

Regeneración

English Section
Edited by WM. O. OWEN

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OF COURSE, YOU KNOW, WE ARE SUCH DREAMERS.

An old-time Socialist, whom I knew well for years, writes: "I feel every day more and more lack of confidence in educating the people through their brains. It must be done through their hands." And again: "About Mexico, I can see no chance of doing much along your line. Theoretically it is all right, but, Lord, if you cannot educate into Anarchism a civilized European or American people, however can you hope to educate a lot of Indians?" The writer, I may add, takes this paper and is good enough to say that he reads it regularly, and with interest. His letter is typical of many I receive.

First, I do not clearly understand what he means by "educating the people through their hands," but suppose the idea is that their various industries, the organizations to which those industries give rise, and the general march of invention, will solve the social problem automatically. To me this is merely the old fallacy that, some time and somehow, evolution, minus the human factor, will work the thing out and present us with the millennium on a silver platter, saving us risk and trouble. With men who think that way; with men who still believe that new machines will settle what is essentially a conflict between men and men, I hardly think it worth one's while to argue. This is the fight of justice, as a civilized conception, against injustice, which a barbarous conception. It is a fight of enlightenment, which understands that freedom pays, against the old, savage notion that slavery alone gives satisfactory results. It is a fight of men.

However slow the work of propaganda may appear the appeal must be to man's intelligence; to his capacity to sift the evidence and distinguish good from evil. How else has he clambered upward from the ape? How else has he invented all this machinery to which so many pin their faith? How else has he put girder round the earth and made humanity the one family it is today? A mighty quarrelsome family as yet. I grant you. A family the members of which are still bent on domination, on hogging it, on treating the other fellows as inferiors, on cleaning up at intervals by means of a good rousing war, on doing just about everything that stamps them as still only half-emerged from the shell of barbarism. Why? Because, as yet, they do not understand; because, as yet, they think in terms of yesterday. They remind me of this Northern climate, "where winter lingers in the lap of spring."

The moment a considerable body of intelligent and, therefore, influential persons understands that land monopoly kills production, fosters palpable injustice and hinders emergence from the shell of barbarism, that moment land monopoly will stagger to its final fall. That it has not fallen already is obviously due to the fact that man, like all other animals, is a creature of habit; that what he has been doing for ages he is likely to continue doing; that what seemed just to his father naturally seems just to him; that he is much engaged with immediately pressing things and has, as a rule, neither leisure nor liking for mental speculation. But he is thinking. He is far less the slave of habit than any other animal we know, and probably broke never was an age in which he broke so fast with habit as he

is breaking today. On that all hope of radical change depends. If, somehow, man can be shaken out of the rut of habit! If, somehow, he can be induced to look beyond the narrow circle that shuts out the larger view! If, somehow, he can be detached from his creeds; those labor-saving creeds—which pander to his laziness and seek to absolve him from thinking and observing for himself! Especially observing. For one who can observe accurately, I will show you a hundred who will reason logically from the false premises of facts inaccurately observed.

My correspondent knows Otis, knows all about his vast land-holdings in Mexico, and knows how pertinaciously he has fought for intervention in Mexico. He will acknowledge that the "Los Angeles Times" is as hostile a witness as I, pleading for the disinherited of Mexico, could call. With all the more confidence, therefore, do I direct his attention to the editorial which appeared in the "Times" of February 8.

The article in question, reproduced in another column of this issue, is worth reading because it is an accurate summary of facts correctly observed-of. I might more properly remark, a great central fact which my correspondent has not observed. Because he has not observed it he sneers at the Mexican Revolution, as being merely a rumpus kicked up by "a lot of Indians." On the other hand, as I conceive, I have observed most carefully that central fact; and because I have observed it I look on the Mexicans as a nation bent for years on the attainment of one goal and likely to attain it. And let me tell my correspondent this: if ever they get there the whole temple of land monopoly in the United States will rock to its foundations. It will be quite impossible to maintain our own monstrous system of land monopoly when at our very door a similar system has gone down in blood.

The uneducated "lot of Indians" in Mexico know one thing well; viz. that whoever owns their lands is able to exploit them, on their own terms. They do not want that sort of exploitation, or any exploitation. The American and European workman also wants to have done with exploitation, but, alas and alas! he has not the simple Indian's concentrated mind. I have observed the Indian many a time navigating his frail canoe in our Alaskan waters. He hugs the shore, makes solely for his port and gets there. Our workers, on the other hand, are adrift a thousand miles from land, and they have lost their compass.

Imagine yourself, by a brilliant stroke of fancy, a plutocrat; the sort of antediluvian mastodon still allowed to roam the wilds of the United States and Mexico. As such you own lands by the hundreds of square miles, with the forest, mines and all other things appurtenant thereto. Naturally you are begirt by enemies; conscientious fellows who would take it all away from you without batting an eyelid, if they only had the pluck and power. On the one flank stands an army with just one idea, viz. that it means to turn you off and take possession. On the other flank there is a somewhat better educated, but still only a hundredth part-educated, mob; a mob just beginning to be conscious of its intellectual birth and carried away with the conceit of it; the slave of dubious phrases the true meaning of which it dimly comprehends; the plaything of philosophies the trend of which it is quite incapable of discerning;

passionately attached to splitting straws, and quarrelling vehemently over non-essentials; divided into parties gangrened with envy and personal ambition; houses divided against themselves. These are your two enemies on either flank, and I ask which you would dread the most; against which you would mass artillery. The question answers itself.

The Mexican Revolution, as I see it, is very dangerous to land monopolists and labor exploiters. Indeed it is likely to prove fatal, and in the "Saturday Evening Post" I read with pleasure Samuel G. Blythe's emphatically expressed opinion that the United States is no longer likely to risk the experiment of attempting to suppress it. After conceding that Mexico is at present "the howling point" of the militarists, the "vehicle of outcry," "the partisan horrible example," he shows why we cannot intervene. Briefly, we haven't got the army, and we don't know how we are to raise "an army of, at about, two hundred and fifty thousand, and most likely five hundred thousand men," that would have to stay in Mexico no one knows how long. Volunteers for such a job, and in such a palpably plutocratic cause, are shy.

Several correspondents have sent me clippings to the effect that organized labor in the United States has declared formal war on land monopoly, inasmuch as the American Federation of Labor at its last convention unanimously indorsed the "People's Land and Loan Measure," which the Portland Central Labor Council is seeking to make a part of the Oregon constitution. Let not Dives' heart be troubled, for here he will be allowed to snooze on peacefully for many a day to come. If you think he can do that still in Mexico, ask Terrazas.

Of course in the eyes of the gentlemen who write and speak so eloquently on the class struggle, economic determinism, the economic interpretation of history, and all the rest of it, we are "SUCH dreamers!"

WM. O. OWEN.

The Inquisition

Continues

Once again the cold and heavy hand of the existing Order has descended and clutched its icy grip upon our comrades Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon dragging them down to the tombs once more.

This last outrage upon our comrades, is only the sequel to a little persecution that had its inception over twenty years ago when Ricardo Flores Magon bearded the lion, Porfirio Diaz, in his own den and proclaimed at the top of his voice that peonage and slavery in Mexico had to go, and that the peon had a right to be free on equal terms with any other human being. At this time such audacious utterance was equivalent to a death warrant, and when at the memorable convention of the Mexican Liberal Party, in 1901, at San Luis Potosi, Mexico, he had the temerity to declare that to begin with, the unspeakable Diaz had to be throttled, he brought upon his head the furies of the despicable monster and was hounded and persecuted like a wild beast, with a price upon his head, and driven from pillar to post. Under such conditions it was out of the question for him to remain in Mexican soil.

But Magon had heard of a free America, whose proudest boast

was that political refugees seeking shelter from the lash of foreign tyrants were received with open arms; so he decided to avail himself of such beautiful and lofty asylum. But alas! He was lamentably mistaken, for the hand of the monster had stretched across the border to the "free land," and the dogged persecution continued just the same as before, with the result that more than half of the 12 years spent in this country have been served in prison, and most of the rest evading persecution.

Any further is not needed to relate; but perhaps it is not amiss to mention the striking and strange "peculiarity" that this condition has continued to the present day, under the Madero and Carranza regimes.

Now, why is this? Why are these men singled out for the wrath of the law, while many political adventurers not only conspire but actually send arms across the border from American soil without as much as being noticed? The answer should not be perplexing; all of these individuals and factions are interested in the continuation of a system whereby a few exploiters, leeches and worthless parasites should corner the earth for themselves and live off the blood, sweat and toil of the laboring masses, whereas on the other side, the Magon brothers have undertaken to teach the masses that peace under such circumstances, is a blot and a hellish crime in a so-called civilized age; that existence under a system in which those who produce everything that makes life possible are forced to beg and bow to a master for a chance to be wretched and eternal slaves, is not worth living; that the clans of toil should not rest content until the Earth with all its resources has been restored to its rightful heirs, and a condition established whereby every human being is entitled to life on equal terms with his brother, for the only reason of having been born, and with no other condition than that he shall work for his living if Mother Nature has endowed him with the power to do so.

Is it strange, now, that this men who have done no more wrong than to consecrate their lives to a most noble and lofty cause: to the cause of working for a world where there shall be no masters and no slaves; is it strange, I ask, that this men should be a target for eternal persecution? Yes, it would be, if we had already emerged from the dark age, but very lamentably we have not. It has been the historical destiny of those noble souls that have striven to leave the world better than they entered it to be rewarded with the fagot, the gibbet and the rack, by the very same creatures that benefited the most by their work and sacrifice.

If we only turn to recent history we find, that Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry were abhorred, reviled and persecuted by the very same idiots who later idolized and revered them; we find that Elijah Lovejoy was mobbed, stoned to death, and his printing press cast in the river, to later be placed on a pedestal and praised by the very same stupid rabble that had pounded and crushed the life out of him; we find that William Lloyd Garrison was tortured and dragged by a rope through Boston common, to later be lionized and lauded by his tormentors; we find that John Brown was hacked to pieces and hung for the crime of proclaiming and rising in open and armed rebellion in defense of the principle that a man could not own another man just because that man had happened to be born with a black skin.

And today John Brown is hailed an immortal and revered martyr by the same idiotic and barbarous element that danced, hooted and yelled at his prostrate and mutilated form. And this, mind you, is the element that we have to put up with today.

Can you beat it? For lack of space this article has been cut short to reproduce the following excerpts from the Los Angeles "Tribune" of Feb. 19, in which it refers to the indictment and charges against our comrades Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon:—

MAGONS' THIRD OFFENSE

"This is the third time the Magons have been in the toils of the government's local representatives. In September, 1907, Ricardo Flores Magon, Antonio I. Villarreal and Librado Rivera were sentenced to eighteen months in the Florence, Ariz., federal penitentiary. In June 1912, Ricardo and Enrique Magon, Anselmo Figueroa

and Librado Rivera were sentenced to twenty-three months in the federal penitentiary on McNeil's island, Washington. The first sentence was for having sent through the mails publications calculated to incite larceny and murder, the second for the same end—violation of neutrality and the overthrow of the Mexican government.

EDITORIALS SHOW PURPOSE

That this is exactly what the Magons hoped to accomplish is shown by the editorials quoted in the three counts of the three grand jury indictment. The first count quotes the following translation of an utterance by Enrique Flores Magon in Regeneración of December 18, 1915:

"Wilson is in connivance with Carranza because the old sharper has promised Wilson that he would favor American capitalists in Mexico. That is to say, Carranza has promised to deliver the Mexican people, tied hand and feet, to the same rapacious American plutocracy that had Diaz enslaved."

Two brief editorials by Ricardo Flores Magon in "Regeneración" of September 25, 1915, are quoted in the second count as follows:

"Justice and not bullets is what ought to be given to the revolutionist of Texas, and from now on we should demand that the persecutions to innocent Mexicans should cease, and, as to the revolutionists, we should also demand that they be not executed (shot)."

"The ones who should be shot are the 'ranges' and the band of bandits who accompany them in their depredations."

"Enough of reforms! What we hungry people need is entire liberty based on economic independence. Down with the so-called rights of private property, and as long as this evil right continues to exist we shall continue under arms. Enough of mockery! Poor people, whoever speaks to you about Carrancismo, spit on their face and break their jaws."

URGES REVOLT OF TROOPS

"Long live land and liberty!" The unsigned editorial, the longest of the three, set out in the third count, was published in Regeneración of November 6, 1915. Its translation as incorporated in the indictment follows:

"So you see, brother Carrancistas, the problem which is going to be solved by the rebels who retain their arms, when Carranza becomes president, is the problem that you will have to decide because it affects you in the same manner."

"Your duty is to help and for this purpose do not surrender your arms when the troops are ordered disbanded. What you should do at such a time, or before if possible, is to rebel, turn your arms against your chiefs and officers and without trembling pulse open fire with your rifles, because they are your enemies and are concerned in having these conditions last forever, so they can have a life of privilege."

"A strong heart, a firm pulse and steady aim is all you need to exterminate your immediate oppressors."

"If you surrender your arms you will return to your home in poverty, ready to sell your blood and strength to the rich at their own price."

ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

"You will have accomplished nothing, but in the mean time your chiefs and officers will enjoy, in the city, all kinds of pleasures and honors, and display on their breasts crosses and medals. If you remain in the Carranza army as a permanent soldier you will be a bad man, an executioner of your brothers of your class because you will help to serve the rich."

Honor points to the road you should take; rebel against the governments until you attain the triumphs of the principles comprised in the declaration of the 23d of September, 1911, expeditively by the 'Mexican Liberal Party,' principles that advocate the death of capital, of authority and the clergy of all religions."

"Decide to follow this road. Don't be deceived by the specious arguments of alleged wise politicians; these same arguments were used by the enemies of the great French Revolution to prevent the people from obtaining their political liberty."

"It was the argument of Porfirio Diaz to prevent you from obtaining your economic liberties; it is also the argument of the

Carranza party used to prevent you from obtaining your economic liberty which is the foundation of all liberties."

QUOTE WRITINGS

"This means the privilege of earning your living by working for yourself and being independent, and this can only be obtained, understand, by expropriation of land, houses, machinery, means of transportation and merchandise becoming common property without distinction of men or women, race or color. He who tells you to the contrary, spit in his face and even kill him, because it is necessary, it is absolutely necessary, to initiate a revolutionary campaign of housecleaning."

"We, the disinherited, must rid ourselves of those who are in our way, if we can, by hook or crook, the same as we get rid of the tiger, as we annihilate the rattlesnake, as we crush the tarantula. Those who tell you that they are not prepared for this or other conquests which benefit you, are the ones who have interest in delaying your emancipation, so that in the meantime they can live at your expense."

JURORS DECIDE QUICKLY

The grand jury was convened at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It had previously received the evidence of the efforts of the magonistas to stir up trouble. In less than fifteen minutes the jurors had voted on the indictment, charging the men with having used the mails to incite murder, arson and treason. The true bill charges the editors of El Regeneración with having sent their incendiary publications broadcast through the United States and Mexico.

The history of the Magon brothers since they came to the United States in 1903 is a part of the records of the identification bureau. This history is a series of chapters of events similar to what led up to the latest indictment. They established themselves first in Laredo, Texas, where they began publishing El Regeneración. Before they got into their first trouble on account of editorial utterances they built up a circulation of about 6000.

TROUBLE FOLLOWS THEM

Removing to San Antonio, they resumed publication of their sheet under the name of El Progreso. Trouble again followed in the wake of their utterances, and they jumped to St. Louis. With Juan Sarabia they resumed publication of their paper under the original title, El Regeneración, at 107 North Channing avenue. This time it was criminal libel, and on October 13, 1905, they were sentenced to forty days in jail. After they had been liberated they moved their plant to 1847 N. Eighteenth street, St. Louis. Arrested once more for their editorials, they jumped bond and fled to Canada. After a sojourn in the north they returned to Texas, where they remained a time, then settled in Arizona, (1) and finally, about ten years ago, they came to Los Angeles, printing El Regeneración at 660 San Fernando street. They removed later to 111 West Pico street."

(1) Editor's Note: The settle

ment of our comrades in Arizona to which the "Tribune" refers, is an error. They spent that time—18 months—in prison and not as residents.

R. B. Garcia.

Arrest Of The Magons.

On the 18th, of this month at about 4 o'clock p. m., some twenty men of repulsive aspect invaded the grounds and humble shack where our offices and small printing plant are located, at 2325 Ivanhoe Ave. of them were armed to the teeth with revolvers, rifles, sawed-off shotguns and what not. They, the myrmidons, formed a real warlike army, the one needed for the most dangerous of all enterprises they ever dared to undertake, it seems, that of arresting... but two unarmed men!

Such a show of brutal force to arrest but two unarmed men...!! Does not that speak too high of the bravery of the secret service men?

Well, somebody has remarked that there had to go so many there, because they were going to arrest two real men: Ricardo Flores Magon and Enrique Flores Magon.

The warrant read to the Magons by one Fenton G. Thompson, a Deputy-U. S. Marshal, who after concluding dramatically placed his right hand on Enrique and said: "In the name of the President," just like we read

in the two for-a-dime novels that the myrmidons of the medieval times used to say in such solemn occasions: "In the name of the King!"

Oh, American Democracy! Where have you gone! To darkest Africa? After the drama, came tragedy!

That upholders of "law and order" came to our pier, with the hope, it is said, of shooting dead somebody. And comrade Enrique Flores Magon had, in fact, a close call, because somebody brought him his coat and when Enrique moved to take it he was roughly pushed back by Fenton G. Thompson who, said: "Get back there, you son of a...!!"

Enrique, resenting the insult and the ill-treatment, turned to Thompson and reproached him for his lack of manners. Thompson, for unique answer thrust his gun and gave a vicious blow on the head to Enrique. Enrique, finding himself so brutally assaulted hurled a punch with his bare fist to Thompson, in self defense, and got ready to repel his assailant, but quickly was overpowered by the men with Thompson who jumped at Enrique's back, and then, Thompson, hit the helpless Enrique time and again on the head with the revolver until the blood freely ran down the face of our comrade, who, weakened by a painful sickness that he is suffering since long months ago—due to over-work and acute poverty that has had to be endured together with Ricardo, who is sick, too, and their other self-sacrificing comrades and co-workers,—could not resist too long.

Hatless and half-dressed, our comrades were dragged away from their useful and humanitarian work of uplifting the down-trodden Mexican masses and teaching them the road to real freedom, that of the conquest of Land and Liberty by fighting relentlessly with the gun in their hands, against Capital, Church and Authority, instead of fighting for a mere change of tyrants,—to elevate Carranza, for instance, who wants to reestablish the old Diaz regime, aided by our democratic President Wilson,—and to become that way economically free and, hence, social and politically free, too, for Economic Freedom is the basis of all freedoms. He who owns the land is economically free, because the land is the source of all riches. Therefore, our comrades Magons advocate the cause of Land and Liberty for All.

And that is why they are being and always have been persecuted, and because they are the most pure type of the uncompromising, devoted, honest and self-sacrificing fighters for human freedom.

And see how things go in a capitalistic Court. Although comrade Enrique was assaulted and severely beaten, the Assistant U. S. Attorney M. L. Galtzer, has raised their bonds from \$3,000.00 each to \$7,500.00 on the ground that they resisted arrest...!! And that motion has been approved by the Federal Judge Oscar A. Trippett, who refused to reduce the bonds as asked for by comrade Enrique Flores Magon in his own behalf and that of his brother Ricardo, the 21st. of this month when called to Court.

The indictment is not only against comrades Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon, but against comrade William C. Owen, who, although in such indictment they quoted three writings of the Magon brothers and none of comrade Owen.

They are charged with having used the mails to incite murder, arson and treason through Regeneración.

What in fact, they are persecuted for—not prosecuted—is because they oppose the government of Carranza, Mr. Wilson's hope, the would-be strong man for Mexico that would re-establish that bright and most profitable Diaz regime, when the crooks could fatten by the sweat of the unhappy Mexican prone.

What in fact the Magons and Comrade Owen are persecuted for, is an effort to stop the propaganda of Regeneración by lack of collaboration. But the effort is in vain, because we are thousands and thousands of anarchists ready to push forth the anarchist propaganda that our persecuted comrades have been doing, be it in this paper or in many others that we shall print instead if finally Regeneración disappears for one or other reason.

What in fact is at stake now, what in fact is brought to Court are our principles, as I shall prove in the next issue of Regeneración.

To close this long article, it must let be known that our comrades Magon besides being held in jail with such a fabulous sum of money as that asked for their bonds, they are being practically held incommunicado for they are allowed to be visited by their wives only and no body else, not even their children. Lucia Nornar, daughter of Ricardo, was denied entrance to see her father by the Marshal of this City. Therefore, after the Magons have been beaten and wounded and forced to stay in jail by fixing their bonds too high, they are being tortured, not being allowed to see even their children.

Speak of the Inquisition!!

Now, I want to ask the honest men and women of this Country: What are you going to do after you have learned of all these outrages and injustices committed on our persecuted comrades Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon? Are you going to leave them alone?

What are you going to do before this open attack to the freedom of the press to serve a foreign tyrant? Are you going to stand for that?

CELSE MARQUINA.