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Somehow Slaughter Will Be Stopped.

What is being done elsewhere I do not know, but in San Francisco the Anarchists are making sincere efforts to live up to the solemn propaganda duty which the European war imposes on us. Already they have published, in English, French, German and Italian, a large and profusely illustrated four-page war paper entitled "The Social Revolution." This they are sending out gratuitously, and they have set on foot a series of mass meetings at which they hope to raise the funds needed for the paper's extensive distribution. Surely it is high time. Surely this is the hour for intelligence to push energetically to the front and expose that monstrous governmental delusion which bids fair to drown the world in blood. Surely this is the moment to crucify for eternity the lie that soulless governmental machines, which elevate the few to omnipotence, should be adored and venerated as the people's friends. They are not; they never have been; they never can be. They were born of force and fraud, and without the support of force and fraud they could not last a week.

The Anarchist movement exists to oppose the governmental lie. It exists, solely and exclusively, to denounce and overthrow the rule of man by man; to abolish the artificial inequalities that rule engenders; to open the doors of opportunity by forcing the hand of power to relax its clutch; to abolish social war by throwing on the scrap heap that infernal governmental machinery which works incessantly for war. It is not to be fooled with words or labels. It knows that rule is rule and that orders are orders whether issued by uniformed kaisers or by those vulgar politicians whom Social Democracy has cheated the masses into multiplying. It recognizes that Socialism, the Socialists, the Socialist philosophy, have fooled the nations as they never were fooled before; that they have taught us that these hierarchies are kindly servants instead of being, as they are, our cruel masters; that they have bidden us clothe these governments with the privileges of Gods, in the simple faith that they will shower their gifts upon us. Trust God! Trust Czar and Kaiser! Trust the shyster who has climbed from the gutter into Congress! Trust the scalliwags who have given away your lands, created your monopolies, and tied you hand and foot in their network of artificial laws! Trust all and any of these scoundrels, but for heaven's sake do not trust yourself! This has been the teaching, and it has set the world in flames.

Can any one suppose this war an accident? Is it possible to contemplate the enormous fighting machine which the Kaiser of Germany has built and yet fail to understand that wholesale slaughter has been plotted cold-bloodedly by men whose every thought was murder? What would be thought of private individuals who should act as they have acted? What should we do to ordinary miscreants found to be devoting all their lives to assassination on the most colossal scale? Tolstoi is emphatically right. As compared with the criminality of governmental machines the worst excesses of private citizens are white as driven snow. And this is the State at whose feet the Socialists would have us kneel. This is the Moloch into whose flaming jaws they would have us cast ourselves. It is high time, I say, that we should face these ugly facts. It is high time that we should understand the real meaning of this war, and the part Socialism and the Socialist philosophy—with their worship of Authority, their worship of centralized power, their worship of Might—have played in making it. Socialism is a reversion to barbaric thought; a reversion to the trust-in-God idea; a reversion to the Toryism of the old feudal regime, which taught the masses to look to their betters for all improvements in their lot. Socialism created Bismarck, who stole its thunder and learned from it how to create the omnipotent modern State. It created his suc-

cessor, this modern war-God of a Kaiser. It created the millions of submissive Socialist voters who are his food for powder. It has been one of the most debasing and debilitating philosophies that has ever enchaind the human mind, for it has mocked to scorn the doctrine of individual rights and has disciplined the mass into abandoning all thought of individual revolt.

Thank God, the tide has turned. Thank God, in the small crucible, first of the Mexican Revolution, and now in the gigantic cauldron of European war, all these sophistries have been tested and at the first breath from the furnace they wither into dust. In a life without principle, which twists and squirms according to the twistings and squirmings of politics, there is no strength; there never can be. In creeds which degrade the individual and bend their every energy to rob him of the spirit of revolt there is no strength; there never can be. It is all emasculating; all degeneracy unspeakable; all a lowering of that virility without which the race amounts to nothing. It produces pompous orators, inflated windbags, muddle-headed devotees who live on catchwords and worship at the shrines of loud-mouthed leaders—all these it produces in appalling plenty, but it does not produce men. The average Socialist shelters eternally under the plea that he is the victim of conditions; and this plea, so natural to him and always so ready to his tongue, robs him habitually of moral stamina. The Socialist is instructed continually that he must do as does the mass, and be true not to himself but to his party. That is one of the most rotting influences a man can allow to creep into his life.

Thank God the tide has turned. War is the greatest of all tragedies, and, therefore, the most infallible of tests. It brings men face to face with facts; substitutes action, of which we usually can judge correctly, for talk, which usually deceives us. At the very outset it has shown up all the braggadocio of Socialist talk, and exposed the sham as it actually is. The Socialists have no power, and never had. The Socialists are always and everywhere a weakening influence, since they strengthen the governments which keep the masses weak. The Socialists are not a revolutionary force and never can be, since they frown on individual revolt which is the mainspring of revolutionary movements. The Socialists have been far stronger in Germany than in any other country, and it is precisely in Germany that they are the natural food for powder. In Germany these Socialists, who have orated eternally against war and denounced mercilessly every Anarchist who wished to go a step beyond orating, have put their hands in the Kaiser's and vowed eternal loyalty. Apparently no Liebknecht rose to the height of understanding that death as a rebel was to be preferred a thousand times to that ignominious surrender. Apparently none of these revolutionists of the restraints proved equal to standing on his own feet and declaring himself a man. I myself am perhaps too severe a critic of the Anarchist movement. I deplore the extent to which it wallows in what I regard as unhealthy sexualism. I regret its too frequent excursions into side issues and literary dilettantism. But I believe that few of the Anarchists I have known would have shown the submissiveness that has marked the German Socialists. The Anarchists are individual rebels, and in the individual rebel lies our hope.

Socialism will not be able to survive this war. It has been decaying these many years, for confidence in its sincerity and fighting qualities was shaken long ago, and when confidence is shaken the rest is merely a question of time and test. The test has come. The failure is pronounced, unmistakable, self-evident to all the world. The future is with the individual rebel, and will be moulded by the decisive action he will take. That it will be startlingly decisive in countless instances I, at least, have not the slightest doubt, nor do I believe that the gentlemen who have been the causes of this war will have much opportunity of dying in their beds. Somehow or other this slaughter of the masses will be stopped, and, to my thought, the method of the stopping is an easy guess.

WM. C. OWEN.

LAND AND LIBERTY. Mexico's Battle for Economic Freedom and its Relation to Labor's World-Wide Struggle. Selected from writings of Ricardo Flores Magon. Antonio de P. Arango and Wm. C. Owen.—10c a copy.

Mexican Notes.

"Bread lines and public shelters will be one of the new government's first institutions," runs a Mexico City despatch which insists that Carranza is showing most commendable activity in grappling with the question of the poor. Unfortunately it is clear that he is treading the same worn-out paths that in the past have led invariably to Nowhere and cannot, by the very nature of things, do otherwise. Bread lines and public shelters can no more abolish poverty in Mexico than they have abolished it in the United States. Only free access to natural opportunities can accomplish that, and it is reasonable to suppose that in Mexico it would do so with great rapidity, for the people are natural agriculturists, their wants are few and simple, and those wants the rich soil and genial temperature of the country can supply with ease.

Carranza, of course, has no intention whatever of introducing anything so revolutionary as a free-land system. On the contrary, he is reported as favoring a plan by which estates of more than 15,000 acres shall be sold to the government, which is to pay for them in ten installments. The government in its turn will sell to the landless on terms as easy as possible. The methods used in splitting up and marketing the big Spanish estates of California will be adopted in Mexico, with the Carranza government in the role of real estate agent. It is a plan highly beneficial to big-landowners who wish to realize, but to the masses, who have no purchasing power, it cannot by any possibility bring relief. The vital principle of the right of every human being to access to the soil is ignored completely. Land is regarded as on the same footing with personal property—as a thing to be bought and sold. The whole agrarian question is left exactly where it was.

Absentees Protected.

It goes without saying that the vested interests of foreign monopolists will be protected by the new government, although every one who has given the Mexican Revolution any serious study knows well that foreign monopolists have been at the bottom of nine-tenths of the trouble. Indeed the "Los Angeles Daily Times" special correspondent, who is resident in Mexico City, reports a recent conversation with Carranza in which the latter said: "We have a perfect understanding with the United States and are working in complete accord." Our readers know that this has been our own conviction for a long time past, and that we have expressed ourselves repeatedly as regarding Carranza merely as the tool of Washington and Wall Street. Meanwhile, despite Villas' threatening attitude and outbreaks in Mexico City and at numerous other points, President Wilson and Bryan are taking repeated occasion to assure the public that they regard the immediate future of Mexico with extreme complacency and expect to see order restored throughout the country at an early date. Well; talk is cheap and any one can prophesy.

There has been rioting in Mexico City and Vera Cruz, and 20,000 ex-Federals were reported to have taken the field against the new government, having selected the neighborhood of Puebla as the scene of their operations. In the Isthmian districts the Federals are reported as having refused to be mustered out, declaring that they feared execution at the hands of their late enemies. Undoubtedly they recognize that there are circumstances in which the possession of a gun is worth a lot of golden promises.

Carranza undoubtedly will be a candidate for president in November next, and his action toward Sir Lionel Carden, the British Minister to Mexico, should endear him to American oil interests. It is confidently expected that Villa will put a candidate in the field to oppose Carranza. There has been much talk of bringing Zapata to terms, but that sturdy rebel apparently is showing no disposition to make his peace with the new power which at present occupies the throne.

"Socialism, if it comes in England, will probably turn out to be nothing more nor less than another of the infinite and perpetually renewed dodges of the English aristocracy." (Hilaire Belloc. Noted English and Anarchist publicist.)

"The more hopeful and probable line of development is one in which a conscious and powerful, if informal, aristocracy will play a large part." ("Social Forces in England and America," by H. G. Wells, noted Socialist author.)

Answer, Carranza!

From the Mexican Bureau of Information, New York City, we receive a bulletin, dated Aug. 22, which assures us that Carranza, now installed in the City of Mexico, will give the country that lasting peace it assuredly deserves. It deals with the land question only in connection with the soldiers of the Constitutional army, but as regards them it says:

"Now that the Mexican Constitutionalists are in control of almost every state in Mexico, General Carranza faces a serious problem. What shall be done with the 100,000 Constitutional soldiers who have been fighting for almost two years?"

"If each soldier will be presented with a small sum of money, there is no question that before many days pass the money will be spent on the bare necessities of life, leaving them in a penniless condition. Armed to the teeth and penniless, they will become the easy prey of unscrupulous leaders who may use them against the best interests of their country."

"The solution, according to General Carranza's latest statement, is not difficult. In fact, General Blanco, in the state of Tamaulipas, settled the problem in an unexpected manner when he gave about 350 soldiers in his army a stretch of land to the immediate south of the Rio Grande."

"To his astonishment, they deserted the army almost immediately and settled themselves to the task of tilling the soil. This, happening as it did at the inception of the revolution, was considered disastrous, so General Carranza issued an order forbidding land distribution while the revolution was in actual progress."

"Now that the revolution is practically over, the soldiers, if given land, will go to work. They have already demonstrated that they would rather work than fight, which shows that they are not the trouble-seekers that Americans have grown accustomed to consider them to be. They want nothing more than a fair opportunity to earn an honest living. And this General Carranza will give them."

"The soldiers will be given land. They will go to work. They will be ready to take up arms again should reactionaries attempt to deprive them of the right to till the soil. And, in the end, peace and prosperity will bless Mexico. Thus will General Carranza dispose of a trying question."

The One Vital Question. That is all excellent, but we are entitled to ask if any one is going to deprive the millions who do not happen to be soldiers of their right to till the soil. We are not only entitled to ask that, we have to ask it; for this land question is the one pivot on which the entire struggle has been turning. And it will be noted that this very Carranza bulletin admits it, for in paragraph 3 of the section quoted above we are told that the 300 soldiers to whom Gen. Blanco gave land stopped fighting immediately while the succeeding paragraph states that Carranza found it necessary on that account to issue an order forbidding further distribution of land "while the revolution was in actual progress."

It is useless to send us bulletins informing us of what a good and well-meaning gentleman Carranza is, or describing the ability with which he engineered to success his revolutionary movement. We are practical people. We want to know if the people are to get free access to their land. We know that enormous tracts of Mexican land, and those the most valuable, from which the native inhabitants were expelled by fraud and force, and claimed by foreign speculators. We want to know if Carranza's government is going to recognize and defend those so-called titles. Because, if it is, the revolutionists thus far will have been fighting in vain, and must still fight on.

The Mexican Bureau of Information is acting as Carranza's press agent. It can settle this question at once by giving a direct answer to the direct question we have asked. Then every one will know exactly where Carranza stands. As it is the daily papers have told us merely that in his address to the citizens who greeted his entry to the capital he told them that "the true purpose of the Constitutionalists was to give a government for all the people and not for a small part of them." That means exactly nothing. That is the slush every American politician has at his tongue's end.

MEXICO'S APPEAL.

Reprinted from REGENERACION and LAND AND LIBERTY in pamphlet form by the Land and Liberty Publishing Co., at the Bakunin Institute, R. F. No. 1, HAYWARD, CAL.—Price: 5c single copy; in bundles of 25 copies and more, 3c per copy.

ROSAS ACQUITTED, REGENERATED.

As announced in a former issue of REGENERACION, a special term of Court was obtained by the prosecution to try the rest of our comrades held prisoners in San Antonio, Tex.

On September 1st the special term of Court to try our brothers was open. Comrade Domingo R. Rosas was brought before the jury and next day found not guilty and ordered free. Of course, the prosecutors of our comrades were not pleased with such decision, for they want, according to their masters' wishes, to keep our comrades from going back to their labor activities, and before comrade Rosas got too far from their reach, the hired dogs of Capitalism rearrested him on the farcical charge of assault to murder W. T. Gardner, the very same "guardian" of Law and Order that used as toilet paper his own written word of "honor" to the prisoners that he would let them go unmolested on the way to Mexico, in exchange for Buck's release, and who the day after ordered the vicious assault on our comrades, when Juan Rincon was murdered by the myrmidons, others wounded and all finally chained like wild beasts and made subject of cowardly abuse and ill treatment.

This re-arresting of comrade Rosas means, as I said before, that the prosecutors of Rangel, Cline and comrades are exerting themselves to keep away from the field of Labor struggle those faithful and active comrades. The question now is, shall we allow such an outrage?

I think we must not, and therefore that the efforts of every man and woman with at least some particles of red blood in their veins, should be redoubled to widespread everywhere the news of what happens in Texas to our imprisoned comrades—Rangel, Cline, et al., and to hurry money for their defense to Victor Cravello, Room 108, Labor Temple, Los Angeles, Cal.

ENRIQUE FLORES MAGON.

RECEIPTS OF RANGEL-CLINE DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

(Continued from issue No. 199.)

Local: 2238, Dist. 22, U. M. W. of A., Rock Springs, Wyo., \$10; C. Wengarten, Los Angeles, \$1; Butchers' Union, Local 116, San Francisco, \$2; S. G. Pandit, Los Angeles, \$1; S. P. Local, Tulare, Calif., \$1; Julia A. Nelson, Palo Alto, Calif., \$2; South End Dr. S. P., New Bedford, Mass., \$1; E. B. Warriner, Rock Springs, Wyo., \$2; Paul Kovarik, Richmond, Calif., \$1; Cigar Makers' Union 4, Cincinnati, O., \$2; Brick and Mason's Int. Union 1, Portland, Ore., \$3; G. D. Thompson, Auberry, Calif., \$50; I. B. B. W., 283, Oakland, Calif., \$2.75; Int. Bro. Blacksmiths and Helpers, 37, Portland, Ore., \$2; Thos. Williams, State Sec. S. P., Calif., \$1.

JULY
Local: 330 I. W. W., Edmonton, Can., \$2.25; A. K. & S. K. 137, Adams, Mass., \$2; A. K. & S. K. 22, Newark, N. J., \$2; Sweetwater Tr. & Labor Council, Rock Springs, Wyo., \$2; Local 116 I. B. E. W., Ft. Worth, Tex., \$2; A. K. & S. K. 12, Onelda, N. Y., \$1; Tailors' Ind. Union 354, Oakland, Calif., \$1; I. B. E. W. 609, Little Rock, Ark., \$2; Martin O. Clark's I. P. K. Club, \$1; I. A. of B. & S. I. W., 22, Indianapolis, Ind., \$3.30; S. P. Flint, Mich., \$2; I. U. of the U. B. W. of A. 46, Kansas City, Mo., \$2; I. M. U. 164, San Francisco, \$5; I. B. of S. F. 49, Cincinnati, O., \$10; W. S. & D. Ben Fum, Cuyahoga Br., Cleveland, \$1; S. P. Local, Liverpool, Cal., \$3; A. K. & S. K. Br. 26, New Britain, Conn., \$1; Spanish Comrade per E. Magon, \$10; I. B. E. W. 376, Allentown, Pa., \$1; A. K. Mazon, Chicago, Ill., \$5; B. & C. W. 203, Quincy, Ill., \$2; B. & C. W. 107, New Britain, Conn., \$5; B. & C. W. 144, Yonkers, N. Y., \$2; U. M. W. of A. 2369, Frontier, Wyo., \$25; I. M. U. 5, Worcester, Mass., \$1; A. K. & S. K. 164, Elco, Pa., \$1; A. K. & S. K. 73, Wilmington, Del., \$2; Pattern Makers Assn., Birmingham, Ala., \$2; S. P., Detroit, Mich., \$2; I. B. E. W. 23, St. Paul, Minn., \$2; A. K. & S. K. 76, Rosendale, Mass., \$2; J. B. E. W. 76, Tacoma, Wash., \$2; Mrs. A. J. Brown, Whitler, Calif., \$1; S. P. Orosco, Mich., \$1; A. K. & S. K. 140, Rhine, Pa., \$2; U. M. W. of A. 2312, Detroit, Wyo., \$2; A. K. & S. K. 154, Northville, Pa., \$2; A. K. & S. K. 398, Dover, N. J., \$2; Abrahamson, Adeline, Chicago, Ill., \$2; J. C. 37, Springfield, Mass., \$5; A. K. & S. K. 169, Claridge, Pa., \$1; J. Worth, Grass Valley, Calif., \$2; U. B. of Carpenters 359, Philadelphia, Pa., \$1; M. T. W., I. W. W., No. 1, New Orleans, La., \$13.75; A. Friend, Cal., Ill., \$50; A. K. & S. K. 321, Brighton, 50c; A. K. & S. K. 175, Erie, Pa., \$2; Miss. Philom. Taylor, S. K. 175, Erie, Pa., \$125; Chas. Rowe, Tithes Hill, N. Y., \$1; K. & S. K. 97, Pittsburgh, 100; N. Y., \$5; A. K. & S. K. 284, Clinton, N. J., \$1; Pa., \$5; A. K. & S. K. 284, Clinton, N. J., \$1; (To be continued.)

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