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**SOCIALISTS AND THE
MEXICAN REVOLUTION**

A Socialist of international reputation has written me on the subject of the Mexican revolution. Unfortunately he has not authorized me to publish his name, but I reproduce the essential part of his letter, with a copy of my reply, believing that the correspondence may prove of service to the many who write asking for explanations as to the meaning of events in Mexico. The pit of the letter sent me is as follows:

"It must not be imagined that the action of certain leaders and a portion of the Socialist press is endorsed by the membership. On the contrary, the general tendency of the party membership is towards a recognition of the value of the work of the Liberal Party, as far as that membership is informed. Of course, where the mass of members do not know, and have no means of knowing, the actual condition of affairs, the tendency is to trust well-known names. That this is not altogether the case, however, is shown by the number of requests which I have received from members of the Socialist Party to take up the cudgels on behalf of the Liberal Party of Mexico. One very prominent member, whose name I have not permission to mention, and therefore cannot do so, writes as follows: 'The Liberals are Mexico's best hope and they are extremely radical. A splendid soil for Socialism.' Also their demand for redistribution is not impractical or anti-socialistic. Such economic revolutions do occur. Remind Debs that the Labor Group in Russia, admitted to the Socialist Interparliamentary Congress and almost in control of the Duma, had the same program. Then the Latin radicals are nearly all philosophical anarchists. This is a sign of the best and most fruitful anarchism.' The same writer is anxious that I should reply to Debs' article, and I shall do so if I can get out of the hurly-burly long enough to write. In the meantime you may rest assured that the mass of Socialists are entirely sympathetic with the Liberal Party and only need awaking to actively display their sympathy."

My reply follows:

"I received yours of 26th inst. Saturday evening, and read it with much pleasure but without surprise. From the first I have felt that you and all other radical Socialists would be with us as soon as you understood; but unfortunately the fact that the Mexican propaganda is mainly in Spanish renders the work of education slow and difficult. I can assure you that the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party, knowing that it was making a straight fight for ownership by the workers of the land and instruments of production, most confidently expected the sympathy and active support of Socialists the world over. You must remember that the Mexicans know little about American labor policies and politics, their energies being absorbed by their own propaganda.

As far as I can see, they are doing exactly what they MUST do, if they are to achieve success; and what strikes me most as regards the attacks that have appeared in certain party organs is the ignorance they display. When Debs and others write so glibly about the slow processes of evolution, and the necessity for a long apprenticeship to democratic customs, it appears to me that they know nothing of the people who are making this revolution. Mind you, already they have overturned the Diaz regime, despite the fact that it was upheld by a strong and merciless military arm.

Let me say at the outset that there is no comprehending the true situa-

tion in Mexico until you recognize that the Mexicans have in their veins approximately three-fourths of Indian to one-fourth of Spanish blood; and until you remind yourself that even the United States failed to subdue the Indian to industrial slavery. In fact, our own Indians died fighting it, and such survivors as we educate in our government schools usually rebel at the earliest opportunity. In a somewhat extensive acquaintance with Socialists and Anarchists I know none who hate wage slavery as the Magons, for example, hate it, and I am quite satisfied that Ricardo Magon does not exaggerate at all when he writes that he would rather see his whole race perish than see it continue in slavery to the money power. So, if opposition to wage slavery is a test of Socialism, the Magons are just about the best Socialists on earth.

Hatred of Wage Slavery.
Let me point out further that hatred of wage slavery is not a peculiarity of the Magons, or of the movement represented by the Mexican Liberal Party. It is the national tradition. President Benito Juarez—the idol of Mexican Liberals—and his successor, President Lerdoes, were saturated with and based all their policies on that national hatred. It was Diaz who reversed the time-honored tradition and invited the outside world, as William Archer expresses it in the August number of "McClure's," to "rifle the national treasure house." Diaz policy goaded the Mexican nation into revolution. Aided by other capitalists, utilizing the forces the Mexican Liberal Party had spent eleven years in organizing, and playing on the anti-foreign, anti-capitalist feeling of the country, Madero overthrew Diaz. No doubt it took the assistance of wealth to upset so powerful a government, but the question now is—where does Madero stand?

Both by his own position as an extremely wealthy man and one of the largest landowners in a country of huge estates, and also by virtue of his financial alliances, Madero cannot be anything but a political reformer. Economically he is pledged to out-Diaz Diaz in the encouragement of foreign capital, and he is attempting to pacify the people by declaring that the franchise, coupled with frugality—fancy a man of his wealth preaching frugality to the Mexican people!—will bring that economic relief for which the nation literally pants.

What are his prospects of success? My individual judgment is that they are absolutely "nil," unless he adopts the autocratic and physical force methods of Diaz, as already he is doing. My judgment rests on the following grounds:

First, and above all, these—more than semi-Indian Mexicans demand the return of their lands, given away in huge slices to adventurers. They have a passionate longing for their old, free-from-care life. To work for absentee landlords and financiers is loathsome to them. For my part, I applaud that attitude, and wish with all my soul that it was the attitude of the masses in this and other countries.

Secondly, these Mexicans are utilizing to the full the opportunity afforded by the fact that the central government has become greatly weakened, and they are retaking possession of the lands from which they have been ousted by one of the most indefensible combinations of force and fraud on record. In their struggle for economic independence they are being aided by those who are engaged in other than agricultural industries—the miners, mechanics, etc.—all of whom are striking with might and main against their employers.

Will they succeed? It appears to me that they are making excellent progress; and that, if they do not permit themselves to be bamboozled into getting off the trail, their success is only a question of time, and of short time at that. Having once regained possession of their lands they will not be easy to evict, for they are becoming well armed and they are the best of fighters. Take the Yaquis, for example. A more heroic people does not exist.

No Love for Politics.
These people are not looking, and cannot be induced to look, toward politics for relief. Politics may be an interesting amusement for the upper classes, but the Mexican peon and workingman knows nothing about them and does not want to know. He is a simple man; he wants his land; wants to lead his own life, free from the mastership of the plutocrat, who in nine cases out of ten is a foreigner. If by chance he does know anything about politics, it is that the workingman in the United States has the vote and yet is compelled to toil in the factory and mine, and on the farm, under the orders of a boss. That is the very

thing he wants to get away from.

You will notice that the press is acknowledging, with pious regret, that hatred of the foreigner—always a marked feature of Mexican life—is growing more pronounced. That means to me simply hatred of the foreigner as tribute gatherer and industrial enslaver; since those who have lived in Mexico for years assure me that a kindlier people never breathed, provided you can convince them that you are not there to squeeze them financially.

I say that this hatred of the taxgatherer is one all radicals should welcome, that it is a thoroughly healthy sign; that it shows a firm grasp of fundamental economics and fundamental facts of life.

Let me now turn to the vista all this opens up: to its direct connection with our own future. Instead of the revolution being over, as the "Appeal to Reason" claimed, I am satisfied that it is only now beginning, and that it will proceed from confiscation to confiscation. I am satisfied that the course steadily pursued will be to make the country too hot for the tribute gatherer. Consequently there will be continued pressure put on our capitalist governments, who will be urged to intervene for the protection of the foreign investor. But that is not so easy as it seems to be.

General Wood reported to the U. S. government recently that he would require an army of 300,000 for successful intervention, and British military authorities laughed at the estimate, saying the subjugation of Mexico would be a far harder task than that of the Transvaal. Indeed it would, if only because the entire Spanish-Latin race is showing a solidarity on this question that is simply amazing. It is no exaggeration to say that I could edit a four-page daily with the sympathetic clippings that come to the "Regeneracion" office from Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Cuba, Spain and Italy.

Madero Their Hope.
No wonder the American and European governments hesitate to intervene, although confiscation of property is going on all the time. What they have done is to adopt a far safer, more diplomatic and more economical course. They are backing Madero, who is using all his and their resources to form within Mexico itself a strong government for the protection of capitalist interests. His plan is to unite his own forces with those of the deposed Diaz, and to talk the people into general disarmament.

It seems to me that every opponent of wage slavery—every man and woman who understands that it is monstrous to allow absentee landlords and money lenders to suck the marrow out of a nation's bones—should join us in urging the people of Mexico not to surrender their newly acquired strength; not to place their lives again at the mercy of their rulers.

If the Mexicans win this fight the fortress of the international money power will be shaken to its very foundations, for the disinherited will pluck up heart everywhere, and what has succeeded in one country will be attempted in another. It is a most serious catastrophe that international capitalism is facing in the Mexican revolution, and capitalism knows it. If only the workers in general, and the Socialist Party in particular, would be equally intelligent!

Sooner or later this business of "tying the world in a tether and buying out God with a fee" has to be stopped, and I can see no time or opportunity better than the present. That certain of our fellow creatures should be allowed to corner the earth, thereby reducing millions to the choice of starving for them or dying of starvation, appears to me the most monstrous proposition ever submitted to what calls itself the human intellect.

Yours most sincerely,
WM. C. OWEN.

**ON RECORD
YOU MUST GO**
Here is the exact position in Mexico, and it is a position that must be faced. Practically an entire nation of 15,000,000 souls is doing its best to win economic freedom by striking for better conditions and taking possession of the land and means of production.

Are you with these people or against them? Answer straight, for one or the other you must be.

Apparently Messrs. Berger, Debs and a number of their followers are against them, because they are not playing the game according to the rules of the Socialist party.

Apparently others, and those in the vast majority, don't care how they play the game so long as they play it sincerely and courageously.

**Army of Liberation Called on
To Restore Order
Mexican Government Deplores Riot
of Revolt Consequent on Recent
Political Revolution
Masses, Having Obtained Liberty, Must Learn
To Control Their Passions and
Respect Property**

OFFICIAL WARNING BY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.
"The lamentable excesses recorded at various points in the republic compromise the people's tranquility and make us appear, to foreigners, incapable of ruling our own exalted passions. All the civilized world has its eyes fixed on us at the present moment, and it is an imperative necessity to prove that, if the nation has the energy to recover its liberties, it has also the energy to repress the excesses that follow every political change accomplished by force of arms.

"That these excesses may be repressed and their repetition avoided the Citizen President of the Republic has consented to the sending out to all Governors of States, and to all commanders and officers of the Army of Liberation, this circular, recommending to the first and ordering the second to lend their immediate aid to the competent authorities in punishing, with all the rigor of law, all those who in any way disturb public order or, in any manner, attack or injure persons or property, whether the authors of such unlawful attacks be natives or foreigners, or, even, unhappily, leaders or officials of the Army of Liberation."

Mexico, July 26, 1911.

E. VASQUEZ.

The foregoing circular, speaks for itself and gives the direct lie to the government's recent official declarations that peace has been restored. Observe the expressions used. "The excesses that follow every POLITICAL change," "all who injure persons or PROPERTY," and especially the closing words, rendered necessary by the fact that a large portion of the "Army of Liberation" is in revolt.

Leaders Repudiate Madero.
Since the above was written the Minister of the Interior has resigned, and the political situation has become still more acute. The dispatch to the "Los Angeles Times," dated August 2, puts the matter thus:

"The resignation of Emilio Vasquez Gomez, Minister of the Interior, which had been discounted for weeks and taken for granted by all political groups, now that it has occurred has given rise to a grave situation, and tonight the city is being patrolled by numerous detachments of mounted police, while troops are under arms in their barracks, ready to quell any disturbance that may occur.

"The revolutionary party is now split into two factions, the Maderistas and the Vasqueistas, the latter being the followers of the deposed minister, for the retirement of Vasquez Gomez is rather a dismissal than a voluntary resignation.

"This is stated by Vasquez Gomez himself in his note of resignation, in which he declares that he had been ordered by President De la Barra to resign, their views being irreconcilably divergent, for while De la Barra represented conservative tendencies, he, Vasquez Gomez, had sought to carry into effect the more radical aspirations of the revolution.

"Madero, who is still at Tehuacan, tonight issued a manifesto in which he states that he fully approves the dismissal of Emilio Vasquez Gomez. How far this will strain the relations between Madero and Francisco Vasquez Gomez, brother of Emilio, who, it was supposed, was to be the Vice-President candidate, is not yet apparent.

"But a group of Maderist leaders is strongly opposed to the retirement of Emilio Vasquez Gomez, and after an interview this morning with President De la Barra, in which the latter displayed a firmness with which he had not been credited, these leaders declared that they repudiated the allegiance to Madero and the provisional government, and unless the minister were reinstated they would start a new revolution. All claim to have considerable forces still under arms in their respective states."

Know Madero Fooled Them.
The same issue of the "Times" contains the following dispatch, which also speaks for itself:

"El Paso, Tex., Aug. 2.—Should the Magonistas, followers of Flores Magon, gain sufficient strength to attempt to take the town of Juarez, the majority of the present insurrectionary garrison would be with them and

there have been more engagements between armed forces of men since the peace compact was signed than during the entire period that Madero conducted his revolution."

Naturally it is not the "Times" one to suggest that nearly all this trouble would cease automatically if the people were given land, as promised. But Madero professes the preaching of frugality to parting with his acres.

Here is a suggestive extract from "Diario del Hogar," Mexico City, July 28: "In Chihuahua, Durango, Hidalgo, and, above all, in Southern Puebla and in Morelos, numerous estates have been invaded by a multitude of proletarians and occupied by force. The invaders are beginning to sow crops."

Guerrero is ravaging Lower California and Vega has dispatched 200 troops against him. Meanwhile Madero's campaign managers are canvassing the peninsula, according to the "San Diego Tribune," which continues: "It is just like when Diaz was a candidate," said one of the Mexicans who came in yesterday. "Madero is the only man mentioned, and it is safe to say that if a Mexican citizen would dare to wear the badge of an opposition candidate it would not be long before he was looked upon as a dangerous citizen and treated accordingly."

Apparently this does not hold good with the country generally, for the economic revolution is being aided enormously by the fact that the well-to-do class is rent asunder by political dissensions. The candidacy for president of General Reyes, who will have the backing of the old military element, is announced, and other parties in the field have declared definitely against Madero. A glance at the week's cartoons shows Madero as assassinating Mexico by the light of a bursting bomb, as handing over Liberty to a couple of armed thugs with the remark, "I wash my hands of her" (the allusion being to the fact that he has gone to the springs to recuperate), and as orating in Puebla from a cart-tail, with an armed guard on his left and grinning skulls surrounding him. These tell the story more eloquently than columns of editorials.

We forgot to mention the cartoon in which Madero, as a naked Cupid, is being bitterly reproached by the prostrate Miss Democracy for the unfortunate condition into which he has brought her.

WE WILL INVESTIGATE.
The secretary of the "Liberal League for Mexican Freedom" has sent the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party a letter, the gist of which is that "Revolt," a San Francisco Socialist paper, has prevented Haywood from accepting the invitation of the "Open Forum" to address it on the subject of the Mexican Revolution.

The letter, with three somewhat lengthy enclosures, comes when our space is already more than full; but, apart from that, we wish to get, if possible, "Revolt's" side to the dispute before noticing or commenting in detail. Accordingly we have written to the editor.

It will be understood that we know nothing, and care less, about what is called the "local situation" in San Francisco or elsewhere. All we know is that the economic uprising of 15,000,000 people is an event that every radical and working man in the United States ought to be discussing and assisting; that whoever aids that discussion and encourages that assistance is our friend, and whoever tries to squelch discussion and discourage assistance is our enemy. We know further that we will go to the very edge of our possibilities in helping our friends and will spare no pains to bring our enemies to the confusion they deserve. That is our policy; a fighting policy, and, we think, a successful one.

Meanwhile, not wishing to be unjust through ignorance, we have written to the editor of "Revolt."

Responsible Mexicans of every faction, says "Current Literature," are just now united by a common hostility to the European, according to the London "Standard." No sooner did it become evident that Diaz would be driven from power, the London daily understands, than old and preposterous financial claims, disallowed during the days of Juarez, were revived and presented at the Mexican capital as if they had "a leg to stand on." Every Frenchman whose grandfather lost money in a silver mine when Maximilian was parading the Mexican roads with his troops has, it seems, hurried to the Quai d'Orsay with a complaint. The French foreign office does not seem to have scrutinized these claims very closely.

**Once More Trials
are Postponed
I. W. W. Displays great
Activity on behalf
of Accused**
The trial of Ricardo and Enrique Magon, Rilyora and Figueroa (of the Mexican Liberal Party Junta), Gens. Pryce and Mosby, and Laffin and Reed, on charges of having violated the neutrality laws, has been postponed again to Monday next.

Attorney R. E. Kirk has procured the dismissal of the charges of murder and arson against Pryce, Mosby, Laffin and Reed, but charges of robbery, which also is an extraditable offense, still stand against them. At the hearing before Commissioner Van Dyke, August 3, on motion by Attorney Kirk, the charge of robbery recently lodged against Reed was dismissed, but a new warrant, also charging robbery, was granted immediately, the charge being based on telegraphic information from Washington. The cases were postponed on motion by the assistant district attorney.

We understand that Mr. Kirk will move for the dismissal of the charges on the ground that the forty days allowed by the treaty have expired and that the warrants themselves are defective. Should he fail to procure dismissal he will apply to Judge Wallborn, Monday next, for a writ of habeas corpus.

The Mosby Defense Committee of the Los Angeles I. W. W. locals held two protest meetings this week, the first being in the open air and the second at Mammoth Hall. At the first \$5.96 were collected and at the second \$44.47, some 300 being present and great enthusiasm manifested. At the latter Fred Moore was the principal speaker and Ed. J. Lewis acted as chairman. The committee will hold another protest meeting at 3 p. m., Sunday, Aug. 6, on the corner of Second and Los Angeles streets.

It seems to us that the energy displayed by the I. W. W. should enlist the sympathy and support of all Los Angeles radicals, and that a start having been made, we may look forward to the holding of many more and larger meetings. The editorial work of "Regeneracion" is exceedingly heavy, since it carries with it an immense correspondence; and it is simply impossible for the editors to spare the time necessary for the organization of meetings. They are, however, only too anxious to assist, in every way, all meetings called on behalf of the Mexican Revolution or of those who are being prosecuted for alleged offenses arising out of the revolution.

WHERE IS THE DIFFERENCE?
If you can see the "Industrial Worker" of July 27 you will enjoy the cartoon entitled "The New Rules," and will understand at a glance what it has taken us columns to explain. "Berger, Ghent and Debs" are pilloried as they deserve; as, indeed, they have pilloried themselves for the rest of their natural existences.

The cartoon is supported by a powerful article, from which we quote: the passage selected referring to Ghent's letter to Roland D. Sawyer, which we gave and commented on last week. Here is the quotation:

"Blanket men, 'hoboes,' 'direct actionists'! How is that, you slave, coming from your representative, and the first and only one to hold a seat in the United States congress? Can you discover any difference between this language and the language used by the capitalist press?"

Honestly, CAN you?

BUT THEY ARE NOT PACIFIED.
And so the band of Wall Street looters dropped their flag, which was Diaz, and the Mexican people cheered because they thought that when Diaz was out of sight their troubles were over.

"Children, all of them, or, more truly, puppets! Madero's army, made up of Mexicans ready to die if that might shake off the thrall of tyranny, was converted into a puppet in Wall Street's game; it was used as a bugaboo, a jack-in-the-box, by Wall Street to frighten Diaz out of the land and prevent a revolution that would destroy Wall Street's wealth in Mexico.

"Diaz, always a puppet, played the puppet's part as usual. And Madero—the puppet with which Wall Street pacified the Mexican people."—Chicago Daily Socialist, July 26.