

On Its Knees Offers Agrarian Reforms

(TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH OF ANTONIO DE P. ARAUJO)

Considering the government of Mexico's capital as lost and seeing that the millions of dollars spent in armies and armaments are of no avail to smother the Revolution...

offered to make known a plan for the repatriation of the lands, an 'Imparcial' representative interviewed him at noon yesterday and requested him kindly to furnish us with some details on a subject of such importance.

The Republic's government has confessed that in Mexico there is a war of classes. By the mouth of the Minister of Regulation, Dr. Urrutia, who calls attention to the self-interest of the rich in the matter of contributing funds...

They are a good, hardy people, the fishermen of Astoria, and they have kept up a social war against the expectations of their masters, to our personal knowledge, for more than thirty years.

Again, from the secretaries' offices of the Departments of Public Works and Regulation orders have been sent out for the immediate splitting up of the lands belonging to the nation, with instructions to grant permission for the working and exploitation of the national lands neighboring on towns.

What the 'Times' and other journals of its class may as well understand, first as well as last, is this: all our teaching is that the most infamous feature of modern society is that it has made the masses powerless, and that to bring that to an end, we shall have either to disarm the classes or to bring about a universal arming of the masses.

The Secretary's office of the Department of Regulation has just sent out a circular to the Political Prefectures of the Federal District, ordering that, without delay, the inhabitants of towns and municipalities where national lands are situated be allowed to work and exploit them.

The class which at present rules this government has a different idea than Henry had about trusts and trustees. It is quite true that government is a trust and that public officials are trustees, but this has never had more than a theoretical application in any country, ancient or modern.

And, immediately after the issuance of the order of the Secretary of Public Works, the same paper expresses itself thus: "In view of the fact that, at the ministerial council held in the National Palace last night, the Secretary of the Board of Public Works, Engineer Alberto Robles Gil,

It is this method of solving the problem which is making the Government tremble; and, being lost, it is now pretending to be interested in the disinherited and is playing its last card, hoping that thereby it will induce the Social Revolution to commit suicide.

DEMORALIZE THE ARMY.

According to the 'Los Angeles Times' at the recent troubles at Fort Stevens, one of our Oregon military posts, had been due to the perfidious L. W. W., aided by the destructive element of the Socialist Party, from Hammond and Astoria.

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The government under which we live today was not created by the people, but by a select few of the aristocratic and commercial classes who had, generally speaking, precious little faith in the intelligence of the people or in their capacity to rule themselves.

It is now too late for the government to talk. The time has gone by for it to show itself interested in a proletariat that, during four centuries, suffered in slavery. Its weak voice is lost in the clamor of the revolutionary forces, now enured to war, which are moving from victory to victory, from triumph to triumph, from expropriation to expropriation, and are now well-nigh surrounding the Republic's capital, not that they may shout, with the inevitable fall of President Huerta: "The President of the Republic is dead; long live the President of the Republic!" but the great cry of proletarian redemption: "The Capitalist system is dead! We have killed the Republic! Long live the Commune!"

There must be Order. This shriek nowadays all theupholders of what is called Order. For these gentlemen Order can exist only so long as society is subject to the rod of the policeman; the soldier, the judge, the jailer, the hangman, the governor.

IMPOSSIBLE!

Impossible! This is the cry of the impotents; the howl of the reactionaries; the ejaculation of the bourgeoisie face to face with the picture of the Society of the Future. Impossible! Impossible! Impossible!

DEATH TO SUCH ORDER!

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PINKERTON'S SUCCESSOR.

Pretty well everybody knows that the detective agencies do a large business in the furnishing of spies to watch and report the sayings and doings of labor unions and agitators.

of the information furnished comparatively slight to you. You pay a large amount of money each year for Fire Insurance, Employers' Liability Insurance, etc. Why not pay a modest premium to insure yourself against labor troubles? Also to insure yourself in favor of efficiency?

Very truly yours, THE WILLIAM I. BURNS NATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY, INC. Walter R. Thayer, Manager.

HAMSTRINGING THE ATTACK.

'Luke North' (J. G. Griffes), editor of 'Everyman', is circulating postcards containing the following iniquitous sentiment, by himself: 'Let society protect the weak, but no man is good or wise enough to judge or punish another.'

Our generation is rousing itself to the struggle to be free. It is checked at a thousand points by those who offer to 'protect' it; in the law courts, in the legislature, wherever well-paid talk can catch its thrilling fee. It is wounded and preyed on; those who mean to struggle mean simply opportunity for loot; but, looking to the philosophy of 'Luce North,' we should not punish or condemn them.

HOW IS THIS, KROPOTKIN?

In an article, in the 'Herald of Revolt', Kropotkin contrasts the impotence of the modern trades union with the power of the medieval guilds, and shows how these latter were crushed out by kings and States. He then says: 'One union however was not crushed, that of the men engaged in the pursuit of knowledge; the men who continued to work in their silent studies; who were adding new discoveries to the old ones.'

TWISTING THE TIGER'S TAIL.

Recently we quoted Clarence Darrow as saying: 'The laws we have made are patchwork, and as adding that it was useless to raise the price of labor while a few men in Wall Street, sitting round a mahogany table, can take away all the gain by raising the price of commodities. Clarence Darrow knows, and no man can express himself better, if he chooses to speak out. Our war—our most bitter, unrelenting war—should be always against shams; against the frauds who cry peace is no peace; against the impostors who mislead the people either with their quack nostrums and poison the entire body politic with fake remedies that only aggravate the original disease. It is impossible to write too strongly on this subject; because it is impossible to exaggerate the mischief wrought to the revolutionary cause by these ignorant or wilfully malignant Labor Fakirs. It is impossible to speak too harshly of men of the Berger type, with their sham insurance schemes, advertised with the high-sounding name of Scientific Socialism but, in reality, concocted in the jehal chamber of politics for the sole purpose of trapping the ignorant and, therefore, easily-deceived labor vote. We single out the workingman's insurance humbug for criticism, because its bogus character is so transparent, and because already it has inflicted enormous suffering on its chief victim—the workingman himself. The Massachusetts Workingmen's Compensation act went into effect just about a year ago. Times were prosperous, as times go, and, according to the figures furnished by the State Bureau of Statistics and Labor, there were then unemployed, from all causes, only 7,088. Immediately the war broke out, however, it is insisted that business generally has continued good. By December the unemployed had increased to 15,914, and by March 31 the number had reached 19,329. Comparison of a long series of figures, shows that the number of unemployed far exceeds even that in 1908, the year following the

panic, and a year when there was much general stoppage of work by reason of the strikes then prevalent. The reason for this deplorable condition are simplicity itself, and belong to the most elementary teachings of that political economy corrupt labor leaders and politicians deliberately ignore, because to ignore them is money in their pockets.

How are we going to remedy this miserable state of things? How are we going to put an end to this perpetual cheating of labor, this wasting strength in fighting a losing battle, this wandering in a wilderness of lies which drains it of all its fighting force? We never can do it until we set on foot a straight, unflinching economic propaganda; a propaganda that shall open the workers' eyes to the absurdity of dealing with effects while leaving causes untouched, because they are too lazy to investigate and too cowardly to tackle them. Then, and only then, shall we be able to banish from our ranks that most dangerous of all our enemies—the Labor Fakir.

SOPS TO CERBERUS.

'Why' an admirably outspoken monthly, published at Tacoma, Wash., comments forcibly, because truly, on President Wilson's recent 'Labor' appointments. It says, in part: 'As for MacArthur he always took great interest in civic matters and, naturally, became pretty chummy with the Frisco labor skimmers; the ship-owners will never have cause to complain of his actions. Today, the Sailors Union of the Pacific, a body composed of staunch fighters by the very nature of their occupation, through the influence of MacArthur and others, has lost its former inclinations towards direct action, and these strident men who can reef a fore-sail in the face of a south-easter, emasculated of their spirit of initiative, have degenerated into a bunch of sea-lawyers who sheepishly plead for their rights by lobbying at the legislatures. 'Lynch as U. S. Public Printer and MacArthur as U. S. Shipping Commissioner are in their proper places now in the hand of the enemy. Had they remained where they were, they might have been mistaken for friends of labor. Billy for you, President Wilson!'

The editor of this section was one of the original organizers of the Coast Seamen's Union, considerably more than thirty years ago. It was organized on thoroughly revolutionary lines, and he can testify to the fact that for years it was one of the most powerful revolutionary agents on the Pacific Coast; there being scarcely a vessel manned by its members that did not have revolutionary literature on board, and discussions on the economic struggle having taken place entirely the place of those barren theological wranglings formerly so dear to sailors' hearts.

'Freedom' (London), quoting from a recent issue of 'Regeneration,' comments as follows: 'If this is the condition, no guns, no dictatorship, can crush the new spirit, which is sure to elaborate a new order, a peasant society, with justice for the better and worker.' We desire to remark that the passage commented on was not by us but by Frank G. Carpenter, the special writer for the 'Los Angeles Times.' We gather our information, as far as possible, from hostile sources, considering that the admissions of the enemy carry far greater weight than our own statements.

SLAUGHTERED LIKE CATTLE.

Some weeks ago we selected the Los Angeles street railway system for our weekly editorial, that we might illustrate the helplessness of the mass under forms which profess to have made them sovereign at the ballot box. We showed that for fifteen years Los Angeles had been practically a mit in protesting against traffic jams, brutally overcrowded cars and excessive strain imposed on conductors and motormen; who, for all the brag about the power of labor, have never even begun to dare to think of organizing.

It is verily this degradation of the operative into a machine which makes that any other evil of the times' is leading the mass of the nations everywhere into vain, incoherent, destructive struggling for a freedom of which they cannot explain the nature to themselves. Their universal outcry against wealth, and against money, is not forced on them either by famine, or the sting of mortified pride. These do much, and have done much in all ages; but the foundations of society were never yet shaken as they are at this day. It is not that men are ill-fed, but that they have no pleasure in the work by which they make their bread, and therefore look to wealth as the only means of pleasure. It is not that men are pained they cannot endure their own; for they feel that the kind of labor to which they are condemned is, verily a degrading one and makes them less than men. (John Ruskin.)

There is mass attack on slavery, and there is individual attack; but the mass attack is always set in motion by the rebellious few. We are justified, therefore, in assuming that the individualist philosophy, stimulating quick individual revolt, will prove a far more dangerous foe to slavery than will the collectivist doctrine, which waits on the slower action of the mass. That unquestionably is the opinion of Authority, which singles out the individual for punishment.

The net result of more modern legislation is to destroy in one direction what the people are seeking to establish in another, says Charles Daniel. The people are really asking for freedom—freedom to earn a living—whereas their representatives are sanctioning in their name measures for limiting their liberty even in their own homes.

'At the present rate of expenditure the four countries of Germany, France, Great Britain, and the United States will spend in the next forty years, the life of one generation, for the support of armies and navies an amount sufficient to build 2,000,000 country-houses and villages at an average cost of \$2500 each. With father, mother and four children in each of these houses they would furnish homes for 12,000,000 people, which is more than the total present population of these four countries living in villages and the open country. Thus the fear of war is consuming the home of the rural and village population of these great nations in a single generation. (United States Bureau of Education.)'

Certain of its members have drawn salaries for a generation past, and frittered away their lives lobbying at State capitals and hobnobbing with thieves. Contrariwise, the union permitted the man who certainly was at one time the greatest friend it ever had, Burnette G. Haskell, to die in San Francisco of actual starvation. Haskell had his vaults, and doubtless made many grievous errors; but he brought the union to birth, and for years worked himself to the bone on its behalf.

'It is quite the vogue to speak of the overpopulation of China, and it is not alone the casual or careless observer who has spoken or written eloquently and impressively upon that theme,' writes James D. Whelpley. 'The real truth of the matter is that China as a whole is not overpopulated. The impression of overpopulation comes from an inspection of the congested areas, this congestion being due to a number of causes, principal among which is the lack of transportation. Given facilities for moving about, the population problem will in time solve itself, for there are vast areas of China waiting impingement and offering substantial advantage in return. No people in the world respond with greater alacrity to an opportunity for profitable labor that do the Chinese, and with their own country offering itself as a practical field for exploitation, no nation will take quicker or more profitable advantage. The building of railroads will not only give employment to hundreds of thousands of people and distribute money where it is needed, but it will take the people from a limited to a wider environment. Experience has shown that the Chinese are great travelers when travel is possible.'

John Stuart Mill wrote: 'No man made the land, it is the original inheritance of the whole species.' If so, where is the share of the young man of Middleton? Herbert Spencer wrote: 'The world is God's house, and we must not think of it as our own, but as a common inheritance. If so, where is your share of the heritage? Emerson wrote: 'Have the goodness, gentlemen of the world, to show me my wood lot where I may fell my wood, my field where to plant my corn, my pleasant ground where to build my cabin.' That is it—show us where it is. (Middleton 'Guard.')'

'All exploitation of the people is based on the land monopoly. With really free access to the land, no body of men would accept wage slavery.' ('Freedom.')'

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