

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.

No. 82.

Saturday, March 23, 1912.

Rulers Know Well Where Power Lies

No one can study the upheaval known as the French Revolution without discovering that the feudal system, which had stood impregnable for centuries, succumbed, not to Parisian eloquence, but to the courage of the peasant, operating at a thousand points and taking for himself what his lord had monopolized so long. Unquestionably the revolution's real force lay there and there alone, as is proved by the fact that Napoleon found it necessary to secure the French peasant in possession of the land he cultivated. Napoleon was a military genius; that is to say, he could discriminate unerringly between real and fictitious power. The politicians he crushed contemptuously; on the city mobs he turned his guns; the country workers he placated.

Study the recent Russian Revolution and you will reach the same conclusion. The tumultuous gatherings in St. Petersburg and other centers were quelled with ease, but the uprisings of the country peasants were an entirely different affair, and it became necessary to pacify the peasants with the Duma toy, which they accepted most foolishly as an instalment on their claims. The concession was made only because the Russian peasant—ordinarily the most submissive creature in the world—had shown his teeth, refused to work, raided the nobility's estates and even annexed them for himself. He had stopped supplies; he was beginning to prove himself a power, he had to be placated.

Across our Southern border the same truth is illustrated. Mexico City mobs that cheered or cursed Diaz, as they cheer or curse Madero and will cheer or curse whoever steps into his shoes, will get little beyond fair words and slippery promises. But the Mexican peasant is seizing the land; he is driving hundreds of monopolists into exile; he is showing himself a power. In Mexico, therefore, every politician, from Madero to dogcatcher aspirants, is assuring him that, if he will but lay down his arms, he shall be given what he is now taking—the land. The Mexican rulers also know their business and bow to power.

In the United States and Europe, at present, there is no actual revolutionary movement, although there is undoubtedly the embryo of one in the growing discontent and frequent use of violence on either side. The contests are not, as yet, for fundamental rights but merely for the amelioration of conditions that spring directly from denial of fundamental rights. Nevertheless, though only preparatory to revolution, such struggles as the coal strike in England show us also that the seat of power is not in the distributing centers but at the sources of production. London cannot starve England into submission, but the colliers can shut up, if they choose, almost every industry in the country. In other words, the distributive agencies of all great cities and the whole complex social organism depend on what is got out of the ground, and those who have the say as to what shall and what shall not come out of the ground are those who really wield the decisive power. We never can get away from the position that the earth is our one great tool, the universal machine that supplies our wants. Accordingly, he who, either by his legal title being recognized, or by the force of his own right arm, dictates the work of that machine is master.

To my thought what they call Political Revolutions are not revolutions at all, for they do not affect the structure of society. They attack vested interests only to a very limited extent, and in such a way that the losers, in what is merely a ruling-class quarrel, easily recoup themselves. But an economic revolution is a very different affair, for, by its very proposal to change the ownership of power, it stirs society to its profoundest depths and leads invariably to bitter conflict. Peasant wars, French and Russian Revolutions, the struggle for

the land in Ireland—all the records of the past tell the same story, and the Mexican Revolution repeats it. For, the Mexican upheaval is essentially an economic revolution of the purest type, since it aims to take the land—the seat of all economic power—out of the hands of a limited tribute-gathering class and put it into the hands of those who actually work it. If the tribute-gathering class were to admit the peasant's claim that he, as cultivator, should possess the soil and receive all his labor may produce, fighting would cease at once, spontaneously. But this, of course, it will not do and never yet has done. It may submit legally disputed claims to arbitration, but to the suggestion that work should be the only title to reward it will not listen.

We have a "Land Show" in Los Angeles, and we think so much of it that the school children were given a holiday and attended by the thousands. That seemed to me good, for I consider that on one day of the year at least we should worship the God in whom we honestly believe. So I attended, visited the real estate booths and took away a library contributed by the gentlemen whose benevolent occupation is selling us the chance to live. I wish Socialists would read it, for they would discover that all these vaunted municipal improvements serve merely to line the pockets of the landlords, being added to the price at which the public is compelled to buy. The catalogues are more instructive than the literature circulated by the Single Taxers, for they point the moral with a skill and directness such as, I imagine, only the Los Angeles real estate booster has acquired. They are a magnificent lesson in political economy.

Naturally the supply of unannexed land gives out and accordingly the monopolists move on to Mexico. They make enormous fortunes by the same time-honored process; when they fly to Los Angeles they are idolized as fine samples of financial genius, and the public gapingly admires, being even willing, if called on with a sufficient amount of spread-eagleism, to shoulder arms on their behalf. But the simple, illiterate Mexican peasant does not look at it that way. He knows that what has been sport for the financiers and their retainers has been death to him, and he raises the standard of revolt for a principle that is absolutely vital but to which the din of dollar-swapping has rendered us temporarily deaf. He is true to himself; true to his and our basic nature; and that gives him the strength to carry on a struggle that is the most inspiring note this century has sounded. It is not the complex problem our hypocritical press would have us believe. It is a straight declaration that man's right to his earth is about to be enforced, whatever so-called vested interests may say.

WM. C. OWEN.

Think It Over

In an editorial on the English coal strike the "Los Angeles Tribune" expresses itself thus:

"It must be a stolid American who can look on the British 'black peril' without asking when the infection will hit this country. It would be worse than folly to hope for any quarantine. Billions of 'capital' here have been coined out of nothing but printing presses. Ten million American workers are said to be living along the starvation line because dividends must be squeezed out of that so-called capital. The proletariat reads and knows. It is something to think about."

That is well put, but it should be added that ninety-nine per cent of the fictitious values, to earn dividends on which Labor breaks its back, consists of fancy prices charged by land monopolists for access to those natural opportunities intended for the free use of man. Enquire into the assets against which "big business" issues stock and you will be told immediately that they consist of coal and iron deposits, timber tracts, streams for electric power, building sites where the workers will be compelled to live.

It is because the Mexican Revolution challenges and defies land monopoly that it is spreading consternation in financial circles and rousing the hopes of the disinherited throughout the world. As the "Tribune" says, "the proletariat reads and knows," and no quarantine against the spread of discontent is possible. Our editorial of Feb. 3, headed "What has driven Mexico to revolt?" concluded with these words: "Look out! There is going to be a row. What we have heard up to this time was only the orchestra tuning up." The events of the last two months have justified that prophecy, and we now repeat and apply it to the world-wide situation.

Advance on Mexico City Is Slow But Sure Peasantry Better Armed Than They Ever Were Before

Refugees Swarm into United States by Rail and Steam

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.

Madero lacks soldiers and is crying out loudly for recruits. Of Vazquez Gomez the same holds true, and countless other political aspirants are trying to surround themselves with little armies. We anticipate that they will have no difficulty, for the Mexican peasant understands, as all members of the Mexican Liberal Party have understood, that his first necessity is arms. He is after the land and, as things stand now, he is secure in its possession only when the attempt to oust him is dangerous.

To shoot the rebel; to throw the agitator into jail; to make it suicide for the disinherited to assert their rights—these have been the tactics by which absentee landlords in Mexico have been able to usurp principalities and hold millions of their fellow-beings in most unwilling thralldom. In the last thirty-five years they have taught the Mexican peon his lesson; as other Diaz governments, with their armies and their police, their jails and scaffolds, are teaching their own peons. The Mexican may be a simple, unfettered soul, but he has developed the intelligence necessary to comprehend that the man without the gun is helpless and that, in this life-and-death struggle, "God is always with the heaviest artillery." The situation as between the "House of Have" and the "House of Want" in Mexico is a military situation.

Our American press tacitly acknowledges all this by the eagerness with which it awaits the supposedly decisive battle between Madero and the Orozco-Gomez forces. One might have written "Zapata forces," but it is obvious that Madero has many foes. Battle with any one, even if successful, will sap his strength for the ensuing and inevitable round. He has lost the public's confidence and those whom he enlists are at any moment likely to turn their guns against him, as did the now dreaded Salgado, Orozco and others. In fact, the chance of doing so will be in many instances the main temptation to enlist.

It Looks Dangerous.

These reflections bear directly on the intervention problem, it being self-evident that the greater the percentage of armed men in Mexico the more risky the experiment of invasion. What is even more self-evident is the fact that as the determination of the Mexican peon to expropriate his expropriators grows more pronounced attempted interference will meet more desperate resistance. All over the world the man who is defending what he believes to be his home puts up the most savage fight.

One notices that, in the momentary dearth of big battle news, press correspondents are filling space with lurid accounts of fields untended, crops unown and consequent impending famine. That may trouble the inhabitants of such a center as Mexico City, which is dependent on rural districts for its food supplies, but it will not worry the peasant. He knows that the soil of Mexico is very fertile, that the climate brings crops to quick maturity, that with trifling labor he can get from it food far more plentiful and better than that doled out to him by his former masters from the commissariat store. He is not worrying about failure of crops, but about how to get possession of the land from which those crops must come. His mind and wants are simple; he

has none of that helpless dependence on others that paralyzes our own workers, among whom not one out of a hundred dreams of sustaining himself otherwise than by the special job to which our minute subdivision of labor has habituated him. The Mexican peon is in the best of positions for effective revolt, and knows it.

News Comes in Slowly.

Never have Mexican papers reached this office so irregularly and in such small quantities as during the past week, and this probably indicates more severed communications and increasingly disturbed conditions. The government censorship is understood as being stricter than ever and Orozco has started one of his own in Chihuahua. On the other hand, if news has come in tardily refugees have not. A New York City telegram of March 16 stated that the Morrow Castle had arrived with 130 from Vera Cruz alone, two-thirds of whom were women and children who had left on twenty-four hours' notice. Similar reports have come from other points, and the "Los Angeles Daily Times" correspondent, under date of March 17, reported only 200 Americans as still remaining in Torreon out of the original colony of 700. He represented the city as having been for some time past virtually besieged and estimated American investments there and in the immediate vicinity at \$20,000,000.

The American consul at Tampico telegraphed the embassy at Mexico City, March 15, that he feared a massacre of Americans, but his fears proved groundless.

Jimenez, the first objective point of the Gomez-Orozco army in its advance on Mexico City, was taken without a struggle, March 14.

One judges that guerrilla activity is, if anything, on the increase, and this is particularly noticeable in the State of Veracruz. In Puebla the week's report shows fifteen towns as taking up arms and occupying the surrounding estates. From Zacatecas the "Imparcial" correspondent writes that "the revolution is growing rapidly everywhere" and "you may rest assured that men are rising in arms throughout the State." The fighting there is evidently no child's play, for in one encounter reported we note an item of forty rebels killed and wounded by the premature explosion of a bomb.

Tabasco Warms Up.

From Tabasco, reported recently by the government as free from insurrection, comes news of a fight in which twenty-two federals were taken prisoners and their two commanders killed. Oaxaca reports the propaganda of rebellion as spreading, and the Pan-American railroad had been torn up from Union Hidalgo to Reforma. Sinaloa, Jalisco and Guanajuato all testify to the multiplication of guerrilla bands, and the capital of the last named State is said to be under attack. Reports of the capture by rebels of Aguascalientes, capital of the State of that name, and of Viesca, an important town in Coahuila, lack confirmation. "El Imparcial" contradicts the rumor that Ciudad Victoria, the capital of Tamaulipas, has fallen.

The semi-Socialistic "Los Angeles Record," of March 18, had an interesting letter by Wm. Shepherd, which began: "The doom of Madero is sealed." The writer dates Madero's undoing from his compromising with the powerful grafters in Mexico by granting immunity to Jose Limantour, the chief of the Cientifico ring, which he says, was when the overthrow of Diaz was still only in sight. We ourselves chronicled most carefully those meetings with Limantour and warned the public. Shepherd appears to have faith in Gomez, but the Socialist papers, for which Shepherd largely writes, will find Gomez even more of a boomerang than Madero has proved himself to be. Gomez also is a talker and temporizer; a lawyer-politician who does not understand the masses.

Politicians have fed the Mexicans on words until they have sickened of the diet. Apparently the American masses still relish the mess.

Mexico's Struggle For Economic Freedom

(Continued.)

"Nueva Era's" article concludes with the declaration that suspension of constitutional guarantees "has become indispensable because it alone can prevent the deceived peasants from lending Zapata a certain amount of co-operation, by acting as his spies, that he may make a mock of and surprise his pursuers, and by supplying him with the necessities of life." It adds that at present "there are peasants who work during the day, like honorable and useful subjects, and at night take part in the disastrous enterprises of the ferocious Emiliano."

There lies the trouble for Madero and his government. Despite all their efforts to ridicule and depreciate Zapata and other so-called "bandits," those gentlemen have the sympathy of the common people, who keep them informed as to the enemy's whereabouts and provide them with food. It is easy to say that the peasant is naturally a law-abiding citizen, but in Mexico it is false, as I myself believe it to be false as regards the working class in the United States. As I have said before, the Mexican peasant loathes the central authority of government, which means to him the tax gatherer and the soldier. I could fill pages with extracts from the most reliable works on Mexico, all bearing out the statement that the feeling among the Mexican masses is that he who is not engaged in productive labor is, of necessity, a parasite. That is their reason for looking on the idle foreigner with so much suspicion and dislike; but, on the other hand, the best critics all agree that when the country people have made up their minds that a stranger does not mean to impose on them, nothing can exceed their kindness and hospitality. They are naturally the most hospitable of people. Their inherited communistic traditions lead them to share their last cupful of beans with the famished, and no workingman goes hungry while others beside him are eating their noonday meal, as not infrequently happens in these United States.

Guerrilla Warfare.

In addition to the aid on which they can rely the Zapatistas and other rebels have the enormous advantage of knowing the country thoroughly, and as they follow guerrilla tactics exclusively—"fighting and running away," that they may live to fight another day—it is most difficult for the federal troops to crush them. Perhaps the best proof of that is the fact that, if one had believed the government and capitalistic papers, Zapatism should have been buried out of sight months and months ago. It is also stated now that the federal troops are suffering intensely from cold and disease, and the Mexican government has never been famous for the perfection of its commissary arrangements. I myself have heard those who have a most intimate knowledge of the country say that one Zapatista is equal to ten federal soldiers.

That last statement may be an exaggeration, but it is certain that Diaz' hired troops proved themselves no match whatever for the enthusiastic, free-fighting rebels, and things cannot have changed materially during the last few months. On the other hand, all the evidence is in favor of the position that, with his in-born, Indian hatred of authority, the Mexican makes one of the poorest hired soldiers in the world; whereas in free guerrilla warfare it is hard to find his match. He is apt to be a splendid horseman; he is very hardy; he can subsist on what would spell starvation to a European soldier, and he has little respect either for his own life or those of others. As for ability to shoot—the Boer war proved conclusively that shooting to kill is learned far better in frontier life than on the practice range.

(To be continued.)

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.

Plutocracy taught the Mexican peon to believe in force; and the Mexican peon has learned the lesson.

HELP THESE MEN AND HELP QUICKLY.

F. Martinez-Palomares, R. A. Dorame, and Silvestre Lomas, all three I. W. W. members in good standing, with a record of loyal and effective service in the labor struggle, have lain in the county jail at El Paso, Texas, since December last, the charge against them being that they have violated the neutrality laws. They maintain stoutly that their real and only offense is activity in the labor movement, and that their arrest was due mainly to the efforts of Abraham Molina, described in the appeal they have issued as "a Maderist spy." The personal antipathy he is said to have displayed appears to have been directed principally against Palomares, whom he pointed out to the authorities as "the leader and very dangerous." Consequently Palomares was put in chains, as the appeal states, and "treated as if he were the lowest criminal." In reality all three men have been reported to us from time to time as subjected to much bad treatment.

These men come up for trial April 8 and their attorney informs them that \$30 is necessary for court expenses. E. E. Kirk of San Diego offered his services gratuitously but they were unable to pay his travelling expenses. It certainly should be possible to raise the small sum named and special appeal is made to Labor and the I. W. W., for all three have been honest and courageous battlers.

Palomares was secretary of Locals 13 and 178 I. W. W., San Diego. In 1908 he edited "Libertad y Trabajo" (Liberty and Work), a weekly published in Los Angeles, and was associated with Joseph Ettor, whose name is well known to the public as leader of the strike at Lawrence, Mass. The paper had quite a circulation, largely owing to the efforts of Local 12, I. W. W., of which Palomares was a member. The Mexican Liberal Party knows him well and esteems him highly.

Dorame comes from Phoenix, Ariz., where he was an active I. W. W., being secretary of the Spanish local and editor of "Union Industrial." He had been previously a member of the Western Federation of Miners and shared imprisonment with Haywood at Cripple Creek.

Lomas also has been an active member of the I. W. W. These loyal soldiers in our common cause should not be left in the lurch for lack of the trifling aid they ask, and it is hoped that labor and revolutionary papers, to which we are sending marked copies, will take up their case without delay and make suitable appeal.

Any money sent to this office will be forwarded at once, but it would be best to send direct, addressing any one of the three named at the County Jail, El Paso, Texas.

ANOTHER ROBBERS' ROOST.

"One result of the present unsettled conditions in Mexico, according to G. F. Cimiotti, sales manager of Windsor Square, for R. A. Rowan & Co., is that many of the wealthy land and mine owners of that country are planning the establishment of homes in Southern California, so that they may have their families beyond the reach of harm and distress during guerrilla outbreaks. Another motive on the part of these rich Mexicans is a desire to invest in properties this side of the border for protection against financial losses that might follow any long internal strife.

"The Mexicans who have sent agents here in search of land and under instructions to build costly houses are scions of the most exclusive families of their country," declared Mr. Cimiotti. "They are wealthy, proud and highly cultured. Such a colony here would be of considerable moment to Los Angeles, especially if the expensive houses that are to be built are patterned after the architecture of the early days of Spanish romance." ("Los Angeles Examiner.")

ROBBERY MUST GO.

In Seattle, Wash., recently the doctrine of the Single Tax was put unusually straight before the voters by the submission of what was known as the "Erickson amendment," which was for the immediate abolition of all municipal taxation except on land values. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 27,820 to 12,191, but it is distinctly encouraging to find that apparently more than 12,000 people in Seattle understand that the pocketing by private individuals of the public product is out-and-out robbery. It is a straw showing the direction of the wind, while the Mexican Revolution, which is driving hundreds of land monopolists into exile, is a veritable hurricane. The flight of the straw may be forgotten, but the hurricane is forcing thousands to study land monopoly as they never studied it before.

Leagued to Silence Discontent

All along the Pacific Coast real estate boomers paint this country as a paradise and try to coax into existence a gigantic immigration that will be forced to buy their lands. All along the Pacific Coast there are conditions that are Hell. From Seattle in the far North to San Diego at the extremest South police have been breaking heads, turning the hose on indignant crowds and exercising all the arts of organized violence to prevent the people from exercising what they consider a constitutional and inalienable right. We had a free speech fight in Los Angeles, and scores went to jail. They had bitter struggles in Seattle, Aberdeen and Spokane. Today in Portland, Oakland and San Diego there is war.

In Portland, according to a United Press telegram, the mayor proposes to arrest I. W. W. men secretly at home, thus avoiding the risk of dispersing meetings. Oakland papers report the police as clubbing gatherings and apparently beside themselves with rage. In San Diego—peaceful, drowsy San Diego!—there is a state of affairs that beggars description. The city and county jails are filled with Socialists, Unionists and I. W. W. men, many of whom are nursing broken heads; an enormous meeting had the hose turned on it; thirty-eight Socialists and Unionists have been indicted by the grand jury, charged with criminal conspiracy; a bull pen is being built with scab labor, union carpenters having refused to work on it.

The California Free Speech League and the Free Speech Committee, both of San Diego, have sent us literature for distribution which bristles with recitals of police barbarity and assertions that the fight is to a finish. It is bound to be, for it is inconceivable that the world should be agitated as it is over the social problem and forced into silence.

Free speech is what we call a "right" or it is not a right. If it is a right it must be maintained. Open discussion, unfettered by the necessity of paying tribute to landlords or shaping arguments to suit the taste of authority, is essential to progress or it is not essential. If it is essential it must be practised at all costs. In reality it is essential; in reality mankind decided long ago that only after full discussion can human judgment act intelligently.

In endeavoring to stamp out or fetter free discussion the authorities are trying insanely to set back the clock and forcing the overcharged boiler to explode by flooding society with outcasts whose hatred will find its vent in violence.

Here again land speculation is at the bottom of the trouble, for rich prospective purchasers want quiet surroundings and our monopolists instruct their agents to suppress manifestations of discontent at all and every cost. They are acting as Diaz acted, and are over-playing their part as Diaz over-played it.

MOSBY NEEDS HELP.

Last week we registered with profound regret the death of Pedro Solis, who, after lying in the Los Angeles county jail for months, charged with violation of the neutrality laws, died as the result of a wound received in battle. With proper medical attention, in our opinion, this life would not have been sacrificed. Jack Mosby, as he is known to thousands of whose struggles he played invariably so brave a part, has been in the same jail and on a similar charge since July 22, 1911. He also suffers from a wound he received at Tecate, and this, coupled with the confinement so deadly to a man who always led an active, out-of-door life, has developed serious lung trouble. Dr. E. H. Garrett has appealed to Attorney General Wickensham for Mosby's release, explaining that to prolong his imprisonment means certain death. We are glad to see the "Los Angeles Evening Herald" taking up this case and we appeal to sympathizers to aid its efforts in all possible ways. This man is not a criminal. He has been a most gallant warrior in the battle for the disinherited.

Will the United States Intervene in Mexico?

Send for copies of

"Regeneracion's" Special Pamphlet

on the Mexican Revolution Its Progress, Causes, Purpose and Probable Results

Sixteen Pages. Price 5 cents