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**The Real Issue in Mexico**

There will be no permanent peace in Mexico until the peon is on land that belongs to the peon, and is protected in his ownership. The Mexican problem is an agrarian problem. The great mass of people are living under feudalism. They own nothing. A few men own everything. There are great States in which practically all the land is in the hands of a dozen proprietors, and the peasant population lives in semi-slavery. Mexican dictators have been generous with foreign concessions. They have gold mines and oil rights and franchises with little restraint. There are million-acre estates in Mexico for which American and other foreign proprietors paid less than 10 cents an acre, but there is nothing for the peon. He is systematically robbed of the fruits of his labor, and only his rags can he call his own.

The constitutional movement is a campaign for peasant proprietorship. That is the meaning of Villa and Zapata and Carranza and all the forces that have been battling against Huerta. That is what the Madero uprising against Diaz meant, but, unfortunately, Madero was unable to carry out his promises, and so Huerta climbed into power over his corpse.

What is going on in Mexico is a revolution of the common people against despotic privilege. When President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta he stood with the common people against their oppressors. In helping to bring about mediation that will restore peace and establish a really representative government that will do justice to the peon, the President is still standing with the common people. That is where the United States always belongs, and it will be a sorry day for this country when its government takes the other side in such a quarrel.

Some of the criticism of the President's refusal to recognize Huerta was inspired by honest ignorance of the true conditions in Mexico. But most of it was inspired by men who profit by the reign of tyranny and privilege and corruption. When they talk about the necessity of "a strong government" they mean a government that will favor the rich and oppress the poor. They do not mean a government that will administer even-handed justice with a firm hand. They will denounce this same "strong government" if its sympathies were on the side of the peon, and would use all their influences to overthrow it.

New York had a civil war of its own once over this same agrarian issue. When it ended, the "patrons" were evicted and the land passed into the hands of the people who tilled the soil. If our great Western States today were owned by a

little handful of men, some of them foreigners, and the great mass of the people eked out a scanty existence at the pleasure of the proprietors and their governmental agents, we should have nothing but civil war. Not since the United States Government, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, destroyed human slavery has it undertaken a nobler mission than the emancipation of the Mexican masses from a tyranny that is little better than slavery. —New York World.

**Appalachia Items**

B. H. Crizer went to Dryden Monday on business.

Prof. Rex, of East Stone Gap, was a visitor here Sunday.

M. D. Richmond, of Jonesville, was in town first of the week.

Miss Daniel, of East Stone Gap, was the week-end guest of Mrs. Grim at the Windsor Hotel.

Mrs. L. P. Witt has as her guest her little niece from Bristol.

Wednesday, May 6th, is "Clean-up Day."

Miss Vera Seay, of East Stone Gap, was the guest of Mrs. Miller Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. C. G. Duffy, of Stonega, was shopping in town Monday.

Miss Beatrice Gobbie, of Blackwood, was the guest of Mrs. M. D. Collier several days last week.

Rev. Williams left Tuesday for a visit with friends in Chattanooga.

Prof. and Mrs. H. L. Sulfridge entertained at six o'clock dinner, on last Saturday, the following guests: Mrs. C. L. Dickenson, Mrs. B. S. Grim, Mrs. Owen L. Maddox, Miss Pearl Coffey, Miss Rosa Pridemore, and Miss Lora McKenzie.

**Williams Acquitted**

Andrew Williams, of this place was acquitted in the Wise county Court last Thursday for the killing of John Sturgill at Appalachia last February. Several witnesses for both sides were examined, but the evidence was not sufficient to make a case against the defendant and the court instructed the jury to render a verdict of acquittal. Williams was represented by J. F. Bullitt, of the Gap, and O. M. Vickers and Bond and Brece, of Wise.

Otis Mouser, vice-president and sales manager for the Stonega Coke and Coal Company, returned Monday morning from a business trip to Cincinnati.

Superintendent E. F. Tate, of Osaka; Superintendent C. W. Rotenbury, of Arno, and Superintendent C. G. Duffy, of Stonega, were business visitors to the Gap Monday.

LOST—On last Sunday, between Big Stone Gap and the Yearly Hill, near the Lee county line, a hubcap off the rear wheel of Chalmers Automobile. Finder will please return to C. G. Duffy, Stonega, and receive reward.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Blue will leave today on a visit to friends in Washington City.

J. R. Kilbourne returned last week from Jacksonville, Fla., where he has been spending a vacation.

Little Miss Francis Collier, of Turkey Cove, spent Saturday in the Gap the guest of her cousin, Rob Morrison.

W. M. Roberts, a well known traveling man from Baltimore, spent Friday in the Gap.

George St. Clair, of Tazewell, was among the professional men in town last Thursday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Potter on last Thursday, a boy.

Red McCall and Ralph King spent Sunday at Toms Creek.

Taylor Lovell, of Cincinnati, was in town Saturday visiting friends.

I. T. Gilley came down from Rota Saturday to see the ball game.

Miss Bess Young, of Stonega, spent Saturday afternoon in town.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Marshall, of Bluefield, arrived in town last week and will make their future home here. Mr. Marshall is traveling salesman for the Bluefield Furniture Co., and will make Big Stone Gap his headquarters.

Mrs. Laura Bickley and daughter, Mrs. G. N. Knight, went to Appalachia on last Friday to consult Dr. Staley, the Bristol eye specialist.

Misses Anna Daniels, Vera Seay, Esther Sneed and Myrtle Cawood, Profs. Rex and Dillon, teachers in the East Stone Gap Public School, attended the ball game between East Stone Gap and Big Stone Gap High Schools Saturday.

Malcolm Smith and J. L. McCormick are spending a few days in New York on business.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society will meet Thursday afternoon, at 8 o'clock, in the ladies parlor of the church, with Mrs. W. A. Baker, leader. All members are requested to answer roll call with curious Chinese or Korean customs.

MRS. SMITH, Sec.

Edgar Young was in town a few minutes Friday night en route to Louisville, where his sister, Mrs. Leonidas Collier, is at St. Joseph's Hospital for an operation. This is Edgar's first visit to the Gap since the spring of 1909. His many friends at this place will be glad to learn that he will return to the Gap as soon as Mrs. Collier is strong enough to be brought back to her home in the Cove.

Miss Anna L. Lewis, instructor in English and History in the Ward-Belmont school at Nashville, Tenn., is expected in the Gap the first of June to spend the summer with her sister, Mrs. Wade Barrier. Miss Lewis made many friends here during her stay last summer who will be pleased to have her in the Gap again.

Misses Dorothy and Eula Tachett have resigned from the service of the telephone company at this place and their place has been filled by Miss Cora Pippin, who is already well known to many of the telephone subscribers as the pleasant and obliging clerk in Nickles Bros' store for the past two years.

Prof. John L. Blake, of Hiwassee College, Sweetwater, Tenn., was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Robt. D. Morrison Thursday and Friday of last week. Those who remember Prof. Blake's father, the Rev. Eugene Blake, a prominent Methodist Minister, and his sister, Miss Ella Blake, for two years instructor in music in the Big Stone Gap High School, will be interested to learn that the Rev. Blake has been transferred from the presidency of Hiwassee College to the position of vice-president and business manager of Martha Washington College, at Abingdon, Va., where the family will reside.

**NOTICE**

We ask most respectfully and earnestly that a large number of the citizens, especially men of Big Stone Gap, attend the service at the Baptist Church, Sunday afternoon, at 4:30 o'clock. Most respectfully do we ask the city officials, the Mayor, the City Attorney and the Sergeant to be present. The question of the open drug stores on Sunday will be considered. We look upon the present situation as being unsatisfactory as well as serious to the best interest of the town. Any representative of the "open" drug store will be allowed to give his reasons for Sunday opening. The legal representative is cordially asked to come. No pitchforks nor brickbats, but a conservative and sensible solution only is sought. Come.

J. B. CRAFT,  
Pastor Baptist Church.  
W. N. WAGNER,  
Pastor M. E. Church, South.  
J. H. LLOYD,  
Rector Christ Church.

**Eggs For Hatching.**

Single Comb White Leghorns D. W. Young strain, and S. C. White Plymouth rocks, U. R. Fishel strain; Eggs for hatching \$1.50 per 15.

Miss M. M. Mathews,  
Big Stone Gap, Va.

Over in Virginia they have a law requiring that every voter who participates in an election must have a receipt showing that his poll tax has been paid. Such a law would work wonders in Kentucky, and would produce much added revenue to the counties, and result in a lowering of the tax rate. Every year the sheriff's settlement in this county shows a loss of revenue to the county by the inability of the sheriff to collect poll taxes, amounting to several thousands of dollars. This loss to the county would be practically wiped out if a law patterned after the Virginia law was in force. Every able-bodied man should feel enough pride in the success of his country to contribute \$1.50 to the support of its government. If he is not willing to contribute his mite, he should not participate in elections. Provisions in the law should exclude the aged and infirm, who are unable to do so, from payment of the tax.—Pineville (Ky.) Sun.

Labor throughout the land has become intensely interested in the proposed new government bureau to be known, when it is established, as the Bureau of Labor Safety of the Department of Labor, and incidentally the nation's vast army of industrial workers numbering about 34,000,000 men, women and children are equally interested in the recent announcement by Victor J. Evans, a well known patent attorney of Washington, that he will give the sum of \$1,500 to the three persons inventing the most practical and effective life and limb protecting devices to be applied to machinery in industrial establishments, the first prize to be \$1,000, the second \$300 and the third \$200. A number of distinguished men, headed by Vice President Marshall and Speaker Champ Clark, have agreed to act as a commission to select the seven expert judges to pass upon the merits of the inventions, the other members of the commission being Secretaries Houston and Wilson, of the Agricultural and Labor departments, respectively, President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, and Robert Mackay and H. C. Young, editors respectively of the Railroad Man's Magazine and Poplar Electricity. The Evans contest for the best invention will not close until June of next year. The rules issued governing the contest are not onerous, and the contest is open to every man, woman and child in the land.

Some wag of a newspaper correspondent, says a Washington dispatch, a few weeks ago published in a number of newspapers throughout the country a paragraph that has brought thousands of letters to the Director of the Mint from every section of the country asking that he send them \$34.90 as his or her share of the per capita circulation of the money of the United States. The correspondent stated in his dispatch that that amount would be due every man, woman and child in the United States if Uncle Sam's money were divided up, and thousands have actually believed that by writing to the Treasury Department they would receive the money. A form letter in reply to the vast number of these letters has been gotten up in the Bureau of the Mint to disabuse the minds of those who were misled, but it has kept several clerks busy for many days simply addressing the envelopes to the misguided applicants, many of whose letters begging that the money be sent at once are pathetic.

Old newspapers for sale at this office at 20 cents a hundred.

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VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE  
Lexington, Va.

The Board of Visitors at their Annual Meeting on the 30th day of next June, will appoint STATE CADETS to all vacancies in the 1st, 2d, 4th, 8th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th, 34th, 35th and 39th Senatorial Districts, and seven (7) AT LARGE. These appointments carry free board and tuition. Applications should be addressed to the undersigned on or before June 10th, on forms that will be sent upon request.

E. W. NICHOLS, Supt.  
16-17

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### BASE BALL SCHEDULE Season 1914

MAY 9th  
Dorchester vs. Big Stone Gap, at Dorchester.  
Stonega vs. Keokee, at Stonega.

MAY 16th  
Big Stone Gap vs. Keokee, at Keokee.  
Stonega vs. Dorchester, at Stonega.

MAY 23rd  
Dorchester vs. Big Stone Gap, at Big Stone Gap.  
Keokee vs. Stonega, at Keokee.

MAY 30th  
Stonega vs. Keokee, at Stonega.  
Dorchester vs. Big Stone Gap, at Big Stone Gap.

JUNE 6th  
Keokee vs. Big Stone Gap, at Keokee.  
Stonega vs. Dorchester, at Dorchester.

JUNE 13th  
Big Stone Gap vs. Stonega, at Big Stone Gap.  
Keokee vs. Dorchester, at Keokee.

JUNE 13th  
Stonega vs. Big Stone Gap, at Stonega.  
Dorchester vs. Keokee, at Dorchester.

JUNE 17th  
Big Stone Gap vs. Dorchester, at Dorchester.  
Keokee vs. Stonega, at Keokee.

JUNE 20th  
Big Stone Gap vs. Keokee, at Big Stone Gap.  
Dorchester vs. Stonega, at Dorchester.

JUNE 24th  
Stonega vs. Big Stone Gap, at Stonega.  
Keokee vs. Dorchester, at Dorchester.

JUNE 27th  
Big Stone Gap vs. Keokee, at Big Stone Gap.  
Dorchester vs. Stonega, at Stonega.

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