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An Appreciation from across the Sea

SOLIDARITY

What a beautiful word, and how great are the results when it is carried out!

The Mexican revolutionists, Ricardo F. Magon, Antonio I. Villarreal and Librado Rivera, have been released after a confinement of three years, and they are now free men. The splendid solidarity shown by the American Socialists saved them from more persecutions. There are eleven more indictments against the revolutionists which Taft, the great admirer, friend and supporter of Porfirio Diaz, did not dare to make effective. Why such magnanimity from the instrument of the trusts? The rest of the article will answer that question.

When the men mentioned above were put in prison in Los Angeles, California, all the capitalist Press of the United States gave the news to the world that "several Mexican desperados and terrible bandits and murderers had been arrested." The plot was to deport them to Mexico in order that Diaz, the bloody and relentless dictator of his country, could give a good account of their miserable lives. But, fortunately, there was a man in Los Angeles, a Socialist of the best type that could be found, who, with his great intellect, guessed that "there was something rotten in Denmark." This Socialist, through his paper, "Common Sense," aroused not only his own comrades but the people of Los Angeles. The truth was soon known; they were not bandits, they were not murderers, they were only three men fighting against the most criminal autocrat that has ever existed.

Once the people knew the plot, Mr. Roosevelt—the man who knows everything—changed his mind, and decided to use different tactics. New charges were brought against the revolutionists, and also new recriminations came from the bourgeois Press. Roosevelt and the officials of his administration denied that the government intended to deport the men to the land of Diaz, "they were going to punish them for the violation of the neutrality law." The perfidy of Roosevelt is too well known to English comrades to emphasize it here. When Magon and his companions applied for habeas corpus after several months of imprisonment, Attorney General Bonaparte (under Roosevelt's Administration) sent the following telegram to the district attorney of San Francisco: "Resist habeas corpus proceedings on all grounds as Magon et al are wanted in Mexico."

Of course, with this order from the center, the proceedings were only a farce. In the meantime our comrade made his voice heard in the national headquarters of the Socialist Party. The agitation in favor of the prisoners took gigantic forms. Debts immediately grasped his magnificent pen to arouse the people of America. He wrote: "Every hour these comrades of ours who sought safety at our doors from the hounds of hell in our goals is an eternal disgrace to us all. We can never atone to them nor excuse ourselves to our consciences. Arise, ye workmen and women, everywhere, and shake the nation with your protest against this Satanic international conspiracy!"

The Secretary of the Political Refugee League, John Murray, put all his talent and strength at the service of the revolutionists' cause. He wrote hundreds of articles and organized meetings of protest throughout the United States.

John Kenneth Turner, a well-known journalist, made two dangerous trips to Mexico to investigate the conditions of the country. At his return from his first trip he told me: "When I saw the 'capataces' beating the poor slaves mercilessly because they would not work fast enough under the tropical sun which burnt their bare backs, my sorrow for the wretched 'peon' was beyond description, and I do not know how I could control my anger against such beasts." The impressions of John K. Turner appeared in a series of articles in the New York "American Magazine" under the title of "Barbarous Mexico." It seems that Diaz used "his influence" to stop the publication of the articles, but Turner, availing himself of the noble offer of the editor of "The Appeal to Reason," has published in that paper a long series of articles to draw aside for the American people that thick veil that Roosevelt and Taft have tried to keep drawn along the Great River. (This river forms the boundary line between Mexico and the United States.)

John Turner is a very courageous man; his brilliant expose of Diaz and his rotten government has caused his life to be in daily peril. He, more than any other man, has harmed the Dictator of Mexico, because this tyrant loves to pose abroad as a great ruler and statesman. Turner's novel-

ful articles have attracted the attention of several Congressmen, and as a result of his denunciation of the American Government's complicity in punishing the men who are fighting Diaz an investigation has been started by the House of Representatives. Miss Luella Twining, "Mother" Jones, and all of the principal leaders of the Socialist Party have worked sleeplessly to save the Mexican comrades, and they have saved them. "Mother" Jones, that great apostle of the Socialist cause, has saved many lives. Mine is one of them. Had it not been for her I would have been shot by the "rascals" of Diaz after I was kidnapped from an American prison and taken across the border into Mexico. She aroused the people, and she rescued me.

The reception that the American Socialists gave to the Mexican revolutionists when they arrived in Los Angeles, after their confinement of three years, was as great as they are great in their solidarity. Nearly one hundred pounds were contributed in the immense meeting that was organized in their honor. That amount will serve to continue the fight against the most bloody tyrant that ever existed.

Solidarity! What a beautiful word, and how great are the results when it is carried out!

MANUEL SARABIA.
(From "Justice," London, England, organ of the Social-Democratic Federation of Great Britain.)

THE REVOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL IN MEXICO

The following human document of historic value is taken from the columns of "Mexico Nuevo," an independent daily of Mexico City, much harassed by the autocrat, later temporarily suppressed and today coming out as "El Mexicano" with the same fearlessness in the face of all odds. The letter is not written by a wild-eyed anarchist, as the enemies of the usurper of supreme power are sometimes called to justify acts of official iniquity. The writer, Fernando Iglesias Calderon, is a man of international fame as the greatest living historian of Mexico and author of a long line of standard works. He bears the reputation of uncorruptible upright manhood, and of the militant non-resistance that makes a power of a big man of peace like Count Leo Tolstoy before whom even the autocrat of Russia is forced to bend the knee. And what makes him the stronger in his position is the fact that he is the son of Jose Maria Iglesias, one of the most prominent reformers of the times which culminated in that masterly document, our constitution of 1857, secretary of state when Diaz defeated Lerdo de Tejada, constitutionally entitled to the presidency at that time but persecuted by the usurper in the ascendancy of his supreme power.

It is certainly of interest to our American readers to read these flash-light pictures of the impossible composition of the anti-re-election party, which tried to rally all the opposition to the present regime under the only issue given, in the word of non-re-election. So tired seemed the people of being bled by the eternal duality of Diaz, Corral, that even a partial elimination of that many would have satisfied, and that advent of have cheered even the advent of that perhaps more ruthless but also more outspoken assassin of the people, almost all powerful Bernardo Reyes, whom even Diaz was afraid to eliminate outright.

But of far greater importance is the document as a living evidence to our statement that the revolution is a constitutionally conceded factor in Mexican politics, that the best of the people are not afraid to tell the tyrant that he is the usurper, the violator of law and constitution amenable to punishment when the people regains the power to re-establish the constitution of 1857 and to cite before the courts of the land Porfirio Diaz to an accounting like the unfortunate emperor Maximilian. Porfirio liable some day to face his Quetzaro convicted by the laws of the land.

And yet we hope the people will be more magnanimous, show more heart than ever manifested by the tyrant towards his people for over three decades on the day when another "roi en exil" will be added to the dumpheap of past grandeur, of austere human derelicts way over in beautiful France.

We publish the letter in the English language many months after it had been published in Mexico City and its author unmolested, because public opinion, even the reaction and tyranny in power, concedes the fact that it contains only the truths. And we do so that the American people should not allow itself to be bluffed by any possible further persecution based upon a fabric of misstatements and open falsehoods. We want the American people to be ready to call the bluff, to demand justice, and to see to it that that promised senatorial investigation of official lawlessness in matters Mexican is not switched off or shelved to please certain high-standing, low-down interests.

Let them gather precedents galore on extraditions for incitement to revolt. The American people will never lose sight of the fact that all these cases deal with countries in which there existed no constitutional provision legalizing the revolution and the bringing to justice of usurping violators of the same constitution, as in the exceptional case in Mexico. How could it ever be permissible that we should be persecuted in this country for an attitude sanctioned by the law and constitution in our country. And how could we be at all heeded the charges of a man who stands convicted before all mankind in the light of history as a usurper of power who perpetuates himself in power by ruthlessly disregarding every article of the constitution of the republic of Mexico, and who some day will have to face this article of the constitution of 1857 which reads as follows:

"Heading 1, Section 1.—OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.—Article 1.—The Mexican people recognizes the fact that the rights of man are the basis and the object of the social institutions. For this reason it declares that all the laws, and all the authorities of the country, must respect and sustain the guarantees granted by the present constitution."

These guarantees at the basis of the revolutionary liberal movement are as follows:

Free education, freedom of labor, freedom of the expression of opinion, freedom of assembly and organization, abolition of death penalty for political offenders, right of asylum for political refugees and slaves, inalienability of the homes and of the mail, abolition of penalties of degrading character, abolition of imprisonment for civil debts, etc.

For the defense of these guarantees, and to make them effective, the constitution of Mexico grants to the Mexican people the right to a new law, and to sit in judgment over its oppressors as plainly shown in Article 35, Heading 8, of the Constitution of Mexico, which reads as follows:

"Art. 35. PREROGATIVES OF THE CITIZENS ARE:

"IV. To take up arms, in the army or the national guard, for the defense of the republic, or of its institutions, in the terms prescribed by the law."

"Heading 8. OF THE INALIENABILITY OF THE CONSTITUTION."

This constitution shall not cease to be in force and effect if by some rebellion its observance should be interrupted. In the case that some public overthrow should establish a government that is contrary to the principles sanctioned by the constitution, its observance shall be re-established as soon as the people recovers its liberty, and in accord with its respective dispositions laid down in virtue of the spirit of the constitution, there shall be duly tried by the law; those as well who figured in the government emanated from the rebellion, as also those who have had a hand in the same."

Mexico City, May 23, 1910.
Mr. Juan Sanchez Azena.

Editor of Mexico Nueva, City.
My young and bright friend, in the columns of the daily you give out with such persistence and effort I have read, reprint of the proceedings, certified by the signature of the recording secretary, of the local convention held on Sunday May 15, by the Anti-re-election and the Nationalist Democratic clubs. According to that document said convention agreed unanimously to nominate me for the position of first senator for the Federal District.

Had this item not appeared in a document of the designated import, I should have considered it as apocryphal, especially as, though a full week has passed since the incident took place, I have as yet not any notification of that action direct. Though it was agreed to communicate through the columns of the independent press the results of the convention, this is done, to my understanding, for the information of the public in general and not for the benefit of the persons designated candidates for the office of deputy and senator who, according to usage and custom should be notified direct of the distinction placed upon them.

In default of such a communication and in view of the fact that only through the courtesy of "Mexico Nuevo" I have obtained the information of such agreement—which I sincerely estimate highly—I have the desire to use the same medium, your paper, to convey a statement, and so I request you to accord hospitality to these lines so that I may make known the motives which induce me to decline the honorable distinction referred to above.

It should be natural that a party, whichever it may be, should elect its candidates from the ranks of its own membership, and that the acceptance of a candidacy be equal to a confirmation on the part of a political community from which such proposal is issued. But I do not belong, nor have I ever belonged to the heterogeneous conglomerate that gives itself the name of the "Anti-re-election Party."

Right from the start, and when I was offered the presidency of the Anti-re-election central body, I stated to my friend Mr. Madero, that the mere principle of "non-re-election" itself was insufficient to furnish the basis of a party, because a principle of such character could equally be accepted by the liberals as well as by the conservatives, by the federalists and centralists, by the partisans and the adversaries of our beneficent laws of reform; that to my opinion the one thing to be aimed at should have been the reorganization of the Liberal Party, a body today annihilated by the dictatorship in power; that consequently the constitution of 1857 with its reforms up to the "non-re-election" placed in effect in 1877 should be taken as fundamental basis, because the "reforms" issued after that like the one muzzling the press are of libelous character; and that, as an accessory, the "civilist" principle ought to be proclaimed excluding military men from the candidacy of the party for the office of president of the republic. Mr. Madero obstinately refused to accept these principles and unfurled "non-re-election" as the only principle of the heterogeneous colorless and hybrid party he had proposed to organize. It is only logical that in view of such radical difference in appearances I withheld from all participation in the project of Mr. Madero.

Later on when the "Centro Anti-re-electionista" constituted itself the presidency of that body was entrusted to Dr. Emilio Vazquez who in a letter sent to "El Tiempo" had publicly declared himself as an "indefinite" partisan of the policy of General Diaz. This separated me still more from the so-called anti-re-election party, because, as I had stated already in writing to Mr. Vazquez, I shall never become a brother in faith of either partisans or advisors of General Diaz. Furthermore said anti-re-election center gave a leading position as

speakers to two well known partisans of Reyes, fully conscious of the arbitrary militarist and despotic making-up of their candidate, which fact does not permit to consider them as liberals though they boast of being such.

Shortly before the anti-re-election convention met in session, I stated definitely to the representatives of some clubs which had the idea of nominating me for president, that in view of the outcome that practically was to be expected for the anti-re-election movement, the name of the candidate did not matter, for which reason I advised them to place in nomination Mr. Madero because of the contemporary character to be assumed surely by the convention, my candidacy would be illogical, more than that even, absurd. Furthermore I told them that should they have made up their mind to persist in their proposition, they would first have to make the motion that the party declare itself openly and distinctly as liberal reformist and civilist (i. e. against holding of public positions by army men), and only if they should succeed in this I would consent to have my candidacy launched.

When the convention met it gave a vote of thanks for able management to the president of the contro anti-re-electionista, Mr. Emilio Vazquez, who had submitted the name of General Diaz for a new re-election. Then it chose as vice presidential candidate Dr. Francisco Vazquez Gomez who at the same time happened to be the president of a Reyes club and who can not be considered as liberal, because he is partisan of the most cruel henchmen of the ruling dictatorship. And to culminate the agreements incompatible with the true spirit of liberalism the convention, influenced in that direction from the center, placed among its candidates for magistrates of the supreme court an individual who from independent newspaperman had turned a hireling of the subsidized press, from furibond oppositionist to deputy for pay, who was used to harass the "Monitor Republicano," doing injury to the editor of said organ of liberalism, threatening an open attack in the streets if the paper was not stopped and who more recently, when named as candidate for governor for Sinaloa, determinedly and definitely stated in an interview published in the columns of "Mexico Nuevo" that as far as policies were concerned he was only receiving orders from General Diaz.

Furthermore it has always been the position of Mr. Madero that as a palliative General Diaz should be elected once more if he gave the consent to a free election of the vice president. A practically untenable, and for principle non-permissible transaction.

And even excluding all these antecedents I would refuse to accept the candidacy for the following sensible reason: Elections are proceedings of liberty that are incompatible with an absolutist regime which, when honest, suppresses them in the open, and when hypocritical entirely alters their nature by means of intimidation and fraud and even violent assault, should fraud and intimidation prove insufficient.

Consequently it must needs be an illusion to assume that under the present dictatorship there could exist freedom of suffrage, and to accept a candidacy under these circumstances would be equal to an assistance in the deception which is kept up by the dictatorship under a mask of mock constitutionality. It is not true that the people keep away from the meetings, nor simple away, as premeditatedly stated. That abstaining is due to the well founded conviction that the people will be roughly handled and even assaulted as it has at all times happened in the past when the people dared to exercise their franchise even in merely local elections.

In this manner the people saw itself riddled with bullets in Monterey on that fatal 2nd of April, 1903, for daring to arrange a peaceable manifestation in preparation of the election; thus the people were outlawed as rebels and arrested in great numbers, locked up in San Juan Bautista penitentiary during the last re-election of general Bandala as kept up for the crime of a manifestation like in Monterey of the state of Nuevo Leon; and in the same way recently the people was persecuted, for the alleged crime of rebellion, all over the state of Yucatan also just before the organization of any manifestation whatever preparatory to the elections.

Under the dictatorship the true liberals must either take up armed vindication if there are the elements for such action so that the people is not uselessly sacrificed, or they must take the recourse of absolute abstainment. This has been my course, for, as manifested in public, I have never participated, not even from curiosity or for a change, publicly in whatever meeting in money, festivity or simple meeting in which took part in his official character the present dictatorship.

Thanking you beforehand for publishing these lines of gratitude to the clubs who honored me with a distinction, I remain your warm friend and attentive servant.

BERNARDO IGLESIAS CALDERON.

Program of the Liberal Party and Manifesto to the Nation

(Continued)

Labor.
A government which preoccupies itself with the effective well-being of all the people, can not remain indifferent regarding the most important question of labor. Thanks to the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, who places the power at the service of all the exploiters of the people, the Mexican laborer has been reduced to the most miserable condition, and where his

services are wanted he is compelled to give hard labor of long hours for a daily wage of a few centavos. The sovereign capitalist imposes without regard the conditions of labor, which are always disastrous for the worker, and there is nothing left but to accept them, for two reasons: because poverty forces him to work at any price whatever, or because, if he rebels against the abuses of the rich the bayonets of the dictatorship make it his duty to subdue him. Thus, it seems that the Mexican laborer accepts work days of twelve or more hours at wages less than 75 centavos, obliged to tolerate that the bosses discount in addition from his unfortunate wages diverse amounts for doctor, catholic cult, religious fiestas, or ejid holidays, besides fines imposed under all kinds of pretexts.

In more deplorable situation than the industrial worker is the day laborer in the fields, a true sort of the modern feudal lords. Generally these laborers receive a daily wage of 25 centavos or less, but even this miserable salary they do not receive in fact. In so far as the proprietors have been careful enough to weigh down their peons under a more or less nebulous debt, they cash in their earnings as payments on accounts, and only that they might not die of hunger they proportion to them some corn and beans and other things serving as nourishment.

Labor Always Loses.

In fact and in general, the Mexican laborer does not earn anything; fulfilling rude and prolonged labor he hardly gets the unavably necessary that he might not die of hunger. This is not only unjust; it is inhuman and calls for effective correction. In human society the workman is not and must not be a beast of burden, condemned to work until exhaustion without any recompense. The laborer manufactures with his hands all that exists for the benefit of all, he is the producer of all the riches and he must have the means to enjoy all that others are enjoying. Today he is lacking two necessary elements: time and money; and it is just to give him such in proportion, be it even on a small scale. But neither pity nor justice touch the callous hearts of those who exploit the people, condemning it to extenuate itself in labor, without getting out of misery, without distraction nor a joy, it becomes necessary that the people itself, by means of its democratic mandates, realizes its own good, obligating unmoved capital to work with less greed and more equity.

Eight Hour Day

A maximal work day of eight hours and a minimum pay of \$1 is the least that can be pretended to make the laborer safe and secure from poverty, to keep him from getting exhausted by fatigue, and to give him time and humor to get an education and diversion, after his work. Surely the ideal of a man must not be to gain a dollar a day, that is understood; and a legislation establishing such a minimal pay would not pretend to have led the laboring man in the midst of felicity. But this is not the question. To such aim the working people must get through their own efforts and through their exclusive aspirations, struggling against capital in the free field of democracy.

What is aimed at most is to cut the root of abuses of which the laboring man has been a victim, and to place him in conditions which will enable him to struggle against capital in a not absolutely disadvantageous position. If the laborer is left to remain in his present conditions he will hardly succeed to better himself, because the bleak misery in which he lives will continue to oblige him to accept all the conditions of the exploiter. On the other side, if to him is guaranteed less hours and superior wages than he generally gets today, his yoke is made lighter and he is placed in a capacity to "struggle" for better conquests to get together and organize and strengthen himself to wrest from capital new and better concessions.

The regulation of domestic service and work done at home is necessary because such specialized labor as these categories is hard to apply the general terms of maximal hours and minimal wages which is intended for the rest of labor. Without doubt it must be provided that those falling under this regulation obtain guarantees equal to those accorded to the rest of labor.

Minimum Pay.

The establishment of the eight-hour day is a benefit for the totality of workers generally applied, without need of modifications for special distinct cases. The same is not the case with the minimal pay of \$1.00 and to this point we have to pay an extremely important attention. The conditions of life are not the same all over the republic. There are regions in Mexico where the life is much less costly than in all other parts of the republic. In such districts the daily wages are much higher, but nevertheless the laborer suffers there the same misery as those workers who work at lower wages at places where the cost of subsistence is cheaper. The wages vary, but the condition of the laborer remains the same: everywhere he does not gain in fact more than is needed to keep him from starving.

(To be continued)

[This interesting document, issued from St. Louis, Mo., by the Junta of the Liberal Party of Mexico on July 1, 1906 with the program reprinted in the first issue of our paper, was at the bottom of our persecutions and persecutions in the United States. We want the Mexican people to take cognizance of its contents and to decide for themselves if our treatment in the country of the "Declaration of Independence" was in the least justified.]

Notes and Comments.

Federal District.—After having farcically exonerated and seated Diaz and Corral, the Stamene twins of misfortune of the common people of Mexico, the willful tools of the autocrat, the misrepresentatives of the people have nicely bled the non-voting multitude to an additional annual amount of \$2,856,500, to fatten the president the vice president and eight ministers

of the cabinet, which is only just in view of the increased price of living, especially since the independence week banquet of foreigners called for so much change. Though the constitution of the United States of Mexico forbids the holding of office as deputy together with employ in the federal service, no objection is paid any attention to against the seating of Jose Casarín and Jose Juan Tablada. The former gets pay as subdirector of municipal lines, the other is commissioned to work in the general archives, both drawing pay from the federal government. Whose bread they eat his song they sing, and that explains it all. Seven workers in the factory "La Colmena" of Tlalampantla were summarily discharged for no cause and told that if they persisted protesting and did not accept the discharge they would be drafted into the army. It appears that the owners subtracted a discount from the wages to cover the factory's expense for the centenary celebration, twenty cents every week and three weeks were decided as the term for such deductions. But manager Jaime Benitallol Calafal simply went on subtracting discounts until the over three hundred workers walked out in a strike. The matter was settled satisfactorily, the company stopping the discount rate-off and fired the leaders of the movement on the spot with the army consignment threat over their heads in addition. Thus the bosses celebrate with the masters and shirkers at the expense of the workers.

Guerrero.—Francisco Lopez, a tiller of a little bit of land near Acapulco, was recently approached by two petty carizques Victorio Salinas and Victor Zarate. They asked him to show them his well, a treasure in those parts. Then they entered his humble home pulled a gun and asked of the man fifty dollars for a cow he was charged to have killed. The man protested his innocence and his poor wife fell on her knees imploring the men not to kill her husband. They stated that if he signed an I. O. U. to the demanded amount they would let him live. This he decided to do by the tears of his wife. The semi-official malefactors then took a hunting rifle and a harpoon from the wall along with them, went straight to the judge, Victorio Amagos, of the first instance, charged poor Lopez with assault with a deadly weapon, had him placed behind the bars, his wife admitted for the debt of fifty dollars, the valuable well seized as security for that debt, and thus justice triumphs once more.

Michoacan.—An open letter to the governor of the state dated Penjamillo, Michoacan, October 16, charges two gendarmes of having allowed themselves to be bribed at \$1.50 a piece to let escape a prisoner, whom they then shot down in cold blood after pocketing the money and letting the unfortunate fellow run a little way. The sub-prefect Vicente Asencio enjoyed himself kicking the face of the agonizing victim refusing the dying victim of grafting fly foga, the last services of a priest.

Morelos.—The old chief of the presidential guard, Pablo Escandon, remunerated for his services by the appointment to the governorship of Morelos, has not yet forgotten the daring of his subjects to place in the field a rival candidate of their own choice. First he had reported to the murderous territory of Quintana Roo the well respected citizens Ezequiel and Bernabe Labastida whose life from fever death was only saved by an appeal to the supreme court of the land. Frustrated in his petty revenge he has now seized a brother of these, Joaquin Labastida, a man not taking part in any politics whatever, and only guilty of the crime of being a brother of the victims that escaped his ire, discharged him from his position of clerk of the judge of first instance at Yantepec, and drafted him in October to the second regiment of cavalry garrisoned at Cuernavaca, though the law issued on May 23 of the year 1869 provides that the states should send their contingents to army

EL CRONISTA.

are not produced by theatrical managers for the reasons given by Mrs. Caldwell.

As leading woman of the company which will play "The Jungle" at the Labor Temple Auditorium the week of Nov. 6, Miss Viola Barry has been engaged. She is the daughter of J. Stitt Wilson, Socialist candidate for governor, and is a beautiful and highly talented young woman. She came here from Ye Liberty theater