

How Does Authority Benefit The Poor?

(FROM THE SPANISH OF RICARDO FLORES MAGON)

Built over the plough and irrigating with his sweat the furrow that he turns, the poor toils, and entones one of those inexpressible folk-songs that seem to condense all the bitterness that social injustice has been accumulating for centuries in the poor man's heart.

For three days past Pedro has been tramping the city streets eagerly in search of work. He is a good workman; his muscles are of steel; on his face, which stamps him a child of the people, honesty is reflected.

Santiago, full of content, bids his wife farewell. He is going to ask the hacienda owner for the share coming to him as co-partner in the abundant harvest they have raised.

Curing Causes By Doctoring Effects

One of our correspondents—a somewhat prominent lawyer, deeply religious churchman and enthusiastic Single Taxer of long standing—writes me earnestly and sadly respecting the militant suffragette movement in England and our own Mexican Revolution.

The fatal weakness of Democracy, and of all such movements as Political Socialism and the Single Tax, which pledge themselves at the start to follow Democratic principles, is that they promise the IMPOSSIBLE.

We have in this nation, I suppose, some twenty million adults. I will stretch imagination and picture them as all having the vote, as all supremely anxious for the truth, as all possessed of that high degree of intelligence which doubtless characterizes, we will say, the "Appeal to Reason" staff.

Mexican Notes

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Interest still centers on Washington intentions, as to which libraries are being written, all of mere conjecture. We think it can be said with safety that action will hinge on whether this country means to uphold or abandon the Monroe Doctrine, and on this we have given special attention elsewhere.

Times have changed sadly. Ninety years ago we were real haters of despotism, and we did not propose that any one should interpose or attempt to control young Republics struggling to work out their own social problems.

Let us not permit, therefore, the formation of a powerful government. To the work of expropriation, therefore, without delay. And if, unhappily, some other individual should climb to the Presidency of the Republic, let us war against him and his followers, to prevent him from becoming strong, continuing meanwhile the work of expropriation.

Fifty years ago Democracy, with its doctrine of education as the universal cure, seized possession of all thinking England. Carlyle, with his gospel of Work, was its great prophet, and the charming delusion that you had only to stuff the masses with knowledge set thousands of reformers enthusiastically busy.

Neither personal liking nor dislikes should influence criticism, and in this particular article I certainly wish to express what I either fear or favor. For I am writing it to express what I consider an all-important truth, a truth that affects the whole revolutionary movement; one that, firmly grasped, would save us years of fruitless effort and hasten incalculably the march to our inevitable goal.

This is not a speculative but an intensely practical discussion. I am arguing for deeds as opposed to words; for action as opposed to talk; for struggle as opposed to sighs. This article voices the stern Christian whose eyes had been opened by his visit to Jerusalem, and who threw himself against the money-changers, as opposed to the mild, because inexperienced, Christ who, in his early peasant days, dreamed that he could convert the world by parables which I myself consider the world's greatest literary gems.

MONROE DOCTRINE

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At all events let us face clearly and frankly the fact that the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine is going to cost the United States an immense amount of trouble, money, and men.

Carried out to its logical conclusion, it means a policy of suzerainty and interference which will earn us the increasing hatred of our neighbors, the dissatisfaction of Europe, the loss of commercial opportunities, and the forfeiture of time and strength which would much better be given to setting our own difficult internal problems.

If we persist in maintaining the Monroe doctrine, we shall find that its legitimate, rational, and logical growth will lead us to an increasing number of large expenditures, where American treasure and American blood will be sacrificed in efforts to remove the mote from our neighbor's eye while overlooking the beam in our own.

It is for us to face the question fairly and to determine whether it is worth while to continue any longer on a road which leads to such great expenditures and which means the loss of international friendship. ("The Monroe Doctrine; an Obsolete Shibboleth"; by Hiram Bingham, professor Latin-American History, at Yale.)

Congressman William Kent, representing the First District, California, is entitled to universal thanks for incorporating in the "Congressional Record" a really able document, in the shape of Prof. Hiram Bingham's article, entitled "The Monroe Doctrine; an Ancient Shibboleth."

Three imprisoned Americans have been released, and Americans resident at Mexico will not even dream of celebrating their liberation. The Hearst papers thought they had all been massacred.

WHEN THEY UNDERSTAND

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Some day the Revolutionists of all the world will be ashamed that they have paid so little attention to the movement which for the last three years has kept itself aloof in Mexico.

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A SCANDALOUS RESOLUTION

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"The World" invites the thoughtful consideration of the United States Senate to the following clauses in the personally prepared biography of Albert Bacon Fall of New Mexico, printed in the Congressional Directory:

"Because extensively interested in mines, lumber, lands and railroads; now engaged in farming and stock-raising in New Mexico, and IN MINING IN MEXICO."

Senator Fall is the author of the highly original resolution which asserts that "the constitutional rights of American citizens should go with them throughout the world, and that every American citizen 'residing or having property in any foreign country' should be given 'the full protection of the American Government both for himself and for his property.'"

Senator Fall can view the possibility of war with Mexico placidly and serenely. He will not be called upon to do any of the fighting. He can remain in the Senate and encourage the Nation's heroes with patriotic speeches.

Wallace's name carries great weight in thinking and scientific circles, and what he has written will justify to many minds the position of the revolutionist, which is that the false and fatal social environment must be smashed in order to render possible a healthy life and that nobler art and literature which will spring from such a life, and faithfully reflect it.

Like a true scientist, Wallace also has stern words of criticism for that meddlesome pseudo-science now coming so greatly into fashion under the name of "Eugenics," and advocated by authoritarian reformers, most of whom never heard of "natural selection," or, if they have, could not give, to save their necks, a resume of the proof by which biology has demonstrated that it is the great process by which the entire vegetable and animal world has developed.

The articles in the "Daily Norn Industrial Worker" are always worth reading, and are a real credit to the Western Federation of Miners, of which it is the organ. That of June 28 scores mercilessly the fanning of race prejudice against the Japanese and tells the American worker that "his anti-Asiatic obsession will help nothing." It ends by asking whether Marx, when he called on the workers of the world to unite, "meant workers of any particular nation."

"The only parrot a free-souled person can sympathize with is the one that insists on being let out as the first condition of its making itself agreeable. A selfish bird, you may say, one that puts its own gratification before that of the family which is so fond of it." All the same, you respect that parrot in spite of your conclusive reasoning, and, if it persists, you will have either to let it out or kill it. (Bernard Shaw.)

The voice of the majority saves bloodshed, but it is no less the arbitrament of force than is the decree of the most absolute of despots, backed by the most powerful of armies.

WM. C. OWEN.