

## INTERVIEW.

Beals, Carlton-  
Supper at Sanborns.  
7/27/27.

The following remarks regarding the present political outlook in Mexico were made by Beals at a supper party at which Dr. Haring was also present:

The present censorship of the newspapers does not apply so much to the political campaign as to the policies of the Calles government. The papers are allowed to be fairly impartial with respect to the campaign.

"Things are beginning to look more rocky every day. The break may come before the end of the year. It looks like Serano and Gomez will combine against the government and Serano will be put in as provisional president to call a vote for Gomez."

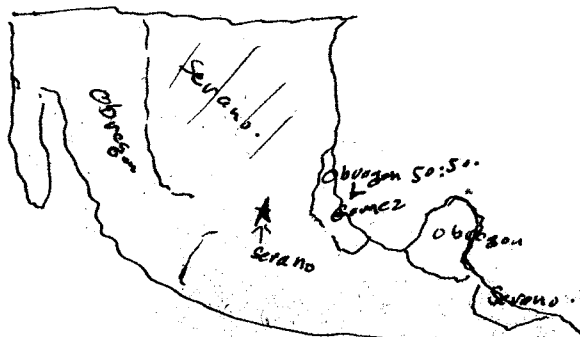
If the laboristas should swing over to Serano and Gomez (ask they well might for Calles has given the CROM a slap in the face in his support of ~~the railway unions against~~ them) this would practically mean that there would be a struggle between the laborers and the peasants (who would be with Obregon). In the central committee of the laboristas there ~~is not~~ is not a single agrarian representative.

There is still a third possibility that another candidate will enter the field. This might be General Amaro.

The ~~importance~~ allegiance of the generals in the army is very important as is also the fact that most of the peasants are armed. The map below illustrates the present distribution of army allegiance among the candidates.

It is not at all certain that Calles and Obregon are as close as they once were.

In response to Dr. Haring's question as to whether Obregon was as strong a personality as is usually thought outside of Mexico, B. replied: "Obregon and Calles have essentially different ways of working. Obregon is a balance of power man-he rules by playing off one group against another. Calles is a one man ruler-he seeks to smash one group with another. Calles has managed to reduce to graft of the generals-he bargains with them like a wash-woman."



Mexico City,D.F.,  
Hotel Geneve,  
8a Calle Liverpool 133,  
August 2,1927.

ENS..WSR..6.

My dear Mr.Rogers:

The business of searching out the highways and the byways of the life of a people has its ups and downs, its strokes of good fortune and its periods of depression, very similar to those that mark the course of any other enterprise.This week it has been my lot to experience both the up and the down of the cycle.

As I have indicated in my previous letters, my initial studies are being made on the subjects of the current educational developments and the problems connected with the distribution,composition,and cultural characteristics of the various racial groups in Mexico.The relation between these two subjects in Mexico is brought out in a statement which appears over and over again in the writings of the local authorities:" The major problem of education in Mexico is the incorporation of the indigenous population into the life of the nation".Accepting this statement as a working hypothesis,I have conceived it as one of my first duties to find out just what is the nature of this indigenous or Indian population.But I have discovered to my sorrow that this plan was easier conceived than given birth.

The main difficulty is that,from the point of view dictated by the interests of the Institute,many of the Mexican scholars are relatively useless as sources of in-

formation. And this for the simple reason that they are "archaeologically minded". Take, for example, my talks on Monday and Tuesday with Mendizabal. Miguel O. de Mendizabal, I was told by a number of people, knows more about the indigenous cultures than anyone in Mexico. Good! Obviously one must go down to the National Museum and meet the gentleman. One does - and is regaled for several hours with an enormously interesting lecture on the tribal migrations and the Indian civilizations extant before the Spanish conquest. Interesting, yes, but three centuries and more removed from the year of our lord, 1927. To such questions as: "What cultural or racial groups are now present in Mexico?; where are they?; and what is it in their way of living which makes it a problem to incorporate them into the life of the nation"? -- one could get no answer. A beautiful illustration, as you see, of the point which we have discussed before of how much history a man in the field must concern himself with in order to serve effectively and "Institute of Current World Affairs."

On the other hand, however, we have Carlos Basauri, a member of the department of Education, who bears the title of, "Chief of the Division of Ethnographic Studies of Rural Schools and of Indigenous Cultural Incorporation". Mr. Basauri, despite the weight of his title, has what looks like the "real stuff". Indeed, for the past year or more the department has been gathering materials to answer the very questions which I posed with such ill success for Mendizabal. This material, covering all aspects of the life of over fifty Indian groups, although not yet ready for publication, has been placed at my disposal. Using this

data as a guide and checking it with my own observations on my trips this fall, I hope to really make some progress in understanding the problem basic to all other problems in Mexico.

The second gold mine which I uncovered this week was the Department of Statistics. In most other countries government statistical bureaus would seem to offer very obvious sources of information. In Mexico, however, one hardly expected to find a statistical bureau actually functioning and able to furnish one with accurate facts. Certainly, I did not expect to find a department so friendly in manner and apparently so willing to turn over to me its findings. I was introduced to the head of the department, Ing. J. de D. Bojorquez. After the usual Mexican pleasantries, he passed me along to one of his chief statisticians, Señor Silva Herzog. In the course of my chat with Herzog (carried on in some miraculous fashion in French, English, and Spanish) I happened to mention the fact that I would like very much to see some "Standard of Living" studies undertaken for Mexico. Whereupon, his face lighted up as if I had handed him a ten dollar gold piece. By chance I had hit upon his pet subject. Before my delighted eyes he proceeded to unroll maps and charts for each state in the union showing calorie consumption per family, costs of food, clothing, rent, etc. These studies are still in process and as soon as they are in typewritten form I am to receive carbon copies. Of more immediate pertinency to my present interests in education, he was able to give me typewritten

reports on illiteracy, number and location of schools, etc. In view of the fact that it will be months before these materials will be printed, you can understand why at the end of the interview I was even more excited than the enthusiastic Mr. Herzog, himself.


I pass now from reporting adventures in the realm of exact statistical study to the shadowy, shifting world of rumor and gossip. Briefly, the sum and substance of the current political gossip is: Mexico will have a revolution in the next three months. In support of this prophesy of "stormy weather ahead" the following clouds on the horizon have been pointed out to me by various people. (a) Rents on houses and apartments in Mexico City are on the rise; i.e. there is a greater demand for living quarters in the city due to the fact that the people in the smaller towns, the "hacendados", and the ranchers, alarmed at the turn which the political campaign is taking, are beginning to crowd into the city. (b) The train load of ammunition and guns recently received by the government (with more to come) is regarded as an ominous sign. (c) The two million dollar loan negotiated in New York the other day for a payment on the national debt means that governmental funds are being held back for other and perhaps more sanguinary purposes.

I try to hold in mind when straws are used to tell which way the wind is blowing, that, after all, it doesn't take much wind to blow a straw. Also, I am aware of the fact that "wars and rumors of wars" have been omnipresent in Mexico for lo! these many years. However, in my present state of naiveté with respect to the stigmata of incipient revolutions, I am more

than half-persuaded to give credence to these rumors...I expected the hunting to be good in Mexico, but I scarcely thought to bag a revolution on my first trip.

By way of balancing this sombre political forecasting I may add before closing, that I have been fortunate enough this week to meet two of the three outstanding artists in Mexico. Roberto Montenegro, a decorator and illustrator (somewhat after the Beardsley manner) of considerable merit, has attracted a great deal of attention in recent years by his revival in Mexico of the arts of tiling and stained glass. Adolfo Best Maugard has achieved international recognition by his interesting theories developed from his studies of the ancient Maya and Aztec art. He believes that he is able to reduce this art, and by implication all art, to seven fundamental principles, or characteristic line forms. His last book has just been published in English by Knopf. The success with which his system, or "Metodo de Dibujo", was introduced here in the public schools is now a matter of history.

I have received notice that the money deposited in New York has been credited here to my account. Luckily the exchange was more than usual in my favor and I was able to buy 846 pesos gold. In my next weekly letter I will render a complete financial accounting to August 1st.

Sincerely, 

Woods Hole, Mass.,  
July 11, 1937

Aug 2

WSR-ENS

Dear Eylor:

The last of your letters to arrive is that of August and (ENS-WSR+6). Your reference to "my trips this fall" particularly caught my attention. You should live out among the people a great deal and not cling too closely to Mexico City. Davies is probably traveling the likeliest road in approaching Spain through residence in, and detailed study of, villages. I am pleased that you are extending the range of your contacts.

Using his own experience as a basis, Mr. Charles R. Crane in a recent conversation developed a point that we have cabled about. In studying a situation it is essential to go behind ideas to feelings, to learn what people (individuals and groups) long for and fear.

According to present plans, Mr. Charles R. Crane, John and I will sail for Europe late in October. I expect to return before Christmas and still have in mind looking in on you shortly after the first of the year. Should there be any matters on which you want my judgment or assistance, please give me ample time to reply before I sail.

I have heard from J. Langdon Davies who seems increasingly interested in our venture. I have about concluded that he would fit in admirably. With this in mind I have cabled him my plans, at the same time asking of him the precise dates on which he expects to be in London and New York.

A steady stream of lively letters come from Bruce. I have refrained from sending copies to you, not knowing to what extent the mails can be trusted. Should you have information on this point, pass it along.

Greetings to you and Keith from Mr. Charles R. Crane, John, and myself.

ENS..WSR..7.

Mexico City,D.F.,  
257 Insurgentes,Dept.11,  
August 12,1927.

My dear Mr.Rogers:

Frank McLaughlin is reputed to be one of the most influential members of President Calles'"kitchen cabinet".He is chairman of a special Advisory Economic Committee appointed by the President with no less a purpose than that of planning and ordering the whole future economic development of Mexico.By profession an engineer,McLaughlin, like many another in Mexico,has more or less abandoned his calling for the highly interesting game of manipulating oil leases.From the reports which I hear concerning the luxuriousness of his yacht in Tampico,and,judging from the lavishness with which he dispenses champagne at his parties,I assume that he has played the game well.Nor do his attainments stop here, for gossip has it that he has been equally successful in obtaining the favor of President Calles' private secretary-an influential and exotic señorita,generally known by the name of "Cholita".

For the several reasons implied in the above I was very glad to accept an invitation to a party at McLaughlin's apartment last Thursday evening.The apartment,by the way, may or may not be an index to the man,but it is worth recording that my friend Lee Simonson(Art Director of the Theater Guild in New York) was of the opinion that the decorative scheme closely resembled certain New Orleans bawdy houses.



In such matters I cannot pretend to expert knowledge, but if such houses are marked by an abundance of red drapes and a plethora of sofa pillows, then perhaps Simonson is right. McLaughlin, himself, proved to be a big, healthy, middle aged American with angift for hearty hospitality. Thanks to this latter and <sup>to</sup> a liberal assortment of very good wines the party moved along in a pleasantly disjointed fashion, reaching a climax about 1 A.M. when a Mexican general put in his appearance, escorted in musical comedy style by four ladies of doubtful past and uncertain future.

McLaughlin asked me to call at his office the next day. This I did. After I had explained in a very general way the nature of my business here, without more ado he introduced me to his secretary and instructed her to put any information in his files at my disposal. As yet I have had no occasion to test out just what this offer may mean. Unfortunately the gentleman was on the verge of departing for the United States and Europe. However, in due time we shall see what we shall see.

%%%%%%%%

I do not wish to burden my letters with the details of our personal arrangements. However, by way of explaining the tardiness of my letter this week, and in order to give you <sup>an</sup> ~~some~~ idea of our present situation, some explanation is perhaps appropriate. Briefly my story can be told in the simple statement: we have moved into an apartment. But let me hastily add, Sir, that the act of setting onself up in the

business of domesticity in Mexico is by far the most complicated and time-consuming enterprise possible to imagine on a Summer's day. I now have a profound understanding of the meaning of the phrase-"governmental red tape".

That we quit the hotel as soon as possible, seemed desirable for a number of reasons. In the first place, as you will see from the enclosed financial statement, the place was very expensive. In the second place, we felt that the sooner we were in a position to cement the friendships which we are forming by entertaining people in our home the better it would be both for the Institute and for our own personal comfort and pleasure.

I need not relate here our adventures in looking for a house. Houses in Mexico City are a thing apart; a phenomenon that must be seen to be believed. After tramping the streets for many weary hours and holding various and sundry extended conferences with "old residents", we regretfully came to the conclusion that the chances of finding a charming little furnished house with a patio, fireplace, etc. etc. were about as numerous as the chances of winning the grand prize in the national lottery. Indeed, it is almost impossible to discover any kind of furnished place in the City (with a reasonable rent) which is not, on the one hand, cursed with bird's eye maple furniture, or, on the other, so damp and dark as to portend an early onset of melancholia.

So it has come about, to make a long story short, that we cut the Gordian knot and furnished up this very pleasant

and modern three room apartment in which we are now living. Furniture in Mexico is surprisingly cheap. By careful selection and close bargaining (Keith is developing a considerable talent in this direction) in the second hand shops we have managed to move in with the essentials. In the course of the next month or so we will, no doubt, be able to pick up the more decorative features so that by the time you pay us your promised visit we will be able to entertain you in "the style to which you are accustomed". In the event of our permanent residence in Mexico this furniture will be so much to the good. On the other hand, if for unforeseen reasons our stay here is not a long and a happy one, the aforementioned old residents assure us that we can always cash in for practically our original outlay.

I trust that this action will meet with the approval of the Institute. Now that we are settled once more, my studies should again pursue the even tenor of their way.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature, likely "E. S. R.", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized, with the first letters being prominent and the rest of the letters being more fluid and connected.

Conversation.

James, Mrs Romera  
Supper at Mitla  
8/13/27.

The following gossip was retailed at a supper party at which Dr. Haring was also present.

Ernest Gruening M.D. never was much of a success at his profession. Mrs. J. knew him first as editor of the Spanish paper in New York-La Prensa. Later on he was managing editor of the Nation. Was involved in libel ~~xx~~ suit with Haberman against Chicago Tribune. ~~Later on~~ Was called back to Mexico by the Calles government. Gamio told Mrs. J. that G. had very important oil holdings in Mexico. Gruening was at one time connected with the department of education.

Thinks that Haberman's power in the present Gov. is somewhat over-estimated. Haberman's trouble with Vasconcellos began when H. (at that time head of the foreign language division of the department of education) used the labor group and incited the students against Vasconcellos to make V. reinstate the head of the Preparatory School. V. had asked for the resignation of the head because he was inefficient. The mob killed two policemen and when Vasconcellos tried to talk to them he was almost killed himself.... When at the beginning of the Obregon regime the gov. tried to ~~xx~~ 33 Haberman, he circumvented this move by becoming a Mexican citizen.

Mrs. J. does not believe that there is any real Indian or racial problem in Mexico. All the talk about the Indian psychology is bunk. Thinks that it is almost purely a class and economic problem. There is no racial ~~problem~~ ~~xx~~ prejudice or color line in Mexico. When an Indian has money and education he is simply accepted as a Mexican, and no one ever thinks anything about it.

The great ideal of the present educational movement is mass education. This is what should be emphasized in my report and this is the significance of the rural school movement.

ENS..WSR..8.

Mexico City,D.F.,  
257 Calle Insurgentes,  
Aug 16,1927.

My dear Mr.Rogers:

I have just returned from a perfectly glorious trip.Although every muscle in my body "doth protest and cry aloud in exceeding pain" from the unaccustomed labor of holding me on a horse for two days,and,although my face and neck give positive evidence of consorting too intimately with the Mexican sun,yet I am content.I have seen<sup>the</sup> beauty of mountains and fields and I have sensed something of the mingled sadness and joy of the very human aspirations and strivings of the Mexican peon.Or to put the matter in more definite and less poetical terms,I have been visiting some of the rural schools in the state of Tlaxcala.

The trip was arranged and conducted by Ignacio Ramirez,Chief of the Department of Rural Schools for the federal government.In two days,by dint of hard riding via automobile,horse,and train,we managed to visit two of the rural primary schools,one normal school,and to see something of a half-dozen little pueblos in addition to the capital of the state and the city of Puebla.

The tiny state of Tlaxcala,situated about sixty kilometers directly east of Mexico city,has played an important and interesting role in Mexican history.It was here, you may recall,in the independent empire of the Tlaxcaltecan indians,that Cortez found his most valuable friends and allies in his campaign against the Aztecs.It was here,also,that the

first Christian church in America was erected-the monastery of St.Francis.There it stands to this day, topping a little hill overlooking the capital city, and the curious may see the very pulpit from which Padre Díaz preached the first Catholic sermon in America and the basin in which four centuries ago the four Tlaxcalan senators were baptized. Nestling in the embrace of the mountains, the little state has even down to the present time maintained to a degree its aloofness from the current of Mexican national life. Its isolation has been both geographical and spiritual, for it is said that the Mexicans still denounce the Tlaxcalans as the traitors who betrayed the country to the Spaniards.

But now a change is in the making. The reverberations of the struggles and upheavals of the great social revolution in Mexico have been felt even in this mountain fastness. The great landed estates have been broken up and the pueblos have received back their ejidos (communally held property). And still more significant for the incorporation of the state into the national being has been the coming of the rural schools. If we may trust the statistics published by the department of education, the number of rural schools established by the federal government in the last few years in the state of Tlaxcala is little short of amazing. In December of 1924 it was reported that there were only six rural schools and six teachers in the whole state. By December 1926 these figures had increased to: 51 rural schools, 55 teachers, and a total enrollment of 4,092 students (the latter figure not including something less than 1000 adults in night schools). Education has swept down over the state like one of its own torrential mountain streams. And still

the current grows for, if present plans are carried out during this year(1927), 10 new teachers will be added to the 55 already in service.

If the schools which we visited on this trip were at all typical, I can testify that the above statistics represent as real and as vital an experiment in mass education as may be found in many a day. It is quite likely that my present enthusiasm will be dampened by further observation in other parts of the Republic more removed from the capital. However, generalizations at this stage of the game need not be held too dearly. The details of a picture of one of these rural schools might be sketched in in this fashion:

High up in the mountains, two hours on horse-back from the automobile road between Mexico City and Puebla, is the little school of Villa Alta. As we approach we can see twenty-five or thirty <sup>children</sup> standing in line in the diminutive, sun baked garden in front of a small, low-lying adobe building. We dismount and are forthwith greeted with prolonged clapping of hands, followed by a lusty singing of the Mexican national anthem. It is very apparent that our visit is an important event. And, indeed, why not? Is not the "Jefe" of the rural schools, himself, present, to say nothing of the "Americanos"? Every little bare-footed boy is dressed in his Sunday-best white cotton trousers and shirt. Many of these pajama-like suits have been patched over and over again; others quite frankly allow the brown skin beneath to peep through the ragged holes, but all are spotlessly clean. As we look at the little girls, those of us more sentimental

than the rest, feel the tears rise in our eyes even as we smile. One hardly knows whether to laugh or cry in the presence of a being at once child and old lady. Here in the front line is one typical of the rest: scarcely three feet tall, big black eyes set in a round, fat little face; short black hair braided into pig tails and tied with a bit of red ribbon--so far the child; but all this contrasts strangely with the serious expression on her face, almost mask-like in its grave, brown, impassivity, and, together with the long calico dress reaching almost to her bare feet, seems to give the lie to her six years.

After another song during which our attention is divided between the music and watching the beaming faces of some of the proud parents who have come up from the village, we are taken to inspect the school building. This is quickly done for there are only two small rooms in the whole school. One of these contains an assortment of rather crudely fashioned, unpainted, pine desks and benches made by the school master himself. Here the Indian students are taught to read and write Spanish, a little arithmetic, and something of the geography and history of Mexico. The other room has scattered about it the materials for the teaching of the "pequeñas industrias" (little industries). Here in one corner at a work bench the boys are taught to make simple pieces of furniture. In another corner is a table and the materials for manufacturing soap. In still another is an exhibit of the fruits and vegetables which the children are being taught to preserve. Some of the boys proudly display paintings and the girls the products of their sewing classes. ✓

As we walk around back of the building to see the rabbit pens and chicken houses we are told that the school



house was at one time part of the old church,now unhappily crumbling into ruins on the adjoining lot.Here in the yard, where priests in days gone by paced off the beads of their rosaries(or perhaps they sat in the shade of this tree and drank wine),now are garden plots where the students raise vegetables and flowers....

As you see,the building,the equipment,the curriculum-everything-is very simple and rudimentary.The "little red school house" famed in song and story in the United States would, no doubt,in material equipment outshine these crude,whitewashed, mud-baked,little rural schools of Mexico.And yet I am sure that even in many of our present day rural schools in the United States (especially in the South) there is not by any means the same degree of enthusiastic,almost religious,devotion to their work on the part of the teachers,or the same singleness of purpose on the part of those who have planned this programe,as that which seems to characterize the three rural schools which I have just visited.

The great ambition of those in charge of the development of rural schools in Mexico is to make them "escuelas de acción".By this is meant two things:first,the children are to be taught by doing;and,second,the emphasis in the curriculum is to be placed on that type of practical knowledge which will be of real and immediate value in raising the level of rural life. Hence the relatively small amount of time devoted to the traditional "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic", in comparison to the amount of attention given to the raising of rabbits,chickens, bees,to truck gardens,and to the "pequenas industrias". Hence,

also, the efforts expended to make the rural schools true centers of the whole social life of the surrounding country-side, through the night schools for adults and by encouraging the people to regard the school house as the natural and normal place to hold their public meetings, their dances, and their fiestas.

When I write my report on "Education in Mexico" all these matters will be set forth in greater detail. For this I will also reserve any comment on the normal school for the training of the rural school teachers which we visited at Xocoyucan. The pictures which I am sending along with this letter may help to make what I have described more real. Please have the office girl send them back to me as I wish to include them in my report.

Enclosed you will find an article from "El Universal" reporting the activities of a "Round Table on the Relations Between the United States and Mexico" which I attended during this past week. The six two-hour conferences were especially valuable for me in that they brought me into contact with a number of important Mexicans and gave me some very good practice in Spanish. So far as the content of what was said is concerned, like all conferences of this sort, much time was wasted in protestations of good will and in filling in elementary historical facts for those whose knowledge of Mexico did not equal their good will. Later on stenographic meetings of these meetings will be published. Since I do not trust my knowledge of spoken Spanish enough yet to be sure that my notes are correct, I will defer any more extended report until I can review the matter by reading the printed material.

With best personal regards, I remain

*ENS.*

## CONVERSATION.

Wythe, George

At a tea in his home.

8/19/27.

"I am perfectly sure in my own mind that there will be a revolution in Mexico during the course of the next few months. If I were a betting man I would be willing to bet a \$100 on it. However, I do not think that it will be a successful attempt because Coolidge will support Calles (and Obregon) against Seranno and Gomez. The latter must revolt because that is their only chance that they will have. Seranno is a drunkard and a good for nothing with every sin in the calendar to his credit. Altho it is generally understood that the church people and land owners are supporting S. and G. the matter is after all not so sure, for the church people realize that after S. or G. got in they would probably be just as bad as the others."

"Wall St. is really the best friend Mexico has-as witness the \$2,000,000 loan recently made. The gov. really needed this loan. Oil receipts (which now form only about 1/6 of the ~~total~~ total income) have fallen off; the greatest source of income-import and export duties-have fallen off 20 per cent in the last few months; there is less business and hence less income tax and stamp tax. Gov. has had to retrench on its educational program-they planned two or three new ~~ag~~ agricultural schools and so far not one has been opened this year. Also planned to spend something over \$500,000 a ~~month~~ month on roads-so far only spending about \$100,000. They have already taken away two million pesos from their fund set aside for irrigation projects. The business depression caused partly by the oil troubles etc. and the Yaqui <sup>revolt</sup> have cost the gov. very dearly. Can't afford to touch money in the national bank now. For every million spent legitimately in suppressing the Yaquis another went into the general's pocket."

"I don't mind being called an imperialist but I am opposed to the U.S. intervening in Mexico in a military way or in any other way assuming responsibility for Mexico because I think that it would be the worst problem ~~xx~~ we could possibly be saddled with."

"If Coolidge had only realized the situation in Mexico and the bad blood that is accumulating he could have settled the present difficulties by simply telling the Mex. ambassador to indicate to Calles just what he would and would not do. At any cost Calles could not afford to lose the favor of the American gov. Every election in ~~the~~ Mexico is settled by the chances of the withholding or granting of American recognition. It is perfectly foolish to talk about our not interfering in Mexico. It is as inevitable as the rising of the sun."

Thinks that the Indians of Mex. are racially ~~not~~ equipped for a different kind of civilization than ours. Our values simply are not their values. Mechanically they are capable but morally there is a streak of brutality mixed ~~in~~ strangely with a kindness and a gentleness. Cited case of their attitude toward death and time.

Mexico City,D.F.,  
August 23,1927.

My dear Mr.Rogers:

Your very welcome letter came just as I was sitting down to write my weekly report.It was amusing to find that the paragraph detailing your recent conversation with Mr.C.R.Crane duplicated almost word for word the first sentence in the memorandum which I had jotted down for this week's letter.

In a somewhat abstract and theoretical way I have long been aware of the importance,in attempting to understand the forces at work in a given situation, of penetrating behind ideas and what the modern behaviorists would perhaps call "verbal manipulations", to the feelings,the hopes,the fears-in a word the "attitudes"- of the human beings involved. In fact,years ago,(or so it would seem so crowded with new experiences have been these last months) I wrote some 350 odd pages of a doctor's thesis to make just this point.However, only now,when I am actually at grips with the very real and immediate problem of seeking to understand the attitudes of a very real and immediate people,do I realize the significance of my own words.

I now see clearly that the "whole truth about Mexico" will not be found in a statistical table,or in a governmental report,or yet in the verbal juggling of somebody's learned treatise. All these are useful and perhaps necessary.But more and more I am learning to treasure a thousand and one signs and symbols-indications all of the dynamic attitudes which lie back of the bare facts massed in the blue books and give flesh and blood to the dry bones of

statistics.

A fair illustration is the picture which I cut out of the paper last week: A ragged peon on his way to the famous island prison on the west coast-Islas de Marias-with his guitar, his one earthly treasure, clutched tight in his arms.

Or take this story of a little Indian girl related to me by an indigent Austrian Count who has been traveling over the Republic in search for native "objets d'art" to grace the home of a newly rich oil king:

"In a little mountain village I found this lovely St. Anthony, carved from a single piece of wood. A young girl brought it to me carefully swathed in her 'reboso', and held in such a manner that at first I thought it to be a baby. When she unwrapped it for me to see, I could'nt refrain from asking, 'Why, Niña, are you selling this beautiful saint of all lovers?'

"Without hesitation or embarrassment she gave her reasons. Finding that a young Indian boy whom she dearly loved showed no preference for her, she called upon St. Anthony to aid her. Every night for two weeks she had taken the saint to bed with her, 'placing him where she thought he would be most happy'... and still the heart of her beloved was cold and indifferent. So, in anger, she punished the saint for a whole week by wrapping him in newspapers and placing him head-down in a jar of water. Despite all this he had not intervened in her behalf. What was there left to do but sell the impotent saint to the foreigner? "

Again, consider our own servant girl. Yesterday, after complaining to Keith that we had no potted plants in the apartment, she remarked with a touch of pride in her voice: "Ay,

Señora, when I started to work at my last place they only had four potted plants, but when I left they had 52."

And so on and on endlessly one fits together bits of human experience to make the picture puzzle that is Mexico. Or better said, Mexico is like one of its own lovely works in tile. Out of pieces of baked clay, sometimes smooth and round-often jagged and mishapen; colored here with the red of blood and there with the blue of the sky, the mosaic is <sup>pieced</sup> fitted together. Any one of the tiles, considered by itself, may appear either ugly or beautiful, significant or without meaning, but by some magic art each piece seen in relation to the whole, somehow takes its place to reveal in the completed picture whatever there may be of design and harmony in the life of the people.

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In response to your invitation to bring up any questions on which I need your assistance or judgement, I present the following:

1. Do you think it advisable for me to attend the Pan-American conference which is to be held in Cuba in the early part of January? If you carry out your plan of visiting the Mexican post of the Institute after Christmas, perhaps you would consider it worth while to join me in Cuba for the conference and then come on back with me to Mexico City. I hold no brief for this idea. You are better able to judge out of your wide experience with conferences whether the expenditure of time and energy would

be offset by the value of whatever contacts I would be able to make. There is some advantage, of course, in catching the big fish in the open sea away from their native shoals.

2. At your convenience, will you please take out for me subscriptions to the following newspapers and magazines: The U.S. Daily, The New York Times, The New Republic, Current History, Harpers, The Theater Magazine.

I think that these will be enough for the present. Later on I would like to add the New York World, the San Antonio Light, and one of the important South American papers, but I do not want to load myself up with too much daily reading matter at this stage of the game. My post office box, by the way, which I have finally obtained after a mighty struggle, is - Apartado núm 538. This will be my permanent mailing address.

3. The Department of Commerce, and more especially Klein's Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has a number of excellent studies on Mexico and Latin America. Some of these I have been able to obtain from the commercial attaché here. I believe that you told me that you knew Klein. Therefore, it would be a great help if you would have them send me, the next time you are in Washington, a complete set of their special reports touching on Mexico. Also I would like to be put on the mailing list for their weekly survey of foreign trade - "Commerce Reports".

4. In accordance with your suggestion and my own plans of procedure, I expect to spend most of the time between the first of October and Christmas studying the life in the back country away from the railroads and large cities. Just when and

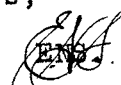
where I will be able to go will depend in large part on what revolutionary activities happen to be taking place. My present plans call for trips to the west coast, especially to the states of Oaxaca, Michoacan, and Jalisco-in the order named. After the first of the year I hope to be able to work down the east coast from Vera Cruz to Yucatan. In view of the fact that practically all of this last mentioned country is in the tropics, for obvious reasons January and February will be the best months to work there. I will welcome any suggestions with regard to these plans.

Enclosed you will find copies of my first attempts at writing up notes on conversations and interviews. The substance of some of these I have already quoted to you in my letters. I am sending them along for safe keeping in the New York files of the Institute and for any comments that you may care to make.

I am very pleased to hear that you may make a deal with Langdon-Davies. There is every reason to believe that he will be a credit to the Institute, and I do not know of anyone that I would rather have working in the field which, next to South America, is most closely related to my own.

Keith's summer school classes closed this week. Enclosed you will find a picture of her dancing one of the native "jarabes" at the closing exercises. I am pleased to say that she did a good job of it and reflected much glory to the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. H. Rieu', written over the typed name 'E. H. Rieu'.