

# Mexico Not Expelling Bolsheviks and Exiles

By Linn A. E. Gale.

Mexico City.—Despite the fact that the New York Times correspondent here proposed to General Obregon the extradition of all American political exiles back to the United States, and despite a steady stream of lying reports sent out by newspaper men here, nothing of the kind has been done.

There are several Radicals in the administration who declare emphatically that while Obregon did not care to flatly refuse extradition, he has no intention of granting the request. Others who make no pretense of radicalism, however, say the same thing. The general impression is that the government wants to play "safe" with both the capitalists and the Radicals, and will do nothing aggressive to anger either side, on the theory that it can then jump on the bandwagon of the winners at any time that international conditions seem to warrant it. A sort of "progressive liberalism" will, therefore, be in vogue for the present. While it will mean scant amelioration of the condition of the masses, neither will it mean any persecution of them or of labor organizations,—not yet, anyway. Workers say this is all they ask just now. They do not want to try to set up Soviets yet — they are not well enough organized. But in a year or so, if they are left alone and permitted to construct a powerful industrial movement thru the Mexican I. W. W., they will be in a position to wrest power from the bourgeoisie.

A great hullabaloo was recently made in certain newspaper articles emanating from Mexico City, in which it was stated that four Russian Bolsheviks had been jailed and would be deported. As a matter of fact, the four were not Bolsheviks but merely youths who fled from Poland and eventually found their way to America. Reaching Mexico they unwisely went to the Russian "consul" who is a hold-over from the czar's regime and not only without any authority to represent the Soviet government, but actually a treacherous scoundrel who works hand-in-hand with the American embassy. With characteristic perfidy, the "consul" had the lads arrested on a trumped-up charge and they were held a few days in the local police station. It is probable that the consul's real object was to bleed them for money as this is his customary mode of procedure. He has frequently sold fake Russian passports and then tipped off the American authorities so they could catch the unfortunate purchasers in Havana or elsewhere after they left Mexico. In any event, when the truth concerning the affair was brot to the attention of the officials, the boys were released.

Most dependable of all the information as to the government's probably attitude toward slackers, is the statement made by President De la Huerta to one of the members of the Chamber of Deputies. A Hindu who escaped the wrath of the British government a couple of years ago by fleeing to Mexico, received a notice to appear before an official in the attorney general's department and was astonished to note that his real name appeared on the summons. He had been using an assumed name during his stay here, as a protection against possible attempts of the British government to "get" him, and his real name was known to very few persons. Answering the summons, he was questioned by a clerk in the office in question, asked if he was a Bolshevik and interrogated regarding his activities here, then allowed to go without being advised of the purpose of the inquiry or the probable result. A Deputy who had an appointment to see the President, was asked to look into the matter and accordingly took it up with De la Huerta who unhesitatingly and emphatically responded that any such procedure was entirely unauthorized and that the government would not expel anybody, regardless of his political or economic beliefs. He added that evidently one of the government clerks was trying to scare the Hindu in question and hold him up for such money, and that the matter would be probed thoroly.

Meanwhile, the newly organized Mexican I. W. W. is going ahead with an extensive work of organization, as also is the Communist Party.

The Bolsheviks and "slackers" are still alive and doing well in Mexico. Altho they cannot read the future, they are not fearful about it.

As a rule the Mexicans, even the anti-Socialists, are rarely inclined to obey the dictates of foreign capitalists or their governments. They have felt the iron heel too often. It is doubtful if Wall Street will ever be able to exact extradition from any government of native Mexicans but if it ever should succeed in seating a government that would obey it in this regard, the political exiles here are hopeful that the Mexican Social Revolution will be so near at hand that

# The W

— By Ernest

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The visit of our Italian com than one respect, I had the thoroughly after their return to and intentions. I found them de seen and determined to do all th garian workers the assistance of fighting against their tortures. Hungarian Premier to task abo from the gigantic mass of doc been collected. The premier ga stammering answers. They wa Budapest hotels, where the inno troops are daily ill treated and the prime minister declared it w ize the entrance into these milit.

The Italian delegates further the death sentences that had b number of communists by the according to law. This has bee The verdicts in question are sh the worst judicial murders kno nations.

The delegates wanted to se where the officers of the terror several hundreds of perfectly number was 397), who were imp prison of the lawcourt, tortured. They were not allowed to do so prisons of Budapest, to the fo awaiting trial. They got perm minister of justice was disavow the prisons revoked. No inform garian authorities to the Italia abouts of numberless murdered that they never heard these nar

Of course Della Seta and V ous confinement camps, where t or murdered socialists as well a way radical convictions togethe big ones are free and highly h and slowly starved to death. Ag the Hungarian attorney gener slightest pretext for any kind

Out of the twelve large co to Budapest, Hajmasker, was fi and was to be shown to the Ital pected visit things there may a barrack right before the vis Great masses of food, chiefly fl to give the impression how we for. These flour bags had arrive on the eve of the Italian visit.

The two delegates asked treated. Their faces betrayed t just as much they dreaded th man stepped forth and volunte

## The British Op

CHICAGO—Ellen La Motte, an American nurse, has just revealed the horrors of the opium evil, in a book titled "The Opium Monopoly". The book is based upon Miss La Motte's actual investigations in the Far East, and upon her study of the British Blue Books.

The opium monopoly is a British monopoly. It is spoken of as the opium monopoly in the British Blue Books. India is the source and supply of the British opium trade; and it is from India opium that the drug is supplied to the world, according to Miss La Motte. The revenue derived from opium directly in India alone nets the British government over \$15,000,000. Aside from this sum the opium sold under the Excise Department, including opium and liquors, nets the government \$50,000,000. These excise duties are collected on spirits, beer, opium and intoxicating drugs. In British pounds the figures were thus:

In 1916—17; Excise, 9,215,899 pounds sterling; opium, 3,160,005 pounds sterling; total revenue, 118,799,968 pounds sterling.

"A nation," says Miss La Motte, "that can subjugate 300,000,000 helpless people, and then turn them into drug addicts — for the sake of revenue—is a nation which commits a cold-blooded atrocity unparalleled by any atrocities committed in the rage and heat of war. The Blue Book shows no horror at these figures, Complacent approval greets the increase of 44 per cent. of opium consumption, and the increase of 67 per cent in the use of other habit-forming druges. Approval, and a shrewd appreciation of possibilities for more revenue from progressively higher rates of duty', knowing well that drug addicts will sell soul and body in order to procure their daily supply."

One outstanding fact in this study of the opium monopoly is that wher ever the British flag waves over sub-

the dastardly project will never be consummated.

Until then, the Mexican Bolsheviks will center their every energy on the upbuilding of an industrial organization so powerful that in its vise—like grip, capitalism will not be able to emit even a death-peep.