

FREE PRESS IN MEXICO WHILE CIVIL WAR RAGES

Obregon Gives Rein to Hostile Papers

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MEXICO CITY.—At the outbreak of the revolution here, the president asked the chamber of deputies for the suspension of civil guarantees. When opposition was manifested, he withdrew the request. Shortly after he issued a statement to press correspondents that the freedom of the press would be completely respected. In so far as has been in his power, he has made good his word.

The result is that a half dozen scandal sheets of ephemeral existence subsist in the capital on the doubtful trade of rumor mongering. Daily they appear, "El Manana," "El Omega," "La Epoca," "La Revolution" and a half dozen more, with startling headlines of new rebellions, of assassinations, of tremendous defeats for the government forces, of 30,000 fascists being at the gates of the city, of the governments moving to Queretero—but nobody pays much attention to them. In addition, big dailies like "El Universal" pursue a scarcely veiled policy none too friendly toward the government, nevertheless with scrupulous attention to accuracy.

There have been a few attacks on the liberty of the press but never by the authorities of the central government. "El Manana" being only a block away from the headquarters of the Mexican Federation of Labor, was the victim of "direct action" as they call it here, its machinery being smashed by an incognito band at night. The band is not making great efforts to preserve its incognito. However, the paper is out again. In Tampico the commanding officer of the garrison closed up a big daily and carried off part of its machinery. This was reported to the Union of Newspapermen here and they adopted a unanimous protest which they ordered published in all dailies in the capital and which they also sent by telegraph to the president.