

5 CTS. ORO.
10 Cts., Moneda Mexicana

Lest We Forget--Lest We Forget

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While these lines are being printed our Mexican comrades will be standing in the prisoner's dock, accused of having violated the neutrality laws in their eagerness to secure "Land and Liberty" for the despised people of Mexico. As is known to all the world, the politicians of this Social Party have been able to display the bitterest hostility toward them. Accordingly, Mr. John Murray, editor of the "California Social-Democrat," to which every member of the party in this State is forced to subscribe—Oh, Liberty! What crime are committed in their name!—has picked this particular moment to attack them in a signed editorial which begins: "Those that cry 'back to the land' are one and all city dwellers, whom dynamite could not dislodge from their accustomed haunts. They are the enemies of the article is seen in the following sentences: "Today anarchists from all over the world are seeking to influence the Mexican Revolution, and have succeeded in lettering the banner of the Mexican Liberal Party with the words 'Tierra y Libertad,' meaning Land and Liberty."

Straws almost accurately the direction of the wind, and one notes, as illustrative of the writer's caliber and bias, that he is careful to capitalize "Socialists" and "Populists," while treating "Anarchists" and "Single Taxers" with the discourtesy of small letters. But I let Murray know that I was not so easily taken in. Murray has bent himself to the task of proving that the thing he says is true. The propaganda of the Mexican Liberal Party is a delusion. For this he employs what are, to me at least, the following discreditable methods.

He pretends that the Populist Party failed because it was a land party. That grotesque falsehood is advanced that he may drag in this sentence "The theories of anarchists and single-taxers are born of the same ill-conception of the nature of the State as the theories of Socialists." But he knows that Populists did not venture to tackle the land question, and he and his party associates have been never weary of repeating that Populism failed because it was only half-hearted Socialism. He knows, moreover, that our city proletariat suffers far more acutely than does any other class as the result of land monopoly, and that Populism, paying no attention to the tribute collected by city landlords, made no appeal to the city proletariat.

Murray pretends to believe that the emancipation of the Mexican people from the land monopoly was accomplished by the Mexican Revolution. He worked most closely with the Mexican revolutionary element and knows that in Mexico, the city workers are even now almost a negligible quantity although they have increased much of late under the influence of land monopoly.

He pretends to believe that the country worker cannot co-operate either

organized labor overthrow Diaz is to make oneself ridiculous. He says that it is a preposterous falsehood to pretend that the land question is paramount with the Mexican people. He says that the land question is secondary, and if Mr. Murray actually believes that, any Mexican whom you may meet on the streets is infinitely wiser than is Mr. Murray. Everyone who has any sense knows that the land is the source of ALL wealth; that from no other source can humanity get supplies. If we choose to do so we can abolish the metal currency, wipe out the tariff, erase the patent laws, do away with government, and have a free world. The only form of organization that may seem to us desirable. These are things man has done since the beginning of time. He must live on and from the land has been decided for him by nature. That we cannot increase the earth's area or get sustenance from the moon is self-evident to the most rudimentary brain.

Mr. Murray has lived a long time in and near Los Angeles, and he has had every opportunity of learning how land monopoly works. He must know that the only way to get rid of land monopoly is not by performing any useful social work, but by sticking to a piece of land and holding it. He has seen that he has been compelled to buy at any price. On the other hand, as the price of land has soared he has seen all other prices, except that paid to labor, rise; he has seen work more poorly remunerated and harder to obtain, and he has seen, right under his nose here in Los Angeles, a penniless and homeless proletariat multiplying on every side. If all his years of residence here have not convinced him that the only way to get rid of land monopoly is to get it, he has been associated in the Socialist movement, for he has learned it so well that they passed long ago into the platocratic class. Such men will not go to the bottom of the social question, and they will not let their party do so.

Wayland and the "Appeal to Reason" are excellent examples, but I could give names of millionaires.

Recently I alluded to the Land Fair which all the real estate interests here have been talking about. I quoted the semi-Socialist "Record" as admitting, at last, that the real "big interests" which rule Los Angeles are the land monopolists. "Since then every paper in the city has been drilling into its readers the truth that the land is the foundation of all wealth; although, with a commercial unscrupulousness worthy of Satan himself, they do so to secure the advertising of the real estate interests and help along the gamble. Apart from that, however, they speak the truth and prove it to be the truth. They have been drilling into the minds of the people the fact that the land is the basis of all wealth; that as soon as he came here he began to pick up land. It is his constant boast that he is the heaviest real estate taxpayer in this city. They show how our transportation companies corner land prior to developing a new section, that they may reap a harvest from the rise in prices which follows such development. They give detailed proof that Standard Oil, the railway companies, the telephone companies, the electric power system we swim up as 'Wall Street,' are based on control of natural supplies.

The truths, the indisputable truths, I am trying to express are those for championing which our comrades have suffered already long terms of imprisonment. They have recognized that the first step toward the abolition of poverty and slavery in Mexico is the restoration to the people of those natural resources of which plutocracy, conniving with corrupt officialdom, rob-

the result of the straight, intelligent and uncompromising stand taken by the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party there has been in Mexico during the last twelve months one of the greatest and most general acts of confiscation—of recovery by the people—on record. The proof, as Mr. Murray well knows is the fact that Los Angeles has become the Mecca of expatriated-land monopolists; men of the Terrazas stamp, who hitherto have called entire States "theirs," being now in exile here. Does any one in his senses suppose that these exiled millionaires, and all the Wall Street and European Bourse interests now exercising pressure on their respective governments for protection in Mexico, do not HATE the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party, whose propaganda has slaughtered them? Does any intelligent man cannot see that the attack launched by Mr. Murray at this particular moment plays directly into their hands?

Fortunately the land movement in Mexico is now so general, so earnest and so strong that the imprisonment of a thousand leaders could not stop it. To that movement, therefore, the article I criticize can do no harm; but it will do harm to that section of the labor movement in America which fol-

Whatver may befall the Mexicans themselves their work will last, for it has been clear and broad and simple; those who, with the thoroughness of intelligent engineers, have done nothing, comprising the majority of the work of free men. On the other hand, the work of official placcholders, pledged to the advocacy, right or wrong, of such programs as their short-sighted political employers deem temporarily politic, is a rope of sand that crumbles to pieces at the touch of criticism.

There is a deep reason for the appearance of such articles as that of which the editor of California's official Socialist organ has been guilty. The political wing of his party dreads the contrast between the substantial benefits secured by Direct Action and the oratorical sterilities with which its own followers might be content. When its own high-priced advocates are called upon to defend the work of the party, they are forced to confess that the Mexican Liberal Party achieves actual results, there is drawn a parallel that is absolutely fatal. It rips the gas out of the balloon, and leaves only the stretch of unavailing affairs, dishonest money-deals, a thousand humiliations submitted to for nothing. That is the fate which must befall the politicians as soon as a true revolutionary movement commands the stage, and to postpone as long as possible that inevitable tragedy no measures are too desperate and no weapons too foul.

WM. C. OWEN.