

No. 182. Saturday, March 28, 1914.

He Walks Safe Who Walks Well-Armed

"It is a haunting thought," wrote John B. Harris, in his recent book, "Dawn in Darkest Africa," "that since the '85 scramble for Africa, the civilized powers who arranged the map of the African continent, ostensibly in the interests and for the well-being of the natives, have passively allowed the premature destruction of not less than ten millions of people."

Shift the scene to Peru, a country in many respects akin to Mexico. The story of the atrocities attendant on the development of the rubber industry there has leaked out gradually of late, thanks mainly to the most heroic efforts of a Peruvian Socialist named Benjamin Saldana Rocca—a name we Anarchists may well afford to honor, since he has set us an example of most lofty courage.

It is even so. Commercialism, capitalism, plutocracy, whatever you choose to call it, is essentially the most Christianlike of all recorded systems, for it has peace ever on its lips, and blows out unhesitatingly the brains of every foe that dares to cross its path.

Angola, which is the vast Portuguese district lying along the West coast of Africa, tells a like story. The adjacent islands of S. Thome and Principe are ruled by some two thousand whites, who use the native population for the production of cocoa, coffee and cotton.

trymen, a pitifully small but armed minority, wield despotic sway over a population four times as large as that of the United State. Putting aside the awful tragedies of ever-recurring famines, though India is a never-failing exporter of food supplies, let us remember that under the British bourgeois rule, and despite its everlasting cant of freedom, thousands and thousands of natives are sold annually into plantation-slavery under what is known as the "indenture" system,—a system denounced with unsparring severity nearly a century ago by Lord Brougham, Buxton and other noted radicals of that age, who were pioneers in the struggle to abolish chattel slavery.

One could multiply examples indefinitely, and indeed no American need go abroad for illustration, since they spring up daily beneath his very nose. The policeman is as careful of his life as any other man, and never will swing his club on one known as going invariably well-heeled and having a reputation for being quick on the trigger.

It is even so. Commercialism, capitalism, plutocracy, whatever you choose to call it, is essentially the most Christianlike of all recorded systems, for it has peace ever on its lips, and blows out unhesitatingly the brains of every foe that dares to cross its path.

We are requested to state that, owing to certain unforeseen difficulties, mainly in connection with the purchase of a press, the first number of "Land and Liberty" will not be out before May 1. This was decided at a meeting of the Bakunin group, held in San Francisco, March 21. The editor of this section, who will be also the editor of the new paper, earnestly requests readers to send in the names and addresses of those to whom the sending of sample copies will be worth the while.

Mexican Notes

Governor West, of Oregon, has returned from a visit to the Mexican border and given his view of the situation in an interview dated March 18. He is reported as saying: "I am confident that war with Mexico is coming, and I am going to advise the National Guard of this State to be prepared, for I am sure it can count upon being called out before long."

With the high-grade politicians go, of course, the military men, and one finds the "Review of Reviews" for this month expressing itself thus, in connection with the lifting of the embargo on the importation of arms into Mexico: "It has all along been the view of the army officers that we were soon to invade Mexico, and that fighting material shipped into that country would be used eventually against our own soldiers and would make our efforts at pacification more bloody and more protracted."

In this connection the declarations of the European press, collected with its invariable care by "Current Opinion," are significant. The London "Post," regarded always as in close touch with government circles in England and abroad, thinks that "a situation may quickly be reached in which the use of force will be inevitable. When such a state of things is approached it usually happens that what is called an 'unforeseen event' or an 'accident' precipitates the collision."

According to "Current Opinion" the London dailies all declare emphatically that the British foreign office is in perfect accord with Washington in the matter of Mexico.

The London "Telegraph" and the Berlin "Vossische" agree in considering the military force at Huerta's disposal as "much more powerful than many Americans suspect," saying that his machine guns are of the best and latest pattern, that he is paying his trusted troops regularly, and that his treasury is far from empty.

Other leading German papers discuss the repeated attempts to federate the Northern States of Mexico, and treat this as a program which American vested interests have done their utmost to carry out. They speak of President Wilson as having been approached on the subject, but as being unwilling to become a party to the scheme.

The correspondent of the London "Times," always certain to be a picked man, has a high opinion of Villa's military capacity, and reports his followers as being better fed, clothed and armed than are the Federals. He explains that Villa does not handle his men in masses; that they are permitted to operate in bodies of from twenty to thirty, without any set attempt at co-operation, and that his military organization is patterned after that of the Boers.

the rule, and this we believe to be in line with up-to-date military science. Students of such works as Bloch's "Future of War" will be familiar with the argument that mass fighting has been rendered for ever impossible by the destructive capacity of modern artillery, before which no mob, however determined, can begin to stand. Kitchener demonstrated this years ago in Africa, but our revolutionists still talk, and presumably think, as if the history of the barricades could repeat itself. Military men are better informed and recognize universally that, if war with Mexico comes, it will be a guerrilla war, waged against an enemy who will shoot from shelter and, thanks to knowledge of the country, can pick his shelter judiciously.

James Creelman's article in "The Chicago Evening Post" have led to prolonged controversy. Naturally they favor United States intervention, for Creelman has been known, from the days of the Spanish War, as one of Hearst's most valuable tools. They commence with the remark that "within forty-eight hours I have travelled 100 miles about the great valley of Mexico, surrounding the capital," and that "in the villages I talked with the gentle, stupid, thin-legged, monstrous-hatted, blanketed, barefoot Indians."

Huerta the Sensualist.

The first of this series of articles is devoted almost entirely to a character sketch of Huerta, who is described as "a sensual man, of low association, devoted to brandy, bull-fights and degraded women. He is a short, squat, muscular Jalisco Indian of about 60 years, with broad shoulders and thin, slightly bowed legs."

The article concludes with a paragraph intended to ridicule Wilson and Bryan for their dream that such a country can be coaxed into the path of constitutional government, but the trouble is that the article does not hang together, and cannot, as we submit, stand the test of even a superficial criticism. First, the Indian is either gentle and stupid, or he is fired with a fierce love of looting, burning and violating women.

Lind Caricatured.

The second article in the series is headed "Intervention of Powers Mexico's Hope," and the head fits the article as the glove the hand. The argument is that "Huerta has no plan but to hold on to power while he and his friends are getting rich; that "Villa has no plan but to murder, violate, plunder and burn; and that "the United States' policy is limited to the words: 'Huerta must resign.'"

tant Minnesota, and who adores Mr. Bryan, with whom he served in Congress." It is eloquent, but of facts for the sweeping denunciations in which it indulges the article is singularly naked, the one instance given being the levy of \$50,000 on a copper and smelting company, whose American manager appealed vainly to Lind for protection. It closes with the words: "Then the unhappy American manager went out and looked wistfully at the squadron of American battle-ships lying idly in sight of Mr. Lind's office."

The third article begins with "what a change since I walked and talked, less than four years ago, among the flowers and trees of Chapultepec Castle with Porfirio Diaz, the white-haired hero of modern Latin-America!" and the statement, following almost immediately, that "the dignity, power, order and security of the thirty-year-long Diaz government are gone forever, and the great city spread out before the terraces of the now vacant castle is merely the stately sepulchre of a dead nation."

Creelman expresses the opinion that there is not the slightest probability that Huerta will resign; although once, at the instance of Garcia Aldape and Senator Castellot, he agreed to do so, to avoid American intervention. He is represented, however, as having changed his mind immediately. Carranza is described as having financed his movement with funds originally contributed by Madero, for which Carranza refused, and most insultingly, to account, when he was governor of Coahuila.

To be concluded next week

THEIR TRUE COLORS.

"The New Review" for this month calls attention to the publication by the New York "Call" of an article by John R. Hobbie, Jr., "which shows the real grounds why certain Socialists oppose the Industrial Workers of the World." It invites special attention to an extract from the article in question, which runs, in part: "In its indifference to the welfare of the State, the I. W. W. is truly anti-patriotic, and on this account is an actual menace to the nation. This is a feature of the I. W. W. that seems to have escaped the attention of the general public, and yet it is the point where they are most vulnerable. It is here that they differ fundamentally from the Socialists, and that the source of greatest contention between the two organizations arises.—This organization, in tactics and methods, is the direct opposite of everything that the Socialist Party is supposed to stand for."

Commenting on this, "The New Review," which is also Socialist but has been boycotted by the party's official ring in New York State, remarks: "Apparently the Socialist Party is patriotic, religious, and opposes class-strife." Why not? It is a party of lawyers and preachers. The former have to take the oath of patriotism before they can practice. As to the latter, they can neither attack religion nor advocate the class-struggle without being false to every one of the professions by making which they earn their livelihood.

Pass to India, where my own coun-