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## Rebellious Mexico

MEXICAN rebellion is nothing unique. When a new one looms on the horizon it is given but a passing notice. The rule is rebellion; the exception peace. Those belligerent outbreaks, however, are not due to an innate desire on the part of Mexican peons to spill blood. They are sponsored, led, and abetted by the civilized, Christian capitalists of other land.

Had Mexico nothing to contribute to the interests of international capital her family feuds, and bandit rapades, would be strictly considered her own affair. The rival factions could eliminate each other with impunity, and no voice of protest would disturb their recreations from the north of the Rio Grande. At Mexico, to use a biblical phrase, is "neither barren nor unfruitful." Her scarcely exploited natural resources are richest of any in the Western hemisphere. Approximately one-third of the world's silver supply is obtained from the mines of Mexico. Her bearing areas have attracted the attention of financial interests from every capitalized section of the globe. In agriculture, cattle raising, coffee and sugar plantations, and timber resources, Mexico offers a splendid opportunity to the anxious investors of "peaceful" countries.

With these advantages to her credit, we can little wonder that her domestic affairs have been a subject of considerable interest in the financial centres of this and other nations for some time. The destructive proclivities of rival bandit cliques who even go so far, at times, as to lose all respect and reverence for sacred property rights; the wanton extravagance of government officials, and their ruthless methods of levying and collecting taxes; the methods of terrorism resorted to, which inevitably result in scaring the wits out of foreigners residing in their midst, and who are not accustomed to seeing, or reading about, anything of a sanguinary nature in their home land; have called forth the righteous indignation of all countries whose ruling class has capital to invest.

What the world wants right now, we are told, is good and raw material. Mexico possesses both. She occupies a somewhat analogous position in America what Russia does in Europe. We do not require exceptional memories to bring to mind the attempts of the allies, both Teutonic and Entente, to secure strangle-hold on the natural resources of Russia. In spite of the commendable interest they evinced in their task, the results can scarcely be regarded as entirely satisfactory. Here, again, on this side, is another treasure-house of all those requisites essential to the proper development of industry and commerce. In addition, the situation is much brighter owing to the fact that the Mexican people have not attained the Bolshevik standard of defending themselves. Here, then, is a golden opportunity that must be taken advantage of.

In order to pave the way for the triumphal march of conquering capital, some good and sufficient reasons must be manufactured to warrant an intrusion into Mexican territory. The "disorder" method is considered the cheapest and best solution to this problem. If sufficient bandit groups do not already exist they can be nurtured by British and American capitalists in any quantity desired. The industrial interests of those two enlightened nations are well qualified to supply any deficiency in fighting equipment. Not alone on the battle scarred areas of France and Belgium have they demonstrated their ability in a martial direction but, right at home among their own populations, they have provided examples of military resource and strategy.

In the Mexican oilfields controlled by the Cowdray-Pearson interests the benign influence of bandit warriors has long been appreciated. As the Rockefeller interests provided and maintained a standing army of their own in the Colorado and Montana labor disturbances of a few years past, that was supplemented rather than replaced by government troops, so do we find in Mexico the British oil magnates employing mercenary bands to protect their property, and prevent the forces of the Carranza government from entering the oil districts over which these companies have assumed complete sovereignty.

When sufficient disorder results from such experiments, and especially when foreign lives and property are jeopardized, the reasons for intervention are obvious to all. It would not be in keeping with British and American "honor" to permit ferocious bandits to pillage the property and molest the lives of innocent people. The old biblical injunction about—whosoever poketh thee on the right jaw, adjust thy chin for a swat on the left jaw also—is all right for ordinary individual matters, but becomes automatically obsolete in the case of Mexican peons making faces at members of Anglo-Saxon stock.

One of the really touching episodes in the present Mexican rebellion is the paternal spirit displayed by British and American capitalists. Whatever differences of opinion may have heretofore prevailed among the members of those two camps, and, for that matter, still prevail on other issues, when it comes to Mexican intervention all other quarrels are forgotten and forgiven, while complete unanimity exists in regard to the necessity of "helping Mexico to help herself." On this point, too, we are presented with the beautiful spectacle of old antagonists in the newspaper field like the Los Angeles "Times" and "Examiner," amorously espousing a common cause. The fact that Hearst and the heirs of Otis are each possessors of landed estates in Mexico, appraised at several millions of dollars, has, we hasten to assure our readers, nothing whatever to do with the mutual devotion so recently displayed.

The great stumbling-block in the way of peace and progress is the Carranza Government. The place in the Sun formerly craved by the Hohenzollern dynasty is now aspired to by General Carranza. Diaz, the perpetual president, is lauded to the skies as a great statesman and patriot who sought amicable relations with all foreign governments while promoting the interests of his people at home. Nor can we greatly wonder at this eulogistic outburst when we consider that practically every concession awarded to foreign capital can be traced to its origin in the Diaz regime. Here, also, we find the genesis of those individual fortunes of the Hearst and Otis variety.

That barbarous Mexico and her Christian neighbors will become involved in war at a not far distant date is not at all unlikely. If war is averted it is only because of the fact that British and American captains of industry have secured through threats and diplomacy what would have been their prize through military channels. The proposition is that Mexico contains minerals, oil, foodstuffs, and other things that the world market demands. The Mexican methods of production, just like the South African methods at the end of the past century, are too crude and antique to place those requisites with sufficient rapidity where they are required. Britain and America possess the proper machinery for this kind of work. Having in many cases reached

the limit of investment at home they must either expand or decay. Foreign investment is imperative. But not all foreign lands are suitable fields for exploitation. Russia and Mexico are the two Cathays or Eldorados that magnetize capital. The former is impossible. Her people have adopted a stubborn, mulish attitude of wanting to socialize the means of production, and prevent altruistic parasites from other sections to inflict their brand of democracy and culture. Mexico must be the goat.

That neither Britain nor the U. S. are imbued with anything other than plain, unvarnished, mercenary motives is a fact known to every student. They cannot prevent the Socialist from understanding their game. History is too profuse with examples of other periods to allow us to ignore the conditions of the present.

As for the old cry of cruelties and atrocities on women and children, and the terrible oppression of the workers by an autocratic government, they will soon again be in evidence. But, while we fully realize that class society prevails on the south of the Rio Grande, just as on the north, we are still cognizant of the fact that labor is exploited in a much greater degree in the United States than in Mexico.

The eight-hour day, for which the I. W. W. and kindred organizations have been clamoring for almost two decades, is embodied in the Mexican constitution of 1917. Such a law does not exist in any state in the United States. The measures relating to child labor, so consistently advocated by the S. P. of A. ever since its inception, are, in Mexico, a part of the law of the land. Advanced legislation in regard to woman's status during the periods of parturition and lactation has been placed on the statute books, together with the enactment that the same compensation shall be paid for the same work without regard to sex or nationality.

The adoption of these reforms, however, have not abolished capitalism in Mexico, any more than the nostrums brought forward by pseudo-revolutionary organizations would have such an effect in America. These cannot be a part of the Socialist program. Our knowledge of class society leads us to the conclusion that it cannot be reformed. It must be abolished. J. A. McD.

### SOVIET WIRELESS REFUTES ANTI-BOLSHEVIK CALUMNY.

With a diabolical refinement the Capitalist Governments permit the circulation of all possible lies about Soviet Russia, but withhold from the public the Soviet Government's wireless messages which contain a refutation of them. One lie recently started from Warsaw and widely quoted in the British press was to the effect that the Bolsheviks are preparing to attack Poland. The following reply by the Russian wireless was, however, withheld by the British authorities:—

"Warsaw wireless reports state daily that the Soviet Government is planning a spring offensive against Poland. As proof of the truth of this report, it is stated that Trotsky has been appointed Minister of Railways, Polivanoff, the Czarist minister, has been made Minister of War, and that the Czarist General, Brussiloff, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief. It is further asserted that with the same end in view the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils have been abolished and that a twelve hour day has been introduced. All these allegations are absolutely untrue. Trotsky is not Minister of Railways, but remains People's Commissary for War. Neither Polivanoff nor Brussiloff occupies any public post. The allegation that Soviet Russia is planning an offensive at the very moment that her armies are being turned, one by one, into Labor Armies, is simply stupid. The Soviet government has never even considered the question of jettisoning the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils, and a twelve hour day has never been decreed."