

MEXICAN BULL FIGHT.

BY A WOODSTOCK BOY.

El Paso, Texas, May 6.
DEAR FOLKS—I arrived in El Paso, May 4, at 6 p. m. I had a look round the business portion of the city, then I went to my room to have a rest before Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo (May 5) is one of the national days of Mexico. It is the anniversary of the battle of Puebla, May 5th, 1862, when the Mexicans defeated the French. It is a great day for the Mexicans and observed all over the republic.

About 12.30 p. m. I got on a car bound for Juarez, pronounced hwar-eh or war-eh. Juarez is situated just across the Rio Grande in Chihuahua. The Rio Grande (Large River) is about the same size as the Medway at home and there was not one drop of water in the riverbed at all; it was perfectly dry the water having been taken out for irrigating purposes further up the river. We were inspected at the Mexican end of the bridge by the Mexican customs officers; then we proceeded to Juarez. It is quite a town. We went around the custom house, church, plaza, jail and soldiers barracks—then it being about 2 p. m. we decided to go back to El Paso which we did. We (two besides myself) rode around El Paso on the street cars until 4 p. m., then I decided to take in the bull fight at Juarez which was advertised at 4.45 p. m. The other two would not go.

I also attended a bull fight last Sunday at Agua Prieta, a town near Douglas, Arizona. Four bulls were killed there but they fought the bulls on foot, and here in Juarez they fought the bulls on horseback and that is why I was anxious to see how they managed it with horses. I arrived at the arena about 4.30, got a reserved seat and went in.

The immense arena was pretty well filled with spectators when I arrived and they still kept coming. It is safe to say that three quarters of those present, and possibly more, were Americans and a great many of these were women. There were present also between forty and fifty Mexican soldiers in full dress and

that was something to look at; they looked very well indeed, their uniform being dark blue and red trimmings.

At 4.50 p. m. the trumpet sounded; the matador (killer) marched into the ring, followed by the banderilleros (men that stick the darts or banderillos into the bull, also wave cloths in front of the bull to torment it), followed by the picadores on horseback, these followed by the attendants and lastly by a span of mules and two attendants to drag out the dead bulls or horses. All marched before the judges' stand, bowed and withdrew to one side, allowing the span of mules to pass out of the ring while the remainder stayed inside.

A blast from the trumpet sounded, a gate was swung open and in dashed a bull. The band was playing lively and the bull fighters began to torment the bull—all of them except the matador, who stands back and watches them. One rushed forward and threw out his cloth, which is something like a table cloth, and each man has a different color; the

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bull charged the cloth and man also with a vicious rush; then another man throws his cloth and the bull charges straight after him, making him take refuge behind a fence built for that purpose. These scenes are repeated and the bull gives them all a merry run until he begins to tire. Now the banderillos or short spears are brought into use, one banderillero advancing in front of the bull holding two short spears up at arms length. The bull attracted by the colored ribbons makes a vicious rush at the man, who, if his chances are good, plunges the two spears into the shoulders of the bull, then quickly side-steps and makes for safety; this being done it is considered good work to make two stabs and have the spears stay in the bull, who rushes around the ring bellowing and now thoroughly mad; the band is playing and the people are cheering the banderillero who made the thrust, which is one of danger as the bull's horns are almost touching the man while making the thrust. The infuriated bull now charges a picador; the right eye of the man's horse is blindfolded, and the left eye remains open. The left leg of the picador is protected by two shields of leather; the breast of the horse is protected by a leather shield also. The bull charges the horse but is fought off by the horseman, and he then charges some of the cloths. Again and again the spears are thrust into the shoulders of the bull, the horses are whipped into action and made to face the maddened animal whose shoulders are now running blood; the bull charges again and again but each time is fought off by the picador.

The trumpet sounds again, the gates are swung open and the horsemen gallop out of the ring, one horse bleeding some. The matador now advances with a long sword, and a red cloth, to kill the animal. The other bull fighters stand ready in case of accident to help the matador. The bull with six banderillos in his shoulders and numerous wounds received from the picadores, makes a wild rush at the red cloth, which the matador avoids by stepping quickly aside. The bull

charges the red flag again and again and once caught the matador and threw him down; the other bull fighters rushed forward and with their cloths succeeded in drawing the attention of the bull upon them and then the matador got upon his feet not hurt very much. The people cheer the bull madly and the matador advances again to kill the bull. After the bull charges repeatedly, the matador makes a stab but it is not fatal; after a few more attempts, he runs the sword between the shoulders of the bull and down into the body to the hilt. The people cheer the matador; the bull chases around the ring, bleeding profusely; stops suddenly, begins to cough, trying to cough up the sword, at each cough the blood rushes out of his mouth; the bull is growing very weak, staggers and falls down; the matador withdraws the sword and plunges it in back of the horse between the ears, and the bull kicks once and is dead.

The matador turns to the people, takes off his hat, and is loudly cheered, the people rising on their feet and some throwing their hats into the ring to have the matador throw them back again.

Now comes the cry Otro Toros (another bull) rings out and the trumpet sounds; then another bull dashes into the ring, the dead one having been hauled out while the matador was receiving the cheers of the people.

The second bull was put to death exactly as the first one, but he was more savage; he actually disemboweled two horses and had the third one badly hooked, the blood flowing so freely, that if the trumpet had not sounded when it did he would also have fallen in the arena. This bull in his madness would come at times and gore the dead and lying horses.

The third bull died without doing any damage to man or beast. They put a trained horse in this time and it was wonderful to see this horse avoid the rushes of the bull.

The fourth bull gored one of the horses quite badly before he was killed.

When the matador goes to give the fatal thrust, he may try again and

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H. W. BOURNE,
Collector and Receiver of Taxes.

Names.	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Mrs. Isabella Ganong.....	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.04	\$ 6.00	\$	\$	\$
George Moore.....	27.50					
James E. Wright.....	5.00					
John P. Davis.....	3.75	3.75				
John T. Kerrigan.....	9.38					
P. M. Kinney.....	11.25					
Charles Kelly.....	2.50					
Franklin McLardy.....	8.75	\$ 8.2				
Christine Smith.....	18.75					
Lucia A. Smith.....	1.88		3.00	2.60	2.60	3.00
Henry Wilson.....	43.75					
J. W. Boyer.....	2.50					
Elizabeth Riley.....	1.25					
Howard D. Shaw.....	5.13	5.07	6.75	5.85		
M. B. Craig.....	8.82					
Jacob Palmer.....	5.04	6.00				
Henry Wright.....	7.56					
Harriet A. Anderson.....			15.50			
Abraham E. Clarke.....			15.88			
Mrs. Alice Foster.....			12.00			
James M. Giesse.....			3.00			
A. F. Randolph & Sons.....			18.00			
Fred Thompson.....			18.75			
R. McElroy.....			9.00			
Samuel M. Shaw.....			7.50			
F. H. Hale.....		1.25	1.50	1.50	21.70	1.35
George Collier.....			9.00		7.50	9.00
James P. Doherty.....					11.70	35.25
A. G. Fields.....	28.13	24.35	35.75	29.25	30.65	
A. F. Hale.....					3.00	
Harriet Hamilton.....					11.70	12.00
M. M. Taylor.....					13.00	
John A. Gillespie.....				2.00	2.00	3.00
J. J. McElroy.....					6.25	6.00
Vernon J. Nicholson.....					6.50	7.50
Walter S. Smith.....			7.50	6.50	6.50	6.00
Catherine Clarke.....			3.00	2.00	2.00	3.00
Frank Stuart.....						1.50
Adrian Boyer.....						9.00
T. W. Murphy.....						13.25
George Upham.....			19.50			
John Odgers.....						6.00
Mrs. E. M. Boyer.....				41.00	40.50	55.00

again and fall, which to one not understanding the sport would look like cowardice. When the bull charges the red flag with both front feet forward and head well down then is the time for the matador to make his thrust so that the onrush of the bull and the strong arm of the matador will send the sword down to the hilt among the vital parts of the bull. If the thrust has been good the bull quickly dies for he bleeds internally and suffocates, if not they

thrust him again in the back of the head which kills almost instantly.

Bull fighting may be sport for some, but it is no pleasure for me to see animals tortured needlessly.

Gus.

The Russians are now beginning to admit that they have under-rated their opponents. They judged the Japanese from their experience of Chinese cowardice.

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