

Torrance Herald

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Calles on Evans Murder Mexican President Speaks

THE murder of Mrs. Rosalie R. Evans in my country recently was not a common crime, but the work of malicious interests foreign to the Mexican government.

So declared President-elect Plutarco Elias Calles of Mexico, in an interview in New York while waiting to sail for Europe recently.

General Calles waved aside a suggestion that the crime might be the result of unassimilated agrarian and socialistic doctrines which had proven too rich mental food for the peons and that they had gotten out of hand as a result.

"Not at all," said he. "I may consider myself the chief of the Socialist party in Mexico, but Mexican socialism is a conscious and sane socialism and not the destructive thing which the reactionary elements try to make out. Socialist ideas in Mexico are constructive and moral. At the same time the leaders are showing the people what their rights are and are also showing them what their duties are. The main effort of the Socialist has been to try to liberate the poorer classes. The chief benefits Mexico can look for will come from the uplifting of the submerged classes."

"In what respects are the Mexican Indians oppressed?" General Calles was asked.

"For one thing, the large estate holders estimate the value of their properties not on acreage, but by the number of peons on their acres. They work from twelve to fourteen hours a day for ten cents in gold. It is not humanly possible for them to live and bring up children or have any moral expression. If this is not serfdom, I would like God to come down and define it."

"We have in Mexico 20,000,000 farm workers out of a total population of 50,000,000. Therefore the agricultural workers are necessarily the backbone of the country. It is the government's duty to see that they have the necessary elements for moral and physical development, so that by raising their standards we may bring about decent conditions."

Discusses Land Issue

When asked if the new government had it in mind to leave the settlement of foreign land titles to diplomacy, he said:

"To understand land holding in Mexico would take hours. The problem of landed property goes back to the conquest. Indian possession of lands was granted by the Spanish crown centuries ago. Lands are essential to their liberty. The government will see to it that these lands are restored to them through legal proceedings."

When asked if Mexican or international law would prevail where the land titles of foreigners were concerned, General Calles said:

"Our government is the same as yours. It has executive, legislative and judicial branches, and the lawmakers will decide. The rights of American and British oil property holders will be fully protected."

A Leap Year Selling Talk

R. L. Stevenson on Marriage

IN "Virginius Puerisque" Robert Louis Stevenson observes that "we are much more afraid of life than our ancestors, and we cannot find it in our hearts either to marry or not to marry."

Then he sermonizes: "Marriage is terrifying, but so is a cold and forlorn old age."

"The friendships of men are vastly agreeable, but they are insecure. You know all the time that one friend will marry and put you to the door; a second accept a situation in China, and become no more to you than a name, a reminiscence, and an occasional crossed letter, very laborious to read; a third will take up with some religious crotchet and treat you with sour looks thenceforward."

"So, in one way or another, life forces men apart and breaks up the goodly fellowships forever. The very flexibility and ease which make men's friendships so agreeable while they endure, make them the easier to destroy and forget."

"And a man who has a few friends, or one who has a dozen (if there be anyone so wealthy on this earth), cannot forget on how precarious a base his happiness reposes; and how, by a stroke or two of fate—a death, a few light words, a piece of stamped paper, a woman's bright eyes—he may be left, in a month, destitute of all."

"Marriage is certainly a perilous remedy. Instead of on two or three, you stake your happiness on one life only."

"But still, as the bargain is more explicit and complete on your part, it is more so on the other; and you have not to fear so many contingencies; it is not every wind that can blow you from your anchorage; and so long as Death withholds his sickle, you will always have a friend at home."

"People who share a cell in the Bastille, or are thrown together on an uninhabited isle, if they do not immediately fall to fisticuffs, will find some possible ground for compromise. They will learn each other's ways and humors, so as to know where they must go warily, and where they may lean their whole weight."

Mars Near Us Tomorrow

Dream Trip to the Planet

By CLARK KINNARD

WHEN you delve into a book it should be an adventure. A book that doesn't afford an adventure for the mind isn't worth reading.

"Dreams of an Astronomer," by Camille Flammarion, France's great astronomer, affords adventure that sends the imagination whirling.

In it Flammarion takes his readers on a trip to Mars. "Thirty-seven million miles from the earth," he begins the account of the Martian visit. "It is not very far, astronomically speaking. It is, in fact, quite near, a few paces away."

"The World of Mars is the first station of the Solar system, the first planet we meet on leaving the Earth to visit the remote regions of the heavens."

"The farther we move away from the Earth, the smaller grows the apparent size of our own world. Seen from the Moon, our planet hangs in the sky like an enormous moon, four times the size of our own satellite, and 16 times as luminous, for it is isolated in space and reflects the light received from the Sun, as is done by the Moon and the various planets of the Solar system."

"At the distance of the orbit of Mars, at the time when the planets are in greatest proximity (thirty-seven million miles), the Earth no longer shows a sensible disc, but is still the biggest and brightest star in the entire heavens. The inhabitants of Mars, therefore, admire us as a brilliant star in the sky, showing aspects similar to those which Venus shows to us. We are their morning and evening star, and no doubt their mythology has erected altars to us."

"When I arrived on that planet," Flammarion writes, as if he had just returned, "it was about midday on its central meridian. I noticed two small moons revolving rapidly in their sky, and I alighted on the slope of a mountain overlooking a distant sea. The sea was shallow and full of water plants. The panorama reminded me of that which one sees from the terrace of Nice Observatory, and I seemed to see a Mediterranean of calm water, of a rather dark bluish-green color. But it was a different element, and I saw that the plants were of a species unknown on Earth."

"Airy navies consisting of a sort of bird-fishes glided through the atmosphere, and I soon found the inhabitants of this celestial territory have received by natural evolution the enviable privilege of flying through the air, and that their method of locomotion is particularly aviation. Gravity is feeble on the surface of the planet, and hence the density of beings and objects on that planet is much less than it is with us."

"Engineering science has for centuries reached a high degree of perfection. They have carried out immense works, incomparably superior to those achieved on our planet in the last century, and they have transformed their globe by gigantic operations which earthly astronomers are just beginning to appreciate by means of the telescope."

"One may easily understand, indeed, that that world should be more advanced than ours, because it is more ancient chronologically, and because, being smaller than our globe, it has cooled down more rapidly and has run through the phases of organic evolution at a greater rate."

"Its years are nearly twice as long as ours, in the proportion of 365 days to 687. While we count 37 days on Earth, the Martian counts only 20, and a man of 79 years on Earth is only 40 Martian years old. Its condition of habitability, its climate and meteorology, its days and nights, are analogous to ours."

"Even from where we are we can observe its continents, its polar snows which melt in the spring, its canals which also change with the seasons, its humid plains periodically varied by vegetation, its clouds, generally very light, but dense toward the polar regions, its mists in the morning and especially in the evening; above all, the perpetual changes, incomparably more intense than those of the Earth's surface; in a word, all those manifestations of an activity greater than that of our own home of the present day."

On August 23 Mars will be closer to this Earth of ours than it ever will be again in your lifetime. Take a look at it, keeping in mind Flammarion's observations.

Cuno for Teuton President

Is Internationally Famous

WILHELM CUNO, former chancellor of Germany, is being boomed for president of the German republic to succeed President Ebert. The election is to be held next May. The term is for seven years.

Cuno is expected to be placed on a nonpartisan ticket. He is not attached to any of the German bourgeois parties.

Cuno was known internationally before the formation of the republic and the political changes wrought. He was director of the Hamburg-American steamship line and spent some time in other countries in connection with his duties.

He was asked to form a German cabinet and become chancellor when the Wirth administration fell in 1922. He labored earnestly but ineffectually to settle the reparations problem.

WHEN IT'S HOT IN JAPAN

"I make a fan last thirty years," said one old Japanese miser to another, on a scorching hot day. "This, friend, is my method: Instead of opening a fan out all the way, I only open it out one stick at a time, so. The first stick serves me about three years. When it is quite gone I fan with the second stick—another three years. And so on to the end. Mercy! isn't it hot?"

"Only thirty years' use out of a good fan!" said the second miser. "Why, this fan of mine has lasted my family through two generations, and I expect to leave it to my eldest son. I, friend, never wave a fan at all. Waving a fan! What wear and tear! What extravagance! No, indeed! I open my fan, out like this, and wave my face above it in this manner. Glorious! It is hot, I must agree!"

The discretion of the first years becomes the settled habit of the last; and so, with wisdom and patience, two lives may grow indissolubly into one."

HOW'S YOUR HEALTH?

By Dr. W. F. Thompson

You may grow about taxes In this city of yours, But nothing cheats doctors Like paving and sewers.

The best way to prevent accidents is to abolish negligence.

Often the poor scholar does not read well because he does not see well.

Better wholesome exercise than unwholesome candy during the play hour.

If we'd dig deeper ditches And drain stagnant pools We'd have less fever in Our countryside schools.

When one poor swimmer attempts to rescue another there is often a double funeral.

Taking headache tablets for headaches caused by eye strain isn't the proper treatment for eye strain.

It's not quite clear just why we should worry about treating typhoid fever when there is no occasion for having it.

Willie's grades were mighty poor, Willie's ma was sad. The teacher wrote: "Dear Mrs. Smith, Your Willie's teeth are bad."

When we find a man with a university degree carrying a buckeye to keep off rheumatism, we wonder why we have university degrees.

If health is the most important thing in life, why wouldn't it be a good idea to teach a little something about health in the public schools?

There's this about artificial complexion: you can't believe all you see, nor see all you believe.

A friend who has acquired financial and abdominal prominence says it has taken him fifty years to acquire both and he doesn't wish to lose either.

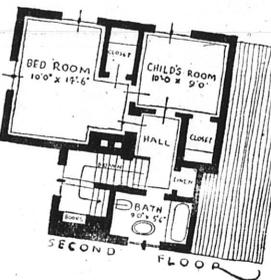
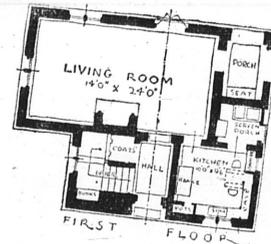
The farmer's dead, His children weep. The farmer's well Was ten feet deep.

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