SHALL AMERICA THROTTLE MEXICAN FREEDOM?

To the Workers of America:

President Taft has ordered twenty thousand soldiers to line up on the border of Mexico, to be ready on a moment's notice to rush across the line and crush the Mexican revolution.

This dastardly crime against a people struggling for freedom was not authorized by Congress, nor by the people. It was dictated by Morgan and his fellow plunderers, who have a billion and a half of American dollars invested in Mexican securities, whose stability depends on the perpetuation of serfdom in that country.

AMERICAN DOLLARS AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE BEING USED TO EN-SLAVE THE MEXICAN PEOPLE.

The people of Mexico have risen in revolt against a system of oppression worse by far than their own. They are on the eve of victory, and the soldiers of Free America are going to suppress them.

This is the depth to which America has descended under the rule of capitalism.

Patriotism, what a mockery! What self-respecting man or woman with the smallest spark of honor and fair play will stand for this outrageous plot to suppress a people struggling to free themselves from the yoke of oppression?

Sixty years ago American troops crossed the border of Mexico in behalf of Freedom, and helped the Texas revolutionists achieve their independence. There were no Morgans then to pervert justice. Sixty years of capitalism has made America the home of oppression, and the American government the ally, the friend of tyranny and oppression abroad.

How long will the American people stand for this? How long will the workers toil in silence, and by that silence give their consent to this shame?

What has become of the longings, the aspirations that fired the men of 1776? Has capitalism killed the free spirit of America? Are we entirely dead to the cries of suffering humanity? Has it come to pass that the jingle of gold is mightier than the voice of man?

Have we degenerated into besotted slaves who grovel in the dust at the feet of the masters of wealth?

The Mexican revolutionists do not ask us for help. They ask only that we mind our own business and let them alone.

When DeLaRosa, a prominent Mexican revolutionist, was asked some time ago, by friends of freedom on this side of the line, what they could do to help the cause of liberty in Mexico, he answered:

"YOU CAN BEST AID THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY BY KEEPING YOUR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FROM INTERFERING."

Are we going to make war on the Mexican revolutionists because American investors, based on the continuance of peonage and slavery, may be disturbed and Morgan's dividends lessened by the success of the Revolution?

What was our answer to the apologists for Southern slavery, when they raised the question of "vested interests"?

It was this:

"VESTED INTERESTS CANNOT STAY THE HAND OF PROGRESS. CHATTTEL SLAVERY MUST BE ABOLISHED, WITHOUT COMPENSATING THE OWNERS OF HUMAN FLESH."

The economic conditions of Mexico are not much different from those that existed in the South. In many respects they are worse. But the voice of "vested interests" rings loud in Washington, D. C., and the slavery of Mexico is going to be perpetuated by its command.

What is to be done?

Let the people give public expression to their indignation at this dastardly outrage. Remember it is not the rich, but the poor men, who have been inveigled into the army and navy by false advertising and the pang of hunger who must do the fighting and give their lives to suppress the free men and women of Mexico.

So it is the toilers who should awake and with a united and thunderous voice warn the masters at Washington that with them, like the toilers of Mexico, there is a limit of endurance. Let them resolve in the most emphatic manner that THE INVASION OF MEXICO WILL MEAN A GENERAL STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE AGITATOR GROUP.

THE PASSING SHOW.

A Special Letter announces that the I. W. W. warriors at Fresno have won out against the police and corporations, and gained their coveted freedom to speak on the streets.

This is a victory worth recording in red ink. It is the triumph of perseverance, of persistency. It is the victory of men who fought with a will, of men who had some fight in them, and were willing to throw it into the cause.

No half-hearted, I don't-know nincompoops ever won anything better than a kick. It takes courage and will to win rewards worth carrying away.

These men were jailed, soured with water from the nozzle of a fireman's hose, driven out of town by a hirdling mob of cut-throats in the pay of the bosses; suffered the loss of their camp at the hands of this mob; weathed the scoops of the cynics, and the deadly silence of the indifferent; but they won. They made good; and now we all rise up in praise of their gallantry, because, like God in Napoleon's philosophy, we want to be on the side with the largest battalion.

Had these men been "ashrewd" and "practical," in the ordinary, respectable, labor-skate sense of the word, they would have given up the ghost long ago, and shunked away to some peaceful corner of the country, where no unionists abide, and settled down at some swill feed job with a philosophic "what's the use" on their lips.

But they chose the main path, and have won for themselves and their class a modicum of freedom. They have done infinitely more; they have shown their fellow workers an example of what may be done when enough of them will get into the Industrial Union and learn that the needs of one is the cause of all. They have shown what a few can do when they imbued with the truth and the courage to go after it.

The Illinois state convention of the United Mine Workers of America passed a resolution denouncing the Boys Scouts as a juvenile military organization, fostered by the bosses for the purpose of developing the boys into hardened soldiers in later life who will shoot down strikers at the command of the rich.

The miners are right. The outcome of the movement is plainly evident to even the dullest mind, and it should be denounced by every labor union and radical organization in the country.

The bosses are a far-seeing set. They see the future need of armed protection for their horrid steelworks, and wish to prepare the youth of the country for the job. Like the Roman church in matters of religion, they want to take the boys from the cradle and instill in them with the ideals and practice of militarism.

The alertness of the ruling class to grasp a new idea and turn it to account is well shown in the evolution of this boy scout movement.

The idea originated with a meek and humble nature lover, Ernest Thompson Seton, a man who has studied the animal kingdom and written many charming books about it, but who never used a gun who never used a gun. He conceived the capital way to acquaint the boys with the life of the forest to organize them into groups of scouts and take them out into the woods, where, under the guidance of a trained naturalist, their primitive instincts could be developed from the desire to kill the inhabitants of the forest to a love of protection and study.

The movement attracted but little attention until a wily English general, Baden-Powell, discovered in it a means of training future soldiers for the king.

The newspapers at once began to boost the project, faker Hearst in the lead. The Y. M. C. A. paid patriotic, peace-loving, God-fearing, weak-minded people with no other means of occupation, have taken up the work, and it goes merrily on.

It "takes" with the boys, for they have the primitive instincts of the ages when man hunted and killed. Instead of developing civilized habits in the boys, these Christian "teachers" wish to make monsters out of them. From the children of the workers they wish to make hunters and shooters, not of wild beast, but of men—their fathers and brothers. Will the workers allow this monstrous game to go on? Isn't it enough that the children of the toilers are crammed with perverted history and scurrilous patriotism in the public schools and shackled with the chains of wage slavery afterward?

Let the voice of labor be heard in this matter. What little civilization we have must be preserved. Capitalism will not scruple at anything to maintain its sway over the world. It will divide the people into menial slaves and monster man killers, unless brought to a halt by the strong arm of organized labor. Let the voice of the people be heard.
THE AGITATOR

THE CRIMINALITY OF BUSINESS

The following lines were not written to point a moral or to adorn a tale. The writer who is wealthy has no need to be so anxious about the moral of every event except our method of getting on in the world. In money-making we are in perfect accord, and in writing it in equal amounts and in exactly the same way.

He believes, however, and asserts that he is a moral man, regards himself and his friends and the friend and benefactor of his kind. I, on the contrary, hold that both of us are perverts and criminals. We are, without distinction, the tools of the capitalists, the destroyers of the working class. We are traitors and liars, and that we differ from them only in method. Our identity with the the tools of the capitalists is so fast, as it detects, is found in the fact that all of us take from our fellow-workers without giving anything in return. This is the method that I call criminal. I answer, that all criminals using firearms buy them from those who make them. Considering the great number of criminals throughout the country, we find a small army of workmen whom they cause to be employed. In answer, he says our business benefits rather than injures society, that it vivifies rather than deteriorates society.

I argue that the mere possession and firing of a pistol, like the possession and selling of dry goods, does not necessarily injure the heart to The child of property or even life itself is not necessarily criminal, as everything depends upon the manner of the possession and the manner in which the possession is used. As a matter of fact, these are the methods which we are supposed to be directed to. Regardless of others the burglar shoots strictly for the benefit of self, and since we do not see and note exactly the same way, morally we are no better than he.

In proof of this I remind him that we do not hire a body of men to guard our houses and that we would dismiss all salespeople if there were automatic devices to take their places. Thus our money is merely the hand of the person who is active in the family and the fact that we pay them less than living wages shows that we do not mind killing the wretched in our own behalf. There is no moral difference between putting people to death by guillotine and starvation, and thus we are murderers in the most literal sense of the word.

"We do not MURDER people;" he exclaimed indignantly, "neither of us could be induced to KILL anyone for any amount of money." We would not climb a porch or assassinate a woman even on no chance of detection. We do not force people to buy from us or to work for us; we are not criminals in any sense, but simply SHERWED, PRACTICAL BUSINESS MEN.

In answer I reply that he is a greater lover of his country than I am, and that it is no benefit to us. We do not plumb or murder directly, but indirectly.

"We do not directly compel our salespeople to work for less than they are worth, and stand and deliver; we simply permit them to do as they do. But we know that as long as the present system endures, unless we do so, and for our benefit, if we are SHERWED and PRACTICAL enough to knock our competitors on the head with the club of great capital invested. We are therefore invested with being accessories to murder and especially are guilty of murder.

At the discussion of the which I am now writing the country at large was being shocked by murders and other crimes, the most of whose victims were girls and women. I then went so far as to say that society had driven our men out of their own society, and that we must meet ourselves, in every station or tier, from the Jack the stackers and rippers combined. Moreover we would then, and I would rather see the one, and the latter she is likely to meet in the streets of a city than that she is likely to meet in any of its institutions.

"The seduction of women does not shock as much as their murder, yet we cannot deny that prostituted women are being seduced and that some in the last ten or twenty years are not less than enough for decent support. The seduction is criminal as he who waylays them and chokes them for their own benefit and no sober-minded person, even the most innocent, can, in this state of society, know which to do, and the latter she is likely to meet in the streets of a city than that she is likely to meet in any of its institutions.

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"San Francisco and the Closed Shop" raises the very question as to which I have endeavored to give my own individual answer. It is a study of the common in which I have no part anywhere else. If in the world, the workingman has held the reins of power; has ruled. If working-class rule is a good thing, I hope for San Francisco capital. In the cities, for there the vote of the workingman has been really effective. Let us see what Frederick Palmer: a worker skilled in business, finally offers an official quotation from the "Home Industry League," given toward the end of his article. It is as follows:

"In 1904 San Francisco and environs had 4,500 factories, with $238,102,663 capital invested and 44,875 hands. In 1910 she had 1,328 factories, with $76,613,675 capital invested and 16,820, a loss of more than two-thirds of her industrial strength."

As the population of San Francisco is now what it was before, I ask our Governement and fire, the foreman's quotation reveals a most unsatisfactory condition, and justifies Palmer's remark that "a larger propor-
tion of this population must be living parasitically than before." Moreover, although the use of the word "hands" indicates that the report comes from the"..."

How account for such a deplorable condition? Palmer explains it by saying that Mayor McCarthy and union labor forgot one thing—that they could not compel one man to employ another. Or rather, that only under exceptional and temporary con-
 concentrated in San Francisco after the earthquake and fire, but only temporarily and as a limited time. It was im-
 permanent. The expression of the term "building trades" is con-
 in the words of the quotation, and it has been restored.

"A boss who employs a hundred men in San Fran-
shoring up capital, has a weekly wage list of $6,300; in Los Angeles, of $2,750; in New York, of $2,700; and in Montreal, of $1,688. And I am not listing the wages on the head of the men. In San Francisco they get the full $20 to $30; in New York, $175; in Montreal, 15 to 20 cents."

Naturally workingmen are not willing that the feeling of this country should be against them, and as the building trades are concerned, it is put by Palmer, thus:

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SOLIDARITY WON IN FRESNO.

(Special to The Agitator.)

Fresno, Calif., March 5, 1911.

After denying the I. W. W. the streets for agitation meetings (because of our attempt to organize the workers of Fresno); after persecuting our members for their activity; after threatening and subjecting them to the greatest brutality; after passing a city ordinance denying the rights of free speech, the authorities of Fresno allow us to speak on the streets unmolested and unrestricted.

How was this accomplished? Less than two hundred working men, menaced by the acts of violence against the fighting organization to which they belonged, met, from various points on the Pacific Coast on the Fresno representatives of their enemies (the capitalist class). They recognized that a defeat at this point would retard the important work of organizing the workers for the near approaching great conflict. From first to last, the fight here was carried on upon the strictest class lines, the most clear-cut recognition and freely admitting that fact.

One of the most intelligent members of the opposition stated in an early stage of the struggle that this was a skirmish in a great war. Antiquated methods were generally abandoned. It was decided that no money should be wasted in employing lawyers to enact the farce of expounding the meaning of such a plain statement as the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The court was used most effectively for propaganda. Trial after trial was held, and at each trial our position was presented to a crowded court room, by some one or more of the group of members on trial. Incidentally, about 500 residents of Fresno (principally business men) were summoned to serve on these juries. Not one of them was so disloyal to his class as to hang a jury. Working men who might have done so, were peremptorily challenged by the prosecuting attorney.

The antagonism of the local press with its malicious, misrepresentation, well expressed the attitude of the employing class of Fresno. Our appeals for necessary aid, were made only to the working class, and we found ready response from that quarter.

Within the jail paper discipline was maintained. Sanitation, amusement and educational work were carried on systematically. The fight was directed throughout by the body in jail. A vast amount of outside work, locally necessary, was carried on by an outside committee, also under the direction of the body in jail. All funds supplied were spent economically, and to the best advantage. A notable result of the willingness at all times to fight oppression of the jailers, was the abandonment on their part of all needlessly harsh regulations and practices.

The experience gained in previous skirmishes, and at the outset of this one, taught us to concentrate all our force at the point of controversy. As the fight progressed and our resistance became more stubborn, it became apparent to our enemy that the expense of carrying it on threatened bankruptcy to the city treasury. The police power was plainly broken; the courts were clogged to a standstill. Day and night sessions could not dispose of the cases coming up.

Open threats were constantly made by business men and members of the underworld to wipe us out by an armed force. Bloodshed was freely predicted. Martial law was loudly called for by some. Mob violence was now regularly used against our speakers on crowded streets in daylight. The jail was crowded; no more could be received. At this critical moment fresh calls were started from various points in the West, some from as far distant as St. Louis. The enemy were at their wits' end. As the leading daily paper stated editorially, "Here was a body of men who reversed all the ordinary motives governing such organizations as mankind." In a few days all citizens were called upon to keep cool, and by censuring their past excesses, it confessed their inferiority to our own organization, paying tribute to the intelligence shown by this despised body of workmen.

On February 22nd, 1911, the leading citizens of Fresno assembled to seriously consider the situation. After full discussion of ways and means of ending the struggle, a committee of five was appointed with power to investigate the whole situation, ascertain our terms of settlement, and report back to them.

This committee interviewed a like committee, elected and instructed by the men in jail, and after numerous conferences, extending over a period of five days, reported back to another meeting of the bodies representing (at which the mayor and city council were present) recommending the granting of our demands. The mayor reluctantly accepted their instructions, called a meeting of the council and the struggle was ended. As far as we know the legal papers could be drawn up, the prisoners released, and, at this writing, Sunday, March 5th, 1911, the Fresno Free Speech Fight has passed into history.

This statement was authorized at a meeting of Industrial Workers of the World released from the Fresno jail.

TO THE MOVEMENT.

Comrades: In starting this paper the object was to form a center where Anarchistic literature could be published and distributed on a large scale with the least possible cost.

HOME was therefore selected as the proper place, and THE AGITATOR was launched.

The few English-speaking comrades who have undertaken this task have made good. They have done their share, but you can expect them to keep it up indefinitely unless you lend them your support. It is not in their interest alone that this work should be kept up, but to the interest of every comrade in America, whether he is American or foreigner.

The indifference and tacit neglect of those who class themselves as Anarchists and who pretend to be working for the Anarchistic idea are to be blamed if we fail in our effort to keep up this good work.

There is no reasonable excuse for any one of us not supporting this paper.

The arguments given by some, that we are foreigners and that the Americans must do their own propaganda is not sound reason. Who are the Americans? We are all Americans who live in this country. Because you can't read or speak good English is no excuse for not taking a hand in this work. Because you can't speak English is just why you should support an English paper, that can speak for you and propagate your ideas.

This is a paper that can speak to the millions who have a common interest with you—the American workers, the only ones who can make possible any change in line of Progress and Freedom from capitalist slavery. Propaga-

ganda in your language, whether it is in Geman, Italian, French or Yehow, may be all right, but we live in a country where English is spoken, and unless we agitate in the English language, our whole great anarchist propaganda is not worth a cent.

What would you think of the wisdom of one who, while being on trial before an English jury, engaged as counsel to one who can not speak English? Anarchism, that symbol of word which is so dear to you, is on trial today. The American people are the judges and the jury. Let us have a paper, let us have English literature that can explain to the American people the true mission of Anarchism.

Let us wake up in time, before the burden falls too heavy upon us. The American comrades are willing to carry on this work, but they are few in number. Let us help them. Let us form groups in all the large cities and organize a systematic distribution of English literature. There are thousands of comrades. If each one would only volunteer to spend one hour each week, that would mean 52 hours in the year given for a cause which is almost sure to inspire others to do something. Let New York and vicinity wake up, and Chicago, that great city where Spies, Lingg and Parsons sleep, will follow.

ONE FROM THE EAST.

TO COMRADES AND FRIENDS.

A large edition of this number has been printed on account of the manifesto on the invasion of Mexico.

This manifesto should be distributed broadcast. This crisis in our political evolution should be grasped as a means of spreading the truth. Everyone will read now on the Mexican affair and, having read that, will read other articles in the AGITATOR.

The time to strike is while the iron is hot. Let us take advantage of this opportunity to spread THE AGITATOR.

WE WILL MAIL THIS NUMBER IN BUNDLES AT 75¢ A HUNDRED OR 1¢ A COPY FOR SMALLER LOTS.

Those receiving bundles in advance will please remit at that rate.

Let us get busy. The time to act is now, and the way we can all help is to spread our literature. Awake, friends.

In answer to requests from several readers for larger type, we have robed THE AGITATOR in its present dress; and in future issues will use even more of the large size, should the change meet with general approval.

THE AGITATOR.

FOR SEATTLE.

All comrades and fellow-workers are urgently requested to attend a meeting in the Club Room, corner 10th and Weller Sts, Sunday, March 26th, at 2 o'clock.

THE AGITATOR.