

Regeneracion.

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Syndicalism and
the Revolution

"What is especially alarming about Syndicalism is that it appeared and suddenly manifested itself in the same manner as has every new force in history." The quotation is from "The Birth of a New Power," by Max Nordau, published in the "Los Angeles Examiner," of July 23. Nordau leaped into fame as the author of "The Conventional Lies of our Civilization," one of the most outspoken books ever written, and, therefore, suppressed with great promptness by the Austrian government. The rapid advance of Syndicalism in France has now attracted his attention and the article mentioned should be read by every one who desires to find his way through the mazes of the social movement. Its bearing on the Mexican Revolution is direct, for the work of the Mexican Liberal Party is, and has been for the past eleven years, Syndicalism incarnate.

Citing the fact that the union of laborers has recently tied up two important railways in France, and seriously threatened the activities of others, Nordau considers that we are witnessing "the beginning of a new historic epoch," and he emphasizes as most important the reflection with which this article begins. He points out that all the great conquering movements of history have acted as syndicalism is acting; have suddenly become conscious of their strength and have swept everything before them, attacking without quarter institutions commonly held "sacred" but, in reality, rotten to the marrow of their bones. It is in no spirit of controversy that I note his observation that Syndicalism is powerful because it springs spontaneously from the proletariat, whereas Socialism is a "monumental theory"—"the intellectual work of learned men transplanted into the bosom of the masses."

Nordau then explains the philosophy of the Syndicalist movement, and that is far more important than any mere recital of its victories. He shows that its doctrine is one the simplest workingman can understand, for it tells him frankly to be as selfish as are his masters, to get the utmost out of life; to pay no attention to all the fine talk about patriotism, the welfare of society and the other catchwords before which men have been taught to bow the knee; to be frankly individualistic, looking out always for "No. 1." It should be needless to remark that such a creed adjusts itself without difficulty to unionism and co-operation on the most extended scale; for a sensible individualism always seeks the best methods of accomplishing its ends. Let me quote another paragraph.

"It would be foolish," says Nordau, "to expect to see this movement stop or disappear. Even with force you can do nothing against it. The workers have learned statistics. They count themselves and see that they are in the majority. They have learned to understand the machinery of the state. They see that a few people issue orders, which the many obey because of their respect for old traditions. But those who obey are people of their own class, and, if they ceased to obey, the state would be only a small group of ministers and councillors without any more power than marionettes whom everybody would laugh at. It is for this reason they are trying to make those who obey see that there is no reason why they should continue to do so; and they know that, if they succeed in this, the commands of the

state, the army, the judges and government would be more empty words with no more power than the threats and commands of Xerxes over the waves of the Hellespont." So says Max Nordau.

No sensible man will care a fig about the triumph of Socialism or Anarchism as such; on the contrary, warned by the tragedy of human history, he will dread the elevation of any "ism" into a fetish. What we are after is results, what we want is a life that shall be worth the living. And the hopeful sign of the times is that the workers grow impatient; that they weary of holding the bag for leaders who lead nowhere and of managers who only manage to drive them into the bread line and to the shelter of the municipal lodging house, weary of serving as food for powder in political battles; weary of the "mañana" policy with which it has been the fashion to twit Mexicans, though we ourselves still listen submissively to paid party orators who preach patience and exude at every pore moralizations on the slow processes of evolution. It is well, I say, that the masses are showing signs of impatience. It is excellent that they are beginning to understand the strength that lies in attack and the fatal weakness of standing everlastingly in the apologetic attitude of defense; it is admirable that the individual syndicalist is recognizing that if he wants his life looked after he must look after it himself.

Men are great precisely in proportion to their capacity for discriminating between the essential and the non-essential; to the vigor with which they waive aside ceremony and go to the heart of the business that they have in hand; to the boldness with which they strike a bee-line for their goal while mediocrities are hunting round for safe and easy paths. What applies to individuals applies with incalculably added force to movements, and all that Nordau says of the inherent strength of Syndicalism must be said with even greater emphasis of the movement started by the Mexican Liberal Party and now ripening into genuine economic revolution. It is a great movement precisely because, like all born conquerors, it has been reckless in the consciousness of its power; because it has sounded the economic note so loud and clearly that it has brought a whole nation into arms, fighting to the death for life's true essentials—Land and Liberty; bread and economic security for all. These are the true earmarks of greatness; the greatness to which international Syndicalism must rise if it is to play the conquering role sketched out by Nordau.

French Syndicalism has brought two national railway systems to a standstill! Have you read the news from Mexico, and do you know anything of the complaints with which Mexican railroad managers, mine managers, cotton mill managers are making the welkin ring? "Get all the enjoyment you possibly can out of life, and do so with the least amount of work possible" is given by Nordau as the shibboleth of Syndicalism! Why, the whole of Mexico has gone on strike, declaring it will work no longer for the absentee landlord and the foreign money lender. That is what the intense anti-foreign feeling generated by the revolution really means; it is notice served on the outside world that Mexicans mean henceforth to work for themselves and not for Mr. Moneybags. It is the most significant of all the surprises this revolution has sprung upon a sleepy world, and it is Syndicalism pure and simple. It crystallizes the aspirations of the working class movement in every country; the passionate longing for the day when the worker shall work no longer for his master but for himself.

No more sternly practical movement than that of which the Mexican Liberal Party is the champion has yet been launched, and its success has been commensurate with the practical character of its demands and the practical way in which it has set about enforcing them. In Mexico the labor movement has been getting the spooks out of its head; has been showing its contempt for the cheap generalities of selfish politicians; has gone straight for the realities of life, and thereby has set a lead, that it is most devoutly to be prayed, Syndicalism throughout the world will have the sense and fortitude to follow.

WM. C. OWEN.

"My party, right or wrong." When the followers once get that drilled into their heads there are fine pickings for the leaders.

All Mexico on Fire with the
Spirit of Revolt.Bitter Political Campaign Merely
Fans Flames of Discontent among
Impoverished MassesMadero Vehemently Denounces Strikes and
calls on all save Government
Forces to Disarm

Having been accused of exaggerating the upheaval in Mexico, and even of manufacturing evidence to support our assertions, we filled more than two pages of our Spanish section last week with clippings taken from such capitalist papers as the "Times," "Examiner," and "Herald" of Los Angeles, and "El Imparcial," "El Diario," and "El Pais," of Mexico, every one of which supported our statements. In the English section our information was taken, as it has been almost invariably, from leading American and Mexican dailies, specially selected as unlikely to magnify disturbances. While containing no accounts of pitched battles, it was probably the stormiest number we have issued, so far as guerrilla activity and political encounters, strikes and peon uprisings are concerned.

There are no signs of the storm abating. According to "El Pais," the leading Roman Catholic organ, Madero delivered a long speech at Atlixco, July 19, devoted mainly to what has been his favorite theme of late—disarmament. He declared specifically that only the troops necessary for the preservation of order should bear arms. We treated this subject last week, in connection with a "Times" telegram which stated that, at Puebla, Madero had asserted that "throughout the Republic the Maderists should be disarmed, since their insubordination was a danger to the peace." It is notorious that in numerous states the Maderists have been in open rebellion, demanding back pay and claiming that they expected land as the result of Madero's triumph. Our own advice was and is that, if they render themselves helpless by giving up their arms, they may whistle to the wind for the fulfillment of their late leader's promises.

As bearing on this point we quote the following United Press dispatch, dated Agua Prieta, Mex., July 20: "Martial law was enforced here today. No one was permitted to cross the international line into Douglas, Ariz. The order was a result of mutiny of Madero insurgents against being disarmed. Bloodshed was threatened when the soldiers refused to surrender their arms to Lieut. Col. Rafael Romero, the officer detailed to superintend their discharge. Romero was taken prisoner by the mutineers but was released after a promise to increase their pay."

In his Atlixco speech, reported at great length by "El Pais," Madero quoted from his election manifesto, reiterating what he said therein as to wealth being acquired only by "frugality." He then addressed himself to the question of strikes, which he reproached most strongly, telling the workers that "it must be understood clearly that wages fluctuate, like merchandise, according to supply and demand." We should think even his own Socialist organ, "El Radical," must find it hard to stomach this.

In conclusion he exhausted his rhetoric in the denunciation of "persons on the frontiers of Mexico, recognized as our enemies, as the enemies of the people"—the Mexican Liberal Party, of course.

The same issue of "El Pais" states that traffic is paralyzed in Yucatan, that steamers are unable to discharge, and that the bakers' strike in Mexico City was for a time most threatening, the strikers stoning buildings, and the gendarmes, whose duty it was to protect the property, flying in confusion. Its Pachuca correspondent reports a panic due to the rumor that eighty cases of dynamite had been stowed away in preparation for an uprising. The editor's comment is that "this does not appear to be a remote probability, for throughout Pachuca the talk is of conspiracies."

Turning to "El Imparcial" we find much space devoted to a rumored plot to assassinate President De La Barra, and a detailed account, dated July 18, of an audience granted by Madero to a committee representing those who favor the candidacy of Don Pedro Barrenechea for the governorship of San Luis Potosi, in opposition to Madero's candidate. The committee urged that the latter was legally ineligible, and insisted that the constitution and the San Luis Potosi agreement be respected. The satisfaction they received is suggested by "El Imparcial's" head, which runs, "I will break the constitution and the plan of S. Luis. This is the latest declaration of Sr. Madero, made to the men of Potosi who called on him for permission to elect their own governor."

The same issue contains a special letter from Sonora—the state in which so much American capital is invested—which contains the following pithy summary: "It is not the political but the social struggle, now beginning, which is the grave problem in Sonora."

Also there appears in this issue, occupying more than two columns, a denunciation of Madero by Sr. Serrano Ortiz, who asserts that Madero "has formed his camarilla in the first place for the benefit of his family, and, in the second place, for that of the Maderist leaders." From all which it is evident that the election campaign, instead of leading to peace, is begetting the bitterest animosities. The "Los Angeles Times," of July 26, says editorially: "If we are to judge from the present outlook, still more troublous times are ahead of Mexico. The pending presidential election may cause things to settle down, and then again it may not. The true friends of the republic are disquieted."

In a dispatch from Berlin, dated July 20, the Associated Press says: "The government regards the position not only of Germans but of all foreigners in Mexico as dangerous, on account of a strong anti-foreign movement and the difficulties of the administration in coping with the former revolutionists and bandits."

There is more trouble in Lower California, as shown by the following dispatch to the "Los Angeles Record": "San Diego, July 25.—It was learned today that La Paz, capital of the southern district of Lower California, is in a state of rebellion. The garrison of 400 Mexican troops rebelled against Gen. Augustin Sanguinez last Tuesday, attacked the capital building and wounded Gen. Sanguinez, who is the jefe politico of the territory." The latest report is that a gunboat has been sent to restore order.

Numerous papers and letters just received all testify to greatly increased disturbances, alike in the form of guerrilla activity, peon uprisings and strikes, and in the political arena. Of these we shall give a detailed account next week.

NOTICE OF RECEIPTS.

Judith Mountain Miners' Union, No. 107, Western Federation of Miners, manifests its sense of the international solidarity of labor by sending \$25 through the Mexican Revolution Conference of New York, which remits by the same mail a further sum of \$5.

We also desire to acknowledge the receipt of \$25 from the "Freie Arbeiter Stimme," the well-known Jewish weekly of New York. The re-

mittance is designated as "part of a fund that the 'Freie Arbeiter Stimme' collects for the Mexican revolutionists."

The full statement of moneys received from all sources is to be found each week in the Spanish section of this paper.

Our Italian supplement, under the editorship of L. Caminita, is now a handsome four-page weekly, and "Regeneracion" is enlarged from four to six pages.

Neutrality Cases
Again Postponed
Murder Charges
Against Laffin and
Reed Dismissed

"It seems like working a hardship on those men to keep them in prison any longer," said Judge Wellborn, on ordering, July 25, dismissal of the charges of murder preferred by the Mexican authorities against J. B. Laffin and Samuel Reed, in connection with the revolutionary struggle in Lower California. "It appears," he continued, "that the Mexican consul is not even acting for his government, and I am reluctant to continue the imprisonment on these charges."

Laffin and Reed have been in custody since June 26, when they vacated Tia Juana and surrendered to the United States at Fort Rosecrans. From the first the Mexican authorities, who accused them of murder, have pursued their customary policy of procrastination, failing to appear in court or present evidence of any description. Notwithstanding which, immediately Judge Wellborn had rendered his decision Reed was re-arrested on a warrant charging him with robbery and signed by J. Diaz Prieto, Mexican consul at San Diego.

The cases against Gens. C. Rhys Pryce and Jack B. Mosby, Ricardo Flores and Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera, Anselmo Figueroa, Pedro Salis and Dick Ferris were continued until July 31, at the request of the assistant United States attorney.

E. E. Kirk, who is defending Gens. Pryce and Mosby—against whom there are charges of murder and arson—Salis, Laffin and Reed, said: "I do not believe the government has sufficient evidence to convict my clients of a violation of the neutrality laws. And as to the accusations of murder, arson and robbery, it is my opinion that these charges are being made by the Mexican officials in an effort to hold the men in a United States prison as long as possible. When the 40 days, which is the time allowed by law for action on the extradition charges, have expired, I look for the institution of new complaints, and I think this practice will be continued by the Mexican government until the United States fails to recognize them."

These Socialists
Must be Bandits

We clip the extract given below from "The International Socialist," (Sydney, Australia), which took it from the "Voice of Labor," (Johannesburg, South Africa). It contains what Australian and South African Socialists evidently consider important truths, and the article is one that might well have been written in "Regeneracion's" offices, for it is essentially the lesson we are teaching. Because we are teaching what Socialists in British colonies recognize as basic truths we are assailed without mercy by American Socialists of the Victor Berger stripe.

"Workers are encouraged to vote because it keeps them amused and doesn't hurt the capitalists. The delusion that they are helping to make the laws keeps them from organizing against the exploiters."

"Parliament is but a reflex of the prevailing economic system. The capitalists did not establish parliaments before they had seized property. They first seized property, and then made their seizure 'moral' by Act of Parliament. Let the workers, then, learn the important economic lesson that when they have the power and the will to take what they make, the 'legality' as well as the 'morality' of their actions will be self-evident."

"The fraud of Parliament is best seen in the case of 'labor' leaders who, before election, are stalwart upholders of the rights of the workers, but, after election, become subservient tools of the exploiting class. One cannot touch pitch without being defiled."

Every revolution is an exceptional opportunity, which one or the other side is bold enough to seize. If we have not the pluck to grab it we may be sure the Morgans will. As for the Socialists, they declare Morgansism inevitable. They are fatalists, and for thousands of years fatalism has spelled just one thing—Oriental slavery.

New York Urges
World Agitation

The following circular speaks for itself and is reproduced as a sample by which other cities may well copy:
July 19th, 1911.

Mexican Revolutionary Conference of New York, Ferrer Center, C St., Marks Place, N. Y.

Comrades and Friends:
—All roads lead to Union Square on Saturday afternoon and evening, where a Protest Mass Meeting will be held to denounce in emphatic terms the attitude of the United States government toward the Mexican Revolutionists.

Among the speakers will be those foremost in the radical labor movement of America: Emma Goldman, just back from her tour of the continent; Joseph R. E. General Executive Board member of the Industrial Workers of the World; Harry Kelly, Organizer of the Francisco Ferrer Association; Jaime Vidal; Jean Jacques Coroneil; S. Boris and others.

On June 14th the entire organizing Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party was arrested. Ricardo Flores Magon, after two weeks in jail, was able to obtain \$5,000 bail, but was hardly out when he was again imprisoned. Various attempts have been made to suppress "Regeneracion," the official party organ, and Madero, the new Czar of Mexico, has been allowed to use United States territory in furtherance of his plan to crush all those not satisfied with a mere change of rulers.

At the meeting of the Mexican Revolution Conference yesterday it was also decided to circulate lists for signatures, protesting against Taft's violation of the neutrality laws, the same to be forwarded to Washington.

A letter was received from Judith Mountain Miner's Union No. 107, of the Western Federation of Miners, expressing sympathy and sending money order for \$25.00.

The Treasurer reported receipts for the evening of \$41.30, and expenses of \$2.75. Of the balance, \$30.00 was forwarded to the Mexican Liberal Party in Los Angeles.

An appeal and call to action is being sent to labor organizations throughout the world calling upon the workers everywhere to support their Mexican comrades against the common enemy. Organizations in other cities should form similar conferences and co-operate with us to help the Mexican Revolutionists in their struggle for Land and Liberty.

The Mexican Revolution Conference of New York meets every Tuesday evening at Ferrer Center, 6 St. Marks Place. All radical organizations and progressive unions within distance are urged to send delegates and contribute to the Defence Fund.

CHARLES W. LAWSON,
Chairman.

Slanders alike the
Living and Dead

An exceedingly well-known Socialist, having protested vigorously against Congressman Berger's designating Mexican Revolutionists "bandits," the congressman's secretary, Mr. Ghent, rushes to his defense in the "New York Call." Here is what he says:

Comrade Roland D. Sawyer seems to me to mistake the Socialist position in regard to revolution and to misunderstand the character of the "insurrection" in Lower California. This "insurrection" was no more a class war than would be an invasion of Comrade Sawyer's front yard by a dozen hoboos intent upon starting a "rough house." The warriors were not Mexicans, and they had no more business across the line than would the hoboos have in Comrade Sawyer's yard. They were not Socialists, but "blanket men," "direct actionists," and Anarchists.

Note the sneer at the workman who, instead of stretching his legs in comfort beneath the table of a fat official job, has to hoof it with his blankets on his back. Observe the sweeping condemnation of all "direct actionists," and the flaunting of the bugbear—Anarchism.

How do the Socialist comrades of Simon Berthold and the I. W. W. comrades of Stanley like that sort of talk? Both men had splendid records in the labor movement, and both laid down their lives most gallantly, fighting for what they recognized as a genuine and nation-wide revolution of the proletariat.

As for the statement that "the warriors were not Mexicans," it is a straight lie. In all the fighting to which this revolution has led, Mexicans, as is natural, have been enormously in the majority.

Noted Socialist hits
Milwaukee HardAfrican Editor Shows
Up Transparent
Fallacies

In Johannesburg, (S. Africa), we have no Socialists in the city council. During my three years' membership of that council I did not influence the municipalization policy of the Johannesburg capitalists. They have municipal street cars, municipal water, municipal light and gas, municipal markets, municipal slaughter houses, municipal stock yards, municipal parks and farms, municipal shops and houses, etc. This is up to date Capitalism. See how it works!

Cheaper street cars transport the wage slaves to the distant suburbs where land and rent are cheaper. Cheaper water, light and gas enable the shopkeeper to add a smaller margin to the cost price of his imported goods. Markets, slaughter houses, cheaper the price of meat fruit and vegetables. Cheaper living all round means cheaper wages, for "cost of living" and "wages" are synonymous terms.

The Industrial Capitalists can find means of disposing of profits which come from municipal concerns. Under Capitalism no Socialist Party can find a means of spending profits from municipal enterprises, from which the Capitalists will gain no advantage.

Besides, her municipal businesses are run on the cheap, for a whole community acts individually as voluntary administrators and detectives to see that not a cent is unwisely spent.

And knowing that municipalization is rank Capitalism, the ruling Capitalists slyly and with apparent reluctance permit Socialists to educate the people to that sentiment, knowing that a Socialist administration will not have a mandate to do more, and, this much being of a Capitalist character, it can do nothing for the unemployed, and in the end becomes discredited.—(A. Crawford, Editor of the "Voice of Labor," in the "International Socialist Review.")

Socialist Local in
Full Sympathy

The following resolution was adopted by Branch Palo Alto, Local Santa Clara County, Cal., Socialist Party, July 23, 1911:

"Resolved, That it be the sense of this body that we most emphatically protest against the attitude of the 'Appeal to Reason' towards the Mexican Liberal Party. We believe that the Mexican Liberal Party deserves our undivided support and the support of our press."

"We admire and support the brave and sincere fight being waged by the Mexican Liberal Party and their official organ, REGENERACION, and deplore the attempt of the 'Appeal to Reason' to belittle and vilify this life and death struggle for economic freedom."

All Radicals should
attend Meeting

A mass meeting will be held Monday evening, July 31, at Mammoth Hall, 517 South Broadway, having for its object the collection of funds for the defense of Gens. Pryce and Mosby, J. B. Laffin and Samuel Reed, and the enlisting public sympathy in the cause for which they are in jail. All Liberals should consider it their duty to attend.

Twenty-five dollars for the defense of the above-named were collected at an open-air meeting held this week on the corner of Los Angeles and Second streets. Meetings of a similar character should be held at numerous points and repeatedly, for money is badly needed for the defense, and the workers are all too ignorant of the claims those who fought and are fighting for the Mexican Revolution have on their sympathy and support.

If "Regeneracion" can help it the Mexican Revolution shall not be stranded on the bar of empty words and fraudulent political promises, as was the Russian Revolution. This country is full of Russian refugees who have learned their bitter lesson. They should be with us to a man—and woman.