

to take his suit and his life if he was that kind of a man. Villa laughed and remarked that the man was "muy bravo" and made him a petty officer in his army.

When Villa was encamped near the race track in Juarez directing his last attack on the town, he would laugh and pretend to catch the little one-pound cannon balls which the single artillery piece in Fort Guadalupe fired about once an hour. That night, when the American artillery opened up from the milling plant with real cannon and shrapnel, Villa knew the difference in a minute, jumped on his horse and was gone to the south before the American cavalry had crossed.

An American doctor went to Juarez when Villa was in command there to perform a minor operation on him. Villa refused to take ether. After the sawbones had spread his instruments out on a table in Villa's private room and started to roll up his sleeves preparatory to getting down to business, he looked over Villa and saw that he held a big blue-steel six-shooter in his right hand. The doctor packed up his instruments and returned to El Paso without operating and without his fat fee.

Frank Knotts has a deer hide in his possession which he claimed is the most expensive deer in existence. It cost him \$21,000, for that was what Villa charged him for his liberty; throwing in the hide of a deer he had killed near Villa Ahumada for good measure.



### VILLA SOLDIERS

These men were with Villa when he took Ojinaga in 1914

#### *Wrist Watch Saved Mine Near Parral*

Villa was given a beautiful gold wrist watch of the stylish square pattern by an official of a well-known mining company operating in the Parral district. But he never wore it, preferring the old, cheap watch he had worn so long with a silver coin attached to the chain. He said the wrist watch hurt his wrist, and he scarcely wore it. But the American's mine was not raided after that.

An old Spaniard who ran a cantina near the plaza in Juarez took a pot shot at three of Villa's men after the first battle of Juarez. He was taken

before Villa and Villa shot him with his own six-shooter in the police station. Villa was always ready to back his men against the world.

His loyalty was manifested in his treatment of George Holmes, an American who was convicted of violating the neutrality laws. Holmes went to Mexico and joined Villa. Holmes was given a position as a commercial agent and Villa always took care of him after that, saying that Holmes had got into trouble helping him and he did not propose to desert him.

