

This Is Your Cause; That Of Each One Of You

If a great civil conflict, involving rights more dear than life itself, broke out in the United States, what would we Americans do, if we happened to be living in Canada or Mexico? What would we do, if we had a drop of red blood in our veins? Would not every one of us be anxious to get back to his native soil, that he might bear his part, aiding those who seemed to him in the right, and helping to defeat those who seemed to him his country's enemies? To ask this question is to answer it.

If, in such conditions, Canada and Mexico tried to prevent us, by lining their frontiers with soldiers, and shooting or thrusting into jail those who attempted to get back, would that deter us? Would it deter men of fighting stock, who knew that the destinies of their fatherland were at stake and heard the imperious inner call to rally to her rescue? Of course it would not. In reality we should reproach most bitterly those who did not return, and their women would upbraid them as cowards who were flinching one of life's crucial tests.

Can we not put ourselves mentally in the Mexican's position? Have we not the impartiality needed to understand that he MUST act as we ourselves would act? How then can we defend the course of our Government which, for three years past, has been insisting that the Mexican resident in this country shall remain here, and that any attempt to return to Mexico and take part in that armed conflict, which today embraces all the country, shall be punished with imprisonment or death?

That has been the policy pursued by our Government for the last three years; ever since this Mexican Revolution began. Because Mexicans resident in the United States have not forgotten the land that gave them birth; because they have not felt themselves able to stand inactive, our Government has been running them into prison, and hunting them down, like wild animals, with its soldiers, its Rangers, its armed detectives. From McNeill's Island to Leavenworth the penitentiaries have been full of Mexicans whose only crime was patriotism, in its largest and truest sense. All along the Rio Grande death at the muzzle of United States rifles has awaited Mexicans who should attempt to cross the border.

They call this the preservation of the neutrality laws. They call it the enforcement of the neutrality laws. It is self-evident that peace is the very thing it has not produced. They declare that a Mexican carrying arms of any kind must be ranked by that very fact as a would-be assassin, to be handcuffed and dragged to prison if he yields submissively, to be shot down like a dog if he enters to resist. For this they keep thousands of soldiers strung out all along the frontier; thousands of special police, spies and detectives; all the costly hierarchy needed for the administration of what they call "justice" for every cent of which the taxpayer, and ultimately the workingman, must sweat.

All this is done in the sacred name of peace, but it is to be observed that our Government, so keen-eyed in the matter of the Mexican workingman, is stone-blind to the fact that our bankers and financiers lend money by the millions of dollars for the purchase and shipment to Mexico of those arms the importation of which it is supposed to be the special business of all these soldiers, Rangers, detectives, judges, etc., to prevent. What sense is there in that?

September 11, 1913, a small party of Mexican workingmen made an attempt to cross the border. Of course they were armed. Would you start out on such an errand without a gun? Would you venture into Mexico, with conditions as they are, having no weapons with which to defend yourself? They were surprised and fired at, one of their number being killed instantly. They disarmed their assailants; actually returned a man named Buck whom they had taken prisoner, and procured a written promise that they should be left in peace, signed by the leader of their assailants, one J. J. Campbell. Then they resumed their journey to the frontier. Early in the morning of September 13 they were attacked once more by a large force of Texas Rangers, near Carrizo Springs. The result was, two, if not three, Mexicans killed; an American deputy-sheriff killed; four Mexicans wounded; fourteen Mexicans thrown into jail, being treated on the long journey thither with infinite barbarity, according to all accounts, and threatened with lynching.

It was difficult, most difficult, to get any information, but at last we learned that there had been a change of venue from Carrizo Springs to Pearsall, it being held that local prejudice made it impossible to hope for a fair trial at the former place. Then we heard that one of the prisoners had been sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment, and that a similar, if not worse, fate awaited thirteen others. This morning—Oct. 15—we are informed that another has been sentenced to six years.

Observe that no one asks by what right the authorities killed two, if not three, Mexicans—and most brave, intelligent and excellent workers they were, every one of them—and wounded four others.

Observe that, on the other hand, the killing of a deputy-sheriff, in the light that naturally arose, is designated as

murder, and has formed the theme for furious articles in the local press, which lays stress on the fact that the spirit of revolution has been allowed to invade the cotton fields, in which thousands of Mexicans are employed.

Observe that these poor and comparatively helpless men have entered in all good faith into an agreement with the powerful authorities, and that the latter broke the agreement and took them by surprise.

Remember that these Mexicans are very poor, and that they must have made great sacrifices in order to return to their fatherland and answer what they considered the call of duty. For example, Juan Rincon, one of the killed, had travelled, as best he could, more than a thousand miles, from Los Angeles.

Remember that the accused cannot speak our tongue and are ignorant of all court usages, so difficult for even an educated American to master.

Therefore, they must have counsel. Such heavy sentences as twenty-five years must be fought against by skilled lawyers, who alone know how to conduct the fight. For this money must be collected; and, we regret it, it will be many trials and appeals.

We must appeal to the workers, and those wise and generous spirits who sympathize with the workers, since there are no others to whom we can appeal. The revolution in Mexico is a war of the poor against the rich, and the rich, as a class, together with those who consider their interests identified with the rich, are all against us.

All over the world the workers are finding themselves involved in a terrific struggle, which even now is only in its earliest stage. All over the world the interests of the workers are absolutely identical. It always pays them, therefore, to exhibit solidarity; to stand together and win, if possible, every one of the fights into which they are forced, even if a particular fight seems to them, at first glance, remote and comparatively unimportant.

This particular fight, however, is most important, just as the economic struggle in Mexico is most important, to every one of us. It is vitally important that Government should not be allowed to treat as criminals and assassins men who are trying to fulfill duties which we ourselves should be ashamed to flinch. It is necessary to insist that the life of honest workers is worth, at the very least, as much as those of officials. It is necessary, in a word, to stand by men of our own class when they are being made to suffer, and suffer most horribly, for the honest attempt to perform their duty to their class.

It is a class war in Mexico; the war between those two classes into which, by its unspeakable shame, the human race today has divided itself—the rich and the poor. The Mexicans killed at Carrizo Springs, Tex., and the Mexicans now on trial for their lives, were warriors in that great struggle; our warriors; our brothers; rights to a class, as a class, we are entitled; and of which a class, the wealthy and powerful have deprived us by force; since cunning and the shrewd taking of unfair advantage are at the bottom of all great fortunes; and are in themselves the most deadly type of force.

These men, though they speak a different tongue, are our men. We should not desert them. We should not leave them in the lurch. We should go to the very limit of our power to champion and free them.

In Los Angeles we shall hold such public meetings as we can. We shall start as active and international a publicity campaign as our most slender forces permit. The one local of the I. W. W. we have had time, as yet, to visit unanimously promised support. But we shall appeal to Labor as a whole, in this country and abroad, and to all those noble and intelligent spirits who understand that a great nation belittles itself inexpressibly and lays the foundation for its certain fall when it persecutes the weak.

Our campaign will be a fair one. We shall endeavor to give the facts as they actually are, knowing that if the public finds itself deceived the public will turn its back on us.

We have heard, as yet, from two legal firms, both near the scene of action and likely to know something definite as to the merits of these cases. One of them writes: "We read the Judge's charge and the newspapers' version of the evidence. If both are correct, this case—that of Serrano, a mere lad, who was given twenty-five years—will undoubtedly be reversed in the higher courts, and, according to the law and the evidence, this man should have been acquitted." The other writes: "I do not believe under our law they are guilty of the charge against them, but the jury are convicting them for wanting to go to Mexico."

As we have explained, according to our view that is not a crime, but an act of true and courageous patriotism, in its widest sense. It is clear to us that, if left to their fate, these men will not receive fair trial. It is clear to us that such a sentence as that passed on Serrano should not be permitted to stand unchallenged; and, believing most firmly in all that we have written here, we publish this in the hope that tens of thousands of our fellow-workers may come to see the matter as we see it.

is moonshine; and the doctrine of non-resistance is nothing but the natural degeneracy of old age; timid, shrunken, preferring the safety of chimney-corner gossip to the adventures of life's unending struggle.

Personally, and regarding the picture from a larger standpoint, I am the friend of thrones, for I wish all men to occupy them, and object only to their being monopolized. I am in love with power and wish all men to be equipped with it, as their natural heritage, they being the final fruit of evolution and the natural lords of earth. I do not wish for an ossified, senile race which can only chatter. I wish a simpler and, therefore, more youthful race; which, full of the sap that urges men to action, would make short work of the institutions that today are strangling life. The helplessness of modern man, constitutes the senile degeneracy into which institutions hoary with the frost of centuries have thrust him, but happily Life renews its youth continually. To the overthrow of those moss-covered institutions, a renewed youth, tingling with lust for action, must now address itself. As for passive resistance, it seems to me a noxious drug, designed to keep labor in that heavy, unnatural sleep from which it is our business to arouse it.

WM. C. OWEN.

Mexican Notes

Anything like an adequate treatment of the situation that has developed with Huerta's assumption of the dictatorship would require space we cannot give this week. We cannot give it owing to the expenditures involved by the imprisonment of our comrades in Texas, which force us to come out this week with "Regeneration" only half its usual size.

We sacrifice our Mexican Notes because Huerta's action is being discussed at enormous length by all the papers, and the main facts are known, therefore, to all our readers. It must be obvious to them that the situation grows daily more critical, with the shadow of foreign intervention looming continually larger.

If it comes, what are you going to do about it? Which side will you take in this Titanic war of the Man against the Moneybag?

The recent I. W. W. convention at Chicago passed a resolution, proposed by Charles Clifton, delegate from Local 65, declaring that it would "Open the Red Flag in this country. Raise revolt rather than war." Local 61, I. W. W., of Bisbee, Ariz., has passed fine resolutions, pointing out that "instead of organized labor clamoring for intervention, they ought to assist the Mexicans with all the power at their command."

As to the good will of the rank and file of the I. W. W. we have no doubt, and much the same applies to a large section of the Socialist Party. By the way, we anticipate that said section does not include Congressman, the Hon. Victor Berger.

The very latest and, as it seems to us, most important news, dated Nogales, Oct. 16, is that Carranza has received a dispatch from his agents in Washington stating that our government is preparing to grant him belligerent rights. We give it for what it is worth. Carranza was given a most enthusiastic reception at Cananea, Oct. 15, it being reported that 10,000 escorted him through nine triumphal arches.

Huerta is reported as having obtained a loan of \$2,600,000 in Paris, through the efforts of the Archbishop of Mexico. But, Mexican exchange in New York has risen to the highest figure on record, it being now necessary to pay \$276 in Mexican money for \$100 in United States currency.

The answer given to President Wilson's demand that the imprisoned deputies be guaranteed against bodily injury has been the arrest of another deputy.

In huge letters and a front page, seven-column headline "The Los Angeles Evening Herald" of Oct. 19 informs the public that "Mexican Rebel Assassins Invade U. S." It appears that Gen. Maas and his federal staff, travelling by special train across American territory, were fired on.

There has been an anti-American student riot in Mexico City. Owing to the number of troops despatched North foreign residents fear that the city may find itself finally at the mercy of the mob.

The attack on Guaymas has been resumed on a large scale, and it is declared that 1500 have fallen in the fighting of the last three days. The Carranzistas are said to have fallen into a trap set by Ojeda when he abandoned the outer fortifications, and to have lost 1000 men. Fierce fighting continued.

The "Longview Times" of Oct. 16 carries a special despatch to the effect that the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, Spain, Cuba, Guatemala and Norway are recommending their several governments to send warships to Mexico for the purpose of protecting their legations.

It is still insisted that elections will be held Oct. 26, as scheduled, but we observe that former U. S. Ambassador Wilson has given out an interview in which he states that even Madero, acclaimed so loudly as having been elected President by the public will, received only 19,987 votes out of a population of 15,000,000. Wilson properly remarks: "It might be well to understand that no free election has ever been held in Mexico."

Four judges of the Supreme Court of Mexico have resigned. The legal mind naturally runs to caution.

Speaking at a recent meeting in Chicago, held on behalf of the Wheatland hop-pickers now confined in the county jail at Sacramento, Cal., Vincent St. John concluded as follows: "We want to bring about a solidarity that will respond to the needs of every occasion; that will prevent oppression and take from the clutches of the employing class every member of the working class whose life and liberty may be in danger. Regardless of what the charge may be against them, regardless of what excuse may be offered, regardless of what the expense is to you or to me, we want to

WHO ARE THE NEGRO'S FRIENDS?

We read with pleasure in "The New Review" an article entitled "The Status of the Negro in the United States," by Mary White Overton, in which she sounds a much-needed warning to those misguided agitators who seek to gain a following by playing on race prejudice. The writer of the article questions tells them frankly that "the segregated black laborer will learn to believe that his cause is antagonistic to the cause of the white laborer. Increasingly he will serve the capitalist—to whom, indeed, he will alone owe any possible loyalty—and he will logically become a means for building up privilege and increasing the power of the few."

Mary Overton writes as a Socialist and in a Socialist review, and she is forced to admit, with profound regret, that at the last National Socialist convention no word was uttered by any one save Haywood in behalf of the black race; that only one negro delegate was present, "but he was not given an opportunity to speak." She calls attention to the fact that among the organizations and parties that profess to represent labor, the I. W. W. has stood alone in its upholding of the Negro's rights. That is vastly to its credit, as it may well be the boast of Anarchists throughout the world that never have they drawn either the race or color line. To them a man has always been a man "for a' that and a' that." To the Socialists, as has become only too lamentably self-apparent, men have no value save as voters. Hence the Socialists' eagerness to exclude Japanese, Chinese and others of those whom, in their aristocratic pride, they regard as belonging to "inferior" races. Hence their utter lack of sympathy for the Mexicans.

We speak of the leaders, swollen with pride and crazed by vain ambition. Thousands of Socialists, from the rank and file, condemn that inhuman and suicidal policy as heartily as we do.

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RESUMEN.

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The City Discusses; The Country Acts

I believe in trying to find out what life actually is, instead of following those who point it as they would like to have it. For instance, Tolstoy, in comparative old age, when the fires of youth were dying down and life's forces degenerating, Tolstoy composed a philosophy. It professed to be based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, and had non-resistance as its basis; although in my opinion, it is easy to show that Jesus, when brought face to face with the stern realities of life as conducted in Jerusalem, became what we should call nowadays a Direct Actionist of some pronounced type. In reality, to me at least, it does not matter, for I am interested in life and not in what Jesus or Tolstoy thought of life. Therein lies the distinction between the religious and scientific schools. The former follows teachers; the latter tries to get at facts.

Tolstoy had no love for science, but he went to what he considered science for the one great argument on which his doctrine of passive resistance rested. He took the law of inheritance, pointed out that like produces like, and drew the deduction that violence could only produce, ad infinitum, a brood of violence. Unfortunately, the deduction jumped at leads to conclusions which do not square with life. Fire is often the one thing with which fire can be checked. Within the last few minutes I stopped a dog fight and forced a reign of peace. The cruelty of the surgeon's knife may be needed to save life. We are born into this world through agonizing struggle; and if my Minneapolis correspondents doubt it let them go to a moving picture show and watch the fight put up by a chicken breaking out of its shell or a moth emerging from its chrysalis. The fact, of course, is that nature has equipped us with a vast armory of weapons, and that only when life's energies are at low ebb do we become too lazy and cowardly to use them. Old men prefer the chimney-corner to the arena; old societies, which have become highly differentiated by castes and a complicated network of artificial pursuits, become ossified, as age becomes ossified, and, like the aged, change with great difficulty. On the other hand, societies that have preserved their simplicity are still elastic, and, like the youthful body, being composed of simpler cells, can change with ease.

There is every reason to suppose that what holds good of the individual that they will step down voluntarily

holds good of the social whole, which is but the individual multiplied. Thus, we find nations in their prime, full of fight, and nations in their decay, shrinking from the combat. Throughout history we find the great metropolitan centers, in which life has grown most complex, incapable of even reforming themselves; but we find the simpler peasant the backbone of revolutionary change. Country barbarians overthrow imperial Rome. Peasants prepare the way even for the intellectual upheaval known as the Protestant Reformation. Peasants demolish the feudal system in France; rise against the absentee landlord in Ireland, rebel against the nobility in Russia and make and carry on the Mexican Revolution. In the cities intense differentiation of caste, of industry, of wealth has brought about the stationary conditions characteristic of old age; and, like old age, the cities are, merely garrulous. In the country the simplicity of youth has been preserved, and youth has the pluck and energy to act.

Look at the situation today, as between Mexico and these United States. Like men of his race, Huerta goes directly to results, and I have been at much pains in these columns to show that the Latin-American politician has a simple mind, which recognizes the capture of government as the capture of power, to accomplish which one armed man is worth a dozen voters. Moreover, in this particular instance, we probably have to do with a more than usually simple man, since Huerta reminded his Congress recently that he was an Indian and not a Caucasian. Woodrow Wilson, on the other hand, is a man of books; the child of a highly complicated, artificial society that runs to discuss matters over a mahogany table than to take a rifle and hike along a dangerous trail. Therefore Huerta, full of action, seizes the throne; while Wilson and Bryan think they can talk him off it.

Thrones are captured by fighters; are relinquished only to fighters; whether they are Mexican thrones or Wall Street thrones or those thrones occupied by shrewd individuals who have captured things the rest of us must have. The occupants will yield only to attack; and the more intelligent, the more direct, the simpler and the more youthfully-jerky the attack, the sooner the occupants will tumble off their thrones. The idea that holds good of the individual that they will step down voluntarily

A PLAIN LESSON.

If you think the question of centralization vs. decentralization, which is now causing the I. W. W. so much trouble, merely academic, you have another thing coming. You had better read, for example, "Paul Dupres" article in "The Voice of the People," New Orleans, Oct. 9. He contrasts the two systems as they have worked themselves out in the workers' movement of France and Germany respectively. If you cannot learn from that plain lesson we regret to say that, in our opinion, nothing can teach you. In centralized Germany the trade union are merely the tool of ambitious Socialist politicians. In decentralized France they have proved themselves a very living force. Have we no politicians in these United States?

A FINE SUCCESS!

"Convention of Social-Democratic Party of Germany a great success" is the head that stares one in the face on picking up "The New Times," of Minneapolis, Socialist organ. The report that follows does not justify the head. For example, it reads: "Under the heading of Organization the report shows that the increase in membership is disappointing." Further: "the by-elections for the filling of vacancies in the Reichstag reveal a certain amount of apathy." Again: "the general strike as a means for securing universal manhood suffrage was rejected, after a lengthy discussion." Prominent leaders, it is said, "declared that a political strike at the present moment would be a catastrophe."

In reality, it is useless to go into detail on this question. The overwhelming central fact is that the German Social-Democratic Party was formed to bring about a complete economic revolution, and that, after all these years, the country in the world is so far from economic revolution as is Germany. In that unhappy land the "herd" philosophy, of which voting is the concrete expression, has extinguished almost the last spark of the spirit of individual revolt. Let American revolutionists take warning.

The labor leaders want you to do everything through them, because thereby they become the big men and get all the plums, from factory inspectorship, which inspects nothing, to seats in presidential cabinets.

Writing us with a donation for "Land and Liberty," Mrs. Julia A. Nielsen, of Palo Alto, says: "I often feel pessimistic, but as I cannot conceive of life without propaganda, I must keep at it." Ah! If we could only make that spirit universal among the disinherited!

¡Gran Mitin Internacional.

El sábado 25 y domingo 26 de Septiembre de 1913 se darán dos mitines a las 8 P. M. en el Mammoth Hall de esta ciudad, como protesta contra los salvajes procedimientos que están haciendo lujos las autoridades de Texas contra los 14 compañeros libertarios presos ahora en Pearsall, County Jail, Tex. Habrá oradores en inglés, español, judío, italiano. El hall cita en 517 South Broadway St., Los Angeles, Cal.

EN RUTA A PEARSA.

Jose Angel Hernández, en Ruta a Pearsall. Este compañero, tan presto llegue se encargará de los asuntos de los compañeros presos. Se suplirán a todos los liberales y simpatizantes, que por donde él pase, le presten el apoyo necesario para el mejor desempeño de su comisión.

NUOVO FOLLETO "SENDA LIBERTARIA."

El folleto del compañero Antonio de P. Araujo conteniendo algunos de los artículos revolucionarios de Ricardo Flores Magón, William C. Owen y Antonio de P. Araujo, estará a la venta en dos o tres semanas más.

Háganse los pedidos a nuestras oficinas, acompañando el importe, pues la edición es muy reducida.

Precio del folleto, diez centavos; cinco ejemplares, cincuenta centavos; diez ejemplares, un peso.

Pedidos a Anselmo L. Figueroa, P. O. Box 1236, Los Angeles, Cal.

Administracion

ELGIN, TEX., M. González, \$1.25; CITY, venta de un libro de Owen, 10c; HOWIE, ARIZ., J. Acuña, \$1; MORENCI, ARIZ., M. Pérez, \$3; H. Ibarra, \$2; BISCEL, ARIZ., F. B. Castilla, \$1; Nicolas López, 75c; A. Medina, 25c; Gregoria Pérez, 50c; STOCKDALE, TEX., P. Buenteolo, 2c; COMPTON, CAL., P. Ochao, por libros de Reg., \$1.60; CITY, P. Kahu, por libros de Owen, \$2.50; E. A. Elsworth, \$2; SEATTLE, WASH., Lucy E. Parson, por libros de Owen, \$2; CANDELA, TEX., J. Rivas, por libros de Reg., \$4.75; Un Liberal, 25c; MEMPHIS, TENN., E. Benavides, \$1; HIGHLAND, CAL., J. Palamio, 95c; SAN GABRIEL, CAL., A. Rincon, \$5; Juana Rincon, 50c; METCALF, ARIZ., J. M. Gardea, 55c; J. García, \$2; J. Z. Bañuelos, \$1.10; D. Rubalcaba, 60c; J. Carrillo, 50c; V. Muñoz, 25c; R. Jiménez, \$1; BISBEE, ARIZ., P. M. Anguiano, \$1; SIERRA MADRE, CAL., Y. Q. Mendoza, 50c; por libros, 30c; SANTIAGO, DE CUBA, J. C. Poso, \$1.10; MCGREW, NEBR., F. Vázquez, por libros, \$50; PONCE, P. RICO, B. Torres, \$2.50; CITY, R. M. Alvarez, 25c.

PRO PRESOS DE TEXAS.

Suma anterior, \$3.25; J. Cisneros, 50c; MEMPHIS, TENN., E. Benavides, \$1; RIVERA, CAL., A. Acosta, 25c; CIUDAD, P. Paulet, \$1; J. U. Rodriguez, \$2; CARMEL, CAL., M. Pereira, \$1; SAN GABRIEL, CAL., A. Rincon, 50c; A. Téllez, 50c; J. Maines, \$1. Total, \$11.

PARA CUCA RIVERA.

Suma anterior, \$6.60; CIUDAD, J. Olmos, 50c; E. Gutiérrez, 25c; Y. Leal, 25c; E. Vivas, 50c; J. Olmos, 50c; RIVERA, CAL., A. Acosta, 25c. Total, \$8.85.

En Caja \$3.85

PRO PRESOS DE MCNEIL ISLAND.

Suma anterior, \$46.85; CARMEL, CAL., M. Pereira, \$1. Total, \$47.85.

Pronto estará a la venta el folleto de Araujo titulado SENDA LIBERTARIA.

Haced los pedidos a la dirección de A. L. Figueroa, P. O. Box 1236, Los Angeles, Calif.