Pulling Wires To Work The Oracle

"Mexican Revolutionists establish ARMED CAMP in Los Angeles." Last Saturday morning found countless groups staring pop-eyed at the bulletin boards on which the "Los Angeles Daily Times" is wont to advertise its Sunday wares. The more rotten the goods the more screaming needed to get them off the counters. In this instance one could understand the blood-red letters, covering half the boards.

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"Rebel headquarters for Los Angeles? Supposed emissaries of heads of Mexican Revolution take over old Orphans' Home to house present El Paso Junta—Money appears pouring in—Army may be drilled here—Convicts directing?" Thus ran the headlines which adorned this precious story. The man who had to write them knew it was a fake, and sprinkled his label cautiously with queries: with "supposed." and "appears," and "may." He acted loyally, at least; he did his best to guard his paper against libel actions—civil and criminal.

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The entire story was in a similar vein; for example: "It is further stated that the local Junta, comprising 5000 men of fighting age (Oh! that it were true!), is back of the deal and that ere long the tread of martial feet will resound through the ancient and ample halls of the old structure."—"There appears to be plenty of money (Again, would that it were true!), but where it comes from is a riddle. Wall Street? Emma Goldman?"—"Yaquis, comes the whisper, are employed as runners to and from the Los Angeles headquarters and McNeil's Island." And so it ran; a couple of columns, with cuts, on the editorial front page.

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What happened, of course, was this. Either the "Times" had an early tip that exceptional trouble was brewing in Mexico, or its nose for news scented the coming storm. Accordingly it sent a reporter out to get a Mexican story: a story that must be full of local color. He was not to get the facts, but he was to lay on the color, thick and lurid. He did not trouble to interview the Junta. He did not bother himself to look me up, although my own sober and truthful account of the matter, as given in last week's "Regeneracion." had been printed and distributed. He did not want the facts. He wanted to spin a sensational yarn from the homely material that the Junta had rented premises at $100 a month, to carry on a work of education. He span his yarn all right, and out of a number of intelligent persons with whom I have since conversed there was not one who did not say it filled him with disgust. Several told me they had lacked the patience to read it to the end.

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The incident is absurd, but it has its serious sides; one of which I can exemplify thus. Recently I was showing Los Angeles to a somewhat celebrated author; one for whose work the "Times" would willingly bid high. Looking down on the city from its heights I pointed out the wealthy section, and also the large and hideous area whereon the unhappy alien is forced to pig it. I added the sententious reflection that, after all, Los Angeles' true tragedy was not the physical condition of her slums, but the moral and intellectual barrenness of nearly half a million persons, whose reading is practically confined to the sensational concoctions of Hearst and Otis. My companion agreed most cordially. What thoughtful man would not? What man with any sense of the enormous responsibility of the press would not?

* * *

There is another and still more serious side, on which I shall dwell at somewhat greater length, since the lesson seems badly needed. Otis, as Otis and proprietor of the "Times," can do the Mexicans no harm. But Otis, egging on the authorities and lying to them, can be a serious danger. He can set the real powers in motion, and I write these lines to show that the individual rich man or corporation, as such, is not the true peril that confronts us. Our never-ceasing risk is in the governmental machinery they have the influence to start; the unjust suspicions they can arouse against an enterprise to which they may be hostile; the spies and detectives they can set upon its track; the legal chicanery with which they can harass it; the thousand and one pitfalls with which they can bestrew its path. It is through Authority, egged on by the unscrupulous, that all the Christs are crucified; it is as rebels against Authority that they are made to suffer. In the picture of the cross the rebel is the central figure, the thieves being entirely subsidiary. The pressure to the deed came from the rich, whose privileges were threatened. The deed itself was done, and had to be done, by State Authority.

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If governmental machinery for the invasion of Mexico were non-existent, Otis and Hearst might howl their heads off and we should laugh at them. If the Magons and other members of the Junta were not shut up in one of those infernos in which Government delights, it would not matter in the least what journalistic whores might write about them As it is, their liberty under parole is threatened seriously, and the time-deduction to which good behaviour would entitle them may be clipped by an Authority against which there is, practically, no appeal. The competition of the "Times," or a thousand fake stories published in its columns, could not drive "Regeneracion" out of business. But the "Times" may whisper in the ear of the Postal Authorities, and we may find ourselves in difficulties of which we never dreamed. It has been done repeatedly toward papers hostile to privilege; it will be done with increasing frequency as the struggle grows.

* * *

What we actually have in this country today is State Socialism; more highly developed, I believe, than in Germany itself. It is the one colossal danger Liberty has to face, and beside it our peril from the individual rich is insignificance itself. It is not the man himself I fear, but that ugly revolver he is pointing at me, with his finger on the trigger. The vast array of bayonets and legal network with which plutocracy has hedged itself is what fills the reflective with alarm. The Bastile HAD to be overthrown before the great French Revolution could begin to clean out the stables of feudalism; the British troops HAD to be conquered by Washington before the United States could struggle into independent birth; the Russian and the Mexican peasant cannot satisfy his natural and proper hunger for the land his labor makes productive, because of this Cerberus of Government which keeps the gate. Contest for the enormous powers conferred by Government, on those bold and unscrupulous enough to grasp them, is making the streets of Mexico City at this very moment one pool of blood. It is the very situation that Herbert Spencer, Tolstoy, Mill, practically all the great thinkers of the last generation, foresaw and analyzed so clearly. Unhappily this country is full of dreamers blind to facts: thoughtless emotionalists who know only that they themselves are drowning; fanatics who cannot see a situation as it actually is and who have constructed an all-Government Utopia out of their own dark interiors. That their conclusions fly in the face of all facts, past and present, does not worry them one whit. Only when they have faced the bayonets, found their heads aching from the club or been thrown ignominously into jail, do they begin to see a light.

WM. C. OWEN.

TRUE DESPOTISM.

Any newspaper or periodical, business man or woman, can be deprived of the "privilege" of the use of the mails, without a hearing of their own defence, on secret charges made by enemies to secret spies, and without the right of a hearing in any court. Do you think this a right to give ANY public servant or department of this Government?

Have you any idea that it will be used solely for the protection and good of the people? Those who have dared to protest publicly have brought on themselves the full malice and assault of such powers. Seldom have they escaped with their property, health or even their lives.

To dare to protest against these conditions, and the certain rapid loss of all true liberty and personal freedom, is to set as certainly in quick motion the powerful agencies of suppression, ruin and silence, vested in the hands of federal bureaux through a vast national spy system, secret indictment by federal grand juries at the behest of federal officials, followed by certain ruin, the confiscation of all property and resources, federal receiverships, fraud orders, the deprivation of the second-class privilege, and, if possible, the driving the protestor to suicide. The citizen who incurs the malice of a petty public servant in federal employ has, as has been aptly stated, "about as much chance as a tallow-legged rabbit chased through hell by an asbestos dog." (E. G. Lewis, in "Woman's National Weekly," St. Louis.)

THE DIVORCE MILL.

Bishop Johnson, head of the Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, is, we venture to think, about as conservative as they make them. Imagine our surprise, therefore, at finding him delivering himself thus, in the "Los Angeles Record," with regard to the increasing number of divorces:

"They show," said the bishop, "that the marital unrest is just one outcropping of a system that is marked by a perfect indifference to human rights. The unrest incident to our economic and social life expresses itself in many ways; marital infidelity and cruelty is one of them.

"In a social state where one man has a great deal more than he needs, and in which vast wealth is in sharp contrast to great poverty, the sense of obligation, which is so vital a factor in character, is eliminated.

"The man with the money, having always been allowed to disregard the rights of others, naturally disregards the rights of his wife and family. His philosophy is that he has a right to anything he chooses, including as many wives and tandems as he can pay for.

"Among the poor, the sense of obligation is crushed out by the thought of the hopelessness of any effort and the worker finally comes to ask, 'What is the use?'

"Most of our social evils, among them the marriage and divorce evil, are due to removing from part of the men of the world, the necessity for useful labor. Things come too easily to a fraction of the people, while the great masses are shorn of all things that make life pleasant and agreeable."

At this point the reader will picture the bishop as a revolutionist, and naturally the "Record" interviewer pressed eagerly for more. What he got was a recommendation to vote for a bill postponing marriages after the license has been issued, and an opinion that health certificates should be required.

Such is the Church. Do you wonder that straight and vigorous minds despise her?

There are two classes of workers: one composed of the producers of wealth, and one composed of those who work the producers. The latter division, known as the worker-working class, is overly well represented in the Socialist Party. ("Progressive Unionist.")

Mexican Notes.

Events in Mexico City, dating from Feb. 12, have thrown the revolutionary movement throughout the country into darkest shade. That, though it may be only for the moment, was inevitable. The existing regime in Mexico—the rule of money—has been a Gulliver attacked incessantly by Lilliputians, inflicting day by day a thousand weakening scratches. The attack on Mexico City is a heart-thrust. The metropolis is the center of finance, one of the world's great capitals, the gathering-point of a thousand international interests.

The daily press is covering the story so completely, with special reports, sensational headings and profuse illustration, that it is useless here to give the details. At this writing —Feb. 13—the battle between the government forces and the would-be government forces is undecided. To hazard a rash guess, it appears to us that delay works in favor of Madero. Governments almost invariably have reserve but scattered forces which they can rally, if given time. Meanwhile hundreds, and perhaps thousands, have been killed—that one or another set of men may RULE.

Intervention is the one crucial question, of which, at last, all the world is talking. In the pamphlet entitled "The Mexican Revolution," published by this paper more than a year ago, it was stated most precisely that intervention or abstention from intervention would depend exclusively on the comparative safety or jeopardy in which foreign capitalist interests might find themselves. Nearly a year ago Orozco could have seized Mexico City, and, presuming he would do so, we anticipated immediate intervention. Later it appeared probable that Zapata would take the city, and, had he done so, United States troops would have been landed as fast as warships could have carried them. The present attack has shown that United States preparations for invasion have never slackened for one moment. Six men-of-war, each carrying some 700 men, are now hurrying to the scene. The authorities advertise the fact that they can throw 35,000 men into the country within a few days.

That they will do so is still, of course, uncertain. Everything depends on the outcome of the present fighting. Should Madero be triumphant, he may acquire a brief lease of further power, be able to restore order temporarily, and be allowed, therefore, to retain his position as capitalist watchdog. On the other hand, Diaz may win a crushing victory and be accepted as satisfactory; for he is a military man, the son of his uncle, whom he even talks of bringing back to Mexico. Plutocracy, which is anything but anxious to take the unpopular and risky step of intervention, may give Diaz a trial. But he will have to make good. He will have to restore order, and with the iron hand. Do you think he can do it? Do you suppose he can succeed where his strikingly-able uncle failed? Do you imagine that the Mexican of today is the submissive creature he was two years ago, or that all this fighting and propaganda have gone for nothing?

Glimpses of the Past.

Let us turn back to the record, for just a moment. Mexico, having overthrown the clerical and military power, and crushed the infamous invasion by Maximilian—fostered by the church and military and supported by Napoleon III—fell under the rule of Diaz. It was, in 1876 that he seized Mexico City, having made two previously unsuccessful attempts. He reigned for thirty-four years; reigned by terror, as a military dictator. Taft, Roosevelt, all the great Moguls of society as now constituted, hailed him as the Man of Destiny; and suddenly he was flying from the country. The ground had fallen beneath his feet; gathering discontent, growing enlightenment and an increased sense of the monstrous social injustice for which he stood, had caved it in. The injustice remains; the ground is shakier than ever, and Privilege will have a Herculean task when trying to re-make it.

Meanwhile, the propaganda has gone on; conducted—not by professional revolutionists, many of whom have shirked and crawfished most ignominiously—but by the growing intelligence of the common people of the United States, who are beginning to understand that Wall Street is not the universe; that the world is not a piece of horseflesh, to be auctioned off to the highest bidder; that land-grabbers, and land speculators, and absentee vampyres, who drain the lifeblood of the masses that they may live in idle luxury, are not indispensable blessings, without which the social machinery could not be kept in motion, but unmitigated curses, who throw themselves directly across the path of progress and force us to advance through seas of blood.

That is the Mexican question. Mexico is writing—most unfortunately in blood-red letters—a gigantic lesson which the world is beginning to understand, and which infinitely larger events soon will force it to master.

The propaganda has gone on, along the lines indicated, and, if intervention by the United States should come, there will be great opposition to it in the United States itself. Possibly, awed by the Government, the opposition may fear to speak out as it would like to speak, but—it will there, waiting for another, immediate and stronger opportunity. Meanwhile, even in Los Angeles, so deeply and infamously interested in Mexican landgrabs, opinion is much divided. The "Tribune" and "Express" are Otis' great rivals. The former has been cartooning landgrabbing plutocracy without mercy. The "Express" yesterday published the following editorial:

Against Intervention.

"We can easily get into Mexico. We might have a hard job getting out when the unwelcome job was over. The American adventurer asks too much when he demands that to protect his mine or cattle ranch, we send American youth over the border by thousands to be slaughtered in the mountain defiles and desert stretches of Mexico. Better that some American property be laid waste than that a war with Mexico be undertaken. Ample time has elapsed for the reasonable protection of life and Mexico must be held strictly responsible for the acts of her bandit armies, but invasion can come only as a national calamity forced upon us in the last extreme. We can make better use of American citizens than making targets of them to protect the investments of adventurers or to avenge their wrongs."

That editorial has drawn from the "Times," this morning, the following reply, to which we invite attention, as it lays boldly on the table the hand nursed so carefully through months of subtle play. Says the "Times:"

"Some gentlemen, whose political views and business success are disapproved of by our steamed and superheated Progressive contemporaries; have invested money, honestly-acquired money, which they did not steal from orange growers, in Mexican lands and cattle. The continuance of the revolution in that country has a tendency to lessen the market value of the lands, diminish the number of cattle and drive away the workmen of the loathsome capitalists who are disliked by our steamed and overheated Progressive contemporaries.

"Intervention in Mexico by the United States would put a stop to brigandage. Putting a stop to brigandage would be a benefit to those who are hated by the proprietor of the Los Angelenos Progressive press. Therefore the press aforesaid outcries for non-intervention.

"And if intervention is forced upon us, then our steamed and parboiled contemporaries demand, as a measure of justice, that the plutocrats whom it does not like shall face Mexican rifles, or send their sons to do so, and compel their daughters 'to serve as nurses amid the blood and disease of war hospitals.' Rather than suffer the anguish of having the Mexican property of Americans who are obnoxious to him protected by the United States government, the proprietor of our steamed and fricasseed Progressive contemporary would prefer that Mexico should remain a seething mass of disorder from the Rio Grande to the Pacific. But President Taft does not agree with this view of the case, and it is not at all probable that President-elect Wilson agrees with it."

As said before, for the moment we can leave details to the daily press, which, at last, is forced to break its long conspiracy of silence. The important thing is to understand the cause of all this tumult, and comprehend that it is merely the lifting of one corner of the curtain which is about to rise on a world-wide drama. Like all other dramas one in which there will be an infinity of talking; but also—let us not delude ourselves —action of the most startling kind. For, the principal actors passed long ago beyond the influence of argument. Gen. Otis, for example, feels that he is the rightful owner of some million acres in Mexico; and that his manhood calls on him to defend his right at every cost. On the other hand, the Mexicans regard him as a conscienceless invader, and there are many thousands of his own fellow-countrymen who applaud that verdict.

Above All—Authority.

Meanwhile, back of all this land-grabbing and vampyrising stands AUTHORITY; governmental power; always in possession of the arms, solely because it has seized the power of taxation and thereby furnished itself with means to buy the arms. It is the one great prize, instinctively recognized as such by the ambitious, in every age and every clime. Over the struggle for that prize the streets of Mexico City are at this moment running blood. That readers may understand how clearly the upholders of privilege understand that the maintenance of AUTHORITY is the bottom issue, we close this review with passages translated from recent issues of Mexico City's most reactionary papers:

Madero's recent prosecution of radical journalists is hailed with satisfaction by leading capitalist newspapers. "El Intransigente," for example, thunders editorially on the necessity of upholding authority at any price; insists that Madero has been benevolent to excess, and declares that the attack is on the law itself, on the dignity of public office and, therefore, on the entire social order. It claims that the scandalous attacks made in fugitive leaflets and at innumerable meetings, organized under a hundred different pretexts, strike at the very roots of social order and are made by those who, having nothing to lose, hope for a chaos out of which they may profit personally. Alas! it is only too true of Mexico, as of every other civilized country. In all alike those who have nothing to lose, and much to gain, by chaos, are bringing themselves more and more into evidence, voicing views utterly subversive of conditions under which only the others profit. The "sans-culottes"—the breechless ragamuffins of the French Revolution—are crowding to the front, and the only remedy is to give them breeches. That is precisely what Madero and all the other talkers will not do. Like our Socialists of the United States they are blind to the NECESSITY of Direct Action.

"El Imparcial" adopts a similar editorial policy, and declares itself in accord with "the compaign which 'El Correo Espanol' has undertaken against the influence exercised by a subversive propaganda literature, as shown by political assaults and those contagious crimes of which modern sociologists tell us." It approves the sentence recently pronounced against "El Liberal," in Spain, and considers that the press in that country also needs a muzzle.

The Church and Freedom.

As for "La Nacion," it takes advantage of a recent Roman Catholic convention at Zamora to assure its readers that "the exact idea of religion gave the world the true concept of liberty," and that outside of the church no freedom is possible.

"El Diario" comments in most melancholy strain on the recent conflict in the State of Taxacala, which has been wrecked by the struggles of two contending politicians, each anxious to occupy the gubernatorial chair. Democracy, it says, is breaking down, for "it is well known that after an election has been held those who have been defeated protest, mutiny and rise in insurrection; and that the victors would have done likewise had they been defeated." Perhaps the people do not see how the election of this or that ambitious lawyer can benefit them, and hope disorder may force recognition of their crying wants.

The papers mentioned, and many others, take the position that "the liberty of the press must be exercised without prejudice to the public peace; and that private life must not be attacked or morality injured." But what if justice cannot be done without disturbing the public peace? What if a new morality has been born, and the old morality proved a monstrous weapon for upholding privilege? These are questions on which Mexico, in the agony of her struggle, is being forced to think. They are new lights which the bourgeoisie of the United States, drugged by money, cannot see.

"What is the program of this movement?" asks "El Imparcial," in criticism of the growing agitation. "No; do not look for any program or any flag," it adds; "do not think to discover any common bond of principles or definite direction. Its program is simply destruction, and if you ask—'And after?' every one of them will answer—'Afterwards will come Man'." That gives the editorial writer shivers, but it is exactly the language used by the men who made the great French Revolution—that revolution which Wendell Phillips always spoke of as the greatest blessing yet accorded us. Unfortunately the intervention of the European Powers, headed by England, checked the revolution's natural growth, imposed on it Napoleon, and postponed indefinitely the economic emancipation for which the French revolutionists were striving. They understood then, as we understand today, that their people were enslaved to institutions, and that the destruction of those institutions was necessarily the first step to freedom.

THE SEX PROBLEM.

The most important feature of the industrial system as we know it today is the entry of women into the labour market. There are now between five and six million women in the various industries of the United Kingdom; that is a fact which is not as widely known as it ought to be, and is the conclusive answer to every argument about women in the home. Are these five million women—who will soon be six million, and in all probability seven million in the course of a few more years—to be put back again into the home for the whole of their lives? If so, how? No one has yet even suggested an answer to this question.

In her evidence before the Select Committee on "home work" in 1907, Miss Mary Macarthur, who knows more about these things than any other authority, stated that the average weekly wage earned by the industrial women is only $1.75. This is enough to startle the slumbers of civilization, and to account for the disturbed sounds which already announce a speedy awakening. But when we add thereto a second neglected fact—the fact that considerably less than two-thirds of the women over fifteen years of age are married—the horror of the situation is infinitely increased. Here we have the sign in a visible form of that movement whose existence we are everywhere led to suspect, a movement which causes the genuine social reformer more trouble than even the White Slave Traffic. For the latter evil is no longer concealed—the English people have at last decided that something must be done and that right quickly, and something will have to be done, whatever barriers are placed in the way. But the tragic aspect of our second result in the investigation is that the whole of modern legislature is based on the assumption of its non-existence, and it is this: 'Women are slowly but surely supplanting men in trade after trade. Unable to secure adequate remuneration by reason of their many disabilities and late arrival on the field, as a sex, they are, also as a sex, receiving a wage so appreciably below that of the rival sex, that employers are driven by the mere stress of competition to substitute their labour for that of men on every possible occasion. ("The Guardian," Middleton, Eng.)

The Spanish-American is a philosopher; music and art mean much more to him than to us; he is imaginative, and poesy appeals to him. Freedom to him is an ideal thing, a bird on the wing; with us it is a caged canary, safely locked up to be looked at. We make a fetich of law and order; the Venezuelan does not care to be misgoverned, insulted, and robbed under forms of law. While we bear legal outrage and law-made annoyance with the patient endurance of the ass, the Venezuelan draws his sword and destroys both the bad law and the evil law-maker with one blow. Hence the ease with which he enters upon war and revolution. When he learns, like us, to love dollars better than ideas, order more than freedom, law more than justice, mammon more than man, chaff more than wheat, he may attain our higher civilization. Meantime we have a sneaking regard for his ways. ("Why?")

Why do men who sell their brains to the highest bidder think they are better than the women on the street? ("Progressive Unionist.")

THE AWAKENING

Mexico, a beautiful land of sunshine, for many years has been a great field where the capitalists of all nations could invest their wealth with perfect "safety." Porfirio Diaz, the President, was a willing tool of the monopolists, granting "concessions" right and left until practically all the arable land and the mines were owned either by the Diaz officialdom or foreign capitalists, leaving the Mexican workers without the land which they needed to live. And the Indians who had the fertile valleys under cultivation and were living in peace, were driven into the mountains and their homes destroyed, the friends of their labour and the land of their people stolen from them, and given as a "concession" to American or European capital.

Harrison Gray Otis, William R. Hearst, the Standard Oil Co., and the Southern Pacific R. R. Co., are among the many American concerns which received this loot.

Nearly four billions of dollars in foreign capital, mostly American, English, French, and German, were invested in Mexico and protected by the government, which kept wages down to the starvation point and, equipped with up-to-date machinery, dividends were piled up, profits grew enormously.

Not only were men and women forced to work for twelve or fourteen cents a day of as many hours, but in parts of Mexico thousands were held as chattel slaves and forced to slave on the plantation "hells," where, driven like dogs, they died off by the thousands every year, worked to death.

And this terrible condition of peonage and slavery existed so that a gang of government officials might acquire millions and power, and also in order that many of our Christian American capitalists might secure one hundred per cent. interest on their investments in Mexico.

But this condition could not last forever. The misery and poverty of the Mexican labourer was too great. It became unbearable and our fellow-toilers of the South began to organise into labour unions and protest. They demanded more bread for their starving babies, and the answer of the masters, their masters, our masters—was, as usual, bullets. Under the iron rule of the despot Diaz thousands of strikers were shot down in cold blood.

"American capital must be protected," said the Diaz government, and the slaughter of the toilers began. Thousands languished in vile prisons and when the dungeons became full, the martyrs to justice were taken out and executed—to make room for new prisoners.

Unions were suppressed and labour editors and agitators were hung to trees and left as a warning. An article appeared in all the Scrips newspapers about three years ago, written by B. H. Canfield, at that time editor of the "Los Angeles Record," describing the almost unbelievable conditions in the so-called Mexican Republic. The article was illustrated by an actual photograph of several Mexican editors hanged to a tree because they dared to tell the truth.

But the awakening of labour had begun, and all these persecutions could not stop it. Thousands of patriots were forced to flee the country, among them Ricardo Flores Magon, newspaper man and member of the Liberal party, a revolutionary organisation.

Together with Ricardo came a brother, Enrique, who was by his brother's side through all the years of the struggle and who remained true to the cause of liberty until now he is with Ricardo Flores Magon in the U. S. penitentiary at McNeil's Island (Wash.), serving a twenty-three months' sentence for alleged violation of the neutrality laws.

Although coming from well-to-do families the Magon brothers were filled with a love of humanity and their hearts were filled with bitterness when they saw the pitiful condition of the Mexican working-people—bitterness against the human parasites known as office holders and bitterness against the American and European capitalists, who together were enslaving Mexico.

So they organized the Mexican Liberal party as a reform movement politically, but finding political freedom was dead, the Liberals became Revolutionists. This was years ago; but from the efforts of the Liberal party came the revolution, which has shaken capitalism in Mexico for the past three years. ("The Guardian," Middleton, Eng.)

FREE SPEECH AT STAKE.

The trial of the twenty defendants in the now famous Little Falls strike cases has been continued till March 1. Fourteen of the defendants have already been in jail since Oct. 31, and now must remain there several weeks more, the amount of bail required being prohibitive. Notwithstanding the fact that they are charged with comparatively minor offenses, bonds for all would amount to a total of $10,000. Such a sum is altogether beyond the means of their fellow mill workers.

It will be remembered that forty-six persons were imprisoned following the attempt of Socialist speakers to address a throng of strikers in a public park there, and immediately after an effort on the part of the police to break up a parade of pickets which resulted in the wounding of two policemen and injuries to many strikers. Speakers were pulled down from their platforms while quoting from the Bible, from a speech by Abraham Lincoln, from The Declaration of Independence and from the Constitution of the United States.

Among those arrested and locked up in the Little Falls jail, since described as "a hell hole," was Dr. George R. Lunn, the Socialist Mayor of Schenectady, N. Y., who, according to the information written on the police blotter at the time, was taken in custody "for speaking." He will be tried Feb. 17 for "inciting to riot."

A few days afterward came the clash with the police and in a raid on their headquarters strikers were arrested by wholesale and several of them were terribly beaten after being locked into their cells. They have since been confined in Herkimer jail.

Former strikers have since organized a defense committee and are making an appeal for funds with which to fight the cases. The issues, they point out, are the rights of free speech and peaceful assemblage and the right to strike. Contributions may be sent to Miss Matilda Rabinowitz, Secretary Little Falls Defense Committee, Box 458, Little Falls, N. Y.

PROTEST MEETING.

We learn, and with profound regret, that our comrades imprisoned in the McNeil's Island penitentiary will not be granted liberty on parole. Every effort, therefore, should be made to get them an absolute release; it being now thoroughly understood by the workers that they are not criminals, as the term is understood, but untiring combatants in the most glorious of all struggles—that of the emancipation of humanity from slavery in its grossest and most indefensible form.

All his public utterances since the date of his election mark the incoming president of the United States as an infinitely warmer friend of Liberty than President Taft has proved himself, and that fact presents an opportunity of which we should avail ourselves. Our friends should spare no effort to make it clear that the prisoners are suffering for what their consciences compelled them to do; that men in their circumstances could not have acted otherwise without proving themselves traitors to their race and cowards.

They should remember also, and impress it everywhere, that the neutrality laws, for violating which our comrades are imprisoned, have been construed most elastically in the past; and particularly that Madero, who was himself a rebel as had been his predecessor Diaz, evaded them with impunity.

We have been taking every legal step possible to effect release, but formal methods count for little until backed by public sentiment.

A protest meeting will be held at our new headquarters, the "International Workers' Home." 809 Yale St., northwest corner of Yale and Alpine, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 16, at 3 p. m. All workers are earnestly invited to attend. Take North Broadway car, get off at Alpine and walk two blocks west.

ETERNAL TRUTH.

Where land is fully appropriated as private property, no increase in the production of wealth, no economy in its use can give the mere laborer more than the wages of a slave. If wealth rained down from heaven, or welled up from the depths of the earth, it could not enrich the laborer. It could merely increase the value of the land. No matter whether the social organization be simple or complex, no matter whether the intermediaries between the owners of land and the owners of the mere power to labor be few or many, wherever the available land has been fully appropriated as the property of some of the people, there must exist a class, the laborers of ordinary ability and skill, who can never hope to get more than a bare living for the hardest toil, and who are constantly in danger of failure to get even that. (Henry George.)

DANGER SIGNALS.

Dr. Gustave Streseman, noted German economist, has been investigating the United States. He reports that "conditions in most American factories with respect to safetly are simply horrible," and doubts whether, from the material standpoint, the American workingman is better off than is his German brother. What a commentary on the impotence of organized labor, which has scoffed at revolutionary propaganda and prided itself, above all, on being "practical!"

In the domain of voluntary public charity Dr. Streseman considers this country far ahead of Germany. The compliment is worse than doubtful, for "charity" is the fatal miasma that floats above and hides the cesspool.

Franklin H. Giddings, Columbia University's famous sociologist, comes out flat-footed with the statement that "the normal functioning of society has broken down in the United States," inasmuch as, "in disregard of human life, no other big nation this side of Russia can touch us." In England the homicide rate is 0.9 per 100,000 of population. Our average rate is 6.22 and in the South it rises to nearly 40. Bearing this in mind, what do you suppose will be the character of America's now inevitable economic revolution?

Items like the foregoing knock the props from under such flamboyant orations as that delivered by Attorney Miller, before the Hamilton Club of Chicago. Miller thinks "the permanency of our free institutions" has been assured by the Indianapolis convictions, and one reads that after the performance "lines were formed and the entire audience of four or five hundred representative business and professional men pressed forward to shake the hand of and personally congratulate the speaker."

Our money-crazed bourgeoisie alone is capable of such thick-headed optimisim. In reality all the world is saying that the Indianapolis and McNamara trials have revealed the United States as rotten to the core. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

Events—the Mexican Revolution, for example—are important in proportion as they stimulate thought and feeling; which, in their turn, produce other events that further stimulate thought and feeling; which produce still greater events productive of still greater thought and feeling. By the reciprocal interplay of thought, feeling and action humanity marches to its goal.