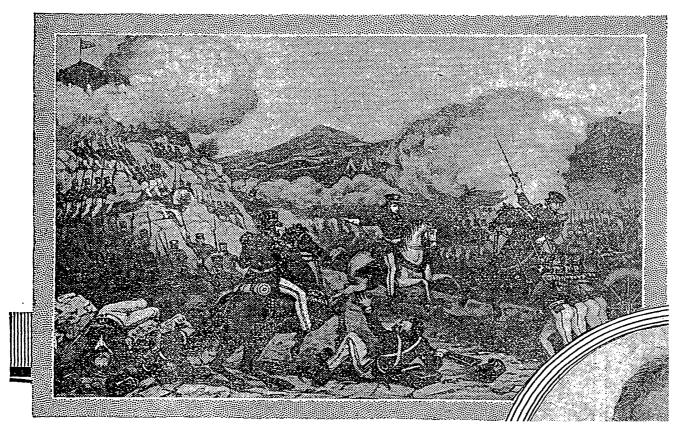
WHEN WE HAD WAR WITH MEXICO SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

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WHEN WE HAD WAR WITH MEXICO SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO



STORMING & PALACE HILL AT THE BAT TLE & MONTERE

ECAUSE old Moses Austin, a typical Down Easter originally from Durham, Conn., back in 1820 sought permission from the Mexican Commandant General at Monterey to colonize some 300 families in the Mexican State of Texas, and packed up and was on his way there without so much as waiting for a reply, the United States a quarter of a century later waged a two-years' war with her sister republic, in the end taking over to herself 651,000 square miles of new territory, not counting that part of Texas which had already been admitted as a State. This vast area was more than half of all Mexico, and nearly one-third of the present area of the United States.

There isn't such a wide difference between the situation confronting the United States and Mexico sixty-five years ago "Zach" Taylor, as and now. Gen. his soldiers called him behind his back and often before his face, too, when he went unrecognized among them without uniform or insignia of rank, had plenty of bluefackets then on the border be tween the countries. As a result also of Moses Austin's colonization bee, American citizens had hundreds of thousands of dollars invested even then in property in Mexico.

The Yankee merchant had invaded the towns of Matamoras, Chihuahua, Monterey, Saltillo, and dozens of others, in-cluding the City of Mexico itself, and when a succession of revolutions came along and destroyed their property they applied to the American Government to be paid for their losses. The Americans living in Mexico had themselves been in great personal danger, and were still. The claims they had against the Mexican Government were pressed by this country, but collections were poor, in fact, there were no collections, because almost as soon as the claims could be drawn up and got in proper shape for presentation, along would come a revolution, with a change in the government, and not one government wanted to inherit the debts of its predecessor.

Our war with Mexico has been called a "War of Pretexts," and these unsettled claims form a part of the pretexts, but. if the historians are sure of their ground, the real reason for the war was that a great many people in this country wanted more territory, and had no idea of letting slip such an opportunity as ill-advised Mexico offered, when resenting the annexation of Texas to the United States, to get it. In that respect, apparently, the present strained relations between the two countries, and the disordered conditions almost throughout Mexico-conspicuous forerunners of the previous hostilityfail to find a complete parallel. According to President Taft, this country has all the territory it wants or needs, and consequently an invasion of Mexico would not menace its territorial integrity.

Some interesting events lie in the background of the admission of Texas to the Union, the immediate cause of the war of 1846. Mexico had acquired her independence of Spain in 1821. Miguel Hidalgoy Costillo, an Indian curate, had stirred up his people to throw off the Spanish yoke, leading in person the first insurrection in three centuries against the power which Fad crushed all Mexicans. Mexico, in addition to its present territory, embraced all of the present State of Texas and the vast areas of California. New Mexico, Arizona, Western Colorado,

Utah, and Nevada. Under Costillo and his compatriots, Mexico struggled for freedom for eleven years before victory in 1S21 crowned their efforts with success. But only two years after the struggle began the revolutionists avowed their purpose to establish a republic modeled on the lines of the United States. The first Mexican Congress adopted a set of principles, of which these were most prominent:

Abolition of slavery. Abolition of all privileges of birth and color

Abolition of torture in inflicting penalties directed by law.

Protection of property rights. Encouragement of foreign commerce under a moderate tariff. In addition, there was this declaration of

purpose, which, historians assert, would have saved the country its territory and its people untold suffering and loss of life and property if they had been lived up to:

The laws should require patriotism and lovalty, limit alike the excesses of opulence and poverty, tend to increase the wages of the poor, and diminish popular ignorance, vice, and crime.

But these principles were not for a day lived up to. The Government, a year or so after the country's freedom from Spain was established, became the prey of military usurpers, as it has been many times since. In 1834 Santa Anna, President of the Confederation of States, dissolved the Mexican Congress by force, and, by way of creating a precedent for later history. used large bodies of troops to overawe in his favor the elections held for the next Congress.

He compelled the new Congress to abolish the Constitution of 1824, and Texas rebelled against Santa Anna's high-handed usurpation of its powers to manage its internal affairs. Texas wanted a federal system of government, and called a Con gress of its own. The State declared itself free from Mexico, setting up a republic, with Henry Smith, Governor, and Gen. Sam Houston, commander in chief, Santa Anna and Gen. Urea entered Texas to crush the new republic, and Santa Anna on this occasion had the dishonor to besiege Col. Travis and his 250 men shut up in the Alamo at San Antonio.

As every one knows, they fought. But one man was left, and Santa Anna ordered him shot and the bodies of the other dead of the garrison burned. This inhumanity, and that which followed in the slaughter, by his direction, of Col. Fannin and 500 men at Goliad, gave rise to two battle cries used by Texans throughout the Mexican war, "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad." The cry, "Remember the Maine," was never used in 1898 with greater effect to stir Americans against another foe than " Remember the Alamo" was used in the next few years on and off the battlefield. It inflamed men everywhere, and Mexico lost sympathy above the Rio Grande.

Santa Anna was captured later by Gen. Sam Houston, however, and to save his neck he promptly agreed to recognize the freedom of Mexico, only to repudinte his action as soon as he got across the border. After ten years of independence Texas applied for admission to the United States Its people were the descendants in part of those 300 families which Moses Austin led to the Sabine River, and died leaving the bold colonization scheme as a heritage to



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his son, whose name is given to the State capital. They were Americans through and through, and many others like them had flocked across the western tier of States to find homes on the broad prairies. Here was the opening wedge of the war. Mexico at once realized, if not before, that in encouraging American coloniza tion it had signed away its birthright to a big slice of its domain. To a proud peo ple a mistake like this was galling. In addition, the boundary line between the Republics of Texas and Mexico had not been more than roughly drawn, Mexico claiming territory hundreds of miles north of the Rio Grande.

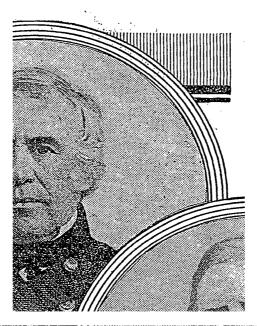
The slavery question entered largely in the discussion in Congress of the application of Texas for admission. Abolitionists of New England and elsewhere feared the annexation of Texas meant, as it did, the opening of a vast area for the sp slavery, and for the extension of the power of the Democratic Party, which did not oppose slavery. Texas then had 200,-(0) square miles of undisputed territory. Benton of Missouri remarked in the Senate that Texas was large enough to be carved into nine slaveholding States, each as large as Kentucky, and the Whigs and Freesoilers, realizing this, thought that if Texas was admitted their hope of control over the Government was forever gone, and slavery a fixed institution. Conse-quently, the opposition to admitting the new State.

On the other hand, others saw the overwhelming advantage to their side of the acquisition of this imperial Texan territory, and demanded it, closing all ears to objections from whatever source. The soil was therefore ripe for the seed which Mexico, blind to the consequences and boastful of the superiority of its soldiery over that of the United States, was anxious to sow. Texas was admitted in March, 1845. Many of those Americans having claims against Mexico for destroyed property lived in Texas, and the annexation of that territory gave the United States, it was asserted, still better right to press for an early and ample settlement.

Mexico regarded the annexation of Texas as an act of war in itself. The boundary disputes between Texas and Mexico were transferred from the former to the United States, and Mexico was in no humor to conduct negotiations of any sort just then with the Americans. Texas

How American Armies Marched Conquering Through the Southern Republic, Defeated Forces Many Times Their Size, and Then Dismembered Her.

declared that her territory extended south and west to the Rio Grande. Mexico said it extended only to the river Nucces. Mexico began immediately to mass an army on the banks of the Rio Grande at Matamoras, fearing disturbances in Texas, it was said. The picture has since been reversed, and it has seemingly reversed a number of times in the light



feated, and when the news came in, along with the hundreds of wounded who were brought into the city in sacks hung over the backs of mules and burros, the women furiously tore down and stamped upon the wreaths with which they had decked their houses in anticipation of victory, and joined their lamentations with the cries of the dying. The Mexicans retreated into the States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon, while the Americans, soon reinforced by

thousands of volunteers, began a com-prehensive campaign of invasion. The United States army immediately spangled off into three branches. Gen. Kearney was sent off in command of the Army of the West to capture the present territory of New Mexico, and then push on to the conquest of California. Gen. Taylor was put in command of the Army of Occupation, and Gen. Wool, for whom the old Rip-Raps Fort in Hamp. ton Roads was named, directed the Army of the Centre.

of recent events. Threats of invasion by

Mexican troops were frequently heard, and Mexico didn't help matters by withdrawing her Minister from Washington. Meantime the United States, through John Slidell in Mexico City and Gen. Zachary Taylor at New Orleans, was trying to conduct peace negotiations with hand and n enare for war with other. The peace negotiations fell through and on June 15, 1845, Gen. Taylor was ordered to embark at New Orleans with his troops for the mouth of the Rio Grande. The troops actually left New Orleans on July 2 and 4. These orders, dated Aug. 23, were trans-

mitted to Gen. Taylor on the Rio Grande:

Should Mexico assemble a large body of troops on the Rio Grande and cross it with a considerable force, such a movement must be regarded as an in-vasion of the United States and the commencement of hostilities.

Shortly thereafter, Paredes, the Mexican President, wrote to Gen. Arista, in com-mand of the Mexican troops on the opposite side of the river, saying:

It is indispensable that hostilities be commenced, yourself taking the initia-tive against the enemy.

Historians appear to agree that the United States was the first to begin the war, and Mexico the first to declare it. At any rate, the die was cast, and Gen. Taylor and Gen. Arista drew their first blood in front of Matamoras.

The territory of actual conflict in the Mexican war was almost identical with that over which the federal troops of Mextico and the Maderists are now contesting. The campaign of conquest was on in earnest after two remarkable victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, where Gen. Taylor administered a severe drubbing to the Mexicans under Gen. Arista, who had a greatly superior force. It never occurred to any one in Matamoras that the Mexicans would be de-



of volunteers, with Col. Alexander W. Doniphan, the most prominent officer in the expedition, as second in command, was massed at Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River, and after a short delay was marched 2,000 miles toward Santa Fé and the Pacific. The vast territory of more than half a million square miles capitulated to the army of volunteers without the striking of a single blow. Gen. Kearney at one time learned that 2.000 Mexicans awaited him at Las Vegas, but when he got there the Mexicans had fled, and the Americans had come merely for a feast instead of a fight. Kearney later pushed on into Upper California which he occupied after an inconsequen tial skirmish on land and demonstration on sea successively by Commodores Sloat and Stockton. The whole vast territory was won prac-

tically without bloodshed, the gate to California being opened to Americans just in time for the discovery of gold

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and the subsequent inrush of Fortyniners,

Turning on his heel after having accomplished the subjugation of the New Mexi-can Territory, Gen. Kearney gave nis

attention to the second portion of his assignment. This was to invade Chihuahua, and thus form a conjunction with Gen. Wool's forces, which had been ordered south. The carrying of war into the present limits of Mexico was intrusted by Gen, Kearney to Col, Doniphan, and the march south begun Dec. 14, 1846,

Meantime Gen, Taylor had occupied Mat-amoras, on the south bank of the Rio Grande, which had been evacuated by Gen. Arista a few days after the crushing defeat of Resaca de la Palma. On Aug. 10, Gen. Taylor, with 6,700 men, including raw recruits, started across the State of Tamaulipas, along what is now the rout of the Mexican Central Railroad, toward Monterey, the principal city of Nuevo Leon, where Gen. Ampudia was in com mand of 10,000 troops.

The American Army arrived in a month to a day, and three days later attacked. Another three days, and he was in posses sion of the city, though he had to fight a much larger force than his own, in-trenched behind strong fortifications on home territory. About this time Gen. Winfield Scott,

Commander in Chief, took active direction of the conquest. He withdrew from Gen Taylor the major portion of his troops instructing him to establish his head-quarters at Monterey, and refrain from further offensive operations. Through captured dispatches Santa Anna, who dislodged President Paredes and made himself the head of the Government, learned of Taylor's depleted forces, and advanced with 20,000 men on Gen. Taylor, who had less than 5,000 men, stationed at Saltillo. The battle of Buena Vista followed, beof this fight, in which the Americans were victorious in spite of the great odds against them, was Col. Jefferson Davis, commanding the Mississippi regiment, afterward President of the Southern Confederacy,

Santa Anna was forced after two days' fighting to withdraw, and then the order came for Gen. Taylor to return home on a leave of absence. Further campaign in this direction was useless, but before Cen. Taylor left he received official information that Col. Doniphan had captured Chihuahua City, over which the Federal troops and the Maderists were disputing so hotly a few days ago when the armistice was declared.

Gen. Scott had determined to take the shortest road to the Mexican capital, as the shortest route to peace and victory. On March 9, 1847, Gen. Scott began to land his 12,000 men at Vera Cruz, for a series of marches across country to Mexico City. Vera Cruz surrendered on March 29, and Scott moved on.

At Cerro Gordo, a mountain pass, sixty, miles from Vera Cruz, Santa Anna, at the head of an army of 8,500 men, awaited him. Scott started the fight on April 18, and never let up until he had driven Santa Anna ten miles back toward his capital. Then came a succession of vic-tories at San Antonio and Churubusco, and finally Chaputepec, and Mexico City, itself.

The total American losses in the Mexico City campaign were 2,700 men, including 383 officers, while the Mexicans lost 7,000 men, killed and wounded, and nearly 4,000 prisoners of war. The treaty of peaced called the Treaty of Guadalupe_Hidalgo, was signed on Feb. 2, 1848. and by it the United States acquired an imperial territory, seventeen times as great as that of New York State. The pill was a bitter

United States sugar-coated it to the ex-tent of paying \$15,000,000 for the territory added to its boundaries.

The war proved a great training ground for the leaders in the civil war, which followed thirteen years later. Gen. Grant, Gen. R. E. Lee, Gen. McClellan, Gen. Stonewall Jackson, and dozens of others who later became famous military leaders, got their first experience in actual warfare in this campaign under Gen. Scott.

Gen. Jackson was several times promoted for gallantry and efficiency be-tween Vera Cruz and Chapultepec, and Captains Lee and McClellan, engineers for Scott's army, worked out the road plans by which the heights of Chapultepeo might be ascended.

Gen. Taylor rode on a wave of popularity, which he himself started, to the Presidency.

GEN SANTA ANNA

ing begun on Washington's Birthday an-niversary in 1847. One of the real heroes