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American Labor Is Also Middle Class

Unless the long and detailed report published by the "Los Angeles Daily Times," July 8, is a fake, the United States government is in for more trouble in the Philippines. According to the special despatch a carefully-laid plot has been discovered, the chief features of which are the landing of arms from Japan, the cutting of the cable and the assassination of Americans at midnight on a given date. The plot is attributed to the Katipunan, a secret society which our government tried vainly to suppress. Aguinaldo and other noted insurrectionary leaders of the days immediately following the Spanish-American war, are said to be involved. To meet this projected rising for national independence the United States has quartered in the island 12,000 regular soldiers, 5,000 Philippine scouts and 5,000 constables. There are also reserves estimated at 30,000 and composed of American and other foreign residents. Thousands of Japanese live in the islands, and it is suggested that they would gladly take advantage of the Mexican and other troubles in which the United States is becoming more and more embroiled. One cannot imagine why they should not. In defiance of treaty obligations this proud and military nation has been treated as inferior, and if the old Samurai spirit which regarded death as a thousand times preferable to dishonor, still survives, that is an insult the Japanese will not forget. The Russo-Japanese war seems to have proved that the Samurai is very much alive.

We have been professing our intention of giving the Philippines back their independence, but the world at large takes little stock in that profession. It is not expected that gentlemen who have invested in the Philippines will let go until they have to. It is not expected that American speculators who have swarmed over Cuba, as they swarm wherever rich virgin resources coupled with cheap native labor promise fat dividends, will let go, until they have to. It is not expected that the gentlemen who have gobbled up railroads and mines, the oil deposits and timber and agricultural lands in Mexico will let go until they have to. It is not expected that the army of intuitive parasites who clamor for government appointments, in the Philippines, Cuba, Panama, wherever the American flag can succeed in planting itself, will let go of their imperialistic lustings until they have to. We may rail against Rockefeller, him of the Sunday school, but Rockefeller is regarded as the national type. Americans, as a nation, are considered strictly on the make.

Sr. Moreno, who was formerly Mexico's Minister of Commerce and Labor, is on his way to the United States. He announces it as his intention to "show up President Wilson's crime against Mexico—the greatest in the history of modern nations," and declares he has proofs of the existence of a secret platform, concocted in by politicians of all the parties and especially by Roosevelt, which is "looking to the disruption of Mexico and the acquisition ultimately by the United States of all the territory between the Rio Grande and Panama." I do not know how reliable Sr. Moreno may be, but I do know that no one can have examined the evidence without understanding that this has become a traditional policy handed down from President to President since the time of Hayes. That American capitalism must spread itself; that it must grab, more audaciously and swiftly than slowing Europe ever dared to—this has become the accepted policy of the United States. Wilson may deny it with his lips, but it has sunk into and become part and parcel of his heart. He may talk peace but he will sound the call to arms when the opportune moment presents itself. He and his Chautauqua Secretary of State may weep over the horrors of war, but Wilson will be in his natural element when posing as the commanding figure of the

great naval demonstration by which, at the San Francisco exposition, the United States hopes to advertise to the world that she can kill as skillfully as any of them. Let one of his diplomats protest, as has our Minister to Greece, against the shameless rape of a small and helpless country, and Wilson, allied with all the money Powers, will promptly dismiss him from his post. America is no longer the America that sympathized with Poland and Greece in their heroic fights for liberty. America is today a leader in the international game of gobble. She has no compassion to spend upon the weak, for her heart is set upon the dollar. Standard Oil has fastened its tentacles on China, and Standard Oil talks more powerfully than can all our labor agitators. Yuan Shi Kai may be a despot, who has cut the throat of China's new-born Republic, but our bankers are financing him. We are up to our neck in the politics of international plutocracy and they are the politics of brigands, armed by their respective Governments and with all the resources of those omnipotent collecting agencies to back them.

Last week I listened to a discourse by a University professor. His theme was "The Unemployed" and he showed, with admirable logic, how the causes I am trying to sketch were responsible for that great cancer which is eating out our national life. He attacked in particular the middle class, as sunk in gross materialism and wedded amorously to the dollar—their one and only God. Several noted labor leaders were present and, to my astonishment, they criticized severely, the gist of their criticism being that the labor movement did not wish to be saved by the middle class and was at war with it. But the trouble is that the labor movement is not at war with what gives the middle class its power; is not at war with its selfish, personal profit-seeking philosophy; on the contrary, follows that mean philosophy most slavishly, and thereby furnishes the middle class with the one weapon which is fatal to Labor's cause. American labor also believes in grabbing everything in sight. American Labor also scoffs at the rights of weaker peoples, and indeed has developed a school which teaches that rights are a delusion. American labor, therefore, sells itself readily to the treason of strikebreaking and detective work, aspires eagerly to positions on the police force, and swaggers all over itself when it dons the Government's uniform. Naturally, therefore, American labor is on the look-out for any pickings the invasion of Mexico may bring, and scores of times I myself have heard our workers, in cheap restaurants and coffee houses, speculating on the possibility of getting a piece of land in Mexico when we have driven the "Greasers" out. There lies the real strength of the existing system, against which every labor orator inveighs. This psychology, learned from the masters we profess to hate so cordially, is the great enemy revolutionists must combat.

WM. C. OWEN.

B. FAY MILLS TO SPEAK FOR THE HOP PICKERS.

On Monday evening, July 20th, Mr. B. Fay Mills will speak at Y. P. S. L. hall at a meeting arranged by the Ford and Suhr Defense Committee. This meeting is for the purpose of raising money to aid in the efforts for the release of the convicted leaders of the hop pickers. It is certain that Mr. Mills' popularity will draw a large crowd of people, many of whom do not know the true story of Ford and Suhr and we ought to secure a large collection as well as spread broadcast the truth about the hop pickers.

Mrs. Irene Smith will also speak and the meeting will be presided over by Hollow Worker Doran. A choir of Wobblies will sing "Mr. Block," the song the hop pickers were singing when fired upon in the name of law and order and other revolutionary songs will be sung by them and the singers in the Y. P. S. L. Let us make this meeting a rousing success. Ford and Suhr fought our battle. Let us show our appreciation by working in season and out for their freedom.

MEXICO'S APPEAL.

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Mexican Notes

According to Washington despatches the United States was informed, July 13, by the Brazilian Minister in Mexico City that Huerta would vacate within the next five days, leaving the government in the hands of Francisco Carbajal, the newly-appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. This report agrees with the position taken almost universally by that portion of the press which is watching events in Mexico with the greatest care, and indeed it seems impossible that Huerta can hold on longer. North of Mexico City his enemies have been sweeping all before them. South of him and up to the capital's very gates Zapata is the dominating force.

Now comes the supreme question of protection for and compensation to foreign investors, and one understands immediately why it was that President Wilson deliberately invited the assistance of the A. B. C. Mediators. Those gentlemen are now insisting that Carranza must recognize all foreign obligations and internal concessions assumed and granted by the Huerta regime. They claim to be acting as attorneys for the foreign governments, and to have been delegated to notify the Constitutionalist that unless the Huerta obligations and concessions are honored by them the new government will not be recognized. One can understand the pressure thus put on the Constitutionalist.

Where, under all this diplomatic hocus-pocus, does the peon come in? Who is consulting the man who does the work; the man without whom every one of these star-bespangled officials would starve to death? It is an extraordinary thing to us that the American worker cannot see the farce and tragedy of this. It is extraordinary that he cannot apply the lesson to himself; but that, on the contrary, from Socialists and Single Taxers to Gompers' ring of Washington lobbyists, American workers are still trusting hireling lawyers and other professional politicians to perform the task that, by life's most fundamental law, they are bound inevitably to shoulder for themselves.

Yielding to Pressure.

We have no personal prejudices; none whatever. We had none against Madero, and our position toward him was simply that by no such political beating around the bush as characterized his administration could the worker win more than empty promises. We have no prejudice against Carranza, but again we recognize that, being forced to cater to and compromise with Washington on a thousand points, he could not bring justice to the peon if he would. What Carranza at present is represented as saying is that, while hitherto he has declared that every act of the Huerta government will be treated by him as null and void, he is now willing to modify that declaration to the extent of paying loans contracted by Huerta for legitimate governmental purposes. Already he yields to the pressure from without, which doubtless is enormous. Already the gate is thrown wide open. Where, Oh! where, does the disinherited peon come in?

Carranza is represented further as having notified the United States, through John R. Silliman, President Wilson's personal representative, that unconditional surrender on the part of the Huerta government will be alone accepted, and that his generals have agreed on the literal enforcement of the Plan of Guadalupe, under which Carranza is to act as President "ad interim." On its side the United States government is said to have given assurances that it will not interfere with the triumphant progress of the revolution, but that it will insist on Mexico City being occupied without commission of the excesses and bloodshed anticipated.

In the "Chicago Tribune" we read of the attempt of Mr. Dorkins to explain the meaning of a "political con game." That it signified a frame-up left her still unenlightened. To its description as being a piece of bunk she was equally dense, and Mr. Dorkins finally gave up the business of trying to teach a woman anything about politics. The American public must find itself similarly in the dark as to what the A. B. C. mediation really thought it was going to accomplish. It must have cost a pretty penny, and about all the outcome one can see is a notice that the incoming Mexican administration will have to pay foreign creditors in full. We

needed no ghost from the grave to tell us this, the assertion of the claim having been as foregone a conclusion as would be the statement that night will follow day. Meanwhile a good many hundred lives have been sacrificed at Vera Cruz, and thousands of American troops, pining in that tropical climate, are aching for the word "On to Mexico City!"

Guadalupe Plan Amended.

The conference at Torreon has resulted in the reconciliation of Villa and Carranza, and the adoption of an amendment to the Plan of Guadalupe, which heads as follows:

"The present revolution being a fight by the disinherited against those who have exploited them, and against many abuses that have been inflicted upon the country to the great disadvantage of the people, we pledge ourselves upon our sacred honor to continue the warfare until the last vestige of the so-called Federal army, which has been used to keep the great mass of the people in a state of abject peonage, shall have been driven from our beloved country.

"We shall continue to fight until we shall see established in Mexico a democratic form of government, pledged to the restoration to the people the rights guaranteed them by the constitution, but of which they have been deprived by a privileged few.

"We pledge ourselves to fight until those who worked with hand or brain in mines, factories, or on the farms shall be given an equal voice in government, and as a first step in this direction we further pledge ourselves that upon the triumph of the revolution and the restoration of peace, a fair and equitable distribution of the lands shall be made in order that the great agricultural resources of the republic may be developed, giving profitable employment to millions who are now kept in slavery or in abject poverty by the few.

Church and State.

"And to rescue our people from a corrupt clerical party it shall be our endeavor to so separate church and state that those priests of the Roman Catholic church who have aligned themselves with the classes for the purpose of keeping the masses in subjection, and who in the present revolution have materially or morally aided or assisted the usurper Huerta, shall be given the punishment they deserve."

Political platforms and promises should always be distrusted, and it is to be noted that the foregoing, while professing intention to rescue the masses from "abject peonage" and promising a "fair and equitable distribution of the lands," pledges the signers only to the "restoration to the people of the rights guaranteed them by the Constitution" and "an equal voice in government." If Constitutions effected anything the people of Mexico would have been free economically for nearly sixty years, since that under which Mexico has been operating during all that time guarantees the laborer the full product of his toil. If "an equal voice in government"—i. e., universal suffrage—were a guarantee of economic prosperity no labor question would ever have arisen in the United States.

There is a threat against the Roman Catholic Church, which is detested most heartily by the ordinary Mexican revolutionist, but it is only a partial and exceedingly limited threat, directed against such priests as have sided with Huerta and thereby constituted themselves a "corrupt political party." This is a very different matter from burning churches and expelling the priests, as the advanced wing of the revolutionary movement has done invariably. The brief reference to the land question is a very different matter from the burning of real estate records, which has been the natural and most effective course pursued by the unlettered peon whom Berger has denounced so vigorously and over whose educational shortcomings Debs has shed crocodile tears. That the propositions put forward by Carranza, who belongs to the lawyer and proprietary class and is socially a duplicate of Madero, will satisfy the scores of thousands who have pinned their faith to Zapata, or the thousands of Anarchist members of the Mexican Liberal Party who have been per-mecating all sections of the revolutionary movement for many years past, we never will believe. Therefore, to us it seems certain that the fight will still go on.

How Zapata Stands.

It is most difficult to get exact information respecting affairs in Mexico, try as diligently as one may. We

note, however, the appearance in the "British Columbia Federationist" of an apparently well-informed letter which credits Zapata with the possession of 60,000 armed men and a following of three millions in six States. This is followed by the statement that "Zapata owes his following to the fact that he represents the one great idea rooted ineradicably in the peasant's mind, namely, that the land and all the products of the land should belong to the man who works the land." The writer then quotes a member of Madero's cabinet as having said of the Zapatistas: "It won't be with guns that we can quiet them; because they are not bandits but revolutionists, and the revolutionists always have a principle of justice." In the present writer's pamphlet, published two and a half years ago and entitled "The Mexican Revolution," he quoted "Collier's" special correspondent, John A. Avirette, to a similar effect, and Avirette, who was a military man, had begun his investigation of Zapatism with infinite prejudice against it. "Collier's" was then in the business of getting at the truth. Today it is working for United States invasion of Mexico and employing as its star writer the renegade revolutionist, Jack London.

Edward I. Bell, former editor and publisher of "La Prensa," Mexico City, has contributed a somewhat remarkable article to the "Oregon Sunday Journal," of Portland, Ore., in which he denounces the United States government as the author of all the great troubles Madero encountered. His argument is that Taft was closely allied with the " Cientificos," through his brother, Henry W. Taft, who was a member of the Rothschild-Cowdray company known as Pearson & Son and of the legal firm that represented them. Bell considers that Taft signed Madero's death warrant when he ordered the American troops to the frontier, in February, 1912, and quotes Madero as asking him: "Why does your nation treat me like a worm? Why does it place its iron heel upon me and grind me into dust?" Since then times have changed, and it must have been obvious to all the world that the Wilson administration has allied itself ever more closely with the Carranza cause than did Taft with that of the " Cientificos." In both cases the motive has been unquestionably the same, viz., protection of capitalist investments and plans for future ownership. It is a tangled web of governmental intrigue that the historian of the immediate future will be called on to unravel, but with that unravelling will come the exposure of the United States government as having been engaged persistently in thwarting the Mexican worker's will, in the interest of special privilege and at a frightful expenditure of blood and treasure. But for the ambitions of that most dangerous of all parasites, the politician, the Mexican workers would have realized their just and righteous aim years ago, and probably in the most peaceful manner, for the Mexican shrinks from war. Among the mass of intriguing politicians who have cast their net over the ignorant and too trustful peon those from the United States have been, as it seems to us, by far the most skillful, malignant and pernicious. And what has happened to the Mexican worker will happen to the worker of the United States when he too is forced to make his revolution. That day is not so distant as most of us suppose.

Sentenced!

We learn that on July 11th Comrade Miguel P. Martinez, one of the fourteen men in the Texan jails, has been sentenced to serve a term of twelve years in the penitentiary.

The next Comrade now before the jury is Leonardo L. Vazquez, the one whose former sentence of fifteen years was reversed by the Court of Appeals at Austin, Tex., and a new trial granted.

Now, it is up to you, comrades, to let our friends be sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary or to be hanged.

Right now is the time to come to their rescue by standing up to their sides, letting the Master Class hear our demands for their release and sending our contributions for their defense to Victor Cravello, Room 108, Labor Temple, Los Angeles, Cal. E. F. M.

"They do but worship me (humanity) with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

