

Regeneration.

Published every Saturday at
914 Boston St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Telephone: Home A 1360.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
2 months, 60c; 6 months, \$1.10; 1
year, \$2.00; Single copy, 5c;
in bundles, 3c per copy.

No. 75

Saturday, February 3, 1912.

What Has Driven
Mexico to Revolt

"We were twelve in family and my father was administrator of the hacienda. Everyone of us worked; in fact, the having so large and useful a family procured my father his position. It was an immense hacienda, about 200 miles long by 150 broad. We raised huge crops and had cattle by the thousands. Employed from 300 to 500 peons. Full grown men got eighteen and boys some twelve cents a day, Mexican money. They had to buy everything at the hacienda store and they were cheated frightfully. I know, because I was brought up in the store and kept the books for years. How much did I get? Why, nothing. The family was expected to give its services gratis. How much did my father get? Fifty cents a day, the use of the house we lived in and a measure of Indian corn that kept us going for the week. All worked from sunrise to sundown, and after. The owner of the hacienda was very rich, he was a deputy and a religious fanatic, having a chapel attached to his residence, which we were all compelled to attend. I hate the friars. I hate land monopoly. I hope the peons will get possession of the land, no matter how much blood is shed."

Such, in substance, was what I learned from a Mexican, who is now professor of mathematics. How he managed to scramble out of the bog of poverty would take too long to tell, and this is not the place to recount the military and clerical campaigns that resulted in Mexico, once the home of free land, becoming the hotbed of monopoly. But my imagination conjures up a picture of the helpless peons rounded up daily for their task; sees them waiting their turn at the commissary counter; gives me a snapshot of their crossing themselves as they entered chapel to worship the God of Love, and shows me their lord and master solemnly engaged in making laws for the protection of the people. Thinking all which over I pulled down my copy of "Progress and Poverty" and turned to the quotation: "To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, it is his. The fruits of it are his. White parasols and elephants with pride are the flowers of a grant of land."

All this was twenty-five years ago. My Lord has gone to his account and his son and heir, having sold out to a foreign syndicate, now lives in Paris. But the peons are still there. They still gaze daily over miles of fruitful soil in which they can be buried only by the courtesy of an owner; foreigners, located there, know not where, still issue orders through superintendents whom the peon must obey if he would eat. Naturally, as a good American, you feel certain that, with men of the Morgan, Rockefeller, church-going type in control the worker is treated better; but one cannot help remembering that the henequen, the rubber, the tobacco plantations of Mexico have written some ugly history during the past few years, to say nothing of the Cananea mines, the Rio Blanco cotton mills and a hundred other instances that could be cited. Moreover, there are many persons nowadays who hold it as an axiom that of all employers the corporation, guided solely by its ledger, is the worst. At any rate, this much is certain: The Mexican worker is at present more furiously discontented than he ever was before, in which respect he finds himself in line with his fellow-tollers throughout the world.

As half-truths are the most dangerous of lies, I consider our so-called public press the worst enemy of progress. It is so by the very law of its existence; for, selling its goods to the public at less than cost, it is forced to depend on subsidies and advertisements, thereby putting itself in chains to those who pay the bills. The myth of a clergy devoted solely to making this earth a heaven of peace and mercy is pretty well exploded. Few people now imagine that the lawyer exists to bring about the reign of justice, but the grotesque fallacy that the press is free is held by millions of us, therefore, the most deadly delusion of

the age. The actual fact is this. To attract the circulation on which advertisements depend the press—daily, weekly and monthly—will profess the deepest sympathy with human suffering, but never will it venture to lay bare the cause of suffering, because every subsidizer and advertiser would take immediate flight. It is not a question of individual vice or virtue on the part of publishers, any more than labor troubles arise from Gompers' good and bad employers. It is the question of institutions, of the entire economic fabric being so constructed that those who wish to survive can adopt no other course. The thoughtless public tumbles over itself to patronize papers that cut the price, not realizing that it is encouraging even deeper and more degraded prostitution.

Such being my convictions, I was astounded when I read the editorial, "The Lazy Leuties," in "The Los Angeles Record" of January 26, for it gave the whole snap away. Not as to Los Angeles, for that would be too much to expect, but in South Africa. That is about as safely far away as one could get, but fortunately we all understand that what holds good in South Africa holds good also in Southern California and Mexico. Gravitation works regardless of artificial barriers, and land is land, wherever it may be. The explanation of how it is that the unlettered Kaffir, who never heard of Karl Marx or Henry George, has the intelligent, twentieth-century capitalist on his knees, is also the explanation of why it is that "scientific" Socialists, with surplus value and economic determination on their tongues' ends, are starving by the thousands. The Kaffirs own their lands.

"The African World," described as "the organ of the white investors in the Dark Continent," tells the story to a sympathetic world; as the organs of the white investors in Mexico will be telling it ere long. "Our shortage of labor," it says, "is an economic one, having its root in the system of land tenure by natives." Those worthless wretches, it appears, prefer pottering about on their own reservations to going down a few thousand feet into the bowels of the earth to dig out gold for the benevolent foreigner. So, there you are, the proud capitalist on his knees, on the knees of natives in vain. The same thing happened in this country and in Australia during those earlier and ruder days when free land was plentiful. Let us congratulate ourselves. Unless we should have that dreadful thing, a revolution, it will never happen again in Southern California.

Once more the magazines, which always open the ball, find themselves compelled to admit that conditions in Mexico are deplorable. The grand march has been started by "The World To-day," with him behind, "Collier's" has stepped into line. Believe me, they are far too wise to talk as frankly as "The African World" has talked. They speak of the "illiterate and unmoral peon"—for when you wish to cover up the truth you should always use big words; they say "it will take at least another generation of earnest education and true political fatherhood (this was the Debs argument) to bring them to a point where they may be safely allowed to wield the ballot"; and the writer in "Collier's" regretfully reflects that "public opinion in Mexico is a sort of Patagonian affair, and largely a matter of the belly. If you feed me I see and sing all your virtues. If I get no material food from your hands you are a traitor, a demagogue, and a tyrant—one to be expunged." Alas! My own brain is so degenerate that I applaud that attitude, thinking that if politicians cannot make us better off we should cut them out as useless.

Nevertheless the "Collier's" article contains some risky admissions which I reproduce, for they will carry more weight than could anything that I myself might write. Thus we are told that "Madero's friends are the loyal regular army, all thinking demagogues and the great mass of the proletarians. The first will support him as the legal head of the Government; the second so long as he retains a modicum of real democratic tendencies (the writer refers evidently to ballot reforms, in which the masses take no interest); the third so long as they still hope that he will split up the holdings of the Haciendas—land barons—and materially alter the unfortunate conditions of the poor." But that is what Madero will not do, for he is in the hands of his own army, which owns five million acres, and he has been telling the peons that their salvation lies in the exercise of frugality.

Furthermore, says "Collier's" man: "The land barons do not want, nor will they willingly tolerate, any sub-

division of their landed holdings, in order to provide home plots for the indigent peons"; and toward the end of his review are these significant sentences: "Socialism also has invaded Mexico, where it was first known as Magonism, and has had a wide spread among the feon class, who only understand that it treats of a redistribution of all lands among the people. The outbreaks in the south and southwest of Mexico are due directly to this propaganda. They prohibit the peasants, Registas, Zapatistas, Goniats, etc.—yet, in fact, their flag is in all cases the red flag." Berger and Socialist papers please copy.

I may add that "Collier's" writer thinks poorly of Madero's prospects, for he offers the following advice: "The one chance of Madero is that he temporize with the people until he has reorganized and augmented the army. Let him then quietly disarm all the teachers and the priests, and the question of ammunition into the country. If he will do this, and then be a benevolent despot to his people, he will have saved them from themselves." It is always ungraceful to say "I told you so," but I cannot help remarking that "Regeneration" on various occasions emptied the vials of its wrath on Debs and the Socialist press, because they proposed to give Madero and his descendants a century or two while organizing labor and classes for the study of "Socialism from the Utopian to the Scientific." Supposing the Socialists to be sincere, Madero can give them cards and spades in statesmanship. He has not let the grass grow beneath his feet. He is setting conscription at work, that he may have an army of 350,000 at his back. Look out! There is going to be a row. What we have heard up to this time was only the orchestra tuning up.

WM. C. OWEN.

PRECIOUS TIME LOST.

"Le Libérateur," of Paris, which, in striking contrast to its contemporary, "Les Temps Nouveaux," has shown from the first a keen appreciation of the importance of the Mexican Revolution, has an admirable article in its issue of Dec. 30 on the danger of intervention by the United States. It believes, in agreement with the opinion often expressed in these columns, that there will be intervention, which it deems "would be in reality, annexation." The chains of the Mexican slaves, half-broken at this moment, would be riveted once more to their miserable flesh with terrible force. It is not possible that Europe can knowingly look on, at the perpetration of such a monstrosity. But to prevent it there must be agitation, and much agitation, for too much time has been lost already."

Writing on the increased Social Democratic vote in Germany, Marion Reedy, in "The Mirror," explains that the Socialism which has triumphed is not that of Marx but of Bernstein, the opportunist, who is "more like an advanced English Liberal." Even that understates the truth, for Lloyd George and his immediate following are far more advanced than the Social Democratic politicians begin to be. Reedy adds that the alleged victory "can be called Socialist only by stretching the term so that it will include many things not Socialist at all and some things anti-Socialistic."

THE STONES WOULD CRY OUT.

Apart from those caused by cold and hunger two direct killings are now charged to the textile strike at Lawrence, Mass., a strike that is a disgrace to the entire American nation, for it has its taproot in the tariff swindle. One of these killings was by a soldier, who bayoneted a striker. The other was by an unknown hand and resulted from general rioting. Of the former no judicial notice has been taken. For the latter Joseph Eitor, leader of the textile strikers, is in jail with "murder" against his name and bail refused. According to the headlines in "The Los Angeles Times," he is accused of having incited the mob by "preaching Anarchy."

We of "Regeneration" know something of Joseph Eitor, both by reputation and correspondence, and we have every reason to regard him as a first-rate man, thoroughly sincere, active, capable and courageous. We ask this question: If Christ could look on at such conditions as those now prevailing in Lawrence would he not repeat his immortal saying that "even the very stones would cry out?"

Lloyd-George has declared that there are twelve millions in England on the verge of starvation, and two millions actually starving.

Juarez Troops Desert Madero
For ZapataAmerican Lives Jeopardized and
Cavalry Hurried to the BorderSensational Report of Advance on Mexico
City Proves False

As yet, apparently, Mexico City is not under attack, but the federal garrison at Juarez City has revolted and is in full possession of that most important point. This is according to telegrams in all the Los Angeles morning papers of Feb. 1.

"The Los Angeles Evening Herald" of Jan. 31—a paper which boasts of the immense circulation it has attained—displayed on its front page a highly sensational telegram from Mexico City, headed: "Zapata's rebels have taken control on three sides." The text, which must have caused many Angelenos a sleepless night, owing to fears for the safety of their friends and investments—stated that "Zapata's revolutionary army surrounds this city on three sides today and the situation is critical. General Zapata, at the head of a strong force, is marching from Morelos, desiring he intends to storm the city and make President Madero a prisoner in his palace. The rebels control the southern, eastern and western sides of the city. They have cut telephone and telegraph wires in those directions." The despatch stated further that a battle had been raging all day at Catalan, with heavy loss of life, and ended with the words "the federals were driven back."

That sensational news is not confirmed by the morning papers, but they all agree that a train containing several well-known Americans was captured yesterday by Zapatists at Cuernavaca, which is about twenty miles from Mexico City. It is believed that the captives are confined at Tres Marias, and the American colony is reported as greatly agitated. It is also reported that Santa Ana, only three miles from Mexico City, was sacked by the Zapatists, Jan. 31, two boys being killed.

The revolt at Juarez City is of the first importance, and it will be remembered that it was the capture of that point ten months ago that led to the dethronement of Diaz and the elevation of Madero to the presidency. According to all reports the entire garrison mutinied, its first act being to imprison its colonel, Augustin Estrada, and to lock in the jail the chief of police, Augustin Gallo. The rebels then seized all arms and ammunition, and sent men south to blow up the railroad tracks between the city and Chihuahua and Mexico City. Shortly after the outbreak the Mexican Central passenger train from El Paso, bound for Mexico City, was held up at Juarez depot and all Americans were sent back to El Paso.

Foreigners in Flight.

According to the "Los Angeles Examiner" despatch fifteen had been killed, two of whom were Americans; foreigners had fled to El Paso, and at 1 o'clock a. m., Feb. 1, there was still much disorder, but the customs house had not been attacked.

Four troops of United States cavalry were rushed to the border immediately from Ft. Bliss; guards were stationed at the street and railroad bridges, and at the two smelter bridges a mile west of El Paso. Refugees were assisted in their crossing of the bridges and river fords.

According to the "Examiner" Gen. Pascual Orozco, who has been one of those on whom Madero relied most implicitly, recently tendered his resignation as commander of the Juarez garrison, but was induced by Madero himself to retain his position until March 1. Col. Estrada is a close personal friend of both Madero and Orozco.

The garrison mutinied to shouts of "Viva Zapata." In the afternoon and shortly before the outbreak a hundred members of the garrison had been discharged.

The itemized record compiled in this office shows that more than seventy places have been captured by the Zapatists within the last week. In addition to minor skirmishes there were forty-nine encounters that might be designated fairly as engagements.

Seems Rather Late.
"By decree of the Executive, dated the 20th of this month," says "El Imparcial" of Jan. 22, "the importation

of arms, ammunition and all war materials, is prohibited for three months. This decree takes effect from today, and its object, unquestionably is to deprive the Zapatistas of war supplies; for it is indisputable that, somewhere and somehow, they obtain them. If it were not so they would have exhausted their artillery by this time, whereas, on the contrary, it seems that, after many months of fighting, they are as well equipped as on the day when they began their sanguinary career." The article adds that, judging by the amount of ammunition expended by the Federal troops and rurales sent against the Zapatistas, the latter must have shot off several hundred thousand cartridges, and that they could not have acquired ammunition in such large quantities from the armories, haciendas and private residences they have looted. "El Imparcial" remarks further that the source of their supplies still remains an "impenetrable mystery," and that the government has never been able to capture a single one of the convoys of arms that find their way into the Zapatista camps.

"El Monitor," the Roman Catholic daily of Chihuahua, under date of Jan. 26, has a long article justifying, as a military necessity, the suspension of constitutional guarantees. It recites the story of the warnings issued to leaders and the troops dispatched against Zapata, and comments: "In spite of all this Zapatism is afoot, buoyant despite persecution, insolent in the propaganda it is making, terrifying by its continuous extension and by the ruin, desolation and death that follow in its footsteps. It is a brigandage unique in our national history, which is affecting numerous interests, is taking away the credit of and confidence in the government, and is able to spread itself in many parts of the country."

"El Heraldico Mexicano" of Jan. 25, in an article headed "The key to the Zapatist problem," reports the arrival in Mexico City of an Indian despatch from Ahuehuetzingo, State of Puebla, charged with the duty of interviewing Madero, that the government may restore to them lands of which, as they allege, they have been deprived by wealthy landowners, "against whom they complain bitterly." The report says: "They declare that the sole cause of Zapatism is to be found in the abuses and vexations of which they are the victims at the hands of the large landowners, who have used toward them the measures of the Inquisition and treated them like beasts, with the result that they have become tired and are on the point of assuming an aggressive attitude. They say further that the purpose that has induced them to come for a conference with the President of the Republic is that the matter may be dealt with pacifically, without the necessity of resorting to arms." Enlarging on the question of Zapatism they add that it will not be extinguished with the disappearance of Zapata, since those who group themselves today beneath his banner will follow tomorrow that of some other who, confronting the hacienda owners, shall permit in the return to the loss of the lands of which they have been despoiled."

Using the Government.
Last week we referred to the fact that Salgado had come to terms with the government, as stated in our issue of Dec. 9, "but only on the express stipulation that the land should be restored to those he represented." Among the Mexico City press notices we had collected respecting Salgado was the following: "The most dangerous feature in Jesus H. Salgado's propaganda is that he is preaching that the land and its products belong to the peasants."

When Salgado was in his adhesion he begged that he might be admitted into the rurales service, "to aid in the destruction of brigandage." The petition was granted and the result is given in "El Pais" of Jan. 19, as follows: "At this date the aforesaid Salgado has two hundred well-armed men; for, a short time ago, by Pres-

dent Madero's orders, there were handed over to him \$40,000 and a new armament for all his people. Having received this he rose in arms against the government, paying no attention to its supplications that he should desist."

Proverbially all is fair in love and war, but one cannot help reflecting that Salgado had no confidence in the stability of the government and preferred to take his chances with the rebels, or that he was so convinced of the merits of the revolutionary cause as to feel justified in fighting the government with every weapon.

Since the escape of all the prisoners from the San Luis Potosi penitentiary—a matter that excited much consternation, inasmuch as they at once attached themselves to various guerrilla bands—there have been other jail deliveries at widely scattered points. "El Pais" gives particulars of one at Zacateco, State of Tlaxcala, according to which the governor of the jail set himself at the head of the refugees, who proceeded to "burn the public archives, sack stores," etc.

From the Far South.
"Nueva Era" reports that a rich landowner of Pichucalco, State of Chiapas, has risen against the government, and that he has a force of 200 armed men behind him. Also from Tabasco come reports of middle class uprisings. The questions at issue seem to be merely political, but they add to the swelling tide of revolt, say nothing of the fact that the armed followers probably will devote their arms to the revolutionary cause. These two States are at the extreme South of Mexico, bordering on Honduras, and from them hitherto has come little revolutionary news.

According to "El Diario" of Jan. 25, "the situation with respect to strikes became notably worse yesterday in the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala."

From the innumerable accounts of guerrilla raids I pick the following, reported by "El Diario" of January 21, as of the class likely to make trouble in a near future: "The hacienda of San Marcos, State of Guerrero, has been the victim of the barbarity of the Zapatist mobs, who have perpetrated there one of their hair-raising crimes and committed another of their numberless illegal assaults. The Zapatists presented themselves at the hacienda referred to, which belonged to an American company, sacked it, set the property afire, burned the municipal archives and those of the civil register, and committed the rest of their invariable illegalities."

Note, above all, the frequency with which these Zapatist raiders burn the public records that give the proprietor the right to collect his rent. Henry George himself could have had no greater contempt for title deeds to real estate.

Not Governmentalists.
Happily, as we consider, conservation of forests according to the Roosevelt-Pinchot plan, does not find favor in the eyes of the Mexican country folk, who consider that free land and government ownership are very different things. Recently, on the advice of the Department of Agriculture, forest lands in the neighborhood of Ajuatlan, Atlatico and Jalisco, in the Federal District, were declared government property. "El Imparcial" of January 18 devotes much space to the vigorous protest of six thousand Indians, who exhibit documents showing that such lands have belonged to them and their forefathers, from time immemorial.

The present writer may be pardoned perhaps for stating that he feels strongly on this subject because some twelve years ago he found himself in Alaska, an absolutely wild country in which wood was the first necessity of life. The Canadian government having adopted the State-Socialist theory that the forests belonged to the government as the people's representative, he and other miners had to pay stumpage for every cord of wood they cut to use as a set of officials as ever looted a community. Apparently the Mexicans see through that transparent swindle, and not the least of the service that revolution is rendering the world lies in the exposure of this class of sham. It is under the stress of really serious conflict that people look beneath the surface.

Will the United States
Intervene in Mexico?

Send for copies of
"Regeneration's"
Special Pamphlet
on the
Mexican Revolution
Its Progress, Causes,
Purpose and Probable
Results
Sixteen Pages. Price 5 cents

Latest News from
Juarez and the
Capital

According to the "El Paso despatch to the 'Los Angeles Evening Herald,'" Juarez is today a seething maelstrom of insurrection. Four troops of the Fourth United States cavalry are lined up along the international border and the troopers are eager for the word to cross and rescue the Americans who, this morning's news says, are shut up inside the adobe walls of a building in the main business district of the Mexican city."

"The Herald" still persists that Mexico City is surrounded by Zapatistas and reports that a volunteer party, composed of Americans and other foreigners, has gone in search of two American women said to have been captured yesterday while en route from Cuernavaca.

The United Press despatch to "The Los Angeles Record" reports fifteen dead in Juarez, two of whom are Americans, and that the rebels have waged for hours between the loyal federals and the rebels. It says that, so far, there has been no breach of the neutrality laws. "The Record" contains no news from Mexico City.

"The Los Angeles Express" reports all wires leading south as cut, bridges destroyed, to check the advance of troop trains, and scouting parties sent out by the rebels. It says the rebel leaders express themselves as having no fear of attack, as the garrisons at Torreon and Chihuahua revolted Jan. 31. This it is impossible to confirm, owing to the severance of communication.

I. W. W. LOCAL PROTESTS.

We have received from the Press Committee of Brawley Local, I. W. W., a strong protest against the action of the authorities in Imperial Valley, who, it is charged, are bent on running all members of the organization out of the district. It is claimed that jury trials have been refused and that men are either railroaded to the county jail or put across the line by force, in compliance with the Mexican officials. The latter is tantamount to condemning them to death. The case of E. F. Lefferts of the Brawley local, is cited as an instance of unjust imprisonment, he having been arrested at Imperial for vagrancy and given thirty days, although he had just completed work on one job and was about to begin on another.

The protest ends with a firm declaration that the I. W. W. does not intend to allow itself to be driven out, and an appeal to all members to join and aid it in resistance.

SURELY THE FIGHT IS ON.

Madrid, Jan. 20. (Special despatch to "El Diario.")—The tribunals have decreed the dissolution of 408 workmen's societies in different Spanish towns, considering that they have exceeded their authorized functions." We are compelled to take the foregoing from a Mexican paper, because our American press does not pay any attention to trifles of this kind. Lists of the presents at Mrs. Thimgumbold wedding, or what the Duke of Connaught thinks of the New York climate, naturally crowd them out.

THE ONE SURE BASIS.

Kropotkin has sent an open letter to "La Tierra," of Havana, which runs, in part: "My sympathies are with your weekly, which is making a fine campaign on behalf of our Spaniards and Mexican brothers. Yes, dear Comrade, the revolution is the basis of every revolution, of the advent of Socialism, of Anarchism. Whenever the revolutionists fail to occupy themselves with that important question—the land for the cultivator, the Commune—they may be sure that the revolution will be lost."

"For ages they have been taught by word of mouth and by the lessons of daily experience to take no thought for the morrow; they have been trained by the government and counseled by their church to look to others for all things needful; to put their trust in princes and powers, visible and invisible." ("Russian Traits and Terrors.")

Whatever economic change is wrought must be such as the people in their present state of comprehension cannot understand and more so of. And we see by the reports what they understand. They understand that they have a right to be on the soil; a right to use it for themselves; a right to drive off the invader who has robbed them; to destroy landmarks and title-deeds; to ignore the tax-gatherer and his demands. And, however primitive their agricultural methods may be, one thing is sure—they are more economical than any system that heaps up fortunes by destroying men.