

Regeneration.

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Money Slaves! Our
Fight Is Yours

To mass soldiers on a frontier is recognized always as likely to precipitate a conflict. Compared with the apprehended danger from flying bullets is insignificance itself.

There is great anxiety as to the safety of Americans and other foreigners now resident in Mexico. To inspire Mexicans with the conviction that you intend to invade their country is to increase that risk incalculably. Conditions in Mexico have been concealed from the American people, whose press, up to about two weeks ago, continuously assured them that all was well. The public should insist on time in which to discuss the situation and learn why and on whose behalf it is being called to arms.

"REGENERACION" HAS BEEN RIGHT! I capitalize the fact, not to boom this paper, but because it is most important that the mouthpiece of a great, far-reaching revolution should have proved itself reliable. "Regeneration" has been right in its steadfast affirmation that the Mexican upheaval is purely economic, having as its primary object the recovery by the people of their stolen lands. It has been right in its contention that Madero must be overthrown, because, like all the previous politicians, he has tried to cheat the masses. It has been right in its refusal to regard Zapata as a bandit, and in its insistence that only as the representative of a vital principle could he have gathered the following he commands. In proof of all which I refer to John A. Avirette's article on Zapatism, published in "Collier's" of Feb. 24 and reviewed in another column. That article will reach tens of thousands who never heard our name, and will do something, at least, to offset the web of lies woven so industriously by the plutocratic press.

All the world's senses economic revolution as in the air. People may not call it that, for they have a thousand prejudices, timidities and self-conceits which they can get incalculable benefits without struggling truly for them. Nevertheless, all this sense revolution is in the air. Gen. Otis himself knows that vast changes are inevitable and Gen. Otis' humblest dependent will tell you there is going to be a smash. The feeling may be vague and formless, but therein the coming revolution proves its kinship to nature's greatest forces, which come we know not whence and go we know not whither.

Conflicting doctrines swarm, but amid them all we find one common trait; one scarlet strand that runs throughout the tangle. However different our ideas may be we all recognize that the world at large is working as it never worked before, and with a productivity of which our fathers never dreamed. Yet from all this work we get no satisfaction, and the road we travel so laboriously leads apparently to nowhere. We work frantically, or struggle even more frantically for the chance to work; we fight to swell the world's already overflowing pile; our lives are one long-drawn anxiety to earn at any occupation, however tedious and loathsome, the bare living the savage earns with less toil and greater satisfaction. Do you suppose the North-American Indian got no fun out of the buffalo hunt that supplied him with his winter's food? On the other hand, do you suppose the South-African Kaffir enjoys digging in the mines that some woman he never heard of may blaze with diamonds? Yet that is precisely what the workingman is doing throughout the world, and it is no wonder that he does not like it. He is only grumbling today. Look out tomorrow!

When you live by collecting rents or cutting coupons, social arrangements may have a charming air, provided you deny yourself the luxury of thought; but, apart from these privileged few, nowdays is contented with our industrial life? Is it possible that lawyers and doctors enjoy

the degradation of their office to an undignified and unscrupulous scramble for the dollar? Newspapersmen habitually speak with withering contempt of the rascally rich to whose defense they give their talents. Traders and manufacturers go with fear and trembling into the production and distribution of goods nineteen-twentieths of which, as they themselves will tell you, have to be forced upon the market. These objectionable things we do because we have to live; because commercialism is a meaningless jumble wherein we turn indefatigably a monstrous wheel of industry like stupid squirrels in a cage. It is all as unsatisfactory as anything can be, and the discontent it has engendered is so wide and deep that escape by revolution, at all and any cost, is in everybody's thought. Even the blowing up of the "Times" did not shock this community, and the wider-spread the dynamite conspiracies may prove to be the more welcome will be the discovery to millions of our people. Not because they love violence, but because they look on the present situation as hopeless and want somebody besides themselves to set the avalanche in motion.

Ourselves seething with discontent we now wish the simpler races to adopt our aimless life, and those who live by rents and profits think the Mexican should yearn to throw himself into our maelstrom. "Let him progress," they say. "Let him put aside his childish pleasure in the sun and air; the mountain, stream and forest; the power to roam and the liberty to call his life his own. Let him enter our service and we will make him USEFUL. In our factories he shall turn out choice raiment, for us to wear; in our mines he shall have the privilege of digging gold, for us to spend; on our spacious haciendas he shall raise cattle and crops, for our consumption; he shall build roads for our Pullman cars to travel; he shall erect palaces in which we will take our ease; he shall be civilized." Do they think the Mexican insane?

We ourselves are caught in the tangle of a system which, though some day we may straighten it out for general use, at present binds the masses hand and foot. Modern invention has taken us sailing up into the skies and, for the time being, we have lost all touch of earth. Our sense of values has been so paralyzed that we take pride even in producing the injuries, and you will find thousands pluming themselves on the fidelity with which they help some preposterous millionaire to add to his ill-gotten and socially destructive gains. All that is regarded as highly virtuous, while those who, if they could, would take our cannibals by the throat and compel them to disgorge are eyed with horror, even by those on whom the cannibals habitually feast. We have lost our grip of basic facts. The Mexican has not.

As proof I cite our treatment of the social problem. Instead of proceeding from the simple to the complex; instead of attacking the root, which could be severed at a blow, we attempt to destroy the Aps tree by stripping it of fruit. We wear out years attempting to diminish the hours and increase the wages of slave labor, although it is obvious that slave labor itself would disappear with the destruction of slavery, and that the one thing needed for that destruction is to give the slave the chance of being his own master. We talk about organization and education as if the paying of dues and study of economics would in themselves, by some marvellous hocus-pocus, make property change hands and kill monopoly. We preach temperance and similar moralities as if the good things of life dropped spontaneously into the laps of saints. But, happily, the Mexicans have not been chloroformed with any such delusions. Happily they want, not diamonds and jaded tastes and ruined stomachs, but the simple, healthy supplies that nature furnishes unstintingly to all who feed upon her breast. There the Mexicans intend to feed, even if all the money powers of the world oppose them. They will fight it out along that line, if it takes a generation; and their fight will educate the world at large, bringing it back to the sense of realities needed for an international struggle that has but just begun.

WM. C. OWEN.

TO HONOR KROPOTKINE.

Peter Kropotkin's seventieth birthday will be observed at the big Labor Temple Auditorium Hall, Saturday evening, March 23, 8 o'clock, with a general entertainment and ball. Tickets, 25 cents each, can be obtained from M. Lerner, 558 Maple Ave., the P. Kahn Produce Co., 931 San Pedro St., Tyre's Book Store, 920 Temple St., and at this office. Radical papers, please copy.

Boost Intervention as They
Boost Their StocksCoined and Misconstrued Interviews
Used Without ScrupleMexico's Fight for Her Lands Waged
With Added Vigor

When American and other photographers bought Mexican land by the hundreds of square miles did they ask what right the vendors had to sell it? Did they ask how it was that a few were able to dispose of prime palitides? Of course they did not. They took their alleged rights knowing them to be absolutely rotten. They knowingly made themselves partners in one of the most gigantic crimes on record. By every principle of justice they should be punished. Most certainly they should not be upheld by American bayonets.

Threat to slaughter Americans in Mexico. Such was the seven-column top-line that flamed across the front page of the "Los Angeles Daily Times" of Feb. 28. It was its method of reporting the fact that Madero's secretary had given out an interview in which he expressed serious alarm as to the safety of Americans in the event of intervention. Whether it was a wise opinion need not be discussed. The point is that, as shown clearly by the language, it was merely an opinion, and that the "Times," eager to inflame its readers, immediately labelled it a threat.

Madero's secretary now repudiates the "authorized interview," his declaration, as given in the "Times" of Feb. 29, being: "I beg you to deny that I have made any such statement."

Those who start and egg on a quarrel should be the ones required to fight it out. If American guns must be shouldered in this affair the real estate speculators, who are answerable for all this trouble, and the newspaper proprietors, who are now seeking to make money by it, should be sent to the front.

Examination of Mexican papers for the current week shows Zapatistas, Vazquistas and rebels of all shades proclaiming themselves in arms for the purpose of restoring the land to the people. The number of peon uprising, with "The Land" as their cry, is remarkable. Obviously no such restoration is possible so long as vast domains are to be recognized as the monopoly of absentees who rest their title on grants from such a government as Diaz ran for more than thirty years. "The Times" of Feb. 28 has as its cartoon that gentleman enjoying himself in France. Beside him is a treasure chest labelled \$60,000,000, obviously intended to represent his share of the swag. From the caption and general treatment of the subject it is evident that the "Times" views that theft of \$60,000,000 with approval. Meanwhile those who benefited by Diaz' rascalities claim possession, and the people of Mexico, with one voice, dispute it. To cite an instance we have quoted more than once, they have no idea of acknowledging the right of a couple of Los Angeles speculators to over five hundred miles of coastland.

San Luis Potosi Plan.

Madero's troubles are due to his failure to comply with what is known as the "Plan of San Luis Potosi," to which he solemnly swore adherence in October, 1910. We have had enquiries as to this plan and now translate the section dealing with the land question. It runs as follows:

"Owing to the abuse of the law relating to uncultivated lands, many small proprietors, most of them natives, have been despoiled of their lands, either by the connivance of the Secretary of Agriculture or by decrees of the law courts. Inasmuch as, in all justice, these ancient possessors should be put once more in possession of the lands of which they have been despoiled in so arbitrary a manner, such dispositions and such decrees are hereby declared subject to revision, and those who acquired the lands in a manner so immoral, or their heirs, shall be compelled to restore them to the original proprietors, to whom they shall also pay an indemnity for the injuries suffered. But where the lands have passed into the hands of third persons before the promulgation of this plan, the ancient

proprietors shall receive indemnity from those who shall be shown to have profited by the despoilment. That is the basis of all this trouble, and as Ricardo Magon wrote long ago—Madero's chief weakness lay in the fact that, being himself one of the greatest of land monopolists, he did not understand the people, but believed that on this point—the very one as to which they were most deeply in earnest—they could be fooled with words. It will be noticed that the Plan of San Luis Potosi was adopted nearly eighteen months ago, and feeling on the land question has ripened enormously since that date.

Revolt: Almost Universal.

Despite the difficulty of obtaining news, owing to severed communications, we find our list of warlike activities far fuller than it was last week, and give the following brief summary, by States, of information taken directly from leading Mexican papers. Coahuila: At Aldama, A. Sanchez Fuentes and M. Delgado, well-known in the business world, rise in arms and declare for Gomez. San Rafael, San Antonio, La Joya and Las Cruces taken. Torreon still isolated. The extensive district known as La Laguna entirely in the hands of the rebels.

Chihuahua: Ojinaga and Santa Rosalia surrendered. Boquilla attacked and Camaraga besieged. Antonio Rojas calls on Guerrero to surrender. Durango: All means of communication throughout the State severed. One hundred and fifty Zapatistas occupy Bermejillo. Tlalualilo, Velandena, Sacramento and Asarco taken. Guanajuato: Guerrillas in the vicinity of the Valle de Santiago reported unusually active. Twelve small towns taken. Eighty peons on hacienda at Chichimeguillas rise.

Guerrero: Rebels concentrating at Acapulco. At Tecapulco 200 rebels join Salgado. Pipilulco taken. Bridge blown up and federal soldiers killed at Amacuzac. Neighborhood of Aguas Blancas reported as infested by rebels.

Jalisco: Degollado taken. Jesus Maria and Jilotlan threatened. Rebels active in neighborhood of Tecalitlan. Puebla: Raisings reported at San Miguel Canoas, Acatlan and Tepeji, the slogan being: in each instance "The Land!" The same reported of Indian risings at Malintzi and San Pablo del Monte. Maderist force at Tezintlan joins the Vazquistas, Zacapoxtlan taken.

San Luis Potosi: Jail delivery at Alaquines. San Martin Chalchicuitlan attacked by force of 200, to the cry of "The Land!"

Sinaloa: Communications largely severed. Altata taken. Guerrilla bands numerous and active.

Sonora: Trouble at Cananea, in which four were killed and twenty wounded. Pueblo Nuevo and Bacanuche taken. Thirty-five prisoners break jail at Magdalena and join the rebels. Ranches near Nogales reported raided.

Other states could have been added and the foregoing list must be regarded as illustrative rather than as complete. We omit all account of the activities of the Zapatistas in Morelos, as to which American dailies have had much to say. The summary exhibits the entire country as in upheaval and refutes Madero's repeated telegrams to the effect that he has the situation well in hand.

Do Not Want Juarez.

At a special cabinet meeting held Feb. 28 Madero's government decided to take no steps to regain possession of Juarez, but to devote its energies to Torreón and the Laguna District in the South of Coahuila and Northern Durango. The Mexican ambassador has requested that the United States customs officers be instructed to hold up shipments of arms to Mexico. Such shipments, it should be remembered, were permitted during the Madero uprising.

The right previous to the capture of Juarez by the Vazquistas Madero telegraphed the "Los Angeles Examiner" that "the situation in Mexico is not as grave as it is described in the alarming despatches. The Americans

should not be afraid of their lives and interests." He further expressed confidence in the fidelity of Orozco. The latter's term of office expires March 1 and it is believed that he will then declare his position definitely.

The "Los Angeles Daily Times" devotes much of its front page, Feb. 29, to a dissertation on Mexico, the gist of which may be gathered from the heading, which runs, in part: "Restoration of peace will probably come only with intervention." People of Mexico shown to be unfit for self-government and President's Utopian dreams of lifting peons out of bondage prove too far advanced for popular use. What a fine lot of help the peon has had! Having insisted that without the land he can do nothing he has been fought at every step.

PATRIOT MORALITY!

The "Los Angeles Daily Times," daily plea for intervention was headed, Feb. 27, "Our country, right or wrong." And started with the following choice specimen of morality: "One phase of national character of which Americans have reason to be proud is our nation-wide acceptance of the sentiment: 'Our country, right or wrong.' It was Dr. Johnson who said: 'Patriotism! Patriotism! Sir, is the last refuge of scoundrels.' America's celebrated satirist, Ambrose Bierce, commented on that noted saying thus: 'I amend. It is the first.'"

Having begun as indicated the article concludes: "President Taft would be less than loyal to his duty if he did not ask authority from Congress to send troops into Mexico, not to assail rebels, but to protect them; not to make war, but to insure peace and order." The argument's worth may be gauged by the writer's pride in his incapacity to distinguish between right and wrong; an incapacity which most libelously, he imputes to the whole nation.

If Constitutions amounted to anything Mexico and the United States would be paradises for all. Constitutions amount to nothing. Only men who stand up for their rights, at any cost, are worth the counting.

MERELY THE STARTING POINT.

The same issue of the "Los Angeles Daily Times" that contained the generous study of Zapata, dealt with in another column, has an editorial in which it is charged that Los Angeles Anarchists are fomenting the disturbances in Mexico; the article concluding with this genial sentiment: "We call on the representatives of the United States in Los Angeles to get busy and head off the Reds."

The "Times" should have evolved out of the ancient Chinese delusion that the enemy can be routed by making faces and calling names. Land monopoly cannot be slain by any such childish method, and it will be equally ineffective against those who recognize that to sweep a nation's land from beneath its feet is the most monstrous of all crimes. The fight against Moneybags being permitted to buy up the earth has only just begun. Mexico is merely the starting point.

In the "Times" write-up there was this grain of truth: "The plans of the revolutionists at this stage are said to be extremely simple, a slow campaign having been marked out." That is correct. We hope we have the sense to recognize that economic revolution does not work themselves out in a day or to the accompaniment of the spectacular fireworks so dear to sensational journalism.

Politicians say: "Will it pay?" Men say: "Is it right?" The difference is that between day and night, illusion and reality, lasting success and eternal bamboozledom.

If you want a real fight—one that goes to plutocracy's very heart—come along! If you want to swap dreams for another century or two, stand aside. You are no use to us.

How shall the rider be made to get off the horse's back? By neighing, by snorting, by following to the four winds? Do you think so? Then, stand aside. You are no use to us.

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

Zapata as Viewed
By "Collier's"
and "Times"Mexican Revolution
Has Real Moral
Backbone

John A. Avirette, whose recent article on the Mexican situation, published in "Collier's," was reviewed in our issue of Feb. 3, has another article in the same magazine, under date of Feb. 24. It is an estimate of Zapata and, as will be seen, is almost wholly favorable, although the editor has given it the evil-suggesting title, "Mexico's Trouble Maker." The greatest men in history have been trouble-makers.

The author of the article is a soldier, and he went down into the hot lands, where Zapata has his stronghold, accompanied on the first part of his journey by another soldier; no less a personage than Gen. Ambrosio Figueroa, governor of Morelos. They started in to discuss Zapatism and, in Mr. Avirette's own words, "the general gave me an absolute surprise for he said: 'Emiliano Zapata is not the bloodthirsty bandit that the property-owning class affect to believe. He is full of ideals and believes in himself and his cause as strongly as Madero formerly believed in his. The people of his state are with him to a man, and the suppression of Zapatism is a giant's job.'"

"Why, General," said I, surprised, "I thought you and he were bitter personal enemies. It is so reported in the city."

"The report is correct," said the General grimly. "I fight my enemies and do not lie about them. I leave that to the political scum of the city."

"Regeneration" assuredly is not one of Figueroa's admirers, but it likes him for that speech.

Continuing, Figueroa said that Zapata had expected to be made governor of the State he had wrested from Madero from Diaz, but that also "there is no doubt whatever that the man really desires that the lands of the Indian-Poblanos (village dwellers) be returned to them. The great land barons of this country are at heart the same predatory rich that you have in your own, and their consciences are not overly worn with use. Under the Spanish viceroys a certain village would own, communally, all the lands within a league of the church door. These lands have fallen gradually into the hands of the moneyed class, by rightful and proper purchase in some instances, through legal chicanery in others. The unschooled Indians were often induced to sign legal documents on some pretext—documents that they could not read or understand—then were later told that they had signed away their property rights. With a potentially brave people this can have but one outcome in the long run."

His Powerful Allies. So much for the testimony of a naturally prejudiced witness; an acknowledged personal enemy of Zapata, a wealthy landowner and a Madero official. Let us see now what Mr. Avirette found out from the Zapatistas themselves, as the result of his sojourn in Morelos and Guerrero.

He tells us, first, that "every Indian in the State of Morelos is a zealous Zapatista" and that "every servant of every property owner is potentially a spy for Zapata," it being impossible to wring information from them either by fear or torture. He says that the Zapatistas have a wonderful news and signal system, by which every move of the enemy is known; that they are immune to the heat and malaria, so deadly to the unacclimated, and that "the physical topography of the scene of action is worth twenty thousand Indians in itself." All which is submitted respectfully for the consideration of those who imagine that a campaign in Mexico will be a holiday picnic. He then considers the economic features of the conflict, and we bespeak special attention to his comment, which is as follows:

"All over the 'trouble district' I found, first, suspicion, then hearty courage. So soon as the Indians knew that I was an American they dropped their mask of sullen reserve and suspicion and talked to me freely. The whole burden of their song is this: 'For four hundred years we have borne contumely, hunger and deprivation of our rights. Every time that a revolutionist needed us to overthrow some bad government they called on us and then forgot their promises.' 'We now want back the lands that have been taken from us, and we intend to have them by fair means or foul. Politics, then, are only incident. The revolution is one made

by Communists. The revolution is more dangerous to Madero's government than is generally supposed or admitted—for it has a real moral backbone."

We need not point out that this is the sermon "Regeneration" has been preaching these many months, hoping against hope that those who, for a generation past, have been decrying monopoly, and especially land monopoly, would finally lend ear.

The one redeeming feature of the "Los Angeles Daily Times" is that often it will give the news, even when adverse to the side it has espoused. Thus, eager for intervention though it appears to be, its issue of Feb. 25 contained a column and a half estimate of Zapata that, both as regards justice to himself and to the economic question at the root of all this struggle, leaves little to be desired. Here is the pith of what it had to say, given in summary and direct quotation: "Plutocracy's Victim."

"Zapata is a product of the Diaz rule of oppression. He was one of the victims of the tyranny that was inflicted upon many of the lower class of people all over the country during the Diaz regime. The State of Morelos is famed for its agricultural wealth. It was some of the most fertile years ago that men of considerable power and much wealth began to cast covetous eyes towards these rich valleys, and then began the work of forcibly taking the small farms away from their owners and merging them into vast estates. Zapata was one of the small landowners. His farm was confiscated along with those of many of his neighbors. He was not given an excuse or pretext for the action, he claims. Deprived of his land Zapata was forced to become a peon laborer."

Naturally he became an agitator and in the days of Diaz, men who did not agree with the government were quickly put where they could do no harm. Zapata was sentenced to a long term in the hot lands of Quintana Roo. Few ever survived, but Zapata has a constitution of iron and he served his term, returned to Morelos and immediately resumed his agitation work. Madero refused to aid him with money or arms, but Zapata worked on until he had an armed force of 4,000 at his back. Then Madero welcomed him as an ally, only to throw him down again, as he threw down the Mexican Liberal Party.

After explaining that Zapata and his followers "have shown special hatred towards the landowners who dispossessed them of their small farms," the article concludes:

"While in the northern portions of the country the name of Emilio Vasquez Gomez is coupled with that of Zapata by many of the revolutionists, in Southern Mexico he is the sole recognized leader of the revolt which threatens to topple over the new Madero government."

Revolt's Future Harvest. "Should his plans in this respect be successful the consequences to Mexico would be far reaching. That he would take advantage of his power to establish many radical reforms in the government whereby the wealthier class would be perhaps directly and very seriously affected there is little room for doubt. It is a situation that forebodes great trouble any way it may be viewed."

"Emiliano Zapata is the hero of the common people not only of the States that are now in actual revolt, but of all portions of the country. If the present uprisings are put down the bringing of peace that will continue for any length of time will be a hard matter for the government to accomplish. The seeds of revolt that have been sown by Zapata will continue to bear fruit for years to come unless the government is able to quickly grant the demands of the lower class for a division among them of the vast estates which have for the most part been established by the merging of small properties that were taken from the lower element either by force or by little semblance of law."

"Zapata is a man of fine physique and there is no limit to his endurance. He was married only a few months ago to a pretty mountain girl and she has been his constant companion on his daring campaign of death and destruction ever since."

"From the foregoing you will perceive that, even according to the 'Los Angeles Daily Times,' this is a struggle against plutocracy, which has robbed the people of their lands. If you imagine that invasion will be a frolicful walk-over for the invader you may revise your opinion."

Land, ahoy! What use are pilots who cannot see even that? Must the Mexicans teach us navigation?

Money is not made, says a well known plutocrat. It is taken. Most assuredly they took the land and it has to be taken.