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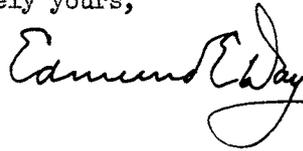
January 14, 1928.

Mr. Walter S. Rogers,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
522 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for sending me the mimeographed copies of certain letters received from Mr. Simpson, your staff man in Mexico. I find the letters most interesting and have passed them on to two or three men in the General Education Board who are most interested in the matters with which the letters have to deal.

Sincerely yours,



EED:FR

The Nation

20 Vesey Street
New York

January 16, 1928

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you very much for
sending me those two interesting letters
which I have read with great pleasure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bruce Gerrain Killard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Mr. W. S. Rogers,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
522 Fifth Avenue, New York

42 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

GEORGE BARR BAKER

16th July '27.

Dear Walter;

Delighted to hear from
you. Your Mexican man has
done a good job. A pity it is
not to be published just at
this time. Hope to see you
soon.

Sincerely yours

George Barr Baker

Walter S. Rogers Esq
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 7th Ave

Charge to the account of John O. Crane - 522 Fifth Ave. \$

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

January 20, 1928

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson
 Apartado 538
 Mexico City, D.F.
 Mexico

Yucatan approved mailing money forget about Paris Greetings

Rogers

Mexico City, D.F.,
Apartado 538,
January 21, 1928.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Mexico resembles nothing so much these days as a three ring circus- or, at any rate, so it seems to one who aspires to know the "major trends in the life of the country". Events are taking place so rapidly and in so many different corners that one must needs have a dozen pairs of eyes to watch them and at least two dozen pairs of ears to listen to the gossip and rumors about them. Why should Mr. Morrow return of a sudden from Cuba? What price the parleys now going on to settle the national debt with the New York bankers? Is it true that the railroads are about to be sold? Why are the factories and mills shutting down in Puebla? Are the new amendments to the oil laws only a gesture? And, of course, above all and surpassing everything else in interest: what and why is the Pan American Conference?

The papers have been filled with news stories, interviews, reprints, editorials, and what-have-you - all trying to "unscrew the inscrutable" question of what the bearing of the Conference will be on the future of Mexico and Latin America. Since my own speculations, at this remove from the center of activities, would be of little value, I restrict myself to recording the drift of public opinion concerning the events which have already transpired at the conference as such opinion is revealed in the newspapers here in Mexico. From a sheaf of clippings on my desk I select, as typical of the rest, the following article featured the other day in both of the

morning newspapers:

"Prominent Mexican lawyers are following with interest the affairs of the Sixth Pan American Conference. Yesterday the eminent attorney, Señor Toribio Esquivel Obregón, made the following comment on the inaugural discourse pronounced by President Coolidge...

"Many have criticized President Coolidge's speech as a medley of common places combined with a weighty literary style. I, nevertheless, believe that this speech is most profound. It all depends on how you look at it. Since Mr. Coolidge has set the example of treating of serious things in the language of poetry, I feel that it is fitting that I should recall a fable of our immortal José which I studied as a boy in my school books. This fable relates:

Once, when a gentle lamb did feed
 Within a wide and spacious mead,
 She saw approach her fettered gate
 The crafty wolf- disconsolate.
 The lamb enquired of her visitor
 With timorous glance that did abhor-
 "What can I do for you, Señor?"
 "I come to seek", the wolf replied,
 "The herbs that in the forest bide,
 The sparkling water of a hidden spring;
 For a frugal life is a noble thing!"
 "But I know full well that you devour
 The flesh of lamb- when in your power!"

"All that belongs to times long past,
 My barbarous progenitors I blast.
 Succulent roots form my repast,
 A vegetarian am I at last".

"That you are no longer a canibal
 Is little short of a miracle".

"You admire, I'm sure, my noble life,
 Devoted to study and avert all strife.
 I detest all slaughter and despise a plot,
 For with the good life I have cast my lot.
 Of my good intentions I would give proof
 So, good lamb, hold not aloof,
 But in yon forest of dark green fir,
 Softened with needles and smelling of myrrh,
 Let's pasture together, my good sister".

"Since you are so kind, I gladly assent".
 And she lifted the bars- poor innocent.....

I do not think that it is necessary for me to complete the fable. From what has been said it is plain that Mr. Coolidge's speech is more profound than it appears at first glance...

"Why does the great and powerful United States prefer to parody the fable quoted above?

"Why does Mr. Coolidge prefer to pass as ignorant of history and to lie openly when he says, for example, that the wars on this continent have had as their object the enlarging of the

horizons of liberty, and to say this in the presence of an audience that knows that the war which most disturbed the American continents, the invasion of Mexico by the United States, had for its purpose to widen the horizons of slavery for the negroes and to despoil a neighboring nation? The answer is simply that the United States, powerful as she is, ~~simply~~ does not find it convenient to honestly declare the omnipotence of her power and thus gain the hate of mankind."

Whether the assertions in this article are true or not makes very little difference. This is the sort of thing that many Mexicans believe to be true and it is the type of comment which, without exception, the Mexican newspapers have been playing up with reference to the Pan American Conference. Its significance, it seems to me, lies not in the fact that it is new- the Mexican intellectuals have long delighted in making "Yanqui-landia" the scape goat for any and everything that happened to irritate them- but rather in the fact that this sort of attitude is becoming more and more prevalent. And well might this be the case; for, not a day passes but what it is borne in on me anew that the most powerful factor in the life of the Mexican nation is its proximity to the greatest industrial machine in the world. The Mexicans have a right to fear the United States, but not for the reasons which they think.... One day last week 12,000 people in the City of Mexico knocked down policemen, broke windows, and pulled each other's hair- what? a new revolution?- no, they were trying to catch a glimpse of the new Ford. In the seven days during which the "mechanical marvel of the age" was on exhibit in all 40,000 Mexicans came to pay their respects and 2,000 of them left orders for cars. This is the new imperialism!

.....

To your communications of recent date I make the following replies:

a. Thanks for the boquet from Dewey. I would rather

have had a word of praise from him than from almost any one that I know.

b. As for the material in the Circular Letter- whenever the cap seemed to fit me I put it on and wore it. I may add that such letters are a very great help in clarifying one's thoughts and I hope that you will see fit to write them often.

c. Am I to understand that Langdon-Davies is now officially connected with the Institute? If so, I would like to have his address.

d. Keith and I are both pleased that you have approved the trip to Yucatan. I am now gathering letters of introduction and reading everything that I can find on the subjects which I wish to study there.

e. I look forward with great interest to Mr. Crane's decision in re his trip to Mexico. Needless to say, his presence here would be most pleasant and his advice and suggestions most helpful.

Enclosed you will find my first article on the land question. I propose to write six other articles of a similar nature, one each on the following subjects: "The Antecedents of the Agrarian Revolution in 1910", "The Agrarian Revolution and Mexico's New Land Laws", "The Problem of Irrigation in Mexico" "The Agricultural Labor Movement and the Peasant's League", "Mexico's New Agricultural Banks", and a general summary article similar to the one which I wrote on education.

Sincerely yours,



P.S. Poetry in this issue-by Keith Coppage.

January 21st, 1928

Dear Eyster:

I now have your No. 25, January 12th, and also the illustrated edition of your educational articles. Probably you are right about the "good willers."

The program you outline seems promising. Use your own judgment both as to time and subjects. At this distance I, of course, can form no intelligent opinion as to your progress, but my hunch is that you have been doing well. Primarily I am concerned with your Spanish. You should constantly strive to perfect it. Perhaps I shouldn't have written "primarily" as there are several "primarilies" so far as the Institute is concerned.

Do not sorry about Paris. I have been sparing with the University authorities with a view to maintaining contacts. One result is that probably John will lecture there again this summer. The following summer you or Bruce can take his place. I did not anticipate Paris writing to you, otherwise I would have tipped you off as to just what I was up to.

Your reasons for wishing to go to Yucatan at this time seem cogent. And I am glad you plan to have Keith accompany you. Under separate cover I am sending you a booklet, "The Civilization of the Mayas", recently issued by the Field Museum.

My trip to Mexico will, if possible, be timed so that it will not interfere with your accompanying Mr. Saenz. My plans, however, cannot take definite form until I learn what Mr. Crane decides to do. Victor Clark, who is to spend the winter in California, also has in mind going along.

Our ideas coincide as to the nature and purposes of your reports. What to do with your educational material, bothers me. Probably it ought to be published. Not being written with a particular publication in view it is doubly hard to place. The illustrations are very good.

At the State Department the other day one of the officials aroused by the frock-coat-silk-hat propensities of the men in the career service, blurted out to me: "What is a diplomatic secretary? Merely a valet to an Ambassador." How is that for lese majesty?

I have given Gilson Gardner a letter of introduction to you. He and I have been friends for many years. He was very close to

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson - - - - - 2.

the late E. A. Scripps and is, I believe, one of the trustees of the Scripps estate. Formerly Gardner was an important factor in the Scripps organization; apparently Roy Howard has now pushed him pretty much out of the picture.

Best Greetings to you and Keith.

Sincerely,

January 28th, 1928

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson,
Apartado 538
Mexico City, D.F.
Mexico.

Dear Eyer:

Just as I am preparing to leave New York your #26 of January 21st comes along. For the present I will merely answer your one direct question. Davies is now a member of the staff. However, I had to make special arrangements with him as he was under contract to write certain magazine articles and to deliver a course of lectures early in 1929. After talking the matter over he and I concluded that it would be all to the good for him to maintain the lecture and writing contacts that he has already built up. In essence, the present arrangement contemplates a transition of two or three years and he will probably return to this country about the first of next January. His address is 11 Paseo de Guixols, San Felin de Guixols, Province of Gerona, Spain. I think it would be worthwhile for you to drop him a little fraternal note.

Sincerely yours,

WSR/FC

January 28, 1928

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson,
Apartado 538
Mexico City, D.F.
Mexico.

Dear Eyer:

The bearer of this note, Mr. Gilson Gardner, is one of my greatly esteemed friends. I am sure you and he will find much in common to talk about. Please be good to him.

Sincerely yours,

WSR/FC

Mexico City, D.F.,
Apartado 538,
January 31, 1928.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I have been engaged in the pleasant indoor sport of seeing if I could quite literally immerse myself right up to the neck in the land question. I believe that I have been successful. My desk fairly groans with the burden of books, pamphlets, official reports, etc. etc. which I have collected from the bookstores, the various government departments, and my obliging friends. My experience in the work which I did on education taught me once and for all that many useless and often foolish questions can be avoided and the time spent in interviews put in to much better advantage if one first thoroughly digests all of the published sources of information. Also, I find that officials are flattered (and hence more willing to give you their time and attention) if at your first contact you simply ask for a collection of their published materials, at the same time making a little speech in your best Spanish to the effect that after you have carefully read the documents which they have so kindly put at your disposal that you would be honored to see them again and discuss the questions which have been raised in your mind...

Following this plan, during the past week I have had conferences with the Director of the "Bancos Ejidales", the Chief Statistician of the "Secretaría de Hacienda", the "Jefe" of the Archives in the "Secretaría de Agricultura", the Director of the "Sociedades Agrícolas" and the legal advisor of the "Banco Agrícola" , and the President of the "Liga Nacion-

al Campesina" (the new agrarian labor organization). From each place I carried off copies of all the official propaganda and the way is now prepared for future conferences.

In betweentime and in the meantime I have managed to collect my letters of introduction for Yucatán. I am happy to report that I depart Friday armed with letters to (a) Dr. Alvaro Torre Díaz, Governor of Yucatán (one of my letters to this important personage is from Dr. Puig, the Secretary of Education, and the other from an intimate friend of the Governor's here in Mexico City); (b) to Carlos R. Meneñdez, editor of the principal newspaper in the state; (c) to Bartolomé García, President of the Socialist Party in Yucatán; and (d) to Hernan C. Vogenitz, the American Vice Consul at Progreso. If these golden keys I do not succeed in unlocking the doors to the secrets of Yucatán, it will be because I am butter fingered and undeserving in the eyes of the Mayan gods.

Your letter of January 21st and the accompanying circular letter No.2. call for certain comments. First, about my stuff on education- I would like to repeat the request in one of my previous letters that if possible you find a market for one or two of these articles. It is not that I think they represent any great and novel contribution to knowledge, or, that, as a general rule, it would be advisable to publish very much of what I turn out during this first sojourn in Mexico, but simply that I know the Mexicans are rather pleased to see their names in the magazines of the United States and to the extent that they are pleased my own prestige here is raised. Titles, (thank God I have the right to be called Doctor), recognitions, honors, and gewgaws of all sort mean much more in Mexico than

they do in the United States. Hence, the more that I have to point to, the more "front" I can put on, the easier it is for me to make contacts and thus further the cause of the Institute. By way of showing you what I mean and the attitude which the Mexicans have toward these things, I am enclosing a translation and copy of the letter of introduction mentioned above which Dr. Puig wrote for me to the Governor of Yucatán.

Regarding your admonitions that I constantly strive to perfect my knowledge of Spanish, I can only add a hearty "Amen!" Both Keith and I feel very keenly that, whereas we have made appreciable progress since coming to Mexico, we are still far from the goal of perfect mastery of the language which we have set for ourselves. By this time, of course, I am able to get along for all ordinary conversational purposes. But I am not fooling myself; I know full well that the Institute is not devoted to "ordinary purposes". I may say, however, that the great difficulty here in Mexico City is to find someone who talks Spanish. It's like trying to learn French in Paris. I absorb more Spanish in one short trip into the country than from weeks of studying with a tutor in the City.

I like the idea of a circulating library for the Staff. English and American books are not only difficult to get in Mexico, but they are very expensive. Novels sell here ordinarily for two and one half times their price in the United States and books in the social and biological sciences are even higher. For general reading I prefer history and biography. The following list which I have selected from important publications of recent months is a fair exhibit of the type of reading which it seems to me would be most useful in keeping up

to date and in supplementing and balancing my regular Mexican diet.

Ludwig, Emil- Bismarck, Little Brown.
 ----- - - - - Genius and Character, Little Brown.
 Beard, C.A. and Mary- The Rise of American Civiliza-
 tion, Macmillan.
 Bent, Silas- Ballyhoo, Boni and Liveright.
 Cather, Willa- Death Comes for the Archbishop, Knopf.
 Sinclair, Upton- Oil, A. and C. Boni.
 Leonard, W.E.- The Locomotive God, Century.
 Mann Thomas, The Magic Mountain, Knopf.
 Clendening, Logan- The Human Body, Knopf.
 O'Neill, Eugene- Lazarus Laughed, Boni and Liveright.
 Parrington, V.L.- Main Currents in American Thought,
 Harcourt, Brace.
 Robinson, E.A.- Tristram, Macmillian.

And this reminds me to say that I have received both of the books which you recently sent me. The Field Museum pamphlet on the Mayas contained nothing new, but it afforded a very compact, summary review just before my trip to Yucatán. The book on Russia I found delightful. Rhys William's technique is interesting and I am inspired to try a sketch or two in similar style while I am in Yucatan.

A long letter from Bruce today came as a pleasant surprise. I am happy to learn that he has regained his health and with it his confidence. Your visit seems to have helped in both matters.

My address in Yucatan will be:

Eyler N. Simpson,
 %Hernan C. Vogenitz,
 American Vice Consul,
 Progreso, Yucatán.
 Mexico.

and any letter mailed from New York prior to the 18th of February should reach me before I start back. We are scheduled to sail from Vera Cruz on the 4th; and, on the return trip, from Progreso on the 29th, arriving in Mexico City again on or about March the 2nd. I will write my regular weekly letter reporting my

ENS..WZR..27.

-5-

progress on my trip.

Gilson Gardner I have not seen.

Sincerely yours,

ENS.

P.S. Keith is sending along another little sketch which may help to fill in some of the background of the Mexican scene.