbreviated form. These and other publications, no doubt, also have articles relating to the other fields in which the Institute has representatives. Eventually, if not now, it will be much cheaper and more convenient to buy only one copy of such publications and have them clipped in New York each man being sent the materials relating to his field.

7. I have on several occasions been offered passes on the railroads by one or another of the government officials with whom I have come in contact. Once or twice when there seemed to be no way out of it I have accepted these passes. My conscience has been rather uneasy on this score and I believe in the interest of avoiding any possible future charges of bias I had best make it a settled policy never to accept such favors.

.....

I am going to stop at this point. Not that I have canvassed all the questions and problems on which I would like to have your judgement, but the above is sufficient as a sample. If you feel that you can advise me on matters such as these, or if you even feel that it is worth while having me write down for the records of the Institute the kinds of specific problems which arise in the field, I will gladly unburden myself still more in



ENS..WSR..34.

-8-

future letters.

Very sincerely yours,

ENS.

WSR..ENS..

April 23rd, 1928

Dear Eyster:

Enclosed is letter from Mr. Vernon Monroe, which please return. His point about publishing your study is well taken, except for the fact that I am getting real attention to it by letting worthwhile people see it confidentially.

For example, Mr. Rosenwald and Mr. Embree (president of the Rosenwald Foundation) are so much interested that the question of giving financial help to Mexican education is to be taken up at a meeting of the trustees of the Foundation to be held in Chicago, April 29th. I am going there to be present.

Carnegie, Rockefeller and Guggenheim officials continue their interest.

Something very much worthwhile may come out of all this. I take it you want results, and I am certain that in some cases crafty passing about material will prove more effective than publishing an article on a book.

One of the reasons I regret being unable to go to Mexico at once is that I am anxious to talk with you about money matters. By this time you probably have definite ideas, based on experience, as to whether you are receiving funds adequate to your actual needs. Please write me freely and quite as frankly as you would speak in conversation.

I have recently spent some time in Cambridge with a very promising young man named Vogel. He still has a couple of college years ahead of him, but he is shaping up his work with our end in view. This summer he is spending in Europe and I am trying to arrange for him to work with Pasvolsky of the Institute of Economics on a specific piece of research.

WSR/FC  
encls.

Yours sincerely,

Charge to the account of JOHN O. GRANE - 522 Fifth Ave.

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NIGHT LETTER

May 4th, 1928

Mr. Elyer W. Simpson  
 Apartado 536  
 Mexico City, D.F.  
 Mexico.

Mailed you from Chicago May third important letter and registered  
 package stop telegraphed four hundred today ~~stop becomingly you should~~  
~~report lost in mails between here Chicago please send nothing any~~

Walter S. Rogers

ENS..WSR..35.

Mexico City, D.F.,  
Apartado 538,  
May 4, 1928.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the third chapter of my magnum opus on the agrarian problem in Mexico. Next week you shall have an article on irrigation.

Your strategy in regard to the education articles seems to me to be wise. Incidentally, since you seem to know Mr. Monroe of the "International Committee of Bankers on Mexico", I wonder if it would be possible for you to get from him a copy of the report made by the representatives of that committee after a recent survey which they made of the financial conditions of Mexico.

The May day celebration here was a mild affair. No one shouted "kill the gringos" and about the most radical thing which I saw in the parade was a modest little sign calling upon patriotic Mexicans to patronize home industry. The sainted Mr. Morrow occupied the reviewing stand with President Calles.

I have received and read the two volumes by Sullivan, "Our Times". Do you want me to send them back to you or shall I forward them to some other member of the Institute?

Yours sincerely,



## Agrarian Aspects of the Revolution of 1910-1921.

The social and economic conditions in the Republic of Mexico in the year 1910 may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. The ownership of the land was vested in the hands of a very small group known as hacendados. (The minimum size of an hacienda as legally defined was 21,945 acres. The census of 1910 listed 834 hacendados whose individual holdings varied in size up to 6,000,000 acres. In the most productive states of the Republic- those of the Mesa Central- on the average less than two per cent of the rural population owned all the land and 98% of the people were landless.)

2. Vast areas of the public domain had been alienated- practically all of it going to swell the size of the great landed estates. (Over 134,500,000 acres of public lands were disposed of by Díaz. At the end of the Díaz administration there were no public lands in 12 states and less than 23,000,000 acres in the remaining states.)<sup>1.</sup>

3. Hundreds of agricultural groups, holding their lands communally from time immemorial, had been destroyed, their lands expropriated, and the people reduced to virtual slavery. ( By 1910 some 90% of the villages of the Mesa Central had lost their lands. The census of 1910 lists over 3,000,000- or with their families between 9,000,000 and 10,000,000 persons- as peones de campo - i.e. agricultural laborers held in debt slavery.)

4. The vast majority of the people of Mexico were living in a "revolting state of misery". ( The average agricultural wages were between 23 and 50 centavos a day and, although these were approximately the same wages which had been paid for over

a hundred years, the prices of the two chief articles of diet, corn and beans, had risen during this period 179 and 565 per cent respectively.)<sup>2</sup>

In a country which is predominantly agricultural one would not be surprised if conditions such as those which have just been described should lead to an outbreak of some sort. What they did lead to was ten years of revolution and the disruption of a nation.

The revolution of 1910-1921 in Mexico was an agrarian revolution in two senses: its causes were rooted in the latifundian system which reduced two-thirds of the population to slavery; its most important results have been agrarian reforms. "Few of whatever creed," writes one student of the revolution, "will disagree that the agrarian system was responsible for the conditions which made the upheaval possible. The situation would have been different if Mexico had had a great number of small proprietors, with a proprietor's devotion to law and order, and if the Díaz administration had not countenanced the despoiling of many small holders...Furthermore, the revolution would have been impossible but for the vast army of Indians and mestizos who had neither soil, crops, houses, nor cattle that would suffer in the turmoil and who welcomed a chance to gain plunder or perhaps a confiscated hacienda by rousing the other landless hordes against the government that made such conditions possible...Again the term 'agrarian revolution' is justified by the results being obtained. No other great reform is being accomplished. 'Effective suffrage', 'no re-election', 'Mexico for the Mexicans' and other slogans are little

nearer realization today than in the times of Díaz. But land is being given to the people." <sup>3.</sup>

Though the revolution which burst into flame in all parts of Mexico in 1910 was a social revolution in the true sense of the term and, as such, something vastly different from a mere military cuartelazo or coup d'état, agrarian and social reforms did not follow immediately in its wake. Indeed, it is extremely doubtful whether Francisco I Madero, leader of the revolution, "dreamer and apostle", understood either the agrarian or the political needs of the nation. The hopes and passions of Madero's followers were stirred not by his slogan of "effective suffrage and no re-election", but by the (to Madero) relatively unimportant promise to restore to the people their lands. Madero put his faith in political reform, but the masses fought for "tierra y libertad"- land and liberty. The result was a confusion of intentions and aims and in one sense it is true that the overthrow of Díaz was accomplished not because of, but in spite of Madero.

An examination of the policies followed by Madero reveals at once his inability to grasp the essential significance of the revolution which he had led or to control the forces which it had set loose. The times called for a firm hand and a program which would produce immediate results; the new President made the fatal mistake of attempting compromises and conciliations. For example, Rafael Hernández, a científico and a member of the old Díaz regime, was appointed minister of Fomento in charge of agrarian reform. But the best that Hernández could do was to counsel the hacendados to make a few minor concessions,

to the peons; and later on when Luis Cabrera advocated in Congress the restitution of the ejidos to the landless villages as the only practical way of meeting the immediate needs of the people, the Minister of Fomento, aided by the reactionary forces, obstructed the move. Again, the efforts of the President to make a beginning in recovering some of the public lands lost under the Díaz administration came to grief in the state of Chihuahua where the Terrazas-Creel group ( which controlled most of the state) bribed the ignorant General Orozco to revolt. When the governor of Coahuila attempted agrarian reforms he was opposed and thwarted in his plans by the land holding members of Madero's own family.

The masses, however, tired of waiting for the rewards of their struggle and disillusioned by the obstructionist policies of the government, did not propose to let matters rest with the meager concessions which had been granted them. New revolutionary leaders sprang up. Venustiano Carranza in the north and the Zapata brothers in the state of Morelos rebelled against Madero. Emeliano Zapata issued his famous "Plan de Ayala" in protest of the unredeemed promises of Madero. The "Plan de Ayala" announced that the Zapatistas would not lay down their arms "until the ejidos of our villages are restored to us, until we are given back the lands which the hacendados stole from us during the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz." This became the rallying cry of a rebellion which finally spread from Morelos to the Federal District and the states of Puebla, Jalisco, Guerrero, México and Tlaxcala.

But before either Zapata or Carranza could succeed in gathering enough strength to overturn the Madero gov-



ernment and its unhappy leader, the Conservative, Victoriana Huerta, came into power by a coup d'état in February, 1913. Doomed from the very first by powerful opposition forces both within and without, Huerta's rule was short lived. The agrarian-libertarian revolution had gone too far to be stopped; the restoration of the old church and land holding aristocracy was a forlorn hope. Carranza, aided by the bandit chief, Francisco Villa, gathered together once again the revolutionary elements and overthrew Huerta in July of 1914.

Soon after Carranza's accession to power it became apparent that any hopes for agrarian reform which the people might have placed in his leadership were premature. Both Villa and Zapata ( the former, however, being bribed by the hacendados) turned against the government; civil war raged and in the course of six months Mexico City was captured no less than six times - first by one and then by the other of the revolutionary groups. In this chaotic state of affairs, in order to crystalize the revolutionary sentiment in his own behalf and in opposition to Villa and Zapata, Carranza was obliged to make a statement of his aims and intentions. This he did in a decree which has been called "the first constructive act of the revolution of 1910". The "Decree of January 6, 1915", avowedly provisional in nature and designed to meet an emergency resulting from a "state of misery, abjection and actual slavery in which the enormous multitude of laborers has lived and still continues to live", may be summarized as follows:

"First, it nullified past illegal governmental alienations of lands, waters, and forests belonging to villages and communities, and all illegal acts of the Díaz administration

under authority of which village communal lands, forests and waters had been 'illegally invaded and occupied'. Such nullification automatically restored title to such communal lands to the villages. Secondly, it provided that villages which lacked ejidos but were in need of them and villages unable to bring about the restitution of their ejidos because of faulty titles, or for any other reason, might be endowed with lands for ejidos 'in accordance with the necessities of their townships, the National government expropriating the necessary lands to that effect from those immediately adjoining the townships in interest'. Third, it provided the legal machinery for putting the decree into effect. This was to consist of a National Agrarian Commission of nine members; a Local Agrarian Commission of five members for each state or territory; and as many Special Executive Committees of three members each as might be needed in each state. Finally, it specified the procedure to be followed by villages when petitioning for restitution or dotation of ejidos; that to be followed by the special agrarian committees in considering these requests; and that to be followed by 'persons who may consider themselves injured' by the expropriation of their lands and who might desire to appeal to the courts...The decree further stated [by way of explanation] that the purpose of the law was not to 'revive the ancient communes nor to create others similar to them, but merely to give the land which it lacks today to the miserable population in order that it may fully develop its right to life and liberate itself from the economic servitude to which it is reduced'. Specific attention was directed to the fact that proprietorship of the land was not to belong to the 'commune of the town', but was to be parcelled out 'in full dominion, with,

however, the necessary limitations to prevent avid speculators, particularly foreigners, from monopolizing such property too easily', as had invariably occurred in the past when legal subdivisions of the ejidos had been made".<sup>4.</sup>

A second important legal step was taken in the interest of agrarian reform during the Carranza administration when the Decree of January 6, 1915 was substantially incorporated into Article Twenty-Seven of the new Mexican Constitution promulgated May, 1917. The chief provisions touching upon the agrarian problem in the famous Article Twenty-Seven are:

1. All groups ( pueblos, condueñazgos, rancherías, comunidades, congregaciones, tribus, corporaciones de población, municipalidades) "which as a matter of fact or law conserve their communal character" do hereby regain their legal right to "enjoy in common the waters, woods and lands belonging to them, or which may have been or shall be restored to them according to the law of January 6, 1915."

2. The rights of eminent domain asserted in the Constitution of 1857 and implied in the Decree of 1915 are extended so as specifically to include the right to divide large estates and to take away from them (subject to indemnification) the necessary lands and waters with which to endow villages and other communities.

3. Each state shall fix by law the maximum amount of land which any one individual or legally organized corporation may own and all lands in excess of this amount shall be divided and offered for sale, the owner being indemnified by special state agrarian bonds.

4. "All contracts made by former governments

from and after the year 1876 which shall have resulted in the monopoly of lands, waters and natural resources of the nation by a single individual or corporation are declared subject to revision, and the Executive is authorized to declare those null and void which seriously prejudice the public interest".

5. Foreigners shall have the right to acquire ownership in lands, waters and their appurtenances only if they agree to be considered Mexicans in respect to such property and not to invoke the protection of their governments in respect to the same under penalty, in case of breach, of forfeiture to the nation of their property. "Within a zone of 100 kilometers from the frontiers and of 50 kilometers from the sea coast no foreigners shall under any conditions acquire direct ownership of lands and waters".

6. "Commercial stock companies shall not acquire, hold, or administer rural properties." (This provision is designed to prevent speculation in agricultural lands and the holding of property by the church in disguised form.)

7. Banks are forbidden to own or administer any more real estate than is actually necessary for the direct legitimate purposes of the institution. (This provision does not apply to the transitional ownership of lands and tenements adjudicated to banks in payment of debts.)

8. "The religious institutions known as churches, irrespective of creed, shall in no case have legal capacity to acquire, hold, or administer real property or loans made on such real property; all such real property or loans as may be at present

held by the said religious institutions.. shall vest in the nation, and anyone shall have the right to denounce property so held". ( This same clause goes one step beyond the Reform Laws and declares that even the property of the Church expressly devoted to religious purposes- churches, convents, schools etc.- shall vest in the nation.)

Despite the Decree of 1915 and the still more explicit doctrines set forth in Article Twenty-Seven of the 1917 Constitution, very little of a practical nature in the way of agrarian reform was accomplished during the Carranza regime. A certain number of colonization contracts were revoked; various grants for the exploitation of the forests were annuled; and land concessions given by Huerta were declared void. But the real problem of dividing up the large estates and giving land to the villages was hardly touched. "The enlightened constitutional provisions were ignored or misconstrued, few ejidos were returned even in the face of court decrees; land was not distributed except in certain states where it was forcibly torn away at the first opportunity."<sup>5</sup>

The failure of Carranza to put into practice the agrarian reforms or to carry out the other measures of social amelioration called for by the Constitution of 1917 together with the unbridled "spirit of loot" and the irresponsible behavior of the military clique which surrounded him led to the early defection from the ranks of his government of many of the revolutionary leaders. Calles and Obregón in particular retired to their native state of Sonora. The way was being prepared for the downfall of Carranza.

The details of the events which resulted in

the so-called "revindicating revolution" which brought Carranza to his death and Obregón into power need not be retold here. Sufficient it is to say that on December 1, 1920, after a short period during which Adolfo de la Huerta acted as provisional president, Alvaro Obregón was declared to be the Constitutional President of Mexico. Almost immediately the new executive set to work to make the agrarian measures in the Constitution of 1917 effective. Operative laws were passed on December 28, 1920, December 10, 1921, and a decree "Regulating the Expropriation and Distribution of Agricultural Lands" was issued on April 10, 1922. Under the authority of these laws and through the machinery of the National and Local Agrarian Commissions the division of the landed estates progressed rapidly.

In the first year (1921) of Obregón's administration a total of 1,095,030 acres were given to 166 villages to the benefit of 32,243 agriculturalists. During his whole term of office (1920-1924) 731 villages and 153,071 agriculturalists received a total of 3,799,635 acres of land.<sup>6</sup> In addition to these advances along the line of actually putting land into the hands of the people, Obregón's regime was also marked by progress in the education of the rural population in practical farming.

To Obregón, then, belongs the honor of being the first of the political leaders to reduce the promises and ideals of the revolution to the status of accomplished fact. In a very real sense, therefore, although there were armed uprisings and disturbances during and following the Obregón administration, the true social and economic revolution- the revolution of 1910-1921- came to an end with the accession of Obregón to power. Another chapter in the turbulent agrarian history of Mexico was brought to a close.

That Obregón did little more than make a beginning, a beginning bitterly opposed by the reactionary elements and hence marked by more than one instance of the failure of the government to abide by the strict forms of legal procedure, goes without saying. By and large, however, Obregón did his work of agrarian reform well. A decade of bloodshed and disorder ended and the way was cleared for Obregón's successor, Plutarco Ellias Calles, to carry the banner of "tierra y libertad" to even greater heights.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Notes.

1. McBride, G.M.-The Land Systems of Mexico, American Geographical Society, New York, 1923. PP.75-6.
2. Herzog, Jesús Silva- La Revolucion Economica, Numero Extraordinario de "El Sol", Madrid, February, 1928. P.7.
3. McBride, opcit, pp.158-159.
4. Hackett, C.W.-The Mexican Revolution and the United States-1910-1926, World Peace Foundation, Boston, 1926. Pp.344-345.
5. Beals, Carleton-Mexico-An Interpretation, New York, 1923. P.57.
6. Estadistica Nacional, Mexico, May 31, 1927. P.24.



MS. A. 9. 2. 1.

May 5th, 1928

Dear Myler:

Answering (in part) your letter of April 22nd:

p. 1. Standard of Living: I am in accord with your general statements. In view of the fact that you contemplate being away from Mexico for a considerable part of next year, I suggest you and Keith make yourselves comfortable and not for the present worry much about entertaining at home. One reason why I want to go to Mexico is to get an idea as to just what your setup should be for the long haul. Basing my opinion solely on what you state, I do not believe joining clubs would prove useful.

p. 4. Present Organization of Work and Future Plans: Your plans from now until Christmas seem satisfactory. However, I think you should stand ready to be helpful to Embree and the Rosenwald Fund even if by doing so you to some degree upset your plans. If we prove helpful, quite likely the trustees of the Fund will look with friendly eyes on our general activities. One result of my attending the meetings of the trustees was the interesting of Harold Swift and President Chase (University of North Carolina) in the Institute.

Much the same problem you raise with regard to becoming better informed as to money, banking, and finance has come up in John's case. We are experimenting. Pasvolsky, one of Moulton's assistants and an expert in the field of economics, has been employed to work with John in his area for six months. Jointly they are to make a study of the investment possibilities in the Danubian countries. This subject was selected for two reasons: (1) it is at once comprehensive and practical and (2) the circulation of a good report on the subject among bankers and investors would serve to advertise John and his activities.

I am open minded as to whether it would be better for you to study in Washington or to work in Mexico in collaboration with a technical expert. I suggest that we defer a decision until we have the benefit of the Pasvolsky-John experiment.

According to present plans, Langdon-Davies will be here about January first. Any visit to Spain should be worked out in conjunction with him. Let's try to devise some way so that you and he may talk the matter over.

In any event, I am disposed to think that nine months away from Mexico in one stretch is altogether too much.

(Be cautious about telling Embree that you may be away from Mexico for any long period).

p. 5. Problems of Procedure: (1) Whether or not you write articles for local consumption is a question for you to decide. Keep in mind gradually building a reputation for yourself. And don't overlook the fact that a foreigner's opinion is not often relished.

(2) Have your stationery printed locally.

(3) I am doubtful whether a manual for general use can be worked out. This, however, is a matter I will talk over with Moulton.

(4) I think you should exercise great discretion in giving out your reports. As an American you have a right to the services and data of the Commercial Attache. If you give him reports, he probably will transmit them to Washington and the Department of Commerce is likely to publish them. When you give him anything in the way of a report have a definite understanding with him that it is not to be published or used as the basis for a publication. Your henequen report is now in the hands of the International Harvester Co. I hope through it to establish relations with that company.

(5) I propose to develop the idea of a circulating library.

(6) I have given much thought to the question of clippings and agree with you. Practically, it gets back to organization at the home office, a matter that plagues me a good deal.

(7) You should be very chary about excepting favors, such as railroad passes.

Keep sending me your ideas. It is only from ideas that arise out of actual experience that we can hope to develop effective methods.

Greetings,

RSR/FO

SCOTT, BANCROFT, MARTIN & MAC LEISH

LAW OFFICES

134 SOUTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

FRANK HAMLINE SCOTT  
JOHN E. MAC LEISH  
LESTER L. FALK  
MORRIS L. JOHNSTON  
LELAND K. NEEVES  
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1904-1924  
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1916-1925

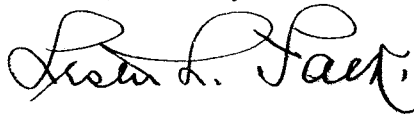
May 7, 1928.

Mr. Walter S. Rogers,  
522 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City. N. Y.

Dear Walter:

Your letter of the 4th instant, as well as the Report of Mr. Simpson on "The Production of Henequen Fiber in Yucatan," arrived this morning. I have sent the Report to Mr. William S. Elliott, General Counsel of the Harvester Company, with the request that he return it at an early date.

Faithfully yours,



LLF:AF

Charge to the account of

John O. Crane 522 Fifth ave

\$

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DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLIVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Rx

Tyler Simpson  
 Apartado 538  
 Mexico City, Mexico

May 10/1928

Embree considering day Austin would it be worth while and whom should he see  
 did you receive mine about his visit wire me immediately

Rogers