

Regeneracion.

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.

Saturday, March 16, 1912.
No. 81.

Intervention Does
Not Look So Easy

It seems as though the battle of a neighboring nation to extirpate tribute gathering might interest the Socialist press, but it continues stolid as a clam. It seems as though the confiscation of capitalist property by the hundreds of millions of dollars might excite the curiosity of an international organization that takes the "Communist Manifesto" for its gospel, but its organs prefer the discussion of referendum No. 12,099. It seems as though the repeated massing of troops, the possibilities of intervention and racial war, military conscription and the herding of workmen to slaughter at the behest of the money power, might bring a cry of alarm from these supposed sentinels on the watch tower, but they snooze on undisturbed. The deserted post has been occupied, however, and much to our surprise, by some from whom we expected only opposition, and capitalist papers have sounded the warning so called revolutionists have been afraid to utter. I quoted recently from an excellent article in the "Los Angeles Tribune," and I find the following in another of its editorials: "Mexico's anarchy puzzles only those who have not seen the abject pauperism and misery of the Mexican masses. That one revolution should follow another is no mystery. Ninety five per cent of the people are maddened in their dumb, blind way at the exploitation under Diaz that has culminated in a heritage of political and economic slavery. The truth is that there is nothing for the peasant to do. His blood has been sucked, his lands parceled out to native and foreign landlords and promoters, his education neglected."

The article in question is headed, "Keep out of the Mexican Anarchy," and is a powerful protest against intervention. To our astonishment it was followed by one of similar purport in the "Los Angeles Express," which is the most conservative of papers. Under the heading, "No intervention wanted," its editorial writer declared: "As to property interests, let it be said that, much as Americans desire to have the property of the American citizen protected the world over and his investments rendered remunerative, the American business investor demands too much if he asks that regard for his property be seriously weighed in the balance against international peace and good will, and against the protection of human life. That strikes the higher note that life should always be considered superior to man made property, especially when that so called property is merely the speculator's claim to levy tribute. That the Mexican or any other economic revolution will interfere with the producer's title to his product, I, for one, do not believe. It will simply clear away the obstacles that bar him from it, and it may take more than one revolution to accomplish that."

The "Los Angeles Evening Herald," in its issue of March 9, also joined the procession with an editorial which said, among other things:

"Just at this present juncture it would be well for all Americans who have no business in Mexico to keep out if they are out, and to come out if they are in. We are only reiterating the advice of the president of the United States in this latter clause. In the former clause we are only asking our fellow citizens to use the same common sense which teaches everyone to mind his own business and not interfere in the noisy quarrels of his neighbors. If the Mexicans want to fight among themselves, that is their business. It is none of our business. Americans who mix in it do so at their own peril."

In a previous article, dated March 2, the "Los Angeles Tribune" had expressed itself thus: "There are two plain facts sticking out of the situation thus revealed. If we invade Mexico we must be prepared to engage in real war. No one can foretell what a fire of national hatred would be ignited there by any unwarranted act of ours; and let us not delude ourselves

that we could put down an aroused Mexico at less than a terrible cost to ourselves. That country affords greater opportunity for indefinite guerrilla resistance than the Philippines and has a people far more resourceful. Those Americans who hold enormous grants from Diaz should be the last to provoke such a situation. Whatever might be done in the way of confiscation and eventual indemnity therefor, neither Mexican nor American sentiment would ever consent to a restoration of their right to exploit the Mexicans on the present wholesale scale. They would come out worse in the reckoning. Big business therefore should have a direct interest in opposing an attitude on our part that threatens a crisis. But with the fatuity that characterizes its greed in other directions it does not seem to know what is good for it."

The foregoing extracts are given because I believe it will interest our readers to discover that three out of Los Angeles' six capitalist papers are much opposed to intervention, recognize that the Mexican has been robbed most shamelessly and more than intimate that the robber deserves all now coming to him. They are given also to show up, by contrast, the silence of what at one time professed to be a revolutionary press.

WM. C. OWEN.

LABOR BEGINS TO SEE.

"It makes but little difference to the Mexican peon whether he be ruled by tyrant Diaz or millionaire Madero, since he has to toil under the same system of slavery. What the workers in Mexico want is greater freedom and more of the products that they produce, and until they receive it there is very little hope for peace."

"Of course, the United States millionaires might possibly send some of Uncle Sam's soldiers down into Mexico to quell the rebellion, under the pretext of stopping anarchy and protecting property, but, then, the powers at Washington would have to reckon with the American voters."

"With the army of ten million hoboes and the general unrest among the workers at home, which has necessitated a crusade of mental chloroform from New York to San Francisco, an invasion by United States troops into Mexico might prove a bad boomerang." ("Organized Labor," San Francisco.)

GOOD, BUT NOT ENOUGH.

The Lawrence textile workers' strike is reported at this writing as having been settled almost entirely in favor of the strikers. One is glad most heartily, for it is a victory for labor, a victory for direct action and a victory for the I. W. W. But let us not forget that it is only temporary; that the Lawrence workers are still disinherited, and that only when they get back their inheritance, as the Mexican workers are fighting to win back their, will they be safe, economically secure, beyond want and the fear of want.

Do you remember how the Czar Maderized the Russian Revolution by giving it the plaything of a Duma? Today that piece of quackery is habitually spoken of as the "reactionary" Duma, and the price Russia must pay for letting herself be fooled will be the bloodshed of another revolution. Weakness is the vice for which nature has no mercy.

EXTRACT FROM "THE PUBLIC."

"A Great Iniquity. By Leo Tolstoy. The famous letter to the London Times on the iniquity of private property in land. In red paper, with notable illustrations, postpaid 10c."

If we fail to notice such important developments as those connected with the great English strike, the terrible struggle at Lawrence, the free speech fights at Vancouver, B. C., and San Diego, etc., it will be understood that this is due to lack of space. If we were not in sympathy with all such conflicts we should be insane, for the Mexican upheaval is part and parcel of a world-movement, by which it is affected and which it will affect profoundly. If the Mexicans get back their land and call a halt to capitalist imperialism all the world will feel it.

TO HONOR KROPOTKINE.

The proceeds of the Kropotkin celebration, March 23, will be devoted, as we understand, to the publication of his works in Jewish. There should be a good attendance at Labor Temple Auditorium, and tickets can be purchased from M. Lisner, 558 Maple Ave.; the P. Kahn Produce Co., 931 San Pedro St.; at Tyre's Book Store, 920 Temple St., and at this office.

There will be a literary entertainment, a short address by the editor of this section and dancing.

Madero Calls On Nation
To Join His Army

Only by Supporting His Government
Can Liberty be Won

Meanwhile He Urges the Starving Peasant
to be Frugal

When American and other plutocrats 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 principalities? Of course they did not. They took their alleged titles 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.

"The consolidation of my government guarantees the liberties of the Mexican people.—The adherents of the administration should enlist in the federal army.—This call I make to Mexicans in every social sphere, to governors, to civil and military authorities, to private citizens, to owners of haciendas, to the workingmen and to the humble peons of the rural districts. Let them do their utmost to furnish, in their own persons or in those of their friends and servants, their contingent to the army." The extracts are from Madero's appeal to the nation, dated March 3, 1912. It seems to me as pathetic, but instructive, a document as pen could frame.

At great length, Madero explains that the situation, while not as bad as represented, is sufficiently alarming, since it shows that there are bad Mexicans who still stick at nothing to gratify ambition. In contrast he explains that, although he himself overthrew Diaz by force of arms, he did not "call the people to revolution to satisfy my personal ambitions, but to conquer political liberty." On that strain he harps continuously, the preaching being that, with a strong army at its back, the government will "re-establish peace and tranquility in the Republic, under the rule of law, and continue its labors to elevate the culture and ameliorate the economic situation of the workingman and peasant."

In "Regeneracion" of July 15, 1911, we passed in review the first issue of "El Radical—Socialist Workingman's Paper," and called attention to its praise of a manifesto then just issued by Madero. In particular we commented on Madero's statement that the people must look for economic independence to the practice of industry and frugality, which we characterized as likely to be somewhat disappointing to the disinherited peon. It seems almost incredible that at this crisis, with the peasantry in universal revolt, seizing the land and professing distrust of the plutocrats appointed by Madero on his agrarian commission, he should deliver himself as follows:

Words! Words! Words!

"Let not the humble people allow themselves to be deceived by agitators and ambitious persons. Their condition cannot be improved suddenly, as they are being told. Let them remember what I said when the revolution triumphed: 'If your political situation has undergone a radical change in a few months' time, since, from the sad position of pariahs, you have conquered the august rights of citizenship, your social and economic situation cannot be accomplished in so brusque a manner, inasmuch as for that there is needed a constant and prolonged effort, in which no one can instruct you, for you can enrich yourselves only by industry and frugality.'"

It is as if one should attempt to satisfy the Lawrence strikers by reading them an essay on surplus value. The situation calls for a Napoleon and Madero talks like Rockefeller addressing his Sunday school.

Necessarily Madero has much to say about the land question, and what the disinherited peasant can expect from the strong government he is employed to aid in establishing may be gathered from the following:

"Unfortunately Gen. Diaz' government alienated in an immoderate man-

ner nearly all the national lands, but, luckily, some escaped the covetousness of the monopolists. Every Mexican knows that the Madero family itself owns some five million acres) and others have been restored during my administration because the concessionaires had not complied with the obligations they contracted when they acquired such extensive zones of land. For this reason the government has considered the reorganization of the loan bank, an institution that, in accordance with the methods practiced in certain European countries, will acquire great properties and divide them among small proprietors, giving them facilities for payment. Only by these two methods is it possible to solve, within the limits of the constitution, the agrarian question."

Throughout the appeal Madero emphasizes the necessity of operating in accordance with the constitution, and the fact that the constitution recognizes vested rights. It is the vicious circle within which he is compelled to move, as will be all who may step into his shoes. Under the constitution the few, by fair means or foul, have got everything, and Madero calls on the many to respect the constitution.

Enslaved by the Law.

The man is tied hand and foot by legalities; he calls on the millions who have been stripped to the skin to lay down their lives in defense of the legal enemy that has proved their ruin, and apparently he believes that a popularity which vanished long ago will yet enable him to feed with empty phrases a people clamoring for food. Therein he is typical of his age and of the class from which he springs; an age and class that think it possible alternately to summon the people to power and starve it into impotence. He reflects the universal shallowness of the bourgeoisie which, with its nose glued to ledgers, believes hunger can be stayed by vague promises and words conjured into taking the place of bread and butter.

The issue of "El Pais" from which Madero's appeal is taken has for its double-leaded, leading article the heading—"What is coming after this?" It begins with these words: "It is absolutely certain that at this moment there is not a single inhabitant of the country, be he Mexican or foreigner, who has not put this question to himself and others," and continues: "It is recognized generally that the one moral force the present government at first possessed, viz., the popularity of Sr. Madero, has disappeared. That fact is beyond dispute. Similarly, and at a very early date, another of the great material forces needed to sustain the situation—money, the 'nerve of war' as Bonaparte called it—will fail the government." It declares that already famine is at the door; that the "insurrection spreads with the rapidity of a conflagration," and that "the government lacks the moral force (popularity) and the material force (money and soldiers) to combat it."

Preaching and Ingratitude.

"The dictatorship of Diaz," it continues, "by abolishing justice, which is the necessity and desideratum of society and therefore the origin of the state, created the revolution; that is to say, created a decided movement of the people toward justice. Maderism took advantage of that state of revolution and came promising even more; promising not justice but anarchy, more or less veiled. As the result of this prostitution of the revolution and this poisoning of the public mind, who will be capable of filling up the abyss?" The article concludes with the declaration that Madero has been guilty of two colossal errors: (1) Preaching; (2) The throwing down of every one who assisted him in his climb to power.

These extracts and the quotations from Madero's appeal are given at considerable length as throwing light on his chances of resisting longer the assaults now being made from every side.

The exodus of Americans from Mexico continues, telegrams of March 13 stating that about 500 have been leaving Mexico daily. News from the west coast is that many are anxious

to get away but can find no means of transportation, railway, communication, having been severed. The "Los Angeles Daily Times" professes great concern as to conditions in Mexico City, stating that it has now only about two thousand troops, which it considers grossly insufficient in view of the gathering discontent. According to despatches of March 8 field guns were then being placed around the palace.

Orozco Moves Slowly.

Of the big fighting that delights the newspapers there has been little during the past week. Orozco's advance on Torreón, with Mexico City as his ultimate objective, moving slowly, owing to the destruction of railroad tracks. Advances dated March 13 are to the effect that he may not attempt to take Torreón. His vanguard left Chihuahua, March 9. Telegrams of March 12 reported a battle at Torreón in which the rebels had been worsted, but of this there has been no subsequent confirmation.

Lack of news respecting the campaign against Zapata is doubtless due to the rigid governmental censorship, which also renders entirely worthless, as shown in our last issue, the reports of headway made by federal troops. If official information given out during the last six months had been correct every Zapatista would have been swept off the face of the earth long ere this.

Luis Terrazas, the great land monopolist, is in Los Angeles with all his family and a retinue of servants. He expresses the opinion that Madero will put down the revolution, but it is to be noticed that he has joined the colony of what has come to be the Mecca of self-expatriating Mexican millionaires.

According to telegrams of March 13 President Taft has been in consultation with the Foreign Relations Committee of the senate and the representatives from Texas, and Congress is to be invited to amend the neutrality laws, making them even stricter than they are at present.

Our detailed reports, as given in the Spanish section, show guerrilla activity as being, if anything, greater and almost universal. We have not the space to specify, but content ourselves with one or two references as showing once again the agrarian character of the upheaval. For example, "La Prensa" quotes a federal officer, now engaged against the rebels in Durango, as saying that if the revolution is to be crushed there "the lands stolen during the Porfirio Diaz epoch should be restored without delay, for in Durango hardly any one is fighting for anything else." Again, "El Pais" declares that "the revolutionary movement in the State of Oaxaca is of much importance, for all the towns, even the smallest, are demanding fulfillment of the promises made by Madero."

The True Seat of Power.

Such events as the recent railway and the present coal strike in England are educating the public to the enormous power lodged in the hands of those on whose labor depend the production and distribution of necessities. They are causing us to understand that revolution will become an accomplished fact not through the capture of the great metropolitan centers, into which the wealth of the world is poured, but by securing possession of the original sources from which all wealth comes. Feudalism was overthrown in France not by the eloquence of the Parisian orators but by the independent action of millions of French peasants, operating at a thousand points and seizing what their masters had monopolized for centuries. All this the Mexican Liberal Party believes it understands and, while it is indifferent to the fates of the politicians who may grasp and be shorn of power in Mexico City, it attaches every importance to the action of the disinherited in retaking possession of the land, and sees in their determination to defend their rights with arms in hand the surest guarantee of intervention being so dangerous that the proudest power may well shrink from the experiment.

Wanted--Another
"Butcher"
Weyler

"It is no political flag that Emiliano Zapata hoists. The flag this man has raised, around which his dreaded hosts are pressing, is essentially a Socialist flag. Zapata and his followers know nothing of the principles of government. They never have stopped to reflect on the necessities of the political order that have been agonizing Mexico, and they have no idea of the meaning of the dogmas of effective suffrage and no re-election, for those

interested only the intellectuals" and were the central nerve of the revolution of November, 1910.

"The Zapatistas know nothing of the liberty of the press; understand nothing about the separation between Church and State, and you talk Greek to them when you try to demonstrate the sublimity of the principle in the name of which and to realize which our Republic has been passing through convulsion. What the Zapatistas knows is that there are privileged beings in society who have too much while he goes hungry; what he knows is that he has to shoulder a painful task in exchange for a few miserable cents doled out to him on pay day; what he knows is that there is a foreman who, to his imagination, represents the principle of brutal and ferocious authority and obliges him to toil at hard labor under the penalty of perishing from hunger."

The quotation is from an article on "Zapata and Zapatism," in "Revista de Revistas" (Review of Reviews) of Mexico City, which occupies in Mexico fully as high a position as that enjoyed in this country by "Collier's," with whose article on the same subject we dealt extensively two weeks ago. It is suggested that the paragraphs quoted are in themselves a powerful treatise on the social question. The people want bread. The intellectuals offer them political stones.

Jorge Manrique, the author of the article in question, is nothing if not an intellectual. He considers that Zapatism must be crushed at any cost, because "the country" is in danger. In his own words, "it is of little importance whether the ideas of Zapatism are just or unjust. What it behooves us to understand thoroughly is that the life of the nation is in danger; that the fatherland is bleeding from a thousand wounds and that it is our duty to save it at any cost." One should explain that the article was written before the danger of foreign intervention assumed such grave proportions, and that in emphasizing the fatherland's peril the author has in view the fact that social institutions are fighting for existence! In a footnote he expresses himself thus:

Want Social Equality!

"Zapatism spreads and reproduces itself at a geometrical ratio. The numerous classes of the disinherited affiliate themselves with it and bring to it their aspirations for destruction and for the establishment of absolute social equality. And civilization, paralyzed with terror, must resort to energetic re-action in face of the danger of relapsing into barbarism. Let us remember France in the closing years of the eighteenth century."

The author distinguishes clearly between political and economic revolutions; pointing out, with much wealth of illustration, that the former do not disturb society seriously, since they affect, at most, the vested interests of a small section of the nation, which eventually makes satisfactory compromises. Economic revolutions, on the other hand, "tend to a radical transformation of society's mode of life," and "have on their banner the absurd idea of absolute equality, the abolition of private property, the breaking of religious canons and even those which are the foundation of the family." He calls, therefore, for a military dictator, and says:

"In conclusion, there is needed, imperatively needed, a Valeriano Weyler, who will not only suppress hospitals for the wounded but also cemeteries, because it will be his duty to leave corpses hanging from the wayside trees to serve as food for vultures. It is necessary to find a Weyler and give him extraordinary powers, that he may launch himself like a tempestuous avalanche on the Zapatista hateries, imprisoning the wives and children and hanging the Zapatistas themselves on the public highways."

The difficulty about the "Butcher" Weyler business is that the other side also may produce them, and, anyhow, it seems to us that the Madero government has hunted up a fine sample in the person of Gen. Juvenio Robles, who is in command in Morelos and is reported as having more than 12,500 men under him. Recently we quoted a Mexico City despatch of Feb. 13, which ran: "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." Do you wonder that the entire country is in arms, men preferring fighting in the open to being slaughtered when staying quietly at home?

Paris Commune meetings will be held shortly throughout the world, and we suggest that Mexico's living lessons are even more eloquent than were those of France nearly half a century ago. To assist in moulding the present is a nobler and more useful service than the glorification of the past can hope to be.

IT'S COMING TO HIM.

President Madero's troubles in Mexico are of his own making. He has been a false alarm as a reformer. He gave his friends the offices, it is true, but he gave the people nothing. His campaign against Diaz drew most of its strength from the belief that, if he won, there would be done something to break up the great landed estates in Mexico and bring the land back into possession of the people. The Maderists did talk of this, but while Madero is Madero, he is not necessarily a Maderist. The Madero family own some millions of acres of land, to which they have no shadow of just title. Madero, once in office, forgot the people. No wonder the Anarchists proclaim him as a splendid example of what comes over a Socialist in office and proceed to a growingly effective revolt against his mushiness. ("The Mirror," St. Louis.)

A LIVELONG PROPAGANDIST.

More than a generation ago the exploitation of Canadian lands by powerful financial interests produced what was known as the Riel rebellion, just as the stealing of Mexican territory has produced the Mexican Revolution. The British government was strong enough to put down Riel and execute him, and his Secretary of State, Honore J. Jaxon, "escaped to the United States. Since then he has been a tireless propagandist of the principle that the soil and its product should be for the use of him who cultivates it, and last year he visited England and Europe mainly to assist in educating the public there as to the causes that underlie the Mexican upheaval. At the Congress of Races and before various representative labor bodies in England Mr. Jaxon did excellent work in that connection, and returning through Canada to the United States he has left a trail of light behind him. Copies of the "Quebec Daily Telegraph" and "L'Evelement," of the same city, of the "Montreal Daily Herald" and "La Patrie," also of Montreal, contain long notices of meetings at which he explained with admirable lucidity the identity of the aims for which Mexico is struggling with those that form the basis of the international labor movement.

In reality Mr. Jaxon is able to demonstrate that the Metis of Eastern Canada and the native population of Mexico spring from the same stock; that their passion for liberty and justice has never been extinguished, and that, alike in the north and south, they have allied themselves with the Latin race. In his own words: "There are still hundreds of thousands of Metis in the Western United States and Canada. The Metis blood is a strong blood, alike from the intellectual and moral standpoint. It is destined to exercise an influence on the future of the American continent that will be perhaps subtle but, I believe, very important, for it is a blood that has inherited, from the French and from the savage, a passion for justice. And, in our century, justice is more necessary than charity."

With our comrade Jaxon the vindication of these principles has been the passion of a lifetime, pursued in the face of difficulties that would have mastered ninety-nine men out of a hundred. His activity will cease only with his death.

HIS REVERENCE PLAYED.

In a recent issue of the "California Social Democrat" appeared a leading article by one of its editors, Rev. Alexander Irvine, virtually condemning the Lawrence strike and using it, as such editors always use similar occasions, to boost the Socialist Party. For a good, sound, caustic exposure of the fallacies of that article you cannot do better than read "Solidarity," the I. W. W. organ, of March 9.

Maria Rodriguez, of Armourdale Station, Kansas City, Kan., is anxious for the address of Mrs. Frank Davidson, her daughter and her husband, who came to Los Angeles in April, 1911, from Amarillo, Tex. Information will be appreciated greatly.

"If the conclusions that we reach run counter to our prejudices, let us not flinch; if they challenge institutions that have long been deemed wise and natural, let us not turn back." (Henry George.)

Will the United States
Intervene in Mexico?

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