

Rulers Change But Conditions Remain

Obviously the Mexican question is black as ink, profoundly threatening, charged with one knows not how much electricity. One reads that ten thousand United States troops have been assembled on the frontier, and that four thousand more have been despatched to Galveston, Texas, as the most convenient strategic point.

One can do nothing, editorially, except repeat the lesson we have dinged away at for the last two years, viz., that all this trouble has its fount in the cursed ambition to rule; in the infernal lust to get something for nothing, and exploit the helpless.

"Politicians and military adventurers." Add the words "commercial pirates" and you have the key to the whole situation.

In me, Madero was, from the first, a slame; one of those vague, metaphysical, spiritualist, theosophist dreamers whose heads are in the clouds the last of all persons to be entrusted with practical affairs.

"The following special despatch to the 'Los Angeles Tribune,' dated New York City, Feb. 23, is, as we believe, a more than usually just review. To read it is to understand immediately why Madero failed so tragically in a position which demanded that its occupant should be one thing or the other; with the people or against them; a ruthless foe of special privilege, as was Benito Juarez, or a mail-listed autocrat of the Porfirio Diaz type.

"Mexicans in New York City today quickly summed up the life and character of Francisco I. Madero, Jr., killed in the early morning by the troops of Huerta. He was a man who could not be driven out, but who could be persuaded. That had caused his downfall.

equal rights, and he had been persuaded to ignore all rights and give privileges to his brother. He had declared himself in favor of the development of his country by Mexicans, and yet had been persuaded to accord vast favors to foreign interests favored by his brother and his associates.

"Gold and oil have been the curse of Mexico," said Raul de Hnos, speaking of this. "The gold brought Spaniards to Mexico in the old days; the oil has brought a horde of conscienceless promoters."

"Obstinate as he was, until some had hinted that he was insane, Francisco Madero was brave, determined and patriotic at heart. Madero's family has long been one of the wealthiest and most powerful in the republic.

"There are few, if any, unsuccessful Maderos in the family. It was a boast with them that every man in the family either inherited great tracts of lands, mines, ranches, banks, or rubber plantations. Their interests are principally agricultural, but they are also heavy owners of silver mines and lead mines. They had invested largely in the exploitation of the oil fields of the far west and one of the objections to President Madero was that he allowed his brother Gustavo to work too intimately with Standard Oil and other interests."

Not because of the tragedy of his taking off, but for the sake of historical truth, much space is devoted this week to an exact review of the position Madero occupied. It is necessary, supremely necessary, that all the world should understand that the people wanted bread and that Madero offered them cold words, promises of electoral reforms, and similar verbal ambiguities which fill no empty stomach.

SAVE TURNER!

John Kenneth Turner has been imprisoned by order of Felix Diaz, the new dictator. Reports have it that three times he has faced a firing squad, and it is certain that he stands today in deadly peril. He is the author of "Barbarous Mexico," and of numerous articles and stories that have appeared in leading magazines and Socialist periodicals, all voicing the wrongs of the Mexican workingman.

Set Them Free

- The indisputable facts, now coming out in all the leading papers and magazines, show conclusively how correct were our imprisoned comrades in their contention that the Maderos were cheating their country out of the revolution for which it had poured out its blood. Seldom, if ever, has history justified a group of men so quickly and completely. All the world knows today that they are not criminals, but all the world does not know, as we do, that perjury was employed against them.

Mexican Notes

Huerta is holding out all possible inducements to join his army. If you do not you will be shot, and it is hard to imagine a more forceful argument. This was the fate meted out to ninety-five Mexicans, at Saiz, near Juarez, who, having been fed under Madero, expressed disapproval of the assassination of the man to whom they, like Huerta, had sworn loyalty.

"They helped Madero fight his fight originally because he promised to divide the land fairly and to control great landholders. But, once elected, he went back on his word and named forty of his own relatives to political offices.

Revolutions tear off the mask, disclose men and their motives as they actually are, and reveal the gigantic schemism that splits society. On the one hand, the progressive and civilizing thought that looks ahead and hails the dawn of freedom, with its message of redemption for the masses.

For a long time past the "Los Angeles Tribune" and the "Los Angeles Express" have been doing brave work, both editorially and by cartoon, in explaining most lucidly the economic inwardness of the Mexican Revolution, and the insidious methods by which the "interests" seek to manufacture a public opinion that shall favor invasion of Mexico.

"Miss O'Reilly's Letters." For a long time past the "Los Angeles Tribune" and the "Los Angeles Express" have been doing brave work, both editorially and by cartoon, in explaining most lucidly the economic inwardness of the Mexican Revolution, and the insidious methods by which the "interests" seek to manufacture a public opinion that shall favor invasion of Mexico.

"After explaining how thorough has been her study, in Mexico itself, of the general situation, a study in which she has had the assistance of Capt. E. R. Higgins—Miss O'Reilly plunges into the middle of her subject by declaring it as practically certain that "the troubles in Mexico, and our troubles with Mexico, are only just begun."

"Such invasion will certainly unite the Mexican federals and the Mexican rebels in one coalesced patriot army, fighting fiercely for their fatherland. For, the word is blazoned across the southern sky that 'Mexico is for the Mexicans!'"

"I have just interviewed scores of the military warders of our borders. They agree that, without doubt, our armed intervention will absolutely result in the ultimate annexation of Mexico by the United States. BUT, they say, to bring about this annexation will mean the BLOODIEST FIVE YEARS IN HISTORY SINCE THE CIVIL WAR!"

"That intervention by America is a likely thing is shown by the fact that every military post has just received Mexican survey maps, and the word has gone out that the first move to be made, in case a move is made, will be the entering from the north of a column of 60,000 American soldiers, followed by a Southern column of 60,000 landing at Vera Cruz!"

have nothing to lose and everything to gain by fighting. The peons are enslaved and they want to be free. They are not as they were a generation ago. They are beginning to think for themselves and they know that they have a right to demand education for their children and independent opportunities for themselves.

"Down here we charge that the eight Madero brothers grafted millions in war claims and established corrupt relations with giant foreign corporations. Mexico was run by the aristocrats and foreign capitalists. The time has come when the people must be trusted with their own. And it is my opinion that this fight of the people for their rights has only just begun.

"Miss O'Reilly then reports an interview with Felix Martinez, whom she describes as the 'richest man in El Paso and a man cognizant of all Mexican-American affairs.' He informed her that he personally told Madero that 'unless he lived up to some of his promises he would be overthrown,' and he added the curious and highly-suggestive statement that Madero remarked: 'I am sorry to see the spread of Socialist illusions among the peons.'"

"I have seen men, political prisoners, who had spent some time in this cell, with their joints all gnarled and twisted with rheumatism. I think death is more to be chosen than such a deformity."

"In a word, the rule of Porfirio Diaz was a savage, medieval, military rule, rendered more intolerable by the absorption of modern commercial methods, with their universal subordination of life to profits. The rule of Felix Diaz, as he himself asserts most frankly, will be a restoration of that old and unbearable regime, and already it is having the unstinted support of the military bureaucracy and essentially reactionary elements in the United States."

"Miss O'Reilly evidently has a poor opinion of the Mexican peon's general intelligence, but she recognizes that even the most ignorant know when they are being skinned alive, and says: 'This peon is not so stupid, though, as not to realize what he calls 'our diplomacy.' He knows the Guggenheims have \$10,000,000 worth of mines here. He knows the Southern Pacific railway owns the great oil fields at Tampico. And he knows these are all strong for intervention—these as well as such men as Senator Fall and Wm. Randolph Hearst, the great ranch owners of the country.'"

"This nine storey all millionaires. They owned among themselves the Torron Smelting Company and the Parras Spinning Mills in Coahuila, the Monterey Flouring Mills in Nuevo Leon, gold, silver and copper mines in Chihuahua, flour mills at Parras, Saltillo, Tampico, Vera Cruz, Merida and elsewhere, and the Rosita Coal and Coke Company in Chihuahua. They also control the Bank of Nuevo Leon at Monterey, and are interested in most of the banks in the City of Mexico. In the State of Coahuila they own more than 7,000,000 acres of land. Francisco, the eldest son of Evaristo, and the father of the President Madero, owned 2,000,000 acres outside of the clan holdings. Alberto has a cattle ranch which produces from 15,000 to 18,000 animals each year. Manuel and Jose have wide stretches of cotton lands, and Ernesto and Salvador control half a dozen copper companies."

"Again we say that the function of revolutions is to tear off the mask and show things as they are. Events, forcing the attention of the world, are bringing to light all sorts of strange Mexican history and enabling us to distinguish, at least to some extent, between the apparent and the real. Less than two years ago millions of well-meaning, but utterly-misinformationed, persons contended stubbornly that the Maderos were heaven-sent saviors, destined to lead the Mexicans out of tyranny and want. Today the facts are coming out, and they justify completely not only the unflinching position of this paper, but—which is of infinitely greater moment—the rebels who originally rose in arms. Today no honest thinker, aware of the irreconcilable and world-wide strife between rich and poor, can doubt for one moment on which side the Madero family stood. No thinker can hold that, in this irrespressible struggle, it is possible to emancipate the many without sweeping away the privileges of the few. With all inclination to speak leniently of the dead, the best that can be said of Francisco I. Madero is that he could not face the facts; that he lost himself in mystic dreams; that he was intoxicated with his own oratory and believed that, somehow, the peon could be drugged with words until, by some miraculous process impossi-

ble to analyze, his redemption should be evolved. A man less fitted to occupy the position to which he himself climbed it must not be forgotten through blood, it would be hard to find.

"Damning Evidence." It is not our mission to examine the evidence relating to the killing of Madero and Pino Suarez, but we may remark that the new version given out by the Huerta government tends only to confirm suspicion. The automobile carrying the murdered men deliberately ran past the main entrance to the prison, and evidence to that effect having turned up unexpectedly, the government now explains that this was done to avoid Maderistas. The one eye-witness insists that there was no sign of any Maderistas being in the neighborhood. The government now says that Madero and Suarez, in their flight, were caught between the fire of the federal troops and their assailants. The evidence apparently is that they were shot at such close range that Madero's hair was set on fire. The bodies being examined to verify this it was discovered that the hair had been cut off, and that the clothing worn by Suarez had been changed. Who would not regard such attempts to remove most damaging evidence as certain to excite profound distrust? Meanwhile many other Maderistas are fleeing, to escape the application of the dreaded "Fugitive Law," one of Porfirio Diaz' benevolent methods of assimilating his enemies.

"An interview with one of Madero's younger brothers, now being educated in the United States, is worthy of note. Speaking of the murder he said: 'I feel certain that death was more acceptable to him than imprisonment in the cell where Diaz probably would have had him confined. This cell is made entirely of marble and it is well known that any person who remains there for any length of time will come out, if he ever does come out, crippled with rheumatism.'"

"Propped by Bayonets." In a word, the rule of Porfirio Diaz was a savage, medieval, military rule, rendered more intolerable by the absorption of modern commercial methods, with their universal subordination of life to profits.

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fect that Zapata, Orozco and other rebels are negotiating with the new government. We do not care to waste our space on them, because at present they are only speculations and rumors. They cannot be otherwise, since the news of Madero's fall and death is only now beginning to reach the masses, scattered as they are over an enormous area, with means of communication exceedingly defective. To this must be added the consideration that, even if Zapata, Orozco, Salazar, or other rebel leaders, should wish to make their individual peace, such action would have no binding effect on their followers, who enjoy an independence of choice that is very real, and are themselves led by a hundred sub-chiefs who also are independent. Madero made repeated pacts with leaders, only to discover that they could not deliver the goods, their followers immediately repudiating the agreement. 'El Imparcial' and other papers were never weary of pointing out this folly of Madero's government, which humiliated itself in vain.

SOCIALIST BOYCOTT.

To keep the record clear we chronicle the fact that "The Coming Nation," edited by Charles Edward Russell and A. M. Simons, made its appearance Feb. 22, without one single word touching events in Mexico. It was the week of the great struggle that ended in the overthrow and assassination of Madero. The entire capitalist press had been compelled to break its long conspiracy of silence, and so important was all news from Mexico that even the conflict in the Balkans dropped, for the moment, out of sight. Had Russell been still in the employ of the daily press he would have written reams on the Mexican situation, and written them enthusiastically, for his professional judgment would have told him its paramount importance. But being on the Socialist press he is muzzled; tied to a pre-determined boycott, adopted deliberately as the party's policy. And why? Simply to cover up the appalling stupidities into which Debs, Berger and other of the political leaders, fell by reason of their abysmal ignorance.

"In another part of the same issue of 'The Coming Nation' appears a review of the new edition of 'Fields, Factories and Workshops,' by Kropotkin. That is a scientific work, acknowledged as such by scientists throughout the world. It demands, therefore, scientific treatment, and it gets an utterly partisan and unfair review. The author of the article is particularly indignant with Kropotkin for his regret that modern Socialists do not follow the example of Marx in observing every new tendency in industrial evolution and giving it due weight in drawing conclusions." The charge was made by Kropotkin in that truly scientific spirit which, recognizing ignorance as the greatest foe to progress, is righteously indignant when newly discovered truths are suppressed by partisanship. The charge he made is true—pitifully true—and the course adopted toward the Mexican Revolution by the political leaders of the Socialist Party is one more of the multitude of proofs.

WANTED—STRAIGHT PAPERS.

From New York City, comes a circular letter, issued on behalf of a proposed new radical and anti-parliamentarian labor paper. It bears the signatures of Jaime Vidal, Gustavus Myers, Robert Lee Warwick, Mr. and Mrs. Sanger and other well-known radicals, and remarks, in part, as follows:

"The so-called radical movement in this country is at present being dominated by a clique of opportunists and lawyers, which threatens to contaminate the entire movement. The inevitable result of this state of affairs is that there is considerable friction and discontent."

"That is putting it mildly, and one sincerely hopes the discontent is deep and bitter. One hopes it will have force and backbone enough to stand by a really independent and outspoken paper. The influence of lawyers in the American labor and so-called revolutionary movement is enormous, and ninety-nine per cent of that influence is, of necessity, reactionary and rotting to the core. The influence of the clerical element is perhaps even more potent, and ninety-nine and ninety-nine hundredths of that influence is sapping and debilitating beyond expression; for, the clerical mind seeks invariably to compromise, on the one hand, and to dominate, on the other. It never is, and never can be, a straight mind; inasmuch as it refuses persistently to face facts destructive to its creed.

Furthermore, the commercial influence, which agitates with an eye fixed on the cash-box, is deplorably powerful and most deplorably malevolent. We wish our proposed contemporary luck; for we ought to have a hundred straight revolutionary papers where we now have one. That is a competition all should welcome, both because it would popularize and intensify the agitation, and because it would keep us all up to the mark.

ALL ALONG THE COAST.

According to letters received from the North, the I. W. W. is showing great activity in Seattle and surrounding territory, holding numerous and largely-attended meetings, and sending out great quantities of literature. We note, in particular, an anti-war demonstration, wherein every member of the committee was a veteran of the Spanish war, and a concert and ball, for the benefit of revolutionary papers, in which the Russian workmen co-operated with the I. W. W.

In Los Angeles the I. W. W. has been trying for a long time past to start a Spanish paper, and we hope most heartily that they may be able to make it go. There are thousands of Mexicans in this city whom 'Regeneration' has been unable to reach, and somebody should do so. This job of educating the masses is crying loudly for new helpers to take hold.

DON'T FORGET THE DATES.

The ball, on behalf of the organization of Mexican labor, will be held at the International Workers' Home, Saturday evening, March 1, and not Sunday, as stated, erroneously, last week. The address is 309 Yale, corner Alpine North Broadway cars take passengers to within two short blocks of the building.

Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock and in the same building, there will be a mass meeting to protest against intervention by the United States in Mexico. This should draw a large crowd, the subject being now prominently before the public as the topic of paramount interest, since war seems to be threatened seriously. Addresses in various languages will be delivered, and it is hoped that the meeting will be thoroughly international, for this question affects the workers of every race.

PLUTOCRACY'S MAINSTAY.

Some rich men 'keep' a cow so as to be sure and have fresh milk on their table. They also 'keep' a stable. They 'keep' most anything around from cows and horses up to women and lawyers. Whatever will gain their ends the capitalist personally and the capitalists as organized into a system, 'keep' for their use and pleasure. So it is with the newspapers. Not our big corporation is to be found but has one or more 'kept' newspapers. These newspapers give service just like a 'kept' cow. There is nothing wrong about this, except the hypocritical pretense of these papers that they tell the facts and report the truth about what is happening in the city, state and nation. These 'kept' newspapers are like hired lawyers. They tell only so much of the truth as will help their clients. And as often as falsehood will accomplish results they print falsehood. Every man who knows the newspaper game knows that this is ordinary, everyday truth around a newspaper office. Those who suffer are the people who take these papers 'kept' by the corporation and believe what they read. ('Chicago World')

WORSE THAN BATTLE.

To one whose intellectual range of vision is bounded by the horizon lined off by the daily kept-lies of the press, there can be no disturbing doubt of the fact that prosperity is unobtainable and that there is no ground for discontent and complaint. It is true that statistics from capitalist sources show 3,000,000 of sentient beings who are inmates of almshouses or the beneficiaries of public and private charities, at a cost of some \$200,000,000 a year in the aggregate. But this estimate is not large enough. It overlooks the 10,000,000 souls who are trembling on the verge of hopeless pauperism and suffering from a lack of food, clothing, fuel, and sanitary housing. There are also over 2,000,000 women who are being systematically rendered incompetent for widowhood and motherhood by being driven to 'keep the pace' in the mills and shops. As to the vast number of children immolated under childhood slavery, no correct estimate can be made. Solicitude and pity for their offspring and the necessity of getting food for the family constrain fathers and mother to swear lies in order to put the children beyond the limit of the forbidden age. And in addition to all these things is the ghastly fact that about 1,000,000 workmen are killed, maimed, and injured in the course of one year, which is more than five times as many as have been killed, wounded, and died from disease in the terrific slaughter of the Balkan war. ('National Socialist')

NOT FOR MORGAN.

Though George Frederick Watts lived and worked as a recluse, he painted for the people to see. His pictures were not intended for private galleries, where they would be accessible only to wealthy connoisseurs. Imagine 'Mammon' in Mr. Morgan's private collection. His Raphael's flatter his pride; they come from a period of history when the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and pride of life held sovereign sway; they have no message which rebukes him for the suffering of men who work twenty-four hours a day one day out of four, and twelve hours a day the other three, just to earn dividends on the which he stole so many of his millions. But this picture of Mammon—this beast-faced, bull-necked figure, thrown and crowned, clad in a robe which is golden outside and the color of human blood within, whose foot crushes the life out of a naked youth, whose hand holds the life of a naked girl—would not this be an offense to the artistic sense of our modern Renaissance prince? Where else could such a picture hang; and be in place, than in a public gallery where the millions pass? (Chas. S. Mitchell, in 'The Mirror')

WORTH NOTING.

Those wishing to learn, or perfect themselves, in either Spanish or English will do well to remember our language classes. Prof. Montoya holds a Spanish class every evening, at our 'Home,' 309 Yale St., and the editor of this section has one in English, at 7 p. m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Instruction is oral, words, phrases and grammar being explained from one language into the other.

No charge is made, our object in instituting these classes being to make the Spanish-speaking workers more self-helpful, and to bring about a closer alliance between them and their English-speaking brothers.

It would be hard to find a better opportunity of acquiring either of these two essential tongues.

USEFUL PERIODICALS.

Have you been looking for 'Mother Earth' or Kropotkin and Bakunin's writings? You will find them and other Revolutionary works at W. A. Sampson's newsstand, 120 1/2 East Fifth street.