

REVOLUTIONS IN MEXICO

HEARING

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

PURSUANT TO

S. RES. 335

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER ANY INTERESTS
IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN OR ARE NOW
ENGAGED IN INCITING REBELLION IN
CUBA AND MEXICO

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1913

Mr. MENA. No, sir; I have nothing to do with that. In fact, I am not interested in the revolution, sir.

Senator SMITH. Well, I think if you will give us the information which you are going to get at your office, that will be all.

Mr. MENA. I am perfectly willing.

Subsequently Mr. Mena produced the following statement:

MAY 18, 1912, TRIP 1.

No. 27, Governor of the State of Campeche, Campeche, Mexico.

	Weight.
Package No. 1: 1 case field guns.....	185
Packages Nos. 2-11: 10 cases guns, 100 pieces.....	920
Packages Nos. 11-122: 110 cases cartridges.....	6,980

All consigned governor State of Campeche, Stauffer Eshleman & Co., shippers for the account of F. Frelje.

TESTIMONY OF GUSTAVE PITARD.

Gustave Pitard, being first duly sworn by the chairman, testified as follows:

Senator SMITH. You live in New Orleans?

Mr. PITARD. Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH. What is your business?

Mr. PITARD. Hardware business.

Senator SMITH. How long have you been in business here?

Mr. PITARD. The firm has been in business since 1858.

Senator SMITH. Do you do any business in firearms?

Mr. PITARD. We do not handle any pistols. We handle shotguns and .22-caliber rifles only; nothing larger than that.

Senator SMITH. How much business did you do in firearms, rifles, and ammunition?

Mr. PITARD. We do not sell anything but shotgun shells and .22-caliber cartridges for rifle ranges and shooting galleries; we do not handle any large ammunition of any kind.

Senator SMITH. How much of that business do you do in the course of the year?

Mr. PITARD. I guess we sell a couple of carloads of all kinds of cartridges.

Senator SMITH. Where do you buy your supplies?

Mr. PITARD. From the United States Cartridge Co.

Senator SMITH. Have you had anything to do with the selling of any arms and ammunition to the revolutionists in Mexico—on either side?

Mr. PITARD. No, sir; at one time we had a consignment of guns from Early, Hirsh & Co., of St. Louis. They sent 250 or 300 Army rifles on consignment and, I think, we sold five out of the lot, and sent the rest back to them about six or eight months ago.

Senator SMITH. Were those intended for the revolutionists?

Mr. PITARD. Not that I know of.

Senator SMITH. So, then, you have not done very much business in that line?

Mr. PITARD. Nothing—no foreign business to amount to anything.

Senator SMITH. Do you know anyone who has been supplying the Mexican revolutionists with carbines and revolvers or arms and ammunition?

Mr. PITARD. No, sir; no one that I know of.

Senator SMITH. Or money or munitions of war?

Mr. PITARD. No, sir; I do not.

Senator SMITH. Your concern has not done anything of that kind!

Mr. PITARD. No, sir.

Senator SMITH. Do you think of anything that will throw any light on the purposes of our inquiry? We are trying to find out just what part the American people play in these revolutions.

Mr. PITARD. The only people here that sell ammunition or guns for anything of that kind to any extent are Stauffer, Eshleman & Co., A. Baldwin & Co., and Woodward Wight; they are the big people in that line here; but whether they sell in foreign countries I do not know. I can not answer that question. You see, the trouble with our business is that to sell cartridges and things of that kind at retail our license is \$500 and it makes it pretty hard to do anything retailing. We do not go into it at all.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM FITZPATRICK.

William Fitzpatrick, being first duly sworn by the chairman, testified as follows:

Senator SMITH. Mr. Fitzpatrick, what we are seeking to do is to find out the extent to which the revolutionists are responsible to Americans for their assistance.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH. This is not a court of inquiry, but we observe the usual customs in taking the matter up, and I would like to have you tell us what you know about the sale and delivery of firearms and ammunition to those people, either to Madero or the present revolutionary forces. Do you live here in New Orleans?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH. How long have you lived here?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Always.

Senator SMITH. I take it you were born here?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH. What is your business?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I was formerly connected with the firm of A. Baldwin & Co., in the capacity of the manager of the export department for the past three years. Before that I had been with them for 11 years. I always worked there, until the first of this year, when I went with the Tropical Trading Co. I secured a little stock from them. It is much the same sort of business—export and import, etc.

Senator SMITH. From 1909 until the present time, what do you know about the sale of arms and ammunition to the Mexican revolutionary parties?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Well, on several occasions various parties came into the store to buy arms and ammunition—in some cases in abnormal quantities. Of course, I never at any time made any inquiry, because I did not want to know about their business. We wanted to sell everything that we could sell, and whenever we got an ab-