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Fear Is Stamping Us Into Revolution

"E. W. Howe's Monthly" is a publication I read with respect and pleasure, although its views on leading questions are opposed to mine. We have our points of contact. Howe hates lies, and thinks we are going headlong to ruin because we have become a nation of liars. He delights in exposing the newspapers, which manufacture lies by the mile, in their craze for circulation. He has no use for politics, declaring them to be so dirty that they corrupt the purest. Wilson, Roosevelt and that incomparable humbug, Bryan, are his pet targets. His standpoint is that "the real heroes of the world have been conservative men who had great respect for plain truth and plain common sense." He is everlastingly down on those who are crazy with the ambition to "do good" by standing in the limelight and getting people to pay fifty cents to look at them. All that I like.

Howe was a well-known and most capable newspaper man. Now he has retired, and he runs his monthly purely for his own mental satisfaction. He hits out fearlessly and calls his paper one "devoted to indignation and information." I believe him when he declares that the only thing he cares about is truth, and I am satisfied that if he could see facts as I see them, he would become an Anarchist and revolutionist, and a most valuable one. As it is, he hates the Anarchists and believes we should intervene in Mexico and put down the revolution, because it is rousing all the latent turbulence of the discontented in this country and will precipitate a revolution in the United States before we know it. Howe dislikes soldiers, has no use for priests of any creed, swears by industry and holds that mankind's great benefactors are those who make two blades of grass grow where previously there was only one. He is, therefore, a profound admirer of inventors and scientists, and death on parasites. As said before, his pet aversion is the politician, who is both parasite and liar.

Howe says it is all bosh to maintain that, in Mexico or anywhere else, the land belongs to the people. In his own words: "The land belongs to people who have paid for it, and it should not be taken from them without compensation." Probably he never read Henry George upon that question; is unaware that so cold a thinker as Herbert Spencer insisted that the land is the joint heritage of the race, in which every one of us is equally interested as an equal partner; has never examined the exhaustive argument by which John Stuart Mill demonstrates that the principle of private property—defended as an incentive to industry—cannot apply to land, which is not the product of human industry. Clearly he has not reflected that only within very recent times have we begun to ignore these truths, and has not considered that all the earlier races, which built up the civilization of which our own is but an offshoot, based their philosophy of life on a recognition that the earth is man's joint patrimony. The entire feudal system was based on that philosophy, and to this very hour the title to every inch of real estate in England is vested, theoretically, in the Crown, as trustee for the public.

Howe complains that throughout his newspaper career he was habitually overworked. Such persons have to jump at and grapple with present facts, as they pop up before them by the thousands. What Howe sees, for example, is the fact that people save their money and buy real estate. His experience is that such people are usually enterprising and thrifty, and he admires enterprise and thrift. He jumps therefore, like a busy man, to the conclusion that this is the right system. For the larger and more important reflection that from denial of man's equal and individual right to the use of our joint inheritance there have sprung Rockefeller and city slums; armies of unemployed, voluntary and involuntary, and the huge armies of repression needed to restrain them; thieving financiers and

lying politicians; the social revolution that begins to threaten us and the actual revolution that is scourging Mexico—for this far larger and infinitely more important reflection Howe has had no leisure. He prides himself on dealing with facts, but he deals only with isolated facts, and isolated facts are always most deceptive. He takes life as he sees it, and he sees clearly and honestly; but he sees only the procession as it is passing at this moment beneath his nose. Over and over again, as a newspaper man, he has been behind the political curtain, and he denounces our politicians as the frauds they are. He has known Funston and other military heroes, and sizes them up contemptuously. Reformers, with their perpetual clamor for free advertising, he necessarily loathes, as must every honest newspaper man who has had experience with them. But deeper than that he does not go, and without going deeper it is no more possible to understand the Mexican Revolution, or our own social troubles, than it is for the minnow in the brook to understand the incoming rush of ocean tides.

Howe's newspaper training qualifies him for puncturing the transparent lies in which labor organs habitually indulge, to the incalculable weakening of their case. He knows that labor agitation has become a profession, and has attracted parasites of whom one may justly say that "the truth is not in them." Therefore he finds himself drawn to the Rockefellerers, who at least do something, whereas the others only talk about it. He knows that our daily press, which clamors for excitement and finds profit only in the abnormal, welcomes strikes and regards an Anarchist regicide or bomb-thrower as the best friend it has on earth. Therefore, understanding thoroughly the rottenness of the press, he is impelled to take the other side, emphasize the good wages certain strikers receive, and dwell, as does the "Los Angeles Daily Times," on the losses they incur by dropping work. But he takes no note of the far greater facts that we have become a nation of tenants, at the mercy of our landlords; that we have become a nation of wage-workers and find ourselves caught today in a rigidly-organized industrial system which makes the odds against rising out of wage slavery some three thousand to one; that, while government commissions announce gravely that a family of five needs an annual income of from \$750 to \$1000, more than half our wage-workers earn less than \$500 a year, and only about ten per cent rise to the \$1000. I take my figures from Dr. Scott Nearing, professor of economics in the University of Pennsylvania and recently summoned as an expert witness before the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, convened in Philadelphia.

These are the facts, Mr. Howe: the larger facts, on which one's judgment of a very large question must be based. They are not known in detail by the masses, who have not the leisure for exhaustive study, but they are felt. It is felt that the ordinary man in the United States must work henceforth for wages and be a tenant, just as it has been felt by the Mexicans that their chance of owning the land whereon they live, and being able to regulate their own lives, has been taken from them. It is felt that, instead of being masters of that great value-producing machinery to which human invention has given birth, we have become its slaves. It is felt that instead of life growing easier and safer it is growing harder and more unsafe. It is felt that fear rules us more and more—fear of unemployment and starvation; fear of the jail and madhouse; fear for ourselves today and fear for our children in a future that seems darker and darker the more we look at it. I admit that to the trained and philosophic mind, capable of measuring the enormous possibilities of industrial freedom, the revolution presents itself as a glorious hope. But with the masses it is different. As they are kept from revolt by fear so are they being stamped into revolt by a still greater fear; and that stampede has begun in this country, as it has begun in Mexico, as it is beginning everywhere. Security and freedom from anxiety our race will get, at any price. But there is bound to be an awful row.

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Mexican Notes

Bryan caused much uneasiness among the European Powers recently by the statement that the United States would not support claims arising out of action taken by the Huerta government subsequent to Oct. 10, 1913, the date at which Huerta dissolved his Congress. "The Wall Street Journal" has been much exercised by Carranza's later announcement that he proposed to ignore entirely obligations contracted by Huerta. Thus, whatever may be the arrangements reached for the moment by Carranza and Carranza, all the basic questions still remain unsettled. Land monopoly has yet to be abolished throughout the nation, and the question of compensation to foreign concessionaires will be a sure trouble-maker for the future. Naturally the European conflagration postpones indefinitely action on behalf of foreign creditors, and has also the secondary effect of throwing the Mexican problem for the time being into the shade. The international Socialist Congress has been postponed, and we imagine that the one called by the Anarchists for Aug. 29, in London, will find it well-nigh impossible to get delegates together. As has been the case for so long a time in Mexico—travelling is interrupted.

Mazatlan was taken by the Constitutionalists, Aug. 1, the Federals evacuating the port but being allowed to retain their arms. Gen. Obregon then announced that he would begin immediately his advance on Mexico City. Gen. Jesus Carranza, who occupied Guanajuato recently, left for the South, July 30, to join Obregon. Jesus Carranza is credited with having 12,000 men in his command.

There has been much discussion as to Villa's movements, with constant suggestions that Carranza intends to throw him over. The "S. F. Examiner" reports an interview with him, dated Aug. 2, by its special correspondent, John W. Roberts, in which he appears to have virtually declared himself ruler of Northern Mexico, for he explained that he had not moved his troops South "because he did not want them to fall into a trap by going into a country unknown to them." Villa said also, speaking of his own soldiers: "They have conquered Northern Mexico, and here they shall remain. No matter what peace arrangements are made, my men will remain in the State of Chihuahua, ready to fight, until death takes us to a place where fighting is unknown. We will admit no intruders, and no one who has not taken an active part in making victory possible will be allowed to hold office." There have been repeated reports to the effect that Villa is importing ammunition continuously, and the steamer Hatteras, said to have on board about 1,000,000 cartridges and several hundred rifles, purchased by Villa's agents, is mysteriously missing between Galveston and Tampico.

The results of the conference at Saltillo between Provisional President Carranza's peace delegates and Carranza have not been reported at this writing. Carranza is represented as bent on obtaining an immediate armistice and suspension of hostilities.

Against the Church.

Stringent measures against the Roman Catholic church are reported by Antonio I. Villarreal, the new governor of Nuevo Leon, and Villa is said to have telegraphed his congratulations and assurances that he intended to pursue the same policy in Chihuahua. According to Washington advices, Carranza is demanding the unconditional surrender of Mexico City, but is giving assurances that there will be no reprisals. It is declared also that he has made peace with Zapata, but as regards the intentions and movements of the latter reports are most conflicting. High Constitutional officials are quoted as saying that the withdrawal of the American troops stationed at Vera Cruz will be an immediate demand.

According to a Vera Cruz despatch, dated July 31, Carranza's peace delegates were treated in the coldest manner when they reached Tampico, en route to the peace conference at Saltillo. No official met them at the wharf and no courtesies were extended to them during their stay.

Special efforts are being made to prevent the smuggling of ammunition across the Rio Grande, and orders have been issued that no revolutionary officers be allowed to cross the line into the United States. Huerta, when leaving the country, declared

that he did so only with the full intention of returning with a far more powerful movement than any yet set on foot. Probably this has inspired Hearst to the signed editorial in which, July 30, he urged Villa as the logical President for Mexico, chiefly because he has the army at his back, in addition to being popular with the masses.

Wilson and Bryan have expressed themselves repeatedly as much satisfied with recent developments in Mexico, and "The Public," Single Tax organ, is loud in its assertions that the President's policy of watchful waiting has been more than justified by results. That portion of the daily press which favors Wilson joins in the eulogy, but invariably on the ground that he has acted efficiently for the protection of the interests of American and other foreign investors. We are satisfied that this view, which represents him as the skillfully diplomatic agent of monopoly, is correct. In the article already alluded to Hearst wrote: "It is idle for Mr. Wilson to assume that he is not attempting to dictate in Mexican affairs. He is an autocrat in everything. He is as much of a dictator in Mexico as he is in the United States. Perhaps more so, as he is a military dictator in Mexico, able to impose his demands by force of arms." Doubtless the devil himself often varies the monotony of life by telling the truth.

Let Us Quit Slumber

The Capitalist Courts of the State of Texas have tried and condemned another two of our brothers, to 10 years, B. Mendoza, and 25 years P. Perales. Ten and twenty-five years of imprisonment for fighting and trying to help the oppressed against the damnable System that produces crime, misery and degradation!

Such are the last reports of the trial against our brothers jailed in Texas. Are we, rebels and enemies of present conditions, to remain quiet and see the criminal proceedings that day after day our comrades are enduring, without doing our very best to stop that which must stop if things are to go right?

Many know the history of the arrest of our brothers, and a good many more must know the case in order that in the next acting of the Court, our brothers may get what now is called a fair deal. In order to accomplish this, we have to agitate; and it is up to those who love fair dealing to take the task.

Yes; the Courts have sentenced our brothers, and the crime—if there was any crime committed in this case—was not a crime of an individual, nor of a body of men, but a social crime for which the present Society is only responsible.

The other boys now in jail and waiting trial, will be tried in the early part of September, although the regular term of Court is late in October. A special term of Court has been ordered. And why? The reason why is that they know that what they are doing with our brothers is not fair, is not justice; they are criminal proceedings and are afraid that the people, knowing the facts, will rise and stop their cowardly behavior.

They know and are afraid that much can be done in a month of agitation, arousing the people in defense of their victims, and that is why they rush them to the scaffold. Much can be done; but if we remain as we have remained; if we do not multiply our efforts from what we have already done, their fears are founded only in nightmares, the result of criminal consciences, and not because there is any real danger coming from those who go bragging and calling themselves revolutionists and agitators against crime and injustice.

The special term of Court to try our brothers, as I said before, will be in the early part of September; less than a month we have in which to do something.

What are we going to do? Are we going to let the Courts do as they have done and stand idle and watch the criminal farse that will send some of our brothers to the gallows and others to long prison terms as it has been done already?

We might as well quit entirely and leave our comrades to their fate, if in the next few days that we have to work for them, we do not accomplish something.

Remember that it is a Special Term of Court that will try our brothers, and it must be a Special Effort from our part to prevent it.

The enemy is afraid of time, and we

must make the best of time.

By agitating in a broader way than before, the people will know what the State of Texas is doing in this case and may stop the special proceeding where specialized rascality is to take place.

Under the present System everyone knows that hardly anything can be carried on without money.—money is the lever that shakes everything and makes things go. Our friends in jail belong to our Class, and from our Class must come the means for their defense. Collect—collect and send everything collected to Victor Cravello, Room 108, Labor Temple, Los Angeles, Cal.

If everyone of those who love Justice and fair dealing would only do his best to stop the injustice that is to be done to our brothers in the next trial, they will not only save the ones to be tried, but will also influence very strongly in favor of those already tried.

In the name of Justice and for the sake of the cause for which our brothers are now suffering, I send my appeal to all lovers of Justice and fair dealing. "Collect money and agitate;" let that be our motto until this dark cloud, hanging over the fate of our comrades, is cleared.

Our indifference in this matter will be greater crime than all the criminal acting that the Courts of Texas may use against men like our comrades.

Awake! Let us quit slumbering, and let us act!

ANSELMO L. FIGUEROA.

Tolstoy's Vision

It is the Kaiser—actually the Kaiser—who is credited with having sought and obtained from Tolstoy his views as to the future, and the following prophesy was dictated by the noted Russian thinker to his wife, he being then near death and too feeble to write. That it acquires special interest by reason of the terrific war now convulsing Europe goes without saying. The vision is said to have been published as a leaflet, and runs as follows:

"This is a revelation of events of a universal character, which must shortly come to pass. Their spiritual outlines are now before my eyes. I see floating upon the surface of the sea of human fate the huge silhouette of a nude woman. She is—with her beauty, her poise, her smile, her jewels—a super-Venus. Nations rush madly after her, each of them eager to attract her especially. But she, like an eternal courtesan, flirts with all. In her hair ornament of diamonds and rubies is engraved her name: 'Commercialism.' As alluring and bewitching as she seems, much destruction and agony follows in her wake. Her breath, reeking of sordid transactions, her voice of metallic character like gold, and her look of greed are so much poison to the nations who fall victims to her charms. "And behold, she has three gigantic arms with three torches of universal corruption in her hand. The first torch represents the flame of war, that the beautiful courtesan carries from city to city, and country to country. Patriotism answers with flashes of honest flame, but the end is the roar of guns and musketry. "The second torch bears the flame of bigotry and hypocrisy. It lights the lamps only in temples and on the altars of false institutions. It carries the seed of falsity and fanaticism. It kindles the minds that are still in cradles and follows them to their graves. "The third torch is that of the law, that dangerous foundation of all unauthentic traditions, which first does its work in the family, then sweeps through the larger worlds of literature, art and statesmanship. "The great conflagration will start about 1912, set by the torch of the first arm in the countries of South-eastern Europe. It will develop into a destructive calamity in 1913. In that year I see all Europe in flames and bleeding. I hear the lamentations of huge battlefields. But about the year 1915 a strange figure from the North—a new Napoleon—enters the stage of the bloody drama. He is a man of little militaristic training, a writer or a journalist, but in his grip most of Europe will remain till 1925. The end of the great calamity will make a new political era for the old world. There will be left no empires or kingdoms, but the world will form a federation of the United States of Nations. There will remain only four great giants—the Anglo-Saxons, the Latins, the Slavs and the Mongolians."