

Regeneracion.

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The Doctrine of
Universal Smash

One of our exchanges reproduces the following, by Prof Geo. D. Herron, a noted Socialist writer and speaker "All that you say of Australian interests we greatly appreciate. It adds to the impression that I have of the world's present futility. . . . I am sure the world is coming upon a bad time—the worst since the decay of Rome and the Dark Ages. It is beginning now, this new Dark Time, with a period of universal muddledom. But this does not mean I am pessimistic. I look upon it as the birth-pangs preceding the real coming of Man. We shall suffer as man has never suffered before, but we shall be born—born into something better than Socialism now sees or demands."

Prof Herron was commenting on the lamentable history of the Socialist Party in Australasia, but his letter expresses an opinion on the universal social question voiced, with growing frequency, by the leading writers of the day. It is not a question of party, sect or faction. It is a question of colossal fact. The customary method is to hint that we are steering as the Roman Empire steered, prior to its fall. The grim truth is that, economically and intellectually, we have fallen into a corruption vastly deeper than that which engulfed Rome. To illustrate I take a couple of clippings from this morning's paper; just ordinary clippings, as they come to hand. Here is the first.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18. (A. P. Despatch.) The treasure-room in which the wedding gifts were displayed was a veritable Aladdin grotto of precious metals and priceless gems. A gift from the bridegroom of \$4,000,000 securities is merely an incident. There is a pearl necklace that cost \$500,000, also a present from Mr. Stotesbury. He has been collecting pearls for years from every corner of the globe. J. Pierpont Morgan sent a pretty little token in the shape of a \$40,000 diamond necklace. No royal wedding in Europe ever brought out such a wealth of jewels and gold and silver plate. And the blushing bride had got a trousseau to match—a trousseau that would fit about three Czarnas and two German Empresses. Eighty Parisian gowns and sixty house gowns were mere items of the trousseau. The wedding was an elaborate function and attended by social leaders from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Boston. President and Mrs. Taft attended."

I will take any of the standard works dealing with the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, lay them before any university professor in the country and challenge him to produce a passage that can match the contrast between that base orgy of wealth and the slums of Washington, the center of our imperial political activities. And I call attention to the fact that President and Mrs. Taft participated in that orgy, and that their having done so will cut no figure in the coming presidential campaign. Taft will pose as the people's friend, and no one will venture to hurl it in his teeth that he and his family are hand in glove with the robbers of the ages. That represents a depth of characterless degradation to which, I honestly believe, the Romans never sank. In the darkest days of their decadence there was always some Spartacus bold enough to rise in passionate revolt, though he paid the price by hanging on the crucifix.

Here is another Associated Press despatch, taken from the same paper "Chicago, Jan. 18. (A. P. Despatch.) An examination of the records of the police discloses that twenty-four girls, between the ages of 15 and 20, since November 1, 1911, have been reported missing. This number, according to Inspector Nicholas Hunt, is a fraction of the total number of girls who have disappeared in that time. Inspector Hunt estimates that 6,000 girls in Chicago between the ages of 15 and 20 disappear each year and are never heard from again." Yet Americans work themselves into hysterics over polygamy, which, though, rotten as a system, can boast truthfully that it never leaves a woman

without a home. We have no record of a civilization in which woman was so influential as she is in these United States, where she squanders with a prodigality that would have excited the envy of the Queen of Sheba. We have also no record of a civilization so callous to the agonies of the woman—she is numbered by the tens of thousands—who has fallen beneath the wheels. That also cannot last.

"It is beginning now," writes Prof. Herron, "this new Dark Time, with a period of universal muddledom." If he means mental muddledom I should think it was, indeed. But the mental muddledom springs mainly from character corruption; there being none so blind as he who will not see. For, just as thousands fawn at the feet of Mother Church, although they believe not one syllable of the alleged miracles on which her entire edifice is based, so thousands of practical business men repeat an economic chatter of which a ten-year-old schoolboy should be ashamed. They pride themselves on facing facts; but when, holding high and responsible positions, they declare themselves on the great bread-and-butter problem that is converting this magnificent world into a shambles, they talk as children talk. I take the newly-elected President of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, of Los Angeles, as an example.

Judging from his picture W. G. Hutchison is a kindly man, and in his speech of acceptance he dwelled on the cordial relations between himself and his employees. Yet, dealing with the labor situation as a whole, he repeated unctuously the patter taught by Otis, pledging himself and his organization to "continue to stand for the industrial freedom of this city." Industrial freedom! It is freedom as imagined by pirates who comb the world to corner necessities and hold up the masses at the point of their financial pistols! It was the wise and incorruptible John Ruskin who said: "The robbery of the poor because they are poor is especially the mercantile form of theft. The ordinary highwayman's opposite form of robbery of the rich because they are rich, being less profitable and more dangerous than the robbery of the poor, is rarely practiced by persons of discretion."

Probably Mr. Hutchison and his associates are incapable of understanding how profoundly true is the quotation given. Doubtless they lift their hands in horror and cry for additional police when they read of some successful stroke in which the robber boldly risked his life, but cannot comprehend the intrinsic baseness of their own crimes, perpetrated in personal security. If I were to tell Mr. Hutchison that land gobblers are a curse he would think me crazy, for they are the very men his organization loves to honor. He can manage a large business but he cannot master the simple arithmetical fact that the surface of the earth is limited, and that if some own acres by the hundreds of square miles others will be outlawed from the world into which they have been born. For, whatever Gen. Otis may say, we are born into this world and instinctively speak of it as "ours." No proposition could be simpler or more self-evidently true.

One does not see exactly how these gentlemen are to be educated. They read, as we all read, such items as are quoted in this article; yet they babble about the United States as a land of freedom and equality. They feel mean if they give their wives Christmas presents costing less than the sum it takes a workman a year to earn. They cannot think things healthy when they dare not move without a detective at their elbow, and one would suppose that such revelations as the McNamara case is producing must make them sit up and think. But they continue to repeat the same patter and apparently we do not get one inch ahead.

The axiom that the area of the earth is limited the Mexicans have grasped; not merely with the academic coldness of a Single Taxer but, as we grasp everything absolutely vital to us, with all our being; with every nerve vibrating, with every muscle tense and every vein pulsing with blood. It is, I am convinced, because they are a homogeneous and simple people; because, not being pulled in a hundred different directions by the vagaries of a corrupt civilization, they keep in touch with the real things of life. Outside of those who have been spoiled in cities—happily a small minority—every Mexican knows that he must be free to use the land from which he draws his life, and pretty nearly every Mexican seems prepared to fight for that inalienable right. That is a long way ahead of mere intellectual conviction. As the Spanish proverb goes "Del dicho al

hecho hay gran trecho"—from word to deed is a step indeed.

The "universal muddledom" emphasized by Prof. Herron is not confined to the wealthy, but permeates and saturates the labor movement. Of the ordinary workman we may say that the whirl of factory wheels and steady beat of machinery have hypnotized him so completely that he cannot see an inch beyond his tools. But his leaders can plead no such excuse, for they are often men of education, come into contact with the world, and have leisure at command. The trouble is that they are cowardly; that for the sake of votes and office they court popularity and drift toward Niagara at the behest of the ignorant majority. At bottom I myself am pretty well convinced, with Prof. Herron, that we are caught irrevocably in the current, but I have still a mind to pull against it. I still think that the frank acceptance of fundamental truths would carry us into a side eddy where we might be safe.

WM. C. OWEN.

MOLINARI UNDERSTANDS.

In Mexico the social revolution is proceeding steadily on its way. Brief telegrams and contradictory notices do not permit us, at this distance, to follow step by step this movement, which, while arousing so many personal ambitions, has revealed also, and for the first time in the history of humanity, a Communist-Anarchist conscience on the part of the proletariat, even though it be but vague and embryonic. We wish that all our comrades in the United States of America would interest themselves directly in the Mexican Revolution and aid, as much as possible, with their counsel and co-operation, that party which has hoisted the red flag with the motto "Land and Liberty." The practical result of this social conflagration will be in proportion to the strength and intensity of the action we ourselves take on behalf of the masses in revolt.

It is our task to prevent the re-installation of a bourgeois government and the re-adoption of a new political regime based on authority; and it is beyond discussion that for this all moments are opportune and all means propitious. We should intensify the propaganda of liberal thought and inculcate among the workers and exploited hatred of those two parasites—the State and capitalism. The rest will come of itself.

(LUIGI MOLINARI, in "Universita Popolare," Milan, Italy.)

BABY TALK.

"Who sent them there?" is the question Covington Hall asks, in capitals; and "The Industrial Worker" prints his letter on its editorial page. He adds that the sending of I. W. W. workers to Tia Juana and Mexicali "savours of a crime against the International Proletariat," for which the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party should be "forced" (in capitals) to answer. How babyish! This Anglo-Saxon is making himself a Mexican laughing stock.

Nobody forced the I. W. W. Men to go to either of the places named. They went of their own free will, as the grown-up men they presumably are, and managed their own campaign, as everybody knows. When the fortunes of war turned against them many returned to the United States, whither doubtless their own movement was calling them. The Mexicans kept on, for to them their revolution was a reality, not to be settled by a single battle. Not from one Mexican have we ever heard a whimper.

A TYPICAL DESPATCH.

MEXICO CITY, Mex., Jan. 20. (United Press.)—Because officials of the National railroad refused to discharge E. R. Thompson, its American superintendent, 820 brakemen struck here Saturday. With 30,000 cotton workers already out, a general strike is threatened because of revolutionary conditions. The yards of the National railroad are filled with perishable freight.

March 1 the government starts drafting for the army and thousands of young Mexicans are preparing to leave the country.

Reports that the Yaqui Indians were killing Americans reached here Saturday and the American embassy has protested to Pres. Madero.

The Liberal Party is pushing vigorously its epic fight against Maderism. President Madero does not grasp the real situation, though confronted with a movement he has not succeeded in crushing. All Anarchists should unite with and aid the unhappy agricultural toilers in their efforts to work out their own salvation. They are rallying enthusiastically to the banner on which is inscribed their cry of war and victory—"Land and Liberty." Comrades! Come to the assistance of and fight for Mexico. ("L'Avvenire Anarchico," Pisa, Italy.)

Conspiracy of Silence Broken
By Noted WritersMexico Depicted as Seething Caldron
of RevolutionIntervention Advocated in Articles
Obviously One-Sided

"What will come of it all? One of two things must happen: Either a strong man will arise from the present chaos of tortured Mexico, or there will be intervention." These are the words with which Richard Barry closes his article entitled "Bandit-governed Mexico," in the January issue of "The World To-day." That article, and the one by Ernest Simonetti, a recognized authority on Mexican affairs, which follows it immediately, have been before the public quite a time. "The Los Angeles Examiner" of Jan. 22 is the first capitalist paper I have seen that deigns to notice them.

Plutocracy is interested most vitally in representing all as well in Mexico, for it is trying to dispose of stock in Mexican landholdings and industries valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Hearst personally draws large revenues from Mexico. Therefore the "Los Angeles Examiner" pooh-poohs the articles in question, although they are by men of recognized standing in the reportorial world. Mr. Barry established his reputation as a correspondent during the Russo-Japanese war. His article bristles with detail, but the "Examiner" editorial ends as follows "Under the very wise and just rule of Madero confidence soon will be re-established and investment will once more be directed toward that marvelously rich country."

Mr. Barry wrote ten weeks after Madero's election, and his description of the consequences of that event is that "has bloomed into a bloody cataclysm." His article swarms with data, arranged chronologically, and he calculates that between the date of resignation and that at which he was writing 5000 persons in Mexico have lost their lives by violence, two-thirds of that number having been killed since the election of Madero—a period of ten weeks. He compares that with the fact that during the war with Spain the United States lost, killed in action, only 350 men. As a specimen of the numerous facts he chronicles I select the statement that Madero marched into the city of Puebla, to celebrate his election and receive the plaudits of the people, along streets lined with 377 corpses. Only by desperate efforts had order been restored for the moment, and "among those who followed him on horseback was the dynamite squad, each man without arms but bearing in each hand a stick of dynamite."

Pleads for Intervention.

The article is a frank plea for intervention, but a dishonest one. Mr. Barry knows well that it is over the land question—over the determination of the Mexican to shake off the absentee monopolist's yoke—that by far the greater part of all this blood is being shed. He gives, for example, blood-curdling accounts of Zapata's activities; but he does not tell his readers that Zapata has sworn war to the death against land monopolists, or that he has wide-spread and enthusiastic support precisely because he is regarded by the masses as an unflinching leader in that war. He gives us a study of Zapata and omits that central fact. He gives us a study of an entire nation in arms, and of the atrocities that always attend armed action; but he omits to tell us that the people are fighting to shake off what they consider the yoke of a robber plutocracy, and to restore conditions under which they lived for centuries. They lived simply and poorly perhaps, but they had what to them is beyond all price—economic liberty. They enjoyed free access to land, wood and water, and they regulated their own communistic life according to their own wishes, without interference by foreign landlord, creditor or monopolist, centralized government or officialdom. All this Mr. Barry must know well, and I have reason to suppose that he is a reader of "Regeneracion," in which these facts are painstakingly explained in every issue.

To indict a nation, as Mexico is indicted by Mr. Barry, without even a reference to the maddening causes that have goaded a most kindly people into revolt, is to write the history of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution without allusion to feudalism, which was its direct and hideous cause.

His Broken Promises.

The one reference to underlying motives is the following paragraph: "Madero gained the presidency by virtue of reckless promises, backed by a well-financed show of arms for which the male members of his wealthy family furnished the sinews of war. These promises were, in effect, that the great estates of Mexico should be divided among the people. He now finds himself, for many reasons, incapable of fulfilling these promises." That paragraph tells the story, but it is inserted in the most incidental manner, and the entire picture is so designed as to throw the horrors of the revolution into the highest and strongest light, and to bury the brief allusion to its causes under a blotch of heavy shade.

This article will help, at least, to rouse the world to the existence of a colossal fact, viz., that history is repeating itself, that like causes always produce like effects, and that at our very doors there is being transacted once more the terrific but life-giving drama of the great French Revolution. A great countryman of Mr. Barry's, the celebrated Edmund Burke, turned his back on the French Revolution, of which he had been the most eloquent advocate, because of the horrors that attended it. A century has elapsed and the judgment of history is that, with all its faults, the French Revolution made, probably, more than any event on record, for human progress.

So it is with the Mexican Revolution, which is another most determined and significant effort of enslaved humanity to throw off its chains. Whichever way the conflict may go it will set an ineradicable mark upon this century. Already it is having a profound effect on the worldwide revolt against plutocracy.

For Wall St. Moneybags.

If intervention comes it will be cloaked under pious regard for the sanctity of human life, of which plutocracy has shown itself more contemptuous than any power that ever seized the reins. In reality it will be on behalf of the moneybags of Wall Street.

As to Simondetti's article. It traces, step by step, the repressive measures by which "Madero" climbed into the presidential chair. Perhaps the most illuminative passages in his analysis of Madero's character are those in which he explains the volatility with which he accepted alike the platform of the Liberals and Masons and of the Roman Catholics, and how, after entering Puebla between rows of corpses, "he was the guest of honor at a banquet at which the merry-making lasted until late into the night." The closing paragraphs are as follows:

"Now the masses are clamoring for the promised lands, higher wages and effective suffrage. While many are hungry and disappointed, most of the one hundred and more relatives of the president have found their way into public office, an uncle and two cousins being in his cabinet. That Mexico's present government is unable to bring about such harmonious and peaceful conditions as will satisfy her people and all concerned in her financial prosperity seems to be well established in the minds of those thoroughly familiar with the state of affairs existing in the southern republic."

Sample Telegrams.

"El Diario" of Jan. 12 states: "The latest news received in this capital (Mexico City) concerning the petitions formulated by the Indians resident in the State of Puebla is that the said subjects are minded to rise in arms, unless given the lands which the triumphant revolution promised should be divided among them, that they might dedicate themselves to cultivating the soil. The matter is of such gravity that the State government has held several conferences

with the principal landowners in the State, with the object of considering how certain lands are to be ceded to the petitioners. The question has occasioned much disturbance in Puebla, for the Indians declare they will not drop their demands."

Observe the word "subjects," and the fact that the large landowners are called into consultation. The House of Want needs what the House of Have has got into its clutches. It is the world-wide quarrel, and, of course, the ruling idea is to placate Cerberus by throwing him a bone. Hence the numerous projects for selling land to the people on long instalments. If Madero can bamboozle the people with that game he may save the situation.

"El Pais" of Jan. 15 reports: "In Valparaiso (State of Zacatecas) a demagogue-Zapatista club, under the leadership of an inklinger of more bad faith than talent, has instigated the peasants of that region to rebellion, and the ranch hands, who are habitually pacific but are easily influenced, have entered on a great agitation, requiring the proprietors to hand over to them the greater part of the crop. On the hacienda Pena Blanca the manager refused to divide up the Indian corn and he was assassinated." The report adds that the authorities of Valparaiso found themselves unequal to coping with the revolt, and that federal troops have been despatched.

"El Demócrata Mexicano" of Jan. 14 calls attention to the public statement issued by two hundred citizens of Tepatlaxco (State of Tlaxcala) which is to the effect that they are continuing in arms for the purpose of enforcing their right to lands of which they have been deprived by the proprietor, or administrator, of the hacienda of San Diego del Pinar. They protest that they are not Zapatistas or trouble-makers, but that in no other way can they maintain their rights "against the influence and wealth of the aggressor."

Progress and Outcome of Mexican
Revolution

Is there actually an economic revolution now going on in Mexico? If so, how is it working itself out; what led to it; what are its prospects, and what will be the probable result of failure or success? These are the points that will be considered in this leaflet.

First, as to the existence of the revolution. As to this one would suppose there could be no doubt; and there would be none, were it not that an immense number of persons, who control nearly all the avenues of publication, are interested vitally in representing all as lovely in the country ruled until recently by Diaz. According to the apparently careful investigations of John Kenneth Turner, as set out in "Barbarous Mexico," American capitalists have a trifling stake of \$900,000,000 in Mexico. The Southern Pacific owns two-thirds of the railway system, Standard Oil, Morgan, the Guggenheims, Hearst, all those we sum up habitually as the "interests" and "Wall Street," have gigantic holdings; to say nothing of Great Britain, Germany, France and other European countries. They are on the market with stock to sell, and they are not going to admit that the goods are damaged or in serious danger of going up in a general conflagration, any more than a Los Angeles real estate boomer is going to telegraph East that discontent is rampant and the city full of tramps.

Thus, the newspapers, controlled absolutely by our plutocrats, are silent on the immense fact that in the one State of Morelos alone thousands of federal troops are campaigning against Zapata; that in two States and several territories constitutional rights are about to be suspended; that Madero is trying to raise an army of 350,000 by the dangerous experiment of conscription, and that the initial steps were to have been taken January 14 but have been postponed to March 1 on account of "the enormous difficulties." On all this they are silent because they dare not be otherwise.

What Zapata Wants.

Similarly, they do not tell you that Zapata's operations cover not only the State of Morelos but also large portions of the States of Mexico, Puebla, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Hidalgo and Tlaxcala, and the Federal district, and that, so far as can be learned from the reports of leading Mexico City papers, he is steadily gaining ground. For example, one reads in the "Los Angeles Times" despatch this morning, (Jan. 20) that three thousand striking cotton textile workers have joined Zapata's forces, but,

with characteristic mendacity, the statement is made that his quarrel with Madero is due solely to disappointment in the matter of promised office. This is done, of course, to belittle the Zapata movement, for "Regeneracion" published in full his statement—under date of Dec. 1, 1911—that he had taken up arms because Madero had broken his promises to restore the land to the people, and we have published columns of extracts from leading Mexico City papers, which all acknowledge that Zapata owes his following to the fact that he represents the one great idea rooted ineradicably in the peasant's mind, viz., that the land and the products of the land should belong to him who works the land.

That is what is known to sociologists as the Free Land theory, but the organs of the great landowning syndicates in this country do not enlarge on the fact that all Mexico is honey-combed with this, to them, most dangerous theory. Still less do they tell you it has been bred into the people's bones, because it was the system under which they and their ancestors lived for untold centuries, prior to the money conquest. They naturally do not tell you that, for it would expose at once the economic character of the revolution, and might add materially to the discontent existing in this country, which already is serious enough.

Vasquez Gomez Also.

Again, the capitalist papers do not tell you that Vasquez Gomez, who was Madero's right hand man in that first stage of the Revolution which swept him into the presidential chair, and was made a member of the first cabinet, is also in revolt, and that official orders for his arrest have been issued, on the ground that he is in alliance with Zapata. Even as I am writing there comes along the "El Paso Morning Times," of Jan. 19, with an interview with Zapata on its front page, in which he says: "In no manner will I take the amnesty, in case it is declared; but will stay up in arms, for the cause of Emilio Vasquez Gomez." The interview closes with these words: "I will respect and make respected the small towns and their inhabitants of peaceful character, but will be inflexible with the hacienda owners and the rest of the rich proprietors, and with the foreigners, especially with the Spaniards."

In other words, Zapata's revolt, which is admittedly most formidable, is against the native land monopolists, the foreign and absentee landlords and the Spaniards, who have a bad name as labor exploiters. It is essentially an economic and not a political revolt; but monopoly does not find it prudent to trumpet abroad that fact.

Of the operations of Gomez we do not hear so much, for he works quietly beneath the surface; but there is good reason to believe that they embrace a large area that Zapata has not touched, and his influence is acknowledged as being great. What Gomez' ideas are may be gathered from the official statement of his organ, "La Voz de Juarez," which is: "We hoist a banner that has three symbols in three colors—Land, Liberty and Fraternity." We quoted at some length from that statement in "Regeneracion" of Dec. 30, 1911, one of the sentences being that the Vazquista Revolution will have to realize "the creation of a citizenship settled on the land, because the people is sovereign and can be master only when it treads its own soil." Need one point out that such a position is tantamount to confiscation of the landed interests of the foreign syndicates, and that their organs are not going to play up news of any such alarming character?

Likewise the Yaquis.

The case of the Yaquis, who waged bitter war for the return of their lands under the Diaz regime, has excited world-wide attention, for they have been the victims of almost unparalleled cruelty and have shown fighting qualities that have excited universal admiration. They still insist on the return of their lands, comprising the entire Yaqui valley, and in our issue of Dec. 9 we reproduced the despatch that admitted the total failure of Gen. B. J. Viljoen, whom Madero sent as a special envoy to pacify them. They insist on the whole valley being given back to them, and unfortunately it is now the private property of Americans, some of whom are now in the Los Angeles market, trying to dispose of their interests.

As we showed in the same issue, another rebel chief, Salgado, had come to terms with the government, but only on the express stipulation that the land should be restored to those he represented.

(To be continued.)

"The community that will not allow its humblest citizen to freely express his opinion, no matter how false or odious the opinion may be, is only a gang of slaves."—(Wendell Phillips.)