

The Commonwealth

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THE MEXICAN SITUATION AND THE WORKING CLASS.

From all appearances it would seem that the government of the United States is being forced into the service of the robber-barons of Broadway and Wall streets. The Rockefeller interests and the Rothschilds' oil interests of England have for a long time conflicted in Mexico. Diaz, in self-protection against American aggression, was obliged to throw all the weight of his power into the hands of the English exploiters. So the Standard Oil company naturally came to the aid of Madero and his followers, and overthrew Diaz, thus striking a hard blow at their English competitors.

After Standard Oil money and influences made possible the triumph of Madero and his well-paid generals, the Rothschilds got busy. And they did things. Aided by Henry Lane Wilson, the American ambassador, Generals Felix Diaz and Huerta planned the overthrow and assassination of President Madero—according to the public statement of a secret service agent in Mexico.

The trouble started some time ago when Dictator Porfirio Diaz, becoming alarmed at the increasing financial power of the United States in Mexico, began to scent the certainty of war and political annexation. Diaz knew full well what the American patriots would do to Mexico when they should find themselves in a position to convert their "concessions" into actual POSSESSIONS by aid of fake patriotism and the lure of the Stars and Stripes.

Both Diaz and the Rockefeller knew that the average American wage-slave "patriot" could easily be induced to invade Mexico to confiscate that country's property for his capitalist masters.

Most any kind of buncombe would serve as an excuse for intervention. Both sides of the controversy knew how easy a mark a non-Socialist wage-slave is.

So, as a foil to American rapacity, Diaz began to make overtures to European capitalists, notably the Rothschilds of England.

Were it not for this squabble between two greedy corporations, hungry for the meat covering the bones of Mexican peons and wage-slaves, no nation in the world would care a whoop in hades as to how the exploiters down there should settle their little broil.

Not one nation in the world is in the least concerned about the suffering of the Mexican working class.

Not one nation in the world would tolerate the triumph of Mexican toilers on the basis of "Land and Liberty."

It is the same old squabble of financial hogs around the swill trough.

There is at least \$75,000,000 invested in the oil business in Mexico, of which about two-thirds is owned by Americans and one-third by the Aquila Oil company, the Rothschild's concern, including Mexican money invested in both companies. When the Tampico oil fields were discovered and the Standard Oil company sought a concession there, Diaz took advantage of the opportunity to throw the spoils secretly to the Rothschilds.

Then the fight began in earnest. Through its office in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, the Standard Oil company began to aid every faction opposed to Diaz. Even Madero and his fellow generals were ignorant of the fact that the money by which they were able to overthrow Diaz came from the Standard.

At this point we cannot do better than quote verbatim the secret service agent who has recently revealed to the press the story of intrigue which resulted in Madero's murder:

"Diaz held on until the last minute. An hour after he had been informed by the Rothschilds that they had been temporarily checked by the Standard and could not give him aid, Diaz left for Vera Cruz, and the next morning sailed for Europe.

"It is estimated that he took with him out of Mexico \$50,000,000, acquired from the sale of concessions.

"Three months after he took office, Madero learned he had been backed by the Standard. He went into a rage and turned the Standard down cold on the Tampico proposition. Neither would he give it to the Rothschilds.

They Finance Orozco.

"In the meantime, the Standard's agents had approached Gustavo Madero, and obtained favorable assurances.

"After the turnaround, the Standard financed Orozco's revolution.

"Then the Rothschilds took a hand and induced General Felix Diaz to start a revolt at Vera Cruz. Diaz lacked the personality to gain a following and was arrested.

"After he was taken to Mexico City, the Rothschilds got busy again and young Diaz combined forces with Bernardo Reyes to start a revolt. Reyes' leadership drew great support, and then Diaz deliberately planned his sacrifice.

Reyes Is Shot Down.

"On the morning of the first battle, Reyes was induced to wear his uniform as a mark, and he was picked off by a Diaz sharpshooter, leaving Felix in command.

"When the downfall of Madero was assured, Gustavo, his brother, attempted a double-cross. He told both the Rothschilds and Standard agents that Huerta was the man to succeed Madero.

"Both were taken in, and the overthrow of Madero was planned in the American consulate, with the knowledge of Ambassador Wilson, by Generals Felix Diaz and Huerta. The very first thing they did was to kill Gustavo for his two-faced action.

"Madero's life would have been saved, had it not been for the fact that, while he was a prisoner, he learned of the whole inside of the oil fight. Then it was decreed that he must die, because he knew too much.

"Huerta, on securing the presidency, decided that old Porfirio Diaz' policy of selling no more concessions to Americans was wise, and informed the English oil syndicate that he would deliver the goods.

"There is no truth in the statement that Japan is involved." Not love of justice, not love of liberty, not patriotism—not all of these combined will determine what stand congress and the president of the United States will finally take, but gold and financial power, the basis of bourgeois political power, will seal the fate of Mexico.

ARLINGTON TIMES TAKES LAUDABLE STAND.

We publish in this issue of the Commonwealth an editorial by Mr. C. L. Marsh, publisher of the Arlington Times, which shows by its fairness that not every capitalist editor can be used as a cat's paw for covetous politicians. In our day and age it is gratifying to see a journalist who is not afraid to be on the right side even though it may cost him the loss of certain patronage.

We believe that the Times will gain by its impartiality more than it will lose.

OUR MARSEILLES.

(Alice O. Thorson, 4719 North 38th St., Tacoma, Wash.)
 Ye land of freedom wake to danger!
 Wake! wake! the time to act is here!
 Nay, think not of invading stranger—
 'Tis traitors only that we fear—
 Aye, traitors are the foes to fear!
 They lurk about our sacred altars;
 They scorn the laws that guard our rights;
 They wreak their wrath on him who fights.
 Beware! beware! ye brave,
 Cast off your dreaming now!
 The Stars and Stripes will wave—
 But see! Their standards bow!

How precious are the rights we cherish!
 How dearly bought our proud estate!
 And must we then see freedom perish,
 While this fair land lies desolate?
 While this fair land lies desolate?
 Shall petty tyrants mock our pleading
 And flout us with our futile laws?
 Still serfdom's refugees find cause
 To curse us for their hopes misleading?
 Ah, no! Ah, no! ye brave,
 Cast off your dreaming now!
 The Stars and Stripes will wave—
 Let not their standards bow!

Behold! America is waking!
 The blood that dyed those crimson bars—
 While monarchs on their thrones were quaking—
 Still flows around the flag of stars!
 Still flows around the flag of stars!
 Let those who swear by earth's Creator
 To hold in honor freedom's dower
 And then betray entrusted power,
 Beware the shameful name of traitor!
 Awake, awake! ye brave!
 You've naught with dreaming now!
 The Stars and Stripes will wave—
 Our standards shall not bow!

J. W. MORRIS—A REAL "PATRIOT."

The patriotism of J. W. Morris is questioned.

No one ever thought of calling J. W. Morris a disloyal citizen until he refused to obey the commands of the hell-hounds of capitalism. He was a loyal, patriotic member of the G. A. R. Lancaster, Ford and Dr. Oliver and Baron Moll were the men who questioned his patriotism and told him that he was a disloyal citizen. Are these men qualified to pass on the patriotism of J. W. Morris?

Lancaster, what have you to say for your own patriotism? Did you or your people offer up your bodies in sacrifice to keep old glory waving in the air? You did not. Your ancestry were riding on the backs of the peasantry of Europe during the war of 1861. Where were you during the Spanish-American war? Did you, gentlemen, shoulder the gun or did you carry the flag that you think Sinclair has defamed? Not on your life did you go to the front and bear the hardships of the common soldier. You, Ford, were importing the Japanese to clear your land, when the children of the Spanish-American war asked you for work in vain. Where were you, Baron Moll, who believes so much in patriotism and the flag? Did you help Mr. Roosevelt shoot the fleeing Spaniard in the back? Dr. Oliver, did you beat the drum during the Spanish war, or were you too busy preparing patients for Baron Moll, the undertaker?

You three gentlemen had the opportunity to show your patriotism; but by your actions it appears you had none. You three patriotic gentlemen who howl your heads off about patriotism and the flag in times of peace slunk away to tall timber when the red cloud of war hung over the land. You three gentlemen have been weighed in the balance of patriotism and have been found wanting.

John W. Morris, what have you to say why the sentence should not be passed upon you according to the charge of these three worthy (?) gentlemen?

John Morris answers the questioners of his loyalty thus:
 "My ancestors have lived in America for more than 200 years. One of my ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence and helped to make that immortal document good. When the dark clouds of war hung over the land in 1861, my father and I laid down our lives, took up our guns and helped to free the black slaves of the South. My father was shot in the head in battle. There, among blood, dust and bullets he gave up his life as testimony of his loyalty and patriotism, his love of flag and country. I buried my father and for three years carried Old Glory at the head of the columns as they battled for the freedom of the slaves.

"I was too old to enlist in the Spanish-American war; but now I am engaged in another struggle to help free the wage slaves; and for this I am called disloyal by the worthy (?) gentlemen.

"Let the people take my record and compare it with the record of these honorable (?) gentlemen. I leave it with my fellow citizens and neighbors to decide by their votes as to my love of country and its people."

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The attempt now being made in this state to disqualify public school teachers because of their political views must be met with the strongest opposition of all lovers of intellectual freedom.

All citizens who believe in fair play and who really wish to eliminate politics from our public schools should send personal letters to the county and state superintendents of schools remonstrating against this deliberate effort to suppress and ruin all teachers who do not take their religious views and political faith, ready made, from the ruling class, or the petty traders.

The politicians who control the situation in Snohomish county must be made to understand that the day when men can be persecuted for their advanced views has passed. Neither Sinclair nor Buchanan has brought politics into the school room. Any one who says that they have done so is a deliberate falsifier.

Sinclair has not taught false conceptions of history. He has not hesitated to tell what even his bitterest enemies know to be the truth, even though it be unwelcome to the politicians. John Hancock was a smuggler. "Sh-e-e!" Not so loud. It may be he was—but don't let the children know it. We want them to believe that our form of government and the sacred constitution were handed down to us by great and glorious patriots but little lower than the angels. That's the way to instill stand-patism!

But there are thousands of parents in this county and state who want no lies disseminated and no deception practiced in the school room. Tell the children the truth, for truth alone can make them free. And tell the capitalist politicians the truth.

Tell them that you insist upon having trading-class politics and false patriotism, based upon lies and deception, eliminated from the school room. Tell them that when history is supposed to be taught in the school room that you do not care to have romance and politics substituted.

Tell them that truth alone is safe; that, as Jesus declared, truth alone can make man free.

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THE SOCIALIST PRESS.

(By Eugene V. Debs.)
 In the present advanced state of the Socialist movement it is hard to understand why the press which has been such an important factor in the party's progress, should be so indifferently treated and so scantily supported by Socialists themselves. The importance of the press in the class struggle, in political campaigning and in the educational propaganda is conceded by all, and yet practically every Socialist paper in the United States is having a desperate struggle to maintain its existence.

Whether Socialist papers are privately owned or party owned, whether they are narrow and dogmatic or liberal and opportunist, they encounter the same difficulties and with scarcely an exception they are compelled to waste their means and energies in keeping going from day to day.

A Socialist paper, no matter by whom started or how honestly and ably conducted, is in for trouble from the very beginning.

Socialist publishers and editors have uniformly had the same experience and struggle along in the hope that relief may come and that the paper whose critical career has so endeared it to them may at last be placed upon a secure foundation.

The average Socialist editors works harder, longer and more conscientiously than any other person in the movement, and he does it under circumstances that would break the spirit and drive out in despair and disgust any one not literally harnessed to the movement by chains of steel.

Yet, in spite of all these handicaps and hardships, the Socialist papers have done and are doing a vital work in the upbuilding of the party and the development of the movement, the value and importance of which could by no extravagance of words be overstated.

With all their weaknesses they are the strength of the party, the bulwark of the movement, and without them disintegration and disaster would speedily follow.

The capitalist class recognize the value of their press and feed it fat and plenty to keep it strong and active. Socialists might well profit by their example. The snarling wolf is ever at the door, and under such circumstances no paper and no set of men can do the best there is in them. They can not fight the battles of Socialism and the battle for their own existence at the same time.

GOOD OLD PATRIOTISM.

New York newspapers gravely set forth the information that the mob which wrecked the Socialist and I. W. W. headquarters in Seattle "were perfectly sober." If they were, then their patriotism must be all the nobler. The mob likewise started to wreck a Salvation Army barracks and kicked around a few signs about "When in Trouble, Fly to God," and "God Will Surely Save." They didn't get very far with this latter work, though most of them were perfectly willing to continue it. As one sailor remarked as he hustled an organ, "What difference does it make?"

Admiral Reynolds refused to restrict shore leave, and said he would rather sail away with his whole fleet than deprive the boys of innocent enjoyment.

Josephus Daniels, who in a way is responsible for the whole disgraceful affair, expresses himself as much shocked. The red flag speech is one that he had previously delivered before Y. M. C. A. and other elect audiences, and, besides rhetoric and flowers of oratory, all there was in it was the simple announcement that those who believe in the red flag should be driven out. Of course, to a man of the Daniels type of intellect, this does not mean anything in particular. He is accustomed just to talk and talk.

It may, however, be worth while noting that Daniels comes from the South, where that style of talking leads over and over again to lynching. It may be merely a coincidence that his presence in Seattle resulted in lynch law. It may be a coincidence, but we do not believe it. We believe he was largely responsible for the outrage, and we believe further that he believes in lynch law. It is the kind of law that now prevails largely in this country, both in Paterson and Seattle, in Virginia and in California, in Ipswich and in West Virginia.—N. Y. Call.

EXERCISE FOR WOMEN.

According to Dr. Sargent of Harvard the cure for feminine unrest is exercise. The girl who earns only \$6 a week and falls into temptation, says Dr. Sargent, does not go wrong because of her meagre wage, but because of insufficient exercise. Apparently there is nothing like a good long day's work in a laundry or silk mill to stimulate a craving for dumb bells in the evening.—The Masses.

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