

Regeneracion.

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Mexico and United
States Plutocracy

The Mexican Revolution is obviously a movement of importance. Three times within the last twelve months it has caused the United States to call out troops, and at this moment an army of a hundred thousand is being gathered to suppress it. Whatever your ideas on the justice or injustice of intervention may be, you cannot deny that a movement producing such results must have importance.

It is also self-evident that a movement jeopardizing two thousand million dollars cannot be sneezed at, and no one can read the news now given by our dailies without understanding that this stupendous amount of capital (to say nothing of the still richer pickings that were until recently in sight) is in the greatest danger. No one supposes that with the conditions now prevalent in Mexico landlords can collect their rents, or mining and other properties pay dividends. That is self-evident.

In the "Los Angeles Examiner" of Feb. 11 I find the following head: "Money power is in the hands of a dozen men," says Banker Reynolds. Head of Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago, in speech, told of Trust's grip on nation. Small institutions at the mercy of few. Two or three houses in Chicago and equal number in New York control question of loans to correspondents. Through countless magazine articles, through the speeches of men of the La Follette type, and from many other sources, there has come a flood of testimony that convinces most people that the statement quoted is pretty close to actual truth. All thinking men and women will agree that the statement is appalling; that it represents a concentration of power probably unequalled in history, and that it is nonsense to talk of industrial equality, industrial liberty, etc., so long as that power endures. Most of them also will agree that the trail of that power can be followed, step by step, in the gathering army of the unemployed, in our overcrowded almshouses, prisons and lunatic asylums, in the ever mounting percentage of suicides and in the countless other gruesome features of our so-called civilization.

Without wishing to enter into an economic discussion I say this money trust could not exist if we did not permit our magnificent heritage, the earth, to be put up for sale; if we were not insidiously handing over to the moneyed class command and legal ownership of all our natural resources. The earth is the treasure house from which every ounce of our supplies must come, and monopoly of that treasure house has been always the cornerstone of plutocracy and power. Never was there a conqueror who did not parcel out the land among those whose support he needed. Never has there been a ruling class that has not had possession of the land as its foundation.

Across the international boundary some fifteen millions seem to have determined that, to become masters of themselves, they must get back the national treasure house. They are trying to get it back, and in the only way possible, viz., arms in hand. For, much as we may deprecate all violence, there is no getting round the fact that when the other side is armed and you are not it has you at its mercy. We may deplore the fact; we cannot blink it. Before gunpowder was invented the armored knight rode down his helpless serfs at pleasure. With the introduction of the gun the amusement became dangerous and lost its charm.

That thousands of naturally peaceful Mexicans are today in arms is an enormous fact, but far more enormous is the fact that they are in arms against plutocracy. I believe that if Americans understood they would not allow plutocracy to use them once again to rake its chestnuts from the fire. I know that Americans have carefully-nursed prejudices against

many forms of radicalism, but I believe they have something much stronger than mere prejudice against plutocracy. I believe they recognize it as the gravest of all their national perils; as the death of the ideals that gave their nation birth. I believe they are nearing the point at which they will decide that either they or plutocracy must go. Then plutocracy will be in identically the same danger here that now faces it in Mexico, for the man to be afraid of is the one who has made up his mind that you and he cannot inhabit the same country. I am writing all this on Lincoln's birthday, and I feel it all more strongly than ever. A more peace-loving soul than Lincoln probably never lived, but that did not save him from being forced to play a most prominent part in one of the bloodiest wars on record.

Necessarily the people of the United States are not acquainted with Mexican literature, or with the agitation in progress there for many years. If they were they would not dismiss this storm, that has been brewing for decades, with the self-satisfied reflection that Mexicans are ignorant. The truth is that Mexico has been for long past the field of a most active verbal and written propaganda. But, above all, it has been the field of the infinitely more powerful propaganda of events; events that have given the most ignorant a grip of fundamental facts to which the abnormal, but now rapidly-dwindling, prosperity of the masses in the United States has blinded them. The truth is that there has been a constant passing to and fro across the border, and that conditions in the United States have been discussed with all the earnestness of a people looking desperately for relief. The truth is that the Mexicans thought they could get relief by emigration to the United States, and that they have reported, far and wide, that there is no relief, the exactions of the money power being worse than was the tyranny of Diaz. Such an uprising as we are witnessing in Mexico points unmistakably to thorough preparation of the soil.

Last week the United States rang with arms. This week another string is being pulled and smooth talk is the order of the day. "Centificos" of the Pino Juarez brand and leading organs of finance vie with one another in decanting on the mutual interests that link this country to Mexico. But ties of such a kind; land grants that cover acres by the million and command hundreds of miles of ocean frontage; control of mines and forests and waters; in a word, the rifling of the national treasure house—such ties do not bind men or nations in mutual affection but in that hatred which springs inevitably from the relationship of master and slave. The situation in Mexico is a part, and a most significant part, of the worldwide economic revolt.

Peace is the normal and proper condition, both as between individuals and nations. Mutual aid, practised in the free and unfettered interchange of the products of human toil, unhampered by those so-called protective tariffs which politicians erect for the creation of offices and the collection of taxes, is the normal and proper condition for the human family. But there can be no peace, and there will be no peace, so long as economic monopoly reigns and the few have the many at their mercy. I can understand the lion wishing to digest his meal in comfort, but I remark that it is unsatisfactory to the lamb.

WM. C. OWEN.

LABOR VS. WALL STREET.

The Mexican Revolution opens up the whole question of imperialism—for the benefit of Wall Street emperors; the whole question of going to the rescue of speculators whose alleged titles are known to be rotten with fraud; the whole question of whether we mean to shed good American blood that a nation may be expatriated and a landed aristocracy entrenched in power. Crush the Mexican Revolution and Mexicans will swarm by the millions across the border, to cut American wages to the starvation line. Put that in your pipe, Mr. Indifferent Workman, and smoke it thoughtfully. Take a walk around Los Angeles, note the number of Mexicans employed even now and think it over.

RADICALS! ATTENTION!

Our pamphlet on the Mexican Revolution is published specially for circulation among those interested in the social problem. Price 5 cents a copy. Generous discount on orders of five and over. You can make money by ordering in quantities.

Madero Branded Puppet Of
Guiltier "Higher Ups"Noted Statesmen Warn Public as to
Danger of InterventionThousand Non-Combatants in Morelos
Slaughtered by Authorities

In a question so vital as that of Mexico not to rise above personalities and partisanship is an unpardonable crime. We should welcome, therefore, the justification of the Mexican Liberal Party which the National Socialist Press sent out in its Washington telegram of Feb. 7. The following is the most suggestive paragraph, clipped from the "Chicago Daily Socialist" of that date:

"Your correspondent has learned that the interests which sought to overthrow the Diaz regime and to establish the Madero rule are not satisfied with their bargain. These interests—and the Standard Oil and the Southern Pacific are chief among them—have been able through the medium of John Hays Hammond, now on a 'business trip' in Mexico, through C. P. and Henry Taft, brothers of the president, and through channels less easy to trace out, to influence the administration to keep the troops on the border as well as to reverse its policy of last spring and declare openly that it will send men across the Rio Grande."

That indictment of Madero justifies the position taken by the Mexican Liberal Party and its organ, "Regeneracion," in February last. We then severed connection with Madero because we had received what we considered overwhelming proof that he was what he has proved to be—the agent of big business and monopoly. As such he was ennobling the Mexican masses who had taken up arms for the overthrow of monopoly. We had only the choice of sharing his treason or repudiating him.

This item is placed ahead of all other news, however important that other news may be, because the enlightenment of thousands of Socialists by the telegram referred to is even more important. Common sense tells us that the rank and file of Socialists are honesty itself. Our letter box confirms that judgment daily.

The Real Criminals.

Madero's treachery, his faithlessness, the callousness with which he has broken every promise, are at the bottom of this trouble. But, criminal as he is, we should not neglect to go after the "higher ups." If Standard Oil, the Southern Pacific, and other iniquitous "interests" are guilty of all this bloodshed we want to know it, and we hope the National Socialist Press will help us by giving out its proofs.

The name of John Hays Hammond has been very prominent of late. He was active at the time of the Boer war, being one of the chief agents of the Johannesburg gold-mining gambler gang, for which honest blood was shed in torrents. Americans will do well to hesitate before they spill their own for any cause championed by such a man.

Another passage in the aforesaid telegram is worthy of production. It runs: "It is also pointed out in military as well as congressional circles in Washington that Taft's political fortunes are today at their lowest ebb, and that nothing short of plunging the country into a war of conquest, with plenty of booty in sight, can possibly re-elect him."

That game has been played over and over again, especially in European politics; for the more ignorant the inhabitants of a country the more easily can they be duped with "patriotism" and induced to enthrone over a war in which they pay the piper with their lives and purses. We have regarded it from the first as one of the most serious danger points, but we still hope the American nation is too intelligent to allow a card so obviously marked to be thrown upon the table.

Clamor for Protection.

Hearst, whose fortune is drawn largely from the unpaid toil of the Mexican peasant, has been yelling for intervention in all his papers, and he is only a type of many "interests," all working for government protection in Mexico, as they work for government protection in this country by means of the plundering tariff. Instead of looking out for themselves,

and preventing trouble by acting justly, they rob with both hands and then expect some ninety-two millions of people, whom they have been gouging mercilessly, to save them. But we are getting right to the heart of this government-protection swindle and beginning to understand who gets the kernel and who the shell. Representative Sulzer, who is chairman of the foreign affairs committee at Washington, has entered sturdy protest. As reported under date of Feb. 13, he said, in part:

"An invasion of Mexico would be equivalent to a declaration of war, and would be the most costly war in the history of our country, entailing a loss of life and money beyond comprehension. I am informed that to hold Mexico would require from three hundred thousand to half a million soldiers, at an annual cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. Indeed it would, as we have been warning our readers for months past, and it would unite against this country, as we have never wearied of repeating, every Spanish-speaking nation from the border to Cape Horn. But what care Hearst and his like for all these things?"

Under the heading "Cognizant of danger to the Americans," the "Los Angeles Daily Times" of Feb. 14 reports that instructions have been sent from Washington to every American consular officer in Mexico, authorizing a denial of "all foolish stories of intervention" and declaring that the United States "demands nothing but the respect and protection of American life and property in the neighboring republic." In previous issues we have commented more than once on that saying clause, which leaves the whole question wide open.

One notes that Representative Slayden, of Texas, who is a member of the House committee on military affairs, has protested in Congress against the "incendiary language" and "loose talk" indulged in by army officers respecting the situation in Mexico, saying that such talk "might bring about a situation in which Congress would be forced into war." Deeds are more eloquent than words. How can the government make elaborate preparations for the despatch of an army of 100,000 men and then expect those called on to abstain from talk?

Slain in Cold Blood.

Madero has taken another of his despairing steps and announced a war of extermination, the federal forces having received orders to give no quarter. A Mexico City despatch, dated Feb. 13, reads: "One thousand Zapatistas, all non-combatant suspects, were killed in the State of Morelos this week, according to figures on record in the war department." Readers will not fail to note the words "all non-combatant suspects." They mean that even by the admission of the authorities, who are certain to underestimate, a thousand helpless human beings have been shot down in cold blood, in one single week and in one State alone, because they were "suspected" of sympathizing with Zapata. But, as we have shown repeatedly and by overwhelming evidence, ALL the country population in Morelos sympathizes with Zapata, and it is our duty to recognize that this most bloody war is a war by the official class, representing itself and the moneyed interests, against the common people.

When Madero suspended constitutional guarantees we said at once that thousands would join the rebels, preferring the chances of death in battle to the risk of being shot down, without trial, as "suspects." The item argument ample support, and in the despatch from which it was taken there followed immediately this interesting piece of information: "Twelve thousand Oaxaca Indians of the same tribe to which Diaz' mother belonged, rose in arms today. Their leader, Heliodore Diaz Quintan, has demanded the resignation of Madero."

If those twelve thousand men are armed as completely as Zapata's forces appear to be, their entrance

into the field should finish Madero, for it must be evident to all that at this moment the scales are nicely balanced. But, alas! the government—as always—has the resources and the arms, the people too often having to fight with little but their bare arms. If commercialism has left among the Americans one spark of heroism it should flash out NOW, in behalf of the underdog in this great struggle.

The tribe from which Diaz came is a tribe of natural fighters; a breeder of capable and fearless men. It happens to be the tribe to which the Magons belong.

The encounters going on from day to day throughout the length and breadth of Mexico are now reported so fully in the daily press than no detailed account is attempted in these columns. In the editor's opinion it is infinitely more important that the American people should grasp the rights and wrongs of this momentous conflict than that they should gloat over the number of killed and wounded in particular engagements.

Bravo! "Tribune!"

"With all respect for John Hays Hammond, who is a great engineer, and also a great man, as the custom of spelling his name out in full attests, it may be said that the investments of himself and his friends in Mexico give slender excuse for a large country's putting on war paint and rushing an armed host to the border."

"When American financiers exploit a neighbor domain it is their rule to take everything in sight, and this ought to include the taking of chances."

"Diaz used to scatter largess with considerable freedom, and Mexicans, having failed to induce him to amend his ways, sent him abroad. If this has in any manner affected the title to gifts he bestowed, and the people who think they owned the stuff that Diaz donated are inclined to be ugly about it, their state of mind does not become a national concern to residents on this side of the line."

"If everybody who went into a business deal and lost were to call out soldiery there would be turmoil everywhere and all the time." ("The Tribune," Los Angeles.)

COMING HOME TO ROOST.

Mexico is paying heavily today for the rascalities of Diaz and his gang of politicians. In all justice the "high" financiers who profited by those rascalities should be made to pay their share. If the United States helps them to evade that obligation the United States will have to pay, and a pretty stiff rate of interest will be added. Every blessed one of those chickens eventually will come home to roost.

THINK IT OVER.

Nearly five million acres and more than five hundred miles of Mexican waterfront claimed by a couple of Los Angeles speculators! And they trying to sell it to the Japanese! A pretty combination for a civilized nation to be upholding with its fleet and army!

We know what the Philippine annexation has cost us; or, if we don't, the discharged soldiers, who have been on the bum ever since, can tell us about it. Have we any idea what the bill for the attempted annexation of Mexico will be? And all for the benefit of our greatest enemies, the plutocratic speculators!

Great Britain is the power that has worked imperialism for all its worth. Her chancellor of the exchequer today admits that, in England alone, there are two million starving and twelve million on starvation's verge. England has less than half our population. This business of foreign conquest is a fine thing for the workman, isn't it?

THE TRUE CONSERVATIVES.

Monday, Feb. 12, Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, made a speech in which he predicted a revolution in this country if conditions were not improved. Today, Feb. 13, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, the government's chief food expert at Washington, D. C., is reported as declaring that "the time is rapidly approaching when the wealthy will face mob violence on the streets," because "every day the position of the workman is becoming worse."

We agree with these predictions, adding that the wonder, and unspeakable crime, is that the poor have endured their poverty so long. Everybody feels that way except the labor leaders, who are not going to admit that they have made a failure of their job. To expect that is to expect too much of human nature.

Mexico's Struggle
For Economic
Freedom

(Continued from Feb. 10)

For my part I do not believe that, in the long run, you can force the stream of a nation's life into channels foreign to it, although I grant that with sufficient money, and the armed force money can hire, you may appear to be able to do so for a time. I emphasize, therefore, the character and inherited habits of the Mexican masses as the powder of which is composed the train that has led to a series of explosions, the end of which no one can foresee. To drive my point more securely home I quote from an article contributed recently by Voltairine de Cleyre to "Volne Listy," in which, examining this special phase of the situation, she writes: "The Indian's 'laziness' is proverbial among white men; but, far from its being what the white man thinks it is, it is rather the intense protest of a free soul against a useless and degrading waste of life. He wishes to feel himself a child of the sun and sky, a being through whom moves the breath of life, a thing of the soil and the air, and not a tool for the aimless production of heaps of goods at some one else's orders."

"The half-breeds, on the white side again, are the descendants of Latins; and, while the Latin peoples work, they have never hungered and thirsted after purely commercial gain as have northern nations; they have always preserved a devotion to the beautiful (even the useless beautiful) and the mere joys of life—song, dance and festival—unknown to the Anglo-Saxon."

"Add to all this the enervating climate of much of Mexico, and you have an understanding of what our grab-and-get system of life stigmatizes as 'Mexican laziness.'"

"These people want the land; they do not want to live in cities; they want to use the land in their own way, according to their inherited communal customs."

"Time and time again they have rebelled, and their rebellions have been murderously put down, but this instinctive hunger for the free field of life is so essentially a part of their being that the only way to kill it is to kill the entire agrarian population. At the present time it has risen up more invincible than ever; and although the people are ignorant—less than 20 per cent being able to read and write—they need no book learning to convince them that the land is theirs by right."

The Capitalist Invasion.

What are thirty-six years in the life of a nation as compared with customs originating in a past that ante-dates written history? Less than thirty-six years ago Diaz came into power, and it is only with him that the capitalist invasion of Mexico begins. It was Diaz who, in the phrase used by William Archer, in "McClure's" of August, 1911, invited foreign plutocracy to "riffling the national treasure house," and it is to be noted that his predecessor, Benito Juarez, specifically declared himself opposed to railroads, saying that they would annihilate the desert barrier that alone protected Mexico from invasion by alien capitalists. To this day the memory of Benito Juarez is worshipped in Mexico as is no other memory, and Mexican public opinion views foreign capitalism not as a constructive but as a fatally destructive force. That is also the opinion of a well-instructed and rapidly-increasing school of thought, which indorses in its entirety the simple political economy of the unlettered Mexican peon. I say most emphatically that to toil for the foreign taskmaster is the death of individual and national life; that absentee landlordism is an unmitigated curse that every nation ultimately will have to expel from its system, even if it has to bleed copiously to do so; that nowhere has the imposition of the foreign taskmaster's yoke been more brutal and remorseless than in Mexico. So naturally rich is Mexico that for centuries she has roused to frenzy the greed of the freebooter; but the sword of Cortes was to the methods of modern finance as a toy pistol is to the monstrous siege guns of today. All over the world the aristocrats of finance are revelling on the dividends wrung from the Mexican toiling in mines and factories, on sugar, hemp and tobacco plantations, on ranches over which it takes days to ride.

Parasites Every One.

I have no space to relate in detail the story of the rape of which Mexico has been the victim, and content myself with reproducing what I wrote in "Regeneracion" of October 7, 1911. It runs as follows: "Most eloquently suggestive of ex-

isting conditions is the article on which the "Los Angeles Times" spread itself Sunday, Oct. 1, congratulating this city on 'the sudden influx of members of the oldest and proudest families of Mexico,' families, as it remarks, that 'ranked right along with that of Diaz in the olden days.' 'The names,' it says, 'belong to former governors, statesmen, wealthy planters, mine owners and land operators who will in the future direct the development of their vast properties in Mexico from Los Angeles, bringing here a wealth that cannot be estimated. Los Angeles will actually rival Mexico City in the control of estates, giving pleasant and safe residence where all that is the best in American civilization can be enjoyed.'

"Among those singled out for special notice are the former governor of Guerrero, the former governor of Sinaloa, Luis E. Torres, former governor of Hermosillo and a notorious land monopolist, Jesus Almada, who recently sold one of his estates for \$3,000,000, and Bernardo Garcia, a multi-millionaire bachelor. However, dozens and dozens of others are mentioned casually."

"The spokesmen for these people all declare they are out of politics; the former governor of Guerrero, who has properties valued at \$50,000,000 for sale, goes out of his way to shower compliments on Madero, and all announce their intention of living in Los Angeles on the labor of their fellow-countrymen. Every one of them looks forward to a life of luxury without doing a stroke of work; every one of them is confessedly an absentee landlord and glories in it, and the 'Times' congratulates Los Angeles on the influx of this horde of pirates. Is it any wonder that those who, like the Mexican Liberal Party, are urging the Mexican workers to make these pirates walk the plank, are being hounded down by the wealth and power of the United States, which gazes on the Mexican peon with disgust while idolizing the parasites that feed upon him? Have we not here the social problem in a nutshell? On one or other side of the Mexican Revolution must not every one of us take his stand?"

(To be continued)

AGENTS! ATTENTION!

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CONFISCATE 12,000 ACRES.

"The real trouble that Wall Street bankers are worrying about, however, is not so much political as it is military. For months there has been a settled conviction that United States troops must march across the Rio Grande. What may be the first move in this direction was made when the Dolores Mining Company let it be known that the government of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, has confiscated all the surplus of its 12,000 acre mining property. This property is owned by American citizens and formal protest has been made to Washington on account of the outrage. Although the company bought and paid for this property ten years ago, receiving no favors from the government, and although it has expended \$200,000 gold in surface improvements, the entire territory has been thrown open to settlement by anybody caring to locate there. Protest to the governor of the state has received no attention and an appeal to Washington was the last resort. Most people in the financial district are of the opinion that the quicker American troops cross the river the better it will be for American interests in the sister republic." ("Shotwell's Daily Wall St. Letter," in Hearst papers, Feb. 9.)

The late Mexican consul offers publicly to lead 5,000 Mexicans from Los Angeles to help Madero, and the daily press gives him space by the yard. What about those intervention laws and the stern order to keep hands off which they used to drum into our ears?

Will the United States
Intervene in Mexico?

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