

Regeneracion.

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Saturday, November 11, 1911.

Brutally Madero Shows His Hand

It is shameful, unspeakably shameful. This betrayal of the Mexican proletariat is, without exception, the most brutal I have read; no chapter in the history of Jesuitry is blacker or more heartless.

Madero has seen fit to promulgate what is described as "a message to the people of the sister republic of the United States." It has been published broadcast by the daily press, under date of Nov. 5.

Q. "President Diaz outlined a plan whereby the government was to purchase large haciendas and sell to farmers on the installment plan, covering a period of eleven years. Will your administration carry out such a plan?"

A. "I should very much prefer that a private corporation or private bankers should carry that through. Such a syndicate or company would receive encouragement and aid from the government."

What do you think of it? Do you understand that Mexico, the land without which the Mexican people cannot live, has been sold to financiers as if it were a sack of potatoes? Do you realize that the very magnates against whom it is your pleasure to howl have swooped down on Mexico and annexed it as a private park, expatriating thereby millions of Mexicans who flood the labor markets of the Pacific Coast and live under conditions that might move Nero himself to tears?

being himself part of the great swindling game, hand in glove with the real estate cornerers, the willing agent of the money vampires, the eager lackey of his fellow-countrymen?

This master of Jesuitical hypocrisy closes his statement thus: "Let people use industry, save their money and they will have plenty of opportunities to acquire small farms and become prosperous. Industry, economy and respect for law will make of Mexico, under democratic rule, an ideal country for every class."

Meanwhile what are the alleged revolutionists in the United States about? No longer can they plead ignorance; no longer can they accuse us of taking snap judgment of Madero. Events have moved most rapidly, cards carefully concealed in the earlier stages of the game have been forced on the table.

Nevertheless, there are alleged revolutionists and allegedly revolutionary journals that court alliance with Madero! I pick up the "Appeal to Reason" of November 4 and find an article which informs me, among other things, that "the Socialists have established a labor paper at the City of Mexico and both the Western Federation of Miners and the United Mine Workers have gone into the republic to organize the miners."

Too early, forsooth, to predict the outcome of alliance with the man who has sold his country to the money power; too early to foretell what will come of lending themselves to the service of the man who joined the Mexican Liberal party, subscribed to "Regeneracion" and posed for years as an economic revolutionist!

Cannot the revolutionary world understand? Can it not see that, above all things, Madero is playing for time—time to mass forces and put down agrarian revolt; time to form a strong, central government of the Diaz type? Can it not comprehend that what Diaz failed to accomplish forcibly this politician, of the most modern brand, is doing under a hypocritical cloak of pretended semi-radicalism?

that they countenance, by stolid silence, this palpable betrayal of some fourteen million proletarians?

The "Appeal to Reason's" article opens with the reflection that "the history of the Mexican revolution is too well known to need discussion here." The chief trouble is that the TRUE history of the Mexican Revolution is NOT known. But we shall make it known; and, as for Madero's assurances that there will be peace within three months from the date of his inauguration, he promised that within less than thirty days from Juarez's fall. There will be no peace until economic slavery has been overthrown.

W. M. C. OWEN.

HELP THIS PROPAGANDA.

The International revolutionary group in Los Angeles has published 10,000 copies of Voltairine de Cleyre's leaflet, "The Mexican Revolt," with the intention of giving the widest possible publicity to the fact that the Mexican revolution did not culminate with the mere change of rulers, but is proceeding on its onward march to liberate the worker.

To attain this end we want your assistance. Since we are boycotted by the political Socialist press, we resort to these means of publicity. Our particular aim is to keep the working class of this country informed on the real state of affairs in the Latin republic, and for that purpose we shall try to distribute the "Mexican Revolt" in every local of organized labor.

Are you willing to co-operate with us? If so, tell us how many leaflets you can distribute in your local, enclose some money to help us pay the printer's bill and postage, and we will send you the amount asked for. If you have no money, ask for the leaflets just the same, as we shall be only too glad to hear from fellow-workers who, at least, are trying to assist us somehow in our work.

Send communications to JOS. KUCERA, 914 Boston St., Los Angeles, Cal., U. S. A. I. W. W. and other radical papers please copy or comment.

For Fair Play

Industrial Union, No. 179, I. W. W., of New York City, at its last regular meeting passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, the proletarian leaders of the Mexican Liberal Party, Generals C. Rhys Pryce and Jack Mosby, having been acquitted of the untenable charges of murder, arson and robbery, are again arraigned before the plutocratic courts for alleged violation of the neutrality laws;

And whereas the reactionist Madero and his followers have admittedly, and with the aid and sanction of the U. S. Government, violated those same laws again and again; be it therefore resolved, that Local 179 of the Industrial Workers of the World protests against this flagrant discrimination against the working class and extends sympathy and support to those brave and determined fighters in the cause of freedom.

(Signed) JANE A. ROULSTON, Secretary. That is good and sets an example we should like to see other labor organizations follow. If the men who are fighting, against terrific odds, for land and industrial liberty are not labor's true champions we should like to know who are.

NEW YORK PROPAGANDA

Our good friends in New York City keep up a steady activity. We have before us the reports of two meetings, one at the Terrace Lyceum, under the auspices of "Liberty Group," and the other in Brooklyn, under those of the "Avanti Club." At the former, Bernard Sernaker, August Lott and M. H. Woolman, secretary of the Mexican Revolutionary Conference of New York, were the speakers, and at the latter Jaime Vidal, Alejandro Rodriguez, S. Boris and Woolman. On both occasions Woolman illustrated his speech with a map, being able thereby to demonstrate to doubters the extent of the struggle for Land and Liberty now agitating the entire Mexican Republic.

That is the kind of work that tells, for facts are the true parents of that enthusiasm without which nothing can be accomplished. If the American workers only knew, we should have thousands of ardent co-operators where today we have but one.

Madero's Government Faced by Foes at all Points

Demand for Radical Agrarian Reform Grows in Strength

Heavy Fighting in Oaxaca and Zapatistas Exceptionally Active

We are at war with Madero and the government of which he is now the head. We say it is a government for the land monopolist and the speculator—especially the foreign, absentee speculator—precisely as was that of Diaz. We say that nothing has been changed; that the substitution of the Madero flag for that of Diaz is of no importance to the workers. For the life of us we cannot see how alleged economic revolutionists, and the Socialists in particular, can view the matter otherwise.

Others have made their peace with Madero, and thereby are abetting our deadly foe Mother Jones, of whom we probably shall have more to say next week, is adding the arch-enemy. According to the "Appeal to Reason," Moyer and other members of the Western Federation of Miners, which was at one time a radical organization, are aiding him. The so-called Socialists in Mexico—Juan Sarabia, Villareal, who has been campaigning for the defeated Pino Suarez, and others—are aiding him, and the Socialist press in the United States apparently applauds their treason.

Of course it is guerrilla warfare, to which the mountainous character of the country readily lends itself; and it must never be forgotten that in guerrilla warfare much depends on the attitude of the country population, since the combatants are moving all the time and must supply their wants as they travel. In this the rebels have an immense advantage, for the rural districts sympathize with them profoundly.

LAND THEIR PASSION.

Madero is not going to have it easy, nor is Mexico; for great changes always mean a painful birth. Mexico is now in greater turmoil than ever, and Madero is facing the fight of his life. The petty operations that preceded the fall of Juarez are not a circumstance to what is now going on. In another column we give an article by Voltairine de Cleyre which shows most lucidly how passionate is the people's longing for the restoration of their land, that they may free themselves for ever from the wage slavery which is intolerable to them, above all peoples. That is what Madero is up against, and with

SURELY HE STANDS BY THEM.

The "Appeal to Reason" reproduces a circular which, it says, is being distributed industriously by the Knights of Columbus, with the result that Debs meetings are crowded. The circular consists of extracts from Debs' writings and speeches, with the dates and references attached, and the "Appeal to Reason" adds the comment that "no defense is made merely because such venomous misrepresentation requires no answer." I cannot see where the misrepresentation comes in or why it should be thought that apology is needed.

The passages quoted by the Knights of Columbus—to inspire prejudice among Roman Catholics, of course—speak of Christ as "The Trump of Galilee," denounce charitable institutions as "whited sepulchres," declare that "the Socialist party is not the party of reform but of revolution," criticize American society for its hypocrisy in the Maxim Gorky case and maintain that the workers produce all the wealth. Most sincerely do I wish I could make such points as ably as Debs has made them, and I cannot for the life of me imagine why they should be branded as misrepresentations or deemed matter for apology. I laugh when I read that the "Appeal to Reason" has started a school for lawyers—as if the country had not enough scheming parasites already. But the suggestion that Debs' radical utterances in the past should be explained away awakens serious thought as to hunger for the Roman Catholic vote. Never shall we progress by catering to superstition.

Will this Struggle be Drowned in Blood?

Passion of Mexicans for Liberty has been Unquenchable

The following is the English copy of an article contributed recently, by the well-known writer Voltairine de Cleyre, to "Voice Listy," the noted Bohemian weekly. Our limited space compels us to postpone to next week the latter half of the article, in which the writer strongly urges all those interested in "Land and Liberty" to subscribe to "Regeneracion" and send all contributions to her, as treasurer of the Mexican Liberal Defense Conference, or to "Voice Listy," 217 E. 66th St., New York City.

Since the publication of my report of the work of the Mexican Liberal Defense Conference I have received a number of requests, on the part of those interested and anxious to do work, for an article of explanation, giving some idea of the scope and present status of the revolution. And indeed, remembering my own ignorance of the subject no longer ago than last May, and the fact that our daily and weekly press, including the Socialist and other reform journals, is almost absolutely silent on the matter, and that the chief source of information is a paper but little known, even to our own comrades—I mean "Regeneracion," the organ of the Mexican Liberal party—I believe it is quite important that an explanatory article be written for the information of the readers of "Voice Listy."

It is important that all anarchists, and sympathizers with anarchistic tendencies and developments among the people, should know that the Mexican Revolution neither began nor ended with the spectacular military movements which culminated in the overthrow of Diaz and the substitution of the present government in Mexico. Those movements were but brief, though important, incidents in the whole mighty effort of a people to overthrow an economic system foisted upon them partly by politicians of their own people, but largely by capitalists of this and other countries, whereby they, the genuine children of Mexican soil, have been reduced to a most hateful slavery.

The details of that slavery I do not intend to rehearse; those who wish to inform themselves as to its almost unbelievable horrors should read Turner's "Barbarous Mexico."

MEXICO AND ITS PEOPLE.

Mexico consists of twenty-nine States and Territories and a Federal district similar to the District of Columbia. The smaller, but more thickly populated States are those to the southward, in the vicinity of the Federal district. The entire population of Mexico is some fifteen millions, out of which four million are of unmixed Indian blood, descendants of its pre-European-invasion occupants. Of the remaining eleven million, the greater portion are of mixed breed, a relatively small number being of pure Spanish descent.

The mass of the population is agriculturalist by instinct, habit and the general conditions of economic development in the country. The various tribes of Indians have from time immemorial had communal land-holding arrangements which are very interesting, both for the insight they afford into the character of the people and for the comparisons they afford between theoretic and practical free communism.

These Indians have within the last half century seen these communal lands of theirs granted away, thousands of acres at a time, to native or alien landlords, and themselves driven to a hateful toil merely to create profit for the landlords. They have rebelled, and, as the reward of their rebellion, have been shot, tortured or sent away to pestiferous districts where they were bound to die within a few months. Thus the landlords get rid of their "undesirable" tenants.

The half-breed population is also communist, having harked back to their Indian forbears in this respect. And both Indian and half-breed have an utter hatred of work for work's sake. They wish to work in order to live, but they have no wish to work to make others rich.

A REBEL AGAINST SLAVERY.

The Indian's "laziness" is proverbial among white men; but, far from its being what the white man thinks it is, it is rather the intense protest of a free soul against a useless and degrading waste of life. He wishes to feel himself a child of the sun and

sky, a being through whom moves the breath of life, a thing of the soil and the air, and not a tool for the aimless production of heaps of goods at some one else's orders.

The half-breeds, on the white side again, are the descendants of Latins; and, while the Latin peoples work, they have never hungered and thrived after purely commercial gain as have northern nations; they have always preserved a devotion to the beautiful (even the useless beautiful) and the more joys of life—song, dance and festival—unknown to the Anglo-Saxon.

Add to all this the overrating value of much of Mexico, and you have an understanding of what our grab-and-get system of life stigmatizes as "Mexican laziness."

These people want the land; they do not want to live in cities; they want to use the land in their own way, according to their inherited communal customs.

Time and time again they have rebelled, and their rebellions have been murderously put down, but this instinctive hunger for the free field of life is so essentially a part of their being that the only way to kill it is to kill the entire agrarian population. At the present time it has risen up more invincible than ever; and although the people are ignorant—less than 20 per cent being able to read and write—they need no book learning to convince them that the land is theirs by right.

(To be Continued.)

Held in Bondage

In my editorial of October 28 I said that Los Angeles was dominated by real estate interests and that such interests decided our elections. I said that the history of Los Angeles had been one of land seizure by the few, who thereupon parcelled out their holdings among many, making preposterous profits by the transaction and holding the purchasers in "absolute bondage by selling on installments. By that very fact they have been able to keep a large percentage of our population cravenly submissive, for there is no human being more afraid of quarrelling with his master than is your man of family who has invested his savings in a house and lot 'half paid for. That is the note continually struck by the land monopolists and their agents, the banks and loaning institutions, who play remorselessly on the debtor's fears; and hitherto have played with uniform success. It was inevitable that this would be their leading card in the present campaign, and none can read the daily papers of study the constitution of the "Good Government" committees without recognizing it. I give a sample from the "Los Angeles Times" editorial of November 6:

"Voting for Socialist Harriman and his Socialist fellow-candidates means voting for calamity to the home. Painfully, by close economy and savings, (in many cases) the lots have been acquired and paid for and then the home built on borrowed money, relying on steady work and good wages to keep the interest, taxes, insurance, repairs and installments (monthly, usually) promptly paid, thus preserving the home for wife and children. There are thousands of such cases in the city and suburbs and many new deals of that sort are being made daily as our population so rapidly increases. Again, there are thousands of small homes which have been bought ready-built (or built to order) by a payment of \$100 or more down and further payments of \$20 or more monthly, depending on the steady earnings of father, brother and other members of the family to meet those payments. Those earnings are now in danger and consequently thousands of our pleasant and comfortable homes are menaced."

If Mr. Harriman, who secured a plurality of nearly 4000 at the primaries, should go down to defeat December 5, he will have to thank the land speculators, for they are the ones who are putting on the screws and are able to do so most effectively. It is not in Mexico alone that they rule the roost.

Mexico's Message

Salesmen, you will lose your job! Clerk, you will lose your job! Workman, you will lose your job! Debtor, the banks will close down on you and you will lose your home and business! What do all these fulminations, issued daily from the "Good Government" headquarters, mean except that we are economically slaves, not owners of our own lives, dependent on the few for leave to make a living? Never shall we get back our independence until we put an end to this cornering of opportunities, and this is exactly what the Mexican Revolution means.