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

They Got The Kernel And Leave Us The Shell.

In the "Los Angeles Times" of April 14 one may read a long and glowing account of a banquet which was really a celebration of the success that has attended a real estate speculation in the San Fernando Valley. Devoted ostensibly to boosting the sugar-beet industry it supplies us with a mirror in which we may see the troubled face of Mexico, the territorial ambitions that at this moment are deluging Europe with blood, the struggle between Mammon and Mammon with which our modern civilization already begins to rock. I take it, therefore, for a text, from which I should be able to preach a sermon that the dullest can comprehend; from which I ought to be able to elucidate truths that have a driving force ten thousand times greater than the hysteria habitually spilled at what we are pleased to call "revolutionary" meetings. Big words devoid of clear understanding are straw-blazes which leave us colder than we were, before we lit them. Big truths, grasped firmly, are tides that carry everything before them.

What was known as the Van Nuys-Lankershim ranch comprised 47,500 acres in the San Fernando Valley. Nearly six years ago, when Los Angeles was proceeding to develop an adequate water system, it passed into the hands of five men, every one of whom is a noted money-maker. Their names are, O. F. Brant, a leading banker, Gen. M. H. Sherman, a traction magnate, H. J. Whitley, who made a fortune in Hollywood real estate, Gen. H. G. Otis, of the "Los Angeles Times," and his son-in-law, Harry Chandler.

When it was proposed that Los Angeles should get its water from the Owens river strong opposition arose immediately, the kernel of that opposition being that the San Fernando lands, of which these five men had possessed themselves, would benefit enormously by the aqueduct which the public was about to construct at its own heavy cost. At election after election the cry went up that the "Times", with its great news-gathering facilities, had acquired advance information; that Otis and his business partners had seen their opportunity to enrich themselves enormously at the public expense; that they had pulled with all their might every one of the numerous wires they controlled in order to have their newly-acquired property enriched incalculably by the addition of this water supply, and so forth. Job Harriman, Socialist candidate for mayor, was perhaps the most vehement and effective expounder of this view, and it goes without saying that all his allegations were met with shouts of virtuous indignation, and emanating directly from the real estate speculators who hold Los Angeles in the hollow of their hand, and echoed by the unthinking crowd that fancies its interest lies in siding with the predatory rich. Let us now turn to the account of the banquet and discover what the last five years have shown to be the facts.

All the "Times" crowd was in there, and its leaders made only libelous blackguards dare to confine himself to a written message sent from a bed of sickness. What do the speeches tell me? First, while there was much jubilation over a million-dollar sugar crop, it was emphasized that the land, assessed at the date of the purchase at \$2,500,000 and bought for \$2,500,000, has now an assessed

valuation of between \$9,000,000 and \$10,000,000. Secondly, the superintendent of the water company congratulated Los Angeles on having found in these highly successful real estate manipulators its "first customers." Thirdly, and of course, an enormous amount of guff as to the benefit the people of Los Angeles will derive from the fact that this particular piece of syndicate property has increased at least twenty-fold in value during some five short years. In a word; the fish has been scooped safely into the net, and today the fishermen, who five years ago swore by all their Gods that they were harmless, think it safe to jubilate over the catch.

It is far and away the greatest of all games, and also, far and away the safest. It is the game by which the landed aristocracy which runs the British Empire has solidified its power, for London's teeming millions toil to fill the pockets of landlords whose grazing lands have become the site on which those toiling millions have to live. It is the cornerstone of that Prussian aristocracy which all the world now recognizes as militarism's most distinguished champion. It is back of all the world's reactionary powers; back of the Roman Catholic and other dominant churches; whose secular influence rests on their vast land-holdings; back of all these wars for territorial expansion; back of the campaign, waged perseveringly every minute in the year, for intervention in Mexico. What will men not do who have millions of acres now unsaleable for which they hope to get \$200, an acre? Hearst is in that boat, and so most notoriously, are Otis and Chandler, the men who, according to the prosecuting attorney, assisted so loyally at the last prosecution of the Magons. So are thousands of the moneyed, speculating class, in Los Angeles, and throughout the country. Huge stakes are on the table, waiting to be raked in; but the game has been rudely interrupted. What crime could be greater? What punishment is bad enough for those who have pushed in between the gamblers and their prey?

I personally have been unsparing in my attacks on President Wilson for not telling the people that the trouble in Mexico is our land sharks, and from that position I do not intend to budge. But President Wilson came near speaking out last month when he warned the public against the "sinister and unscrupulous interests" that are fomenting trouble between the United States and Mexico, with forced intervention as their aim. The President knows. He cannot be ignorant of the enormous options held by speculators who hope to reap millions the moment our government's strong hand insures our virtuous indignation, and it was inevitable that these virtuous estate speculators should protest most vehemently, with Hearst leading the indignant chorus. According to the "Times", five years ago, only a blackhearted scoundrel could suspect Otis and his colleagues of grinding a private ex in their championship of the Owens River aqueduct. According to the Hearst papers today they only libelous blackguards dare

only libelous blackguards dare to confine himself to a written message sent from a bed of sickness. What do the speeches tell me? First, while there was much jubilation over a million-dollar sugar crop, it was emphasized that the land, assessed at the date of the purchase at \$2,500,000 and bought for \$2,500,000, has now an assessed

idea that somebody (I dare say he would prefer to name the person) should act as guardians and trustees for the people of the neighboring republic of Mexico. I said, I defy you to show a single example in history in which liberty and prosperity were ever handed down from above. After which he stated that whenever he found the people breaking through the crust that smothered them he would thrust in not only his arm but his very heart, to keep the hole open. That was good Jeffersonian talk. It was also sound Anarchist talk. For Jefferson was an Anarchist who declared that the best government was that which governed least, and Benjamin R. Tucker most correctly defined Anarchist as being simply, "unfettered Jeffersonian Democrats." I assume that my readers recognize Elzabacher as the leading authority on Anarchism, and I remind them that Elzabacher takes Tucker as the representative Anarchist writer of America.

In reality, Tucker and Jefferson and President Wilson are only repeating what Buckle proved so irrefutably in his "History of Civilization," viz. that the only possible way of preventing abuse of power is to abolish conditions in which some have power over others. I hold that history has proved conclusively, and I hold it as beyond all possibility of contradiction that the land monopolist has the power. That power should be abolished, not only in Mexico but also in the United States and everywhere. Until that power is abolished it is nauseating hypocrisy to talk about individual freedom, for individual freedom means that you personally are not in the power of any one man or set of men. Individual freedom is the only true prosperity, the only true happiness, the only thing worth living for, working for and dying for.

It is the one truly revolutionary program, and he who is not working directly for individual liberty, and for the overthrow of whatever stands between the individual and his liberty, is not a revolutionist, though he may cry dynamite until he is black in the face and devote his whole life to those underground conspiracies that usually end in the police court and settle nothing.

Over the London Stock exchange runs the verse, cut in huge letters of stone: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Under the very shadow of that eternal truth financial buzzards buy and sell God's earth; traffic away the destiny of nations; juggle the dice that doom thousands to life-long servitude; literally buy and sell men; in this vaunted democratic age, as if they were fish-mongers dealing in red herring.

We know it, and we profess not to know it. We talk of liberty, and we know that liberty does and cannot exist for the man and woman reduced to economic helplessness. We talk of equality and we know that the whole course of our civilization makes the talk absurd. We talk of fraternity, and we know that nothing can be more unfraternal than to squeeze rent out of a tenant and turn him out into the street whenever he can no longer pay of the same people at the first

pretend that the ballot makes all men equal, although we know that the influence of a Wilson or a Roosevelt outweighs that of ten thousand ordinary citizens. In committee one of them, he diplomatically avoids exhibition and all the Stock exchange motto lies, just as Otis and his colleagues, pretending to go any further; he lied in the matter of the Los Angeles aqueduct, and just as Hearst and all the other land pirates are lying in their assurance that no to surprise the Wilson govern-

sinister influences are working for intervention in Mexico. And, knowing that our whole life is a lie, we grow more rotten year by year, become not a nation but a mob of liars, whom no mechanical "preparedness" can hope to save. In reality the United States cannot "prepare," as even Roosevelt knows; for nine-tenths of his talk is always on the necessity of moral reform. Thieves can reform only by giving back the stolen goods. Land monopolist can reform only by giving up their special privilege and helping to make this earth the free and equal heritage of all. Politicians can reform only by abandoning the exercise of power and allowing individuals to attend to their own business. These are the only real reforms, and they will come from above when the stars stand still in their courses and water begins to run uphill.

(To be continued.)
Wm. C. Owen.

Still At It

The persecution of "The Blast" by the Postoffice authorities continues. The issue of April 15th (No. 11) has also been held up in the Postoffice, making it impossible for its editor to send it out.

With this it makes three issues of "The Blast" that have been suppressed, and evidently the Postal authorities are determined to stop it altogether. Bats hate the light, and it is safe to say that they do not relish the glare of "The Blast" a bit. Very characteristic of its editor, Alexander Berkman, "The Blast" does not mince words at all, but has a taste for calling things by their naked names, cutting and splitting as it goes on its way. This is too much for the gods, who cannot stand the light in their putrid sores, hence their squirming.

There is no doubt that the masters are in a determined and concerted effort to crush any expression of rebellion, and if the radical press in general and the American people in particular do not look around we are billed for a real jolt.

We need not say that the suppressed numbers of "The Blast" make exceptionally good reading, and this can be had at five-cent a copy by sending to "The Blast", Box 661, San Francisco, Cal.

The Fourth Indicted Article.

(This is the fourth and last of the series of articles involved in the Magon and Owen case, and which, as said before have been reproduced for the benefit of our readers to judge for themselves.)

PUBLICITY.

The dominant concern of the tyrants, besides holding the power they have succeeded in grabbing, is to hide their moral leprosy. The hand of the tyrant always works in the shadow, to plunge the knife that shall destroy the heart of liberty; avoiding the light of day that would denounce his crime.

Making use of his venal minions, the tyrant strangles Truth and its defenders, so as to simulate, when his movements are discovered, complete ignorance of what his hounds, that he himself had incited, have done.

With a white-gloved hand, he holds over his face the hypocritical mask of the Jesuit that shall deceive the people, while behind the scenes he holds, in the other hand, the chains he shall rivet to the feet of the same people at the first

All his evil acts he conceals carefully from the public domain; and when he finds himself surprised upon attempting to do so, he diplomatically avoids exhibition and all the Stock exchange motto lies, just as Otis and his colleagues, pretending to go any further; he lied in the matter of the Los Angeles aqueduct, and just as Hearst and all the other land pirates are lying in their assurance that no to surprise the Wilson govern-

EMMA GOLDMAN.

By a press dispatch of April 22nd from New York, we see that Emma Goldman has been sentenced to two weeks imprisonment in the county jail. The news being in the (Hearst) Herald we take it accordingly, altho inclined to partially believe the report.

After reading an article, reproduced in leaflet form and sent us by Emma Goldman in which the proceedings of her trial and the "precautions" taken by the police at the hearing are described, we do not wonder at her sentence at all, but are rather surprised that it was no heavier. However, this is well explained by figuring that this is all they dared, and only to save their face at that.

These modern apes know very well that the day will soon be here when to punish anyone for advocating Birth Control will be as ridiculous and savage as it would be today to punish a doctor or anyone for curing tuberculosis or any other disease.

But why be surprised, for are not the modern cave-dwellers of today bent upon destroying anything that is really good for the people in general and the working class in particular? And are they not also bent upon fostering and upholding everything that goes to make the present order of things worse?

The following are a few excerpts from the leaflet sent us by Emma Goldman:

The police arrangements at the Criminal Courts Building were elaborate for the purpose of preventing any demonstration by the friends and champions of Miss Goldman.

After passing the first line of defense, a second line of three special officers guarding the door was encountered. Here each applicant for admission was put through the third degree. Lawyers had to be able to prove they really were lawyers before they could gain admission; witnesses were compelled to show their subpoenas, and reporters had to bring forth their police cards.

Here and there more prominent figures appeared and were met with the same blunt methods. Robert Henri, the noted artist and member of the National Academy, was turned back; Mrs. John Sloan, wife of the artist and well known for her social-civic interest, also was barred from the court, together with Mrs. J. Sergeant Cram, wife of the former public service commissioner; Leonard Abbot, head of the Free Speech League, and his wife.

The attack upon the border town of Columbus, New Mexico, by Villa's "bandit" troops, and the killing of seven United States soldiers and nine citizens is but the frightful fruit of the shooting up of Vera Cruz by United States marines, and the killing of scores of Mexicans, among whom, as reported in the press, were nineteen school children.

Do the "civilized" and "Christianized" people of the United States hope that the "bandit" Villa can perceive the righteousness of our assassinating the citizens of Vera Cruz, and the wrongfulness of his assassinating the citizens of Columbus?

The United States intends to swallow Mexico—let us do what we can to make it stick in their throats," are the reported words of Villa to his men before the murderous onslaught was made upon the town of Columbus.

Let us wait and see, how near he was right in his conjecture. Villa, they say, is a bandit. He is a murderer. He should be caught and hung.

Bandits—murderers—do we have to go to Mexico to find

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witnesses and forged documents.

(DENOUNCED ITEM.)

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, RAPACIOUS AMERICAN PLUTOCRACY that had Diaz enslaved.

And it is necessary to make public, extensively public, this accumulation of the dastardly politicians on this and the other side of the Rio Bravo, so that once their games are discovered, once the publicity is made of their dirty machinations as the cause for the attempt to renew their persecution against us, Wilson, who like all politicians and tyrants, fear the publicity of their bad acts, shall find himself forced to hold his pack of hounds and cease his persecution against us.

In order that Wilson may know that his shady plans have been discovered it is also necessary that an extensive agitation be continued so that even from the most remote corner of the United States, and from all the world if possible, the protests in our favor will rain upon him.

Before publicity, Wilson will have to fight a running battle.

I am sorry that for lack of space I cannot give details of the numerous protests that during the last week have been sent to the tyrant of the White House; but I shall do so next week.

Forward comrades! Let us prevent that your paper be suppressed by the arbitrary hand of authority and that its editors be buried in jail because we do not lend our pens but to the service of Truth and the Cause of Humanity.

ENRIQUE FLORES MAGON.

Villa's Assassination Of Columbus, New Mexico

As long as the capitalist system endures there will be bloodshed.

The capitalist system could not exist without bloodshed.

The exploitation—the robbery of one class by another breeds bloodshed as certainly as filth breeds disease.

The capitalist class expect bloodshed.

There is big money in it, Also, the conquest of a weak people by the strong opens up new fields for exploitation.

The capitalist class of the United States raided, assassinated and stole the Philippine Islands solely for this purpose.

They called it "benevolent assimilation".

The capitalist class of the United States want Mexico.

They propose to take it, if they can.

By what hypocritical name they may cover their crime remains to be seen.

Their game for months and months has evidently been to aggravate the Mexicans into committing some atrocious overt act that would compel an armed invasion of Mexico.

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Villa, they say, is a bandit. He is a murderer. He should be caught and hung.

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them?

What are the kings of Europe but bandits and murderers?

What was the attack on Vera Cruz?

What was our conquest of the Philippines?

What was the bloody butchery at Ludlow?

What is the past and present history of the master class but the damnable deeds of bandits and murderers?

How many others do you reckon there are on earth besides Villa that ought to be caught and hung if that is the just fate of all bandits and murderers?

Shall the miners of Colorado start after Rockefeller in this manner?

I do not for a moment condone the murderous attack upon the town of Columbus. But I do most emphatically assert that if the Plunderbund of this country had never got its clutches upon Mexico the Mexicans would not hate us and want to kill us. They remember that in a most dastardly war, brought about by the slave oligarchy of the period, we stole a good-sized slice of their territory.

In time they might have forgotten and forgiven this.

But then along came Standard Oil and Hearst and other big business interests, and, with the support of the despotic Diaz regime and backed by the Roman Catholic Church, gobbled the richest portions of Mexico.

"The United States," says Villa, as told in the press dispatches the day after the attack upon Columbus, "is responsible for the wretched condition of Mexico."

Not the common people of the United States—they do not own any more of Mexico than they do of their own country; but the Plunderbund of the United States, the ruthless exploiters both sides of the Rio Grande, and in the agony of death and desolation in Europe.

A nation that tolerates the selling for PROFIT of MURDER MACHINES to the bloody warlords of Europe calls Villa a bandit and a murderer!

The situation along the Mexican border is horrible.

No one will deny it.

No matter how guilty the Plunderbund of the United States appears, or how much they may have contributed to egging on Villa to desperation, the citizens of border towns must be protected. But, mark you, if the powers that be attempt to carry on a war of conquest of the Mexican people—and there is much to make us to suspect that that is the game—what action will the common people of this country take?

Will they stand for a crime beside which Villa's assault on Columbus fades into utter insignificance?

(From The Melting Pot St. Louis, Mo., April, 1916)

WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

Receipts for week ending April 17th, 1916.

Previously acknowledged . . . \$243.43
Socialist Party, Local Cleveland, O. \$2.00; Workmen's Circle No 46, Yonkers, N. Y. 1.00; Mrs. K. Caples, Los Angeles, Cal. 1.00; "Regeneration" \$14.20
B. Chaskis, Treas. A. R. C. Chicago Heights, Ill. 5.00; Globe Miners Union No 60, Globe, Ariz. 5.00; E. O'Hare, Steubenville, O. 1.00; C. N. Haymond, Norwalk, O. .25. Total \$272.88.
P. D. Noel, Fin. Sec.

A Correction.
Thru mixing the reports and typographical mistakes the following errors appeared in last report.

"Collection from League members, March 13, \$3.00" should be \$3.35;
"Lycurgus Emerick, Jacksonville, Ill., \$100." should be \$1.00;
"Total: 212.58 should be 243.43. Regeneration.

DON'T FAIL

To be at the First of May mass meeting to be held at Labor Temple on Monday May 1st 8 p. m. under the auspicious of the Workers International Defense League.

Speakers: Sam Atkinson, Luke North, T. W. Williams, J. T. Doran, and others. Upton Sinclair is expected to speak.