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PROCLAMATION ON THE MEXICAN WAR

By the Socialist Party of America

Again we are being lashed into war by those who profit from war.

Capitalist drums are beating, trumpets blaring and forces recruiting.

All this that the nation may be goaded into war and the workers made to consent to shoot and be shot.

For centuries the resources of Mexico have lain dormant. Of late that country has been touched by the magic wand of capitalism and the same development is taking place there that always takes place when modern capitalism clashes with backward feudalism.

Ninety per cent of her population is still landless and propertyless. For hundreds of years her people have struggled against almost insurmountable difficulties to overthrow tyrants who have ruled and ruined men.

For hundreds of years the Mexican people have been in a state of continuous revolt because the great majority are in a condition of peonage. Robbed of their land in an agricultural country, the change from the Spanish rule to an independent republic avails the Mexican people little or nothing. So long as peonage remains, revolt must follow revolt.

In vain did the Mexican people elevate Madero to the presidency. Their hope that he would recognize their need and restore the land to the people was not fulfilled. They are still fighting to win Mexico for the Mexicans.

In Sonora, Durango and Chihauhau, where the revolutionists are in control, the people are taking possession of the land. Now, when the revolutionists believe that victory is in sight, the great American republic controlled by sinister capitalist interests and without a declaration of war, lands an armed force on Mexican soil. No nation in modern times has ever begun hostilities upon a pretext so shallow as the flag incident at Tampico.

The war will inevitably unite all factions in Mexico against the invaders of their country. Their resistance to the forces of the United States must fail, yet it will cost thousands of lives through bullet, bayonet and disease.

In order to subdue Mexico, the American army must march across that country like Sherman marched to the sea. Our army will leave behind a path of desolation, ruined homes and health.

And finally, when American arms have triumphed, who will be the winners? The American people will not win. The Mexican people will not win. German, English and American capitalists, backed by our army, will exploit Mexico and the Mexican peon as capitalism always exploits the working people everywhere.

Moreover, the effect of the war on our own country will be deplorable.

War strengthens every force hurtful to civilization, every force hurtful to labor. While war lasts there will be no social legislation. Enough money will be used up in dealing death to human beings to provide old age pensions, accident, sickness and unemployed insurance for every worker in America for a generation.

Every piratical power will seize this opportunity to prey upon our people. Exploiting capitalism will meet every attack by wrapping the American flag around its plunder.

Remember that the capitalist class in Colorado, destroying with machine guns American workers struggling for better conditions, is the very same class that seeks to rule Mexico.

The Socialist party is opposed, as a matter of principle, to every war of aggression. We believe that there is but one justification for war, and that is to fight for freedom. Our freedom has not been assailed by the Mexicans. There is no reason why American workingmen should leave their homes and families to have their bodies mangled on Mexican battlefields.

In the name of two million American Socialists, in the name of thirty million Socialists throughout the world, in the name of humanity and civilization, we protest against the war with Mexico.

BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

Victor Berger.
Adolph Germer.
Geo. H. Goebel.
James H. Maurer.
J. Stitt Wilson.

Attest: Walter Lanferseik,
Executive Secretary.

EX-MAYOR EMIL SEIDEL, LATE SOCIALIST MAYOR OF MILWAUKEE, WILL SPEAK IN PEOPLE'S THEATRE MAY 28, 8:00 P. M.

"PATRIOTISM: THE LAST REFUGE OF THE SCOUNDREL."—DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON Author of the First English Dictionary

EXPOSING THE WAR GAME "MURDER IS MURDER."

Workers of America, Let Not the Profit Mongers Use You for Claws and Teeth!

Mrs. Andrew D. White—"Does an American gentleman shoot the man who insults him? Not usually in this generation, much less his wife and family. Shall we destroy many innocent Mexicans by bombarding Tampico because an official bandit insults our flag? Nothing he can do, only what we can do, can dishonor the American flag and nation."

E. D. Mead, peace advocate—"The talk of war upon such petty pretexts, with which Washington and the country have been so suddenly deluged, is disproportionate and monstrous to the point of grotesqueness. Compare these trivial affronts to the indignities suffered by England when the Russians fired on her fishermen at the Dogger bank, killing several of them and sinking their boats."

Norman Angell, author of the anti-war book, "The Great Illusion."—"It required three years' fighting for 400,000 British soldiers to subdue 100,000 poverty-stricken Boers at a cost of $1,250,000,000. These same figures would apply if the United States ever attempted to subjugate the Mexicans. English politics has been paralyzed for years by the problem of Irish subjugation. American politics would likewise be twisted if this country attempted to conquer Mexico."

The National Honor.

Ernest Untermann.—"The national honor follows the pork barrel.

"The national honor never winced during all the fifty years since the Civil War, when both Republicans and Democrats repudiated annually every pledge made to the wage-worker and small farmer.

"The national honor was not tainted by the outrages committed with the connivance of Republicans and Democrats against the workers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Michigan, Colorado and California.

"The national honor grinned with delight when a militia general in Michigan tore the Stars and Stripes from the hands of a working girl and trampled the emblem of the nation into the mud.

"The national honor remained spotless when Sherman Bell shouted: 'To hell with the constitution,' or when New York's chief of police announced that 'the club is mightier than the constitution.'

"But when the English oil trust in Mexico began to back Huerta, when the oil wells of the American trust were threatened, when Hearst's big ranches in Mexico, when Colonel Greene's mines in Cananea were in danger of falling into the hands of the Mexican people, the national honor was insulted by the convenient arrest of a few marines and nothing would purify the flag but an armed invasion of Mexico—and the customs revenues of Vera Cruz."

MEDIATION! FOR WHAT?

Now they are trying "Mediation"—anything and everything to rescue from the fire the foreign investor's chestnuts and impose on the rebellious Mexican peasant a good, strong government which shall take care of him.

That is precisely what he does not want. He wants to be in a position where he can take care of himself, and for that he wants possession of the land.

Consider who those new interveners are. The Argentine minister, described as "a diplomat of wide experience; an international lawyer." The Brazilian ambassador, a "trained diplomat." The Chilean envoy, "for some years Chilean minister at Mexico City." Frock-coated, uniform-bespangled idlers, who have as much in common with the toiling peasant as the lamb has with the famished wolf.

Not by any such hocus-pocus can this fundamental question of the right to a free and equal seat at nature's overflowing banquet-table be settled.

As for good government! We have had our bellyful of it in these United States. It's name is Roosevelt—the hardest taskmaster the disinherited could have. Woodrow Wilson is his logical successor.—Wm. C. Owen in Regeneracion.

COMRADES!

Don't miss "The Srtike," shown at the Princess Theatre, Friday and Saturday. It reveals the futility of "direct action."