

Regeneracion.

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Madero Bids For
Wall Street Aid

Read the following, given by Madero to the "Daily American" and telegraphed under date of Feb. 4, to the "Los Angeles Daily Times." The interview was accorded to the paper edited and controlled by Francisco Buñuel, one of the most noted figures in the corrupt "Científico" group that brought Diaz to ruin. After you have read it, I invite you to my own plain-English rendering.

"The Latin-American nations did not come to our assistance when Barrios invaded Mexico in 1828, when France sent her troops into Mexico in 1838 and 1862, and when the United States sent her army to Mexico City in 1847. The United States is a natural market for Mexican products and the Latin countries are not. We require manufactured articles and we cannot purchase them from Latin America, but from the United States. And yet my government is seriously considering the possibility of growing Argentine wheat, and, if the idea is found to be feasible, we will import such wheat and use it.

"In my opinion Mexico's peace and prosperity depend upon a complete friendly relations with the United States. We may as well acknowledge the fact right here—Latin-America could and would not be of any service to Mexico in the event of a war between my country and any other.

"I do not believe in alliances between Mexico and the other Latin-American countries. I am not in favor of maintaining the ties of friendship and blood to the greatest extent, but alliances with them will not profit us one whit."

Put into honest language that statement would have run: "I, Francisco Madero, am in trouble and I cannot look for help to the Latin-American nations because they dread the invasive tendencies of United States plutocracy. But I need help badly and turn to Wall Street as my natural ally. I favored my revolution, for I myself am a plutocrat, and I reciprocated by promising it even greater privileges than Diaz offered. Until the present, the Mexican revolution is crushed those promises cannot be fulfilled, and I rely on North-American plutocracy to aid me in the work of crushing it. At present my position is precarious. If it becomes desperate the United States should intervene. I am willing to sell out to Wall Street."

I believe my rendering the true one. I submit that it presents the photograph of Madero, not as he seems to be but as he actually is, stripped to the buff. For weeks he has been venturing farther and farther on ice that has broken at every step. He succeeded in constitutional guarantees and thousands joined Zapata and other rebel leaders, naturally preferring the risks of battle to the probability of being shot on suspicion, without the formality of trial. He has decreed conscription and a similar result has followed. He has proclaimed an "Echeverría" policy for the suppression of rebellion, whether it be the rebellion of the sword or of the pen. Now he utters a final cry for help, knowing, as he cannot fail to know, that thereby he signs the death-warrant of his waning popularity.

There is a solidarity among the Latin-speaking peoples which language is too feeble to express. Probably it is as powerful as that which eventually will knit the Orient into one. Its roots lie deep in profound differences of tastes, ideals, philosophies of life. It has been, from the first, in secret revolt against what has been hitherto the natural expression of Anglo-Saxon activity—Capitalism; which has made a God of work for work's sake; which is inspired solely by passion for material gain; which has elevated into a fetish the worship of those disciplined, centralized and force-supported governments so essential to the maintenance of the appalling inequalities it begets. To the Latin-speaking races all this is odious.

Talk to the first intelligent American you meet and he will tell you trouble between his country and the

Southern Latin-American republics is coming. He means that, sooner or later, this country will annex its neighbors, and usually he is of the opinion that such is the only way of "civilizing" them. But the Latin-speaking peoples do not think it necessary to be gobbled up in order to become civilized, and believe they can get all the advantages of culture without putting themselves in slavery to aliens. They will fight like wild-cats against any such benevolent absorption, and they will rend Madero to fragments for siding with their enemies in the racial war now looming up. An enormous drama is unfolding itself under our very eyes, and plutocracy is woefully mistaken if it imagines that all Anglo-Saxons will be on its side.

WM. C. OWEN.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Mexico, the northernmost and most powerful of the Latin-speaking nations inhabiting the three Americas, has called "HIALTI" to capitalist aggression. That is the true significance of all this turmoil South of the Rio Grande. A bugle note has been sounded that will echo round the world. To one pillar of the temple of plutocracy a Samson has set his shoulder, and the whole edifice begins to shake. There are other pillars, but there are also other Samsons.

What calls itself the "Workingman's Socialist Party" in Mexico has come out with a statement, in which it says: "We declare that this party has no connection with the so-called Socialist movement initiated by Ricardo Flores Magon and his partisans." "La Tierra" properly scaries that statement as a fratricidal attempt to stab the Mexican proletariat in the back, and shows that the party in question was organized under the wing of the Minister of Government. A review of the first number of its mouthpiece, "El Radical," showed it bound hand and foot to Madero's chariot.

The aberrations of Socialist Party leaders can cut no figure in a conflict of this magnitude, but one is glad to find "La Tierra" calling Berger sharply to account. It quotes: "He cannot be called a 'bandit' who, having been deprived of his property by the strong and powerful when he was weak and helpless, now that he can endure it no longer puts forth a superhuman effort to regain what belongs to him. The despoiler and not the despoiled is the bandit. What do you think of the rebuke? The quotation is from Zapata.

The same paper quotes "El Imparcial" of Mexico City as follows: "The government cannot shut its eyes to that anarchistic tendency which, as we showed in yesterday's article, has its roots in an ancient grievance. As we indicated in a recent article, the revolutionary vibration has awakened in the soul of our native country population an old appetite that never has been extinguished—the hunger for land."

"Why should the exploited fear to strip them of the lands, the waters and the woods, that they may be restored on a grand scale to the people? Not in cowardice, for we are not cowards, but because to every man should be given back that which is his own." That quotation also is from Zapata.

It is a stand against capitalist aggression; a most determined stand, gun in hand; the first great check modern plutocracy has received. With the holding of the "Land and Liberty" flag notice has been served on the moneybags that the universe and its population are no longer for sale.

What troubled our plutocratic press most last week was the rumor that a couple of Los Angeles men had sold Magdalena Bay to the Japanese. The American newspapers claim title to nearly five million acres of Mexican territory, their property having a coast-line of more than 500 miles. What do you Single-Taxers, alleged followers of Henry George, think of that? Against all that sort of skull-duggery the Mexican Revolution is a protest, and it is likely to be a most effective protest.

Not the least valuable lesson that the Mexican Revolution is teaching the workers is the power of an idea. This revolution is not the child of elaborate organization with high-salaried officers, everlasting duties, and miles of official tape. It is the child of an idea, so simple that the least educated can grasp it, so inspiring that the coldest kindle at its touch. The idea that the land and its products belong to the cultivator will carry all before it. By what else than ideas are life and conduct guided?

Army Of Hundred Thousand
Held In ReadinessProgress of Mexican Revolution
Rouses United StatesRestoration of Lands to People
Becomes Universal Cry

Buy Mexican stocks! Buy Mexican lands! Take advantage of the new conditions under that great statesman, Madero! This has been the cry of the United States press for months, with Wall Street dictating. Now read the recommendations made by the State Press dispatch, dated Washington, Feb. 5:

"The War Department's action in calling upon the post commanders throughout the country to have their men in a state of preparedness for immediate service, was the result of recommendations made by the State Department when the situation was more critical.

"The plans of the general staff for a campaign in Mexico were prepared long ago, and have been in a state of constant revision. Generally they contemplate the employment of about 100,000 men, 40,000 of whom will be regulars gathered from all of the military departments. Supplementing these will be 60,000 militiamen. While the regular troops would be ready for service within three days, or a week at the outside, it is estimated that thirty days would be required to assemble and equip the militia."

The way in which the American people are lied to by the press is disgusting, but still more disgusting is the gullibility with which, despite continuous exposures, they swallow the lies. Even those who call themselves radicals, and take special pride in their knowledge of the social movement! Thousands of them have insisted that "Regeneracion" was playing a buncombe game, because, forthrightly the plutocratic press declared all trouble over. The trouble is beginning.

We should get a firm grip of the general situation, for the details will take care of themselves. The central fact is that the Mexicans overthrow Diaz because, through him, their country had been stolen from beneath their feet. They entrusted Madero with power because he promised to restore it to them.

Madero bunched them; ennobled them; proved himself only another politician and used his position to enrich himself and family. Now they are overthrowing Madero. Zapata, Vasquez Gomez, the Mexican Liberal Party and many others who are working for that overthrow, have, every one of them, this much in common—they promise the Mexican people that they shall have back their lands. They have to make that promise—and which is infinitely more important—they will have to live up to it.

The Mexican people mean to get back their lands. They mean business. They mean to fight to the last ditch for that; they hold, as Ricardo Flores Magon expressed it for them, that it is better that their race should perish than that it should live on enslaved to the absentee bond and landlord.

The Stake at Issue.

It is the agrarian question; the land question; the question of who shall own the resources of a wonderfully rich and charming country. It is the most serious quarrel conceivable, for it plants right in the center of the world's stage the social problem in its most acute and intransigent form, uncompromising aspect. Over the question of whether this magnificent land of ours is for use by all or for sale to a few the battle rages.

Such is the position that faces the United States, and all the world is asking what the United States is going to do about it. The Mexicans want back their lands; have no money to buy them back; do not believe in buying them back; assert, with weapons in their hands, that the lands belong to them, whatever lawyers and paper title deeds may say. Practically the whole American revolutionary movement, and the proof of it is that no politician, no political party, dare come before the people of Mexico today without making bold and liberal promises to give them back their lands. The more conservative propose gradual expropriation measures and draw up schemes for purchase on long and easy payments. The people

do not want gradual expropriation; they have neither money nor the inclination to pay over money for what they believe to be their own.

The Indians of the United States were practically exterminated by the Anglo-Saxon invader, who found it impossible to get their lands in any other way, for the Indian would not part with what he deemed his birthright. He would not become a tenant; he would not become a wage slave; he loved his liberty far better than his life. He faced the invader with only a bow and arrow in his hands. The latest has a repeating rifle of the latest type.

The Mexican has also on his side a country singularly favorable to the guerrilla fighting in which he excels, and a climate to which he is enured. But, that climate will kill off invaders by the thousands.

Such is the enemy the United States; if it decides on intervention, will have to face; an enemy having the support of the great Latin-speaking race throughout the world. Do you think it will be a picnic for the United States? Was the conquest of some forty million Boers a picnic for Great Britain?

Moreover, back of the United States stands a most formidable foe. His name is "Social Discontent." On the food of enforced conscription he will grow into a giant.

Think it over. "El País," a most conservative Roman Catholic daily of Mexico City, published, Feb. 26, a card by Nestor Adame, Abraham Garcia and Pablo Barrera, revolutionary leaders in the State of Guerrero, which may be taken as typical and runs, in part, as follows: "We rose in arms originally because of the blind faith inspired in us by the leader of the revolution, the present President of the Republic, who told us that the people would see the realization of the greatest of their ideals, the restitution of the lands that belonged to them and the redistribution of the remainder, thus enabling them to escape from the life of misery and ignorance they lead. But the blood shed has served only to carry the leader of the revolution to the presidency—Our armed protest is against this overthrow of the principles of the revolution. What has been done for the people, which shed its blood? Nothing. While the leader is in a room of luxuries, the people continues in its misery."

Madero did not make the revolution; the people made it. Madero laid down his arms when his own ideals were realized; when the road by which he could get to the presidency had been opened for him. The people has both seized the ideas of the revolution and continue in arms, for we are sons of the people, which suffers; of the people, which has always been underneath but today wishes to be on an level with the others. Our motto is the restitution and repatriation of the lands, that the economic condition of the poor may be ameliorated. Down with land monopolies.

There is constant talk of the ignorance of the rebel leaders, but one notes that whenever they give out a statement it is phrased in exceedingly plain and vigorous language, and shows a firm grip of elemental truths. Cannon Dodge It.

No Mexican politician dare go before the people today without promising to give them back their lands. That is the position the United States must take. As a typical illustration let us take the comment made by "El País" on the recent bill-delivery at Urupapan, State of Michoacan, which runs: "This unfortunate success is due solely to the fact that the agents of Gen. Marcos V. Vender in making their propaganda are offering the people return of the lands and woods, and the abolition of the tax on them, if they will vote for him." That is the situation, and with that in mind one can read intelligently the following, taken from the "Los Angeles Evening Herald" of Feb. 7, and selected as summing up pretty clearly the position as between Mexico and the United States government. It is as follows: "City of Mexico, Feb. 7.—The de-

posed Diaz regime never, till the day of abdication, faced a graver crisis than confronts President Madero today. The foreign residents know the extreme gravity of the outlook.

"Zapata is at the head of a well organized and equipped army and Orozco, who is its supreme commander, is now conducting affairs without regard to Madero's wishes.

"Armed and organized bandits infest almost every section and civil rule is suspended.

"It is said that the only definite solution of the problem is intervention and the establishment of a protectorate similar to that which exists over Cuba.

"Less apprehension would be felt if the existing trouble were in the form of a concerted movement, but it has resolved itself into a condition of anarchy which no one seems able to suppress."

The daily press, "compelled at last to break silence, has run over with columns devoted to the mobilization of troops, the despatch of the United States fleet to Mexican waters, the reported secession of Chihuahua, etc., and these things are known to all the world." The papers now have it that there are four distinct and separate revolutions in Mexico, under as many leaders. In reality there is one, with the people in charge and restoration of the land as the determined goal. The storm of human rights is meeting the tide of vested interests and kicking up the devil of a sea.

AGENTS' ATTENTION!

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LURED BY LIES.

The "Unemployed League" of Portland, Ore., has sent us copy of protest addressed to all labor organizations of the Pacific Coast. It should have addressed the world, as the Mexican Revolutionists; for there are 14,000 unemployed in that little city alone, brought thither by the lies of the real estate "Boosters Clubs." In the long catalogue of crime there is none more cruel and contemptible than that of landing men penniless in a strange country, that profit may be made out of those who happen to have money. It is the worst fruit of our criminal speculation in land, against which the Mexican nation is in arms.

EXCLUSIVELY ECONOMIC.

"If the Mexican Revolution interests us strongly it is because it is almost exclusively economic; because politics enters into it hardly at all. At the present moment all the rebels are struggling for possession of the land. Whether they march under the red flag of our comrades or under that, equally red, of Zapata; whether they fight as Reyes or Vasquezists, with a Gen. Reyes or a Gen. Vasquez at their head, the revolutionists have but one aim—to get back the lands snatched from them, that they may cultivate such lands in common, for their own profit and not for that of their exploiters." ("Le Libertaire," Paris.)

WORLD-WIDE SOLIDARITY.

"La Tierra," of Habana, Cuba; "El Libertario," and "L'Avvenire Anarchico," both of Spezia, Italy; "La Protesta" and "La Accion Obrera," both of Buenos Aires, Argentina; "Tiempos Nuevos," of Montevideo, Uruguay; "La Voz del Pueblo," of Tarragona, Spain; "L'Universite Populaire," of Milan, Italy; "Le Libertaire," of Paris, France—these are a few we pick from our exchange table as containing really splendid notices of the Mexican revolution; many of them columns long. Do you realize that in the mere repetition of the names we almost circle the globe?

Such publications as "Mother Earth," "The Agitator," "Freedom," "L'Era Nuova," "Cultura Obrera," etc., are not included in the foregoing paragraph, although they have had extended notices. They are all in the line of the development of it. It is to be wished that the same could be said of the general Labor Press, but it continues utterly provincial, wrapped up in local squabbles and thrashing out insignificant wrangles between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. It is necessary the scouring that can be administered only by great events, and is about to get it.

"I am in earnest. I will not palliate; I will not excuse; I will not retreat a single inch, and I will be heard." (William Lloyd Garrison.)

RADICALS' ATTENTION!

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Mexico's Struggle
For Economic
Freedom

(CONTINUED FROM JAN. 21.)

In short, the land question—the determination of the masses to bring about a restoration of the time-honored system under which the land was at the disposition of the cultivator—is at the root of all this revolutionary movement, and you cannot place your finger on a State or Territory in Mexico that is not feeling its influence. Lack of space renders it impossible to enter into further details, but the news given in this week's issue—or, for that matter, in any issue of "Regeneracion"—is such as to give any unprejudiced reader ample satisfaction on that head. Note also that in recommending the withdrawal of constitutional guarantees Madero mentions the armed movement for "agrarian communism" as his impelling motive.

Strikes Universal.

Lack of space also makes it impossible to review in detail the countless strikes that are an entirely new feature in Mexico's industrial life, and testify alike to profound discontent and the awakening of hopes that may have lain smouldering for years but hitherto have never ventured to break into flame. One of these strikes has been mentioned incidentally already, and I desire here merely to call attention to three points in which the Mexican strike differs from those with which we are familiar in the United States. First, the Mexican strike is seldom a game of who can starve the longest. Very frequently the strikers have armed themselves beforehand, and conflicts with the federal troops, in which many were killed and wounded on either side, have been common.

Secondly, the strikes have been largely by agricultural laborers, who in other countries do not seem able to combine. Thirdly, the workers of an entire district, and even of an entire State, have united forces. For example, in "Regeneracion" of Jan. 13, 1911, we reported the following, on the authority of "El Pais," a Roman Catholic and most conservative paper: "All the peons of this State have come to an agreement and declared a strike, demanding that they work only until five o'clock in the evening and be paid thirty-six cents an hour, getting pay moreover for the time allowed for rest and dinner." We have had nothing like that in the United States.

As a later and suggestive illustration I take the following, clipped from the "El Paso Morning Times": "Mexico City, Mexico, Jan. 21.—The working delegates from the Orizaba factories started to a reporter who in touch with their companions in other factories which exist in the other states. In case their demands are not granted they will then inaugurate the general strike movement which will involve a total of forty thousand men. Twenty thousand will be from the State of Orizaba, and the other twenty thousand from the Federal District and the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala."

Guerrilla Warfare.

Also it would be impossible to give any adequate account of the guerrilla warfare being carried on, ceaselessly and at many hundred points, by the rebel chiefs described as "bandits." But one cannot dismiss the topic by the use of any such euphoric term, for, whether they are merely men whose instincts lead them naturally to war or whether they are men intellectually convinced that it is useless to work any longer for the sole benefit of the monopolist, they are facts. They wear out incurably the central government, and by so doing they bring nearer the possibility of realizing the masses' dream—possession of the land and its products by the producer.

Many of these guerrilla bands are little armies in themselves—often poorly armed, but armies. The revolutionary agitators who come from town to town recruiting rebels, who, in one guerrilla alone, number 1,500, writes the Oaxaca correspondent of "El Pais"—Mexico's leading Roman Catholic daily—as quoted in "Regeneracion" of Jan. 20. We are beginning to talk good deal in these United States about the coming economic revolution. What a fluster we should be in if we learned that in California, for example, 1,500 armed revolutionists were marching through the State! Yet, surely the proper way of judging any event is to put yourself mentally, as far as possible, in the other fellow's place.

Such, within the narrow limits of the space at my command, is the evidence in favor of the existence in Mexico of what may be called, with perfect honesty and truth, an economic revolution.

PART II.

What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable obstacle? In Mexico capitalism's greed and lust for power have been the force; the character, time-honored traditions and habits of the Mexican people the obstacle. It is questionable whether history records so preposterous an instance of the attempt to force the fusion of elements that, by the very law of their being, cannot be compounded.

Capitalism would compel the Mexican to toil, and toil incessantly, for the profit of absentees whose very names are unknown to him and of whom he hears only with instinctive hatred.

Character, traditions, climate and the simplicity of his daily habits all inspire the Mexican with an ardent longing to tell only for himself, and not toil excessively at that.

Capitalism thinks it entirely just and proper to buy up the whole country, reducing the population to the position of tenants-at-will.

Throughout the rural districts of Mexico there prevailed for centuries a system that sociologists would define as Anarchist-Communism; the people grouping themselves in their own self-governed communities and having free access to the land, free use of water—so all-important in a semi-tropical and tropical country—and free use of wood and other raw materials necessary to the conduct of their daily lives.

To impose its institutions, so incomprehensible and odious to the native mind, upon the people, capitalism has been compelled to set up in Mexico, as in every other country, a strongly-centralized government, enforced by complicated laws utterly unintelligible to the masses and upheld by a large police and military force.

The Mexican, true to the promptings of his Indian blood, loathes centralized authority, detests the soldier, regards the rent collector and the tax-gatherer as robbers, and looks with profound suspicion on all who appear to be making a living without occupying themselves in productive labor.

I have written "rural districts" and "Indian blood." To understand a quarrel one should study the circumstances and characters of the quarrelers. There can be no adequate comprehension of the Mexican Revolution until there has been grasped the fact that the vast mass of the population is agricultural by habit and instinct, and that in its veins the Indian blood predominates. It is safe to say that of the fifteen millions who constitute the population of Mexico, about four million are of pure Indian blood, about eight million "Mestizos," of mixed Indian and White blood, and the remaining four million what are known as "Blancos," who are supposed to have in their veins no Indian blood. The inclination of the "Mestizo" is naturally and strongly toward the free communal life to which the full-blooded Indians are wedded; and the customs, economic arrangements and modes of thought associated therewith dominated for centuries the life of the rural districts and the innumerable small towns that dot the map of Mexico.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

"The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it robs the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth; if wrong, they lose what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error." (John Stuart Mill.)

"Better a thousand-fold abuse of free speech than denial of free speech. The abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people and entombs the hope of the race." (Charles Bradlaugh.)

"The Socialist Party is not a voting-party," writes Debs in "The Chicago Daily Socialist." My! What a whopper!

Will the United States
Intervene in Mexico?

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