

COMMUNISM EVENTUALLY IN MEXICO: TWILIGHT STAGE NOW

— By Linn A. E. Gale. —

Communism is inevitable in Mexico, Sooner or Later.

These long-enslaved, suffering and exploited masses know in a dim way that they want an end of capitalism. Clear vision is not theirs yet but they are acquiring it rapidly. Many of them have acquired it already. The increasing radicalism of the unions, even those that are affiliated with the Pan-American Federation of Labor, is an unmistakable sign. The cynism with which many of the unions have regarded the promises of both Obregon and Bonillas in the campaign that now, since the revolution, is starting all over again, with Bonillas eliminated, is evidence of the steady swing of Mexican proletarian sentiment toward direct action.

But it would be a mistake to anticipate another outbreak, a class-conscious revolution, soon. Miss Helen Augur, writing in *New York Call*, intimates that when the election comes there may be a real effort to elect a labor government. Miss Augur is mistaken altho her articles are rendering a real service in putting squarely on the shoulders of Wall St. the responsibility for the disorder, civil war and crimes that have so long torn Mexico in twain.

Workers with Obregon yet but—

The vast majority of the Mexican workers are with Obregon due to the efficient electioneering of L.N. Morones, close friend of Obregon and right-hand man of Samuel Gompers. They will stay with him for a while. They are eminently satisfied with the outcome of the revolution to date and believe that Obregon, on his accession to office, will be a true friend of labor. They also like de la Huerta, newly elected provisional President, and have heard much of what he did for labor in Sonora as its Governor. They will certainly stand by Obregon for a time.

Then, if exploitation and oppression continue, as they must to a greater or lesser degree, and if socialization of industry is not begun in apparent sincerity, they will prepare for another uprising.

Another Revolution Inevitable

When that time comes it will not matter whether there happens to be an ambitious politician at hand who wants to lead them or not. If there happens to be, they may follow him, but he will be forced to do what they want or his days will be numbered. And if there is no such aspirant available, the workers will pick their own leader from their ranks, which will be much better, to be sure.

In any event, Communism is coming in Mexico and nothing can stop it ultimately.

On the other had, it is just as certain that Wall St., having been thoroly exasperated by Carranza's long and persistent resistance, will, to paraphrase what the kaiser is said to have told James W. Gerard, "stand for no nonsense from Obregon." If he tries to do much for the masses, American capitalism will get rid of him in short order. It is by no means convinced so

far that he will obey orders despite the frantic assurance of his press bureau in Washington that he is 100% pro-American.

Miss Augur thinks that Wall St. would like to see Obregon start on a radical policy so it would have an excuse for intervention. Not at all. Wall St. would much prefer to have Obregon play the game with it. It will be far easier to dominate Mexico indirectly and "diplomatically" than to conquer it with guns. When the peon sees a "gángo" soldier coming for him, he gets mad and being able to fight like hell and then some, he will keep that soldier busy for quite a while, despite the disparity in their respective equipment. But pat the peon on the back, tell him you are going to "assist" him in developing his country, and he grins good-naturedly, gets friendly and puffs away at his cigaret. He can be kidded in this way for a while for he is not by nature suspicious. Wall St. would rather use this method, and take its chances on being able to put down a later rebellion by the time that the peon gets his eyes open.

Obregon, tho he may really want to right social wrongs and even lay the bases of a new system in Mexico, will not dare to. Perhaps he will not want to. Perhaps the prospect of American co-operation with plenty of money and plenty of guns will be too alluring for him to retain any working-class sympathies. Whether it will be necessity or choice that will impel him to his probable course of action, is not of serious moment. The big fact is that he will undoubtedly toe the mark indicated by American Big Business and that intervention will, therefore, not come by military methods for the present.

This can have no other effect than to prepare the Mexican toilers for a genuine, full-fledged Social Revolution within a few years.

Carranza Nationalist, Not Radical

As to Carranza, while we shudder at his murder, let us not be misled into any maze of hero-worship of the slain man. Let us not forget that his policy or opposition to Wall St. was one of Mexican nationalism, rather than Internationalism, and that while he tried to keep the nation's wealth for a local bourgeoisie, he permitted the excellent labor laws of the country to go unenforced against Mexican and Spanish capitalists as well as against American capitalists. Only a few weeks before the revolution broke out, "*Resurgimiento*", a brilliant little Spanish weekly published by the Puebla syndicalists, contained an editorial saying that the wretched wages, long hours and entire absence of sanitary restrictions that the Carranza government winked at, were worse even than what existed under Diaz.

Let us not forget, either, that while Carranza was killed as the result of the brutal determination of American finance-capitalism to seize Mexico, many a poor worker with a less provincial and chauvinistic outlook than Carranza, has given his life for the same heartless reason.

And let us above all remember that

Carranza "flopped" in the last few months of his administration, and at the moment of the revolutionary uprising, was spending millions of pesos to elect as his successor, Ambassador Ygnacio Bonillas, the real choice of Yankee capitalism. Carranza had permitted a suspension of the petroleum tax law; had turned his back on the Radicals with whom he formerly flirted but for whom he never had any real sympathy; had agreed to pay the old Huerta debt that he had hitherto steadfastly repudiated; and would probably have been allowed to get the 12,000,000 rounds of ammunition that had been held in New York 6 years because the American government would not allow the shipment of what he had actually bought.

Playing "Both Ends Against Middle"

The only reason why the monied men north of the Rio Grande dropped Carranza so quickly when the revolt came, was that they realized the popularity of Obregon and did not want to waste further time with the losing man! If Carranza had stood a show of winning, they might have staid with him. Nobody knows. Those who pretend to know, don't and are only displaying knowledge that is not knowledge but guesswork. It was an opportunistic game that Wall St. played all the time. Carranza having sold out, would have been "safe" if he had retained power. Obregon, who was also receiving aid from Big Business, would probably be safe, if he won, they figured. If the revolution lasted, the American government could step in and grab the country without further ado and without bothering to deal with either set of politicians. And if one side or the other definitely won and then refused to do as it was told, it would be easy to forment another outbreak and intervene just the same.

The Peon To Be Heard From

No matter which side had triumphed in the revolution, the result would have been much the same. Wall St. played a game of "Heads I win, tails you lose" with the Mexican people, and Carranza, Obregon, Gonzalez and Bonillas all were its pawns, consciously or otherwise.

But the Mexican peon, like the American people, cannot be "fooled all of the time."

The peon will be heard from again.

WASHINGTON.—A request by former Senator Hardwick of Georgia, counsel for Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, chief of the Russian Soviet Bureau at New York, for the subpoena of Major General Graves, former commander of the American Expeditionary forces in Siberia, and of Raymond Robins was denied recently by Immigration Inspector Shell on the ground that their testimony would be irrelevant.

The case of Martens before the Commissioner of Immigration was completed last week. A hearing which was scheduled to take place June 17, it is thought, will be taken on the deportation warrant for Martens.