

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Single copy, 5 cts.
One dollar a year—6 months, 50c.

No. 232
Saturday April 1, 1916

Send money payable to
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P. O. Box 1236, Los Angeles, Cal.

Shall Free Thought Be Trottled?

Freedom of thought and its manifestation by means of the spoken and written word, is the most valuable conquest that has been wrought by humanity through its millenary struggle toward its improvement.

Such conquest is the most valuable because thought either spoken or written is the only medium on which the human being can depend to come into an understanding with his fellow-beings in the common task for the progress of the species.

The progress that humanity has reached since the French Revolution to our days, is due in the first place to freedom of thought, without which human species would continue submerged in the Middle Age's utter darkness. The central governments gave way to the democratic governments thanks to freedom of thought; the Inquisition has not been able to reconstruct its dark structure under the light of freedom of thought; political equality is one of the many fruits of freedom of thought; the betterment on the economic, political and social conditions of the working class has been possible by freedom of thought, and its final emancipation, that sooner or later shall have to be accomplished, under penalty of a set back to barbarism, shall be due to freedom of thought.

Without freedom of thought the progressive evolution of humankind would find itself stopped in its course. Freedom of thought is the golden key with which all nations shall open the doors of Freedom, Equality and Fraternity.

Therefore, freedom of thought is a guaranty which with more zeal than for anything else, we should defend, not only because it has cost torrents of generous blood to all the civilized peoples the world over, but because it is the best weapon on which humanity may depend for its further development and its progress.

Well; such valuable freedom is now threatened with death in the United States and shall die if all who love progress do not stand up all together as a man to stop the transgression.

The prosecution that has been initiated in the city of Los Angeles, California, against the editors of *REGENERACION*, Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon and William C. Owen, does not leave doubt at all about this being an attempt to strike a severe blow to freedom of thought and to set a legal precedent to start right afterwards a country-wide general campaign of repression against all the radical press in particular, but in general against all those newspapers that in one way or another might hurt or get in danger the interests which safety is based on a diminution of human freedom and on a restriction of the welfare and justice that all men and women of honest aspirations have a right to enjoy.

The editors of *REGENERACION* are being prosecuted because in the said journal were printed articles containing the following paragraphs:

"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.

"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 government until you attain the triumphs of the principles comprised in the declaration of the 23rd of September, 1911, expeditively by the Mexican Liberal Party, principles that advocate the death of capital, of authority and of 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 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.

"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 merchant dis 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 rattle-snake, 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 mean time they can live at your expense.

Now, carrancista soldiers, to act as men convinced that there is nothing in common between the poor and the rich, unless it be the hatred that they mutually profess for each other, a hatred we must not try to lessen, but which precisely must be deepened, exasperate it, increase it if it is possible, enliven it so that it shall not be extinguished, for the existence of that hatred between the two social classes, that of the exploited and that of the exploiters is a guarantee of struggle and hope of emancipation for those who today are found in the last rung of the social ladder.

Long Live Land and Liberty!"

RICARDO FLORES MAGON.

The prosecutor is the Post Office, which complains that copies of *REGENERACION* containing

those articles were circulated through the mails; The Federal Grand Jury upheld the charge sustaining that in those articles it incited to commit murder and arson. As a consequence of that indictment, Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon, were gratuitously viciously assaulted in their offices and badly beaten, Enrique having to be taken to the Emergency Hospital for treatment, and since then, February 18th last, they lay behind the bars at the County Jail of this city.

As it is seen in the two first of the indicted paragraphs quoted above, there is not any incitation neither to murder nor arson. In the first one of those two paragraphs nothing else is done but manifest the truth, viz, that Wilson and Carranza are united so that the affairs in Mexico may come to be again in the same conditions as they were under the rule of Porfirio Diaz. All those who have read in the daily press the terms on which Venustiano Carranza's government was recognized by President Wilson, will remember that Carranza promised to guarantee to all foreign capitalists the most complete protection in their business, and that protection can not be attained but by the survival of the peonage and slavery system that existed under the Porfirio Diaz regime. To expound this truth is not to incite to murder and arson.

The second one of the indicted paragraphs deals with the depredations committed by the Texas rangers by killing helpless and innocent Mexicans who did not take part at all in the disturbances, that took place in the neighborhood of Brownsville last summer, 1915. Justice is asked for in that paragraph that never can be construed as inciting to murder and arson.

As to the invitation made to the carrancista soldiers to shoot at their chiefs and officers, it should be kept in mind that Mexico is in a state of war, within which each one of the different factions in the struggle, try to predominate on the others, and such predominance—as in every Revolution—can not be accomplished but by the force of arms, strives for the annihilation of the other faction or factions opposed to its ideals. The advocates for the freedom of the slaves during the Secession War would have found it very just that the soldiers of the partisans of slavery had recommended to shoot at their chiefs and officers and go to the libertarian ranks. It is not said in those paragraphs: "John Doe, kill John Smith." There is a revolutionary movement in Mexico in which are involved several organizations of different tendencies, being one of them the Mexican Liberal Party whose ideals are expounded through "Regeneracion", and what is pretended by the authorities to construe as an incitation to murder and arson is nothing else but a figure of speech, a literary way to express the idea that the carrancista soldiers rally to the banner of the Mexican Liberal Party to fight against the armies of the factions that do not uphold the ideals of the Mexican Liberal Party.

The so-called incitation to murder and arson is but a pretext to get done with "Regeneracion" and the propaganda that it is carrying on in behalf of the working class. It is enough to read the complete articles from which were picked up isolated paragraphs by the prosecution, to be convinced that it is the Anarchist ideal the one persecuted. If you are interested in knowing those articles in their full length

write us to send you an English translation of them.

The Assistant District Attorney who has taken charge of the prosecution in this case while asking the Court not to dismiss the indictment asked by the attorneys for the defense, F.E. Kirk and J. H. Ryckman, based his petition chiefly on the fact that the defendants propagate ideals destructive of the capitalist system.

Therefore, the ideals are the demolishers of the capitalist system and are the ones before the Court, not the newspaper writers Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon and William C. Owen. As to Owen, it should be said that not a single article by him has been indicted, although, he has been indicted just the same as the Magon brothers.

The freedom of press is in danger. It is now "Regeneracion" the one persecuted; and once they set a legal precedent other radical publications shall be persecuted, and even the most fervent advocates of peace may prove that with their doctrines might tend to awaken class consciousness amongst the workers ranks.

The Socialist, Anarchist and Unionist periodicals alike, have the sword of Damocles suspended above their heads. If the persecution of "Regeneracion" succeeds, a legal precedent shall be established to kill all the labor and free-thinking press.

On the alert, then, all the lovers of Freedom, Progress, Justice and Civilization!

It is most urgently needed to gather up funds for the defense of the editors of "Regeneracion". This is a real struggle of life or death for freedom of thought.

Let us co-operate all to win on the reaction. Doom to the Middle Ages! Let us not allow that in free America be implanted Russian tyranny! To the rescue of the Magonists! To the rescue of freedom of thought!

All funds for the defense should be addressed to...

P. D. Noel, Fin. Sec.,
621 American Bank Bldg.
Los Angeles, Cal.

Whither Are We Drifting

The Government is in dead earnest in its determination to crush *REGENERACION*. Not satisfied with throwing its editors in jail, it has now laid its cold hand on the paper and means to strangle it by revoking its second class mail privileges.

The methods used are pitifully clumsy and raw, and would really be puzzling were we not well acquainted with the ways of Authority. This pernicious and barefaced onslaught on free thought and expression should be enough to make the most dull and indifferent convulse with indignation.

When we consider that what meager and scant rights we possess have cost our ancestors rivers of blood and untold sacrifice, and when we think that a supposedly benevolent and democratic hypocrite, in plain 20th century, rides rough shod upon what few liberties we retain, we cannot but cry very loud that it is time to call a halt.

We serve notice on the Democratic Dictator of the White House that we are not to be silenced; that we prefer a thousand times to be chained to a dungeon than to be a pack of cringing and crawling whelps fearful of denouncing a barbarous, savage and hellish system of human slavery. We remind the White House academicians that we refuse, and will never submit, to being a living lie and a walking apology in the face of an inhuman and brutal system of white and black slavery which has reduced millions of men, women

and children to a most hideous and wretched life of beggary and cringing to a master in order to exist; a system that allows and encourages a set of beastly parasites to live on the life blood of little children and the trafficking of human beings in general.

If to denounce these monstrosities is a crime in the eyes of the Predatory Bunch, then it is time that every man and woman with a sense of Justice be throttled by the hand of Authority, for it takes a mummy to be indifferent before such aberration.

Below is reproduction of the letter received from the P. O. Dept. at Washington asking the editor to show cause why the second class mail privileges of *REGENERACION* should not be revoked. We also reproduce the reply by the editor which will make the attempt and methods of the Government appear most ridiculous. The Defense League has asked Meyer London, the Socialist Congressman at Washington to represent *REGENERACION* at the hearing.

The letters follow:

P. O. Department.

Third assistant postmaster general

Washington
March 14, 1916.

Publishers of
Regeneracion,
Los Angeles, California.

Sir:

You are hereby notified that, in accordance with the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1901 (ch. 851, 31 Stat L., 1107), you will be granted a hearing at the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., at 2 p. m. on Tuesday, April 4, 1916 to show cause why the authorization of admission of "Regeneracion" to the second class of mail matter under the Act of March 3, 1879 (ch. 180, sec. 14, 1 Supp., 246), should not be revoked, upon the following ground:

The publication is not regularly issued at stated intervals as required by the law, and, furthermore, it is not a "newspaper or other periodical publication" within the meaning of the law.

Your appearance at the hearing may be in person or by representative. In any event, your answer must be in writing. It should be submitted on or before Tuesday, April 4, 1916 and will be given the same consideration as though you appeared in person or by representative.

Respectfully,

A. M. Kelley,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 25th, 1916.

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:—In reply to your official inquiry marked C. D. No. 141476, and dated March 14th, 1916, I state that my weekly newspaper *REGENERACION*, printed in this city, has been and is being deposited at the local Post office with due regularity every week, as required by the law, since October 2nd, 1915. That the said paper came under my Editorship and Management after the passing away of its former Editor, Mr. Anselmo L. Figueroa, and after due notification to the local Post office, and its consent about my taking the Editorship and management of the said paper, and that, therefore this is a "newspaper or other periodical publication" within the meaning of the law, and that it complies with every requisite provided by the same laws.

Furthermore I state that while it is true that this newspaper was not regularly issued during the last months of Mr. Anselmo L. Figueroa's Editorship and management, due to the long sickness suffered by that gentleman, a sickness that finally led to his death, I will state too that such irregularity met with the approval of the local postal authorities,

to whom due excuses were presented in due time, for it was on account of the late Mr. Figueroa being sick and, therefore, unable to attend to his business.

And, furthermore, I should state that I do not see why the irregularities, if there really were any unexcusable irregularities, from the former Editorship and management of this paper under the late Mr. Anselmo L. Figueroa, should be blamed on the present Editorship and management of *Regeneracion* under my control.

If there are any specific facts that require answers from me regarding this newspaper, I request that you postpone the hearing and write out exactly what you wish to know and I shall promptly give you the information in my possession or may I ask that the hearing on this question, if further hearing is necessary, be had in Los Angeles where I can give the matter personal attention?

Respectfully,
EDITOR and MANAGER
ENRIQUE F. MAGON.

TO REBEL PRESS.

Besides the exchange for "Regeneracion" we ask all the labor and radical papers to send each issue an extra copy to the Magon Brothers, Los Angeles county Jail, Los Angeles, Cal.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We need not say that *REGENERACION* is traversing rough seas these days, and it is with no little effort that its existence is made possible.

For a long time this paper has been sent to a number of people who have not cooperated or supported it in any way. Under present conditions this cannot continue and we hereby notify the above mentioned subscribers that after three weeks their names will be stricken off our lists if they do not signify their WILLINGNESS to support the paper.

All money for *REGENERACION* should precisely be sent to Enrique Flores Magon, P. O. Box 1236, Los Angeles, Calif.

REGENERACION GROUP.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

In compliance with section 467½ of the Postal Laws and Regulations, as amended by Act of August 24, 1912, "Regeneracion" publishes here details of its statement, filed April 1st, in duplicate, with the Postmaster of Los Angeles, and sworn to before N. Treosti, a notary public. The statement shows that Enrique Flores Magon is the editor, publisher, managing editor and business manager; that it is not owned by a corporation, and that there are no bondholders, mortgages or holders of any securities.

Hurrah For Militarism!

Just now the Panama Canal is furnishing a good instance of what Uncle Sam is up against. First we strengthened our navy to defend the canal. Then it was decided that the canal must be fortified, so the government is mounting what General Edwards, military governor of the Canal Zone, pronounces the most effective land-defense guns in the world. But now it is explained that the guns themselves are defenseless against a land attack from the rear. An army landing elsewhere along the coast might take them, and turn them against our own navy. So the experts demand an army of 25,000 men to be stationed at Panama, to defend the guns.

"If the canal must have a strong navy to protect it," says the New York World, "and if the strong navy must have big canal fortifications to protect the navy in protecting the canal, and if the big fortifications must have a sizable army to protect the for-

tifications in protecting the canal, who or what is to protect the sizable army in protecting the fortifications in protecting the navy in protecting the canal?" ("Tacoma Daily Tribune.")

The Magon Meeting.

For lack of space we do not give a detailed account of the Magon protest meeting held Wednesday night, March 22nd at Blanchard Hall. Considering the confusion that had preceded the meeting owing to change of date and hall, it was very fairly attended, and what it lacked in numbers was made up in spirit. The gathering had a typical international aspect, and all the speakers in the different languages were roundly applauded as they denounced in very plain terms the outrage of which the Magons and Wm. C. Owen are the victims.

We are sorry to say that so far no sufficient amount of bail has been raised to get even one of the comrades out of jail. Unlike other occasions that hardly any difficulty was met to secure the necessary bond, this time it has proved a hard matter; still, we do not lose hope. But mean time our comrades languish in the tanks much to the injury of their delicate health.

THE DEFENSE LEAGUE

By next week we expect report from the Secretary, of all the money received thru The Workers International Defense League for the Magon defense, and same will be published in full. Money received thru *Regeneracion* has appeared weekly in the spanish section.

DAVID CAPLAN.

Don't forget that David Caplan is to appear for trial on Monday April 3rd at the Court House, Broadway and Temple Sts. Every Rebel should be there.

FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

In the United States in this "enlightened" year of our Lord, 1916, Margaret Sanger, of New York, stands accused of disseminating scientific knowledge regarding the limitation of offspring. This knowledge, which any wealthy woman may buy from her physician, is withheld from the poor that they may by prolific breeding furnish a plentiful and cheap labor supply.

The denial by the State of a woman's right over her own body constitutes slavery, and teaching slaves was ever a crime.

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing"—to the master who the slave gets it: Let the woman rebel. Our readers may see history repeating itself by looking backward a hundred years:

"Any person that teaches any person of color, slave or free, to read or write, or causes such persons to be so taught, is subject to a fine of thirty dollars for each offense; and every person of color who shall keep a school to teach reading or writing is subject to a fine of thirty dollars, or to be imprisoned ten days, and whipped thirty-nine lashes." (City Ordinance, Savannah, Ga., 1818.)

"The reason for this law is that teaching slaves to read and write tends to dissatisfaction in their minds, and to produce insurrection and rebellion." [American Slave Code, p. 321.]

From "The Blast", of Feb. 12, 1916. San Francisco, Cal.

"LAND AND LIBERTY. Mexico's Battle for Economic Freedom and Its Relation to Labor World-Wide Struggle." Selected from writings of Ricardo Flores Magon, Antonio de P. J. and Wm. C. Owen.—10c a copy. In stores over 25 copies, 7c. per copy.