

*The New York Tribune*  
May 5, 1914

***Funston Plans To Avoid Famine***

***Number of People To Be Reduced as Food Supply Cannot Be Increased—***

***Mexicans Who Won't Work Will Be Sent Away.***

Vera Cruz, May 4.—For a number of people in this city there is not enough food. For this there are two remedies—increase the supply of food or decrease the number of people.

To increase the supply of food is not possible. Accordingly undesirable citizens will be exiled.

For the present scarcity of food and possible famine there are several reasons. A city of 30,000 fed from the land side by four railroads is suddenly from the land side blockaded, and to the original population are added refugees and from 8,000 to 10,000 soldiers, sailors and marines.

These, while on paper are living on rations brought with them, as a matter of fact are the best customers of the markets, restaurants and hotels, alone consuming the greater part of the vegetables and chickens brought in each morning on burros from the farms inside our outposts.

The warships help by supplying us meat from their refrigerator plants, and some food comes in commercial vessels, but as now their market is only Vera Cruz and not, as it was before, all of Mexico, few can afford to make this a port of call.

It is a serious condition. General Funston has under consideration a plan to meet it. He proposes to remove from Vera Cruz all vagrants and undesirables who work not and live on others. Within a few days a census will be taken and Mexicans who have no way of earning a living will be sent out to be supported, not by our people, but their own. No foreigner will be sent away—only undesirable Mexicans, those who by day and night crowd plazas, able-bodied, healthy men who will not work and who came here in hopes of looting and pickings.

They will have a choice of showing they are working and earning enough from our people or from Mexicans to keep them alive, or they can break stone or leave the city.

The consuls and commanders of foreign warships in the harbor heartily approve this plan, which will rid us of the Mexican equivalent to the I. W. W. And prevent a possible famine.