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EDITORIAL

THE MEXICAN AFFAIR.

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SOCIALISTS are called Utopians—and Utopia has come to mean a fools paradise, an impossibility. If Socialists are the denizens of such a realm, what must not these be who live in the dreamland of things as they are.

Look at the United States, and then at Mexico, and then take a bird's-eye view of the two countries, including the turmoil in the former and the military preparations in the latter.

As to the United States, a country of 3,555,000 square kilometers “literally bursting with latent wealth,” as the 1908 Republican platform graphically put it, one should think it possessed attraction enough to keep its people at home in order to turn to enjoyable wealth the wealth that still is only latent. Seeing that the natural opportunities of the land are accessible only to those who possess the talisman, Capital, without which natural opportunities are practically non-existent, the supposition would be that American capitalists would certainly stay at home. Seeing that the smaller amount of capital, in the economically backward Mexico raises a lower barrier between Labor and natural opportunities, the supposition would be that, if any invasion of Mexico there was to be, the invaders would be made up of the element in the United States that was capital-less.

The opposite has actually happened. American capital, with a vast area to operate at home, is seen, to the tune of \$1,000,000,000, to leave the home field fallow, and set up its tent in Mexico. It is seen to abstain from doing that which it claims is one of its God-ordained missions and justifications for its existence, to wit, to “give employment to Labor” at home, and, instead, it migrates to Mexico where it takes from the mouth of the poor, by the introduction of improved machinery, what little bread their peon vassalage allows them; where it absorbs larger profits through the lower wages that the excess of Labor which it produces enables it to

force upon the workers; and where, as an immediate consequence, it conjures up revolt.

The “Utopian” Socialist pronounces such a process inevitable under capitalism, and incapable of long duration: the “practical” Capitalist banks upon the process. The present “Mexican Affair” tells which is right.

Whether the “Affair” is due to conflicts between the Standard Oil and the British Pearson Syndicate; whether it has been brought about by American adventurers who have “pooled their issues” with the Administration; whether the fine Oriental hand of Japan has a finger in the pie; whatever the cause—and probably all those mentioned are contributory—the “Mexican Affair” demonstrates that the Genius of Capital itself runs the thing into the ground, renders it the wildest of impossibilities, prods the disinherited to concerted action in order to end the nightmare, and approves capitalism the most chimerical of Utopias.

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