

Congress of Baltimore, an organization made up of representatives of 100 or more civic societies of that city, has investigated the system and endorsed its installation there.

The Iowa cities, many of them, have begun to study the system with the idea of using it for next year's assessment work. Many cities on the Pacific slope have inquired about and are studying the system at long range. And so it goes. The effect in each city that installs it, encourages its introduction in other cities.



Publicity of assessment work and accuracy in distribution of values thus obtained, will win in the end; the Somers system is the only method yet devised that provides for these two essentials, and this fact is the secret of its success wherever tried.

E. W. DOTY.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### THE MEXICAN INSURRECTION RE-ACTIONARY.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 27.

I trust that you may be able to find room in your newspaper for the following article on the Mexican situation, which I hope will prove of interest to readers in the general confusion prevailing on that subject. I speak from the knowledge of one who has lived in Mexico practically from infancy, who was educated there, and has studied the history and politics of that country from childhood.

The Madero revolution, as I think is generally conceded, was an attempt to overthrow a dictatorship which had of late years degenerated into a despotism so shameless and tyrannical that it was impossible longer to endure it. The Dictator, in his advancing age, had practically resigned his absolute power to a group of men who formed the heads of what is known in Mexico as the Cientifico Party, and these, shielding themselves behind the great General's fame and prestige, converted his at one time beneficent rule into a perfect orgy of unbridled tyranny, greed and exploitation. The appalling electoral fraud of 1910, and the wholesale arrest and persecution of members of an Anti-re-electionist Party, thrown into startling relief by the brutal mockery of the Centennial celebrations, marked the end of Diaz. The country rebelled, and, after a brief struggle, the revolution obtained what appeared to be a complete triumph.

The resignation of Diaz and Corral, however, and even the election, by an overwhelming majority of votes, of the hero of the population revolution, Francisco Madero, constituted only a partial victory. The "Cientificos" and their money had still to be reckoned with before the liberal ideas of the new administration could be carried out; and it is against

the carrying out of these liberal ideas that the whole fight is being made.

In reality, the present "revolution" is not a revolution at all, but a reaction—an effort on the part of the Cientificos, whom Madero deposed, to get back into the place of supreme power from which they were ousted. The money and the munitions of war that keep the disturbance alive come from the Cientificos, and go to arm and equip the lowest of the peon class—men, a few of whom, in their hopeless ignorance and illiteracy, have been persuaded that Madero has failed to keep his promises to them, but most of whom are nothing but bandits and pillagers. A short time ago this "revolution" had no head at all, no political significance; for Zapata was never anything but a bandit, whose methods of warfare were barbarous and intolerable. Then the Terrazas family, and the bankers and land owners of Chihuahua openly gave Pascual Orozco \$1,000,000 to equip an army against the city of Mexico "for the overthrow of Madero"; and, in addition, Alberto Terrazas gave him \$10,000, and he was promised, and subsequently received, \$90,000 more. That is why Pascual Orozco, erstwhile commander of the Government troops in Chihuahua, to whom Madero had entrusted the safeguarding of that State, is now shouting for Vazquez Gomez. For an equal sum of money he would doubtless shout as lustily for any one else, and, indeed, he is already veering around to De la Barra.

Certainly the money that bought Orozco was not furnished by peons fighting for liberty against plutocracy—which is what some people appear to think the present rebellion stands for. It came direct and barefacedly from the pockets of the plutocrats—Terrazas and Creel, the kings of the Cientificos—and it went to pay ignorant peons to fight against the man who promised the peon redemption, and to put back into power those same Cientificos, that they may continue to exploit the peon in the good old way.

The reason the Cientificos and land owners are so determined to overthrow Madero is precisely because he did not break his promises and betray the ideals of the revolution. He had promised the people primarily that he would divide the land, and upon entering office, he at once took steps toward the fulfillment of that pledge. He did not undertake to accomplish this division by confiscation nor arbitrary measures, but by the simple application of a land tax tantamount to the putting in force of what is known in this country as the Singletax.

The land of Mexico is held in enormous tracts owned by a few rich men. The Terrazas and Creel families own the entire State of Chihuahua; the Madero family itself owns practically all of Coahuila; three or four men own the Territory of Tepic; and so it goes in every State in the Republic. There were, it is true, large bodies of Government lands which could be taken up by any one desiring; but, under the Diaz regime, frightful inroads were made into these tracts by the wealthy hacendados. Already, in the few months that he has been President (for he only entered office last November), Madero has reclaimed as national lands 30,000,000 acres, and has established a bank backed by the Government for the purpose of making long-

time loans on the very easiest terms, to poor people desiring to acquire and work these lands in small tracts. These are not promises, nor dreams, nor indiscriminate howls. These are facts; and they speak for themselves.

This is the worst of Madero's crimes, for the landed interests are the interests of Mexico; but it is not his only one. Even before he became President, he advised the workingmen to organize and demand higher wages, saying that now the atrocities of Rio Blanco and Cananea would not be repeated. The workingmen took his advice, and the strikes which took place all over Mexico immediately following the triumph of the Madero revolution, were peaceful and of short duration. The strikers committed no violence, and the employers could not call on Federal troops to subdue "riots." Wages rose, and the popularity of the Madero administration with the "obrero" class was an assured thing; also, its corresponding disfavor with the plutocrat class.

The administration continued to tread upon the sacred toes of the powers that be. It abolished the lotteries and other lucratively-conducted forms of gambling. It proposed abolishing bull fights, but the revolution intervened before this measure could be definitely undertaken. It cast a wary glance at the Pulque dragon, but prudently decided to postpone that encounter—not, however, until the dragon had taken warning of what might happen to it later. It did attack the dragon of illiteracy, taking up the educational movement of Diaz at the point where the Cientificos had paralyzed it, and attempting to extend it throughout the country. This enterprise has also had to be abandoned, owing to the outbreak of the reactionary war and the consequent lack of available funds with which to carry on so expensive an undertaking.

It is because of these reckless radicalisms that the land owners, Cientificos and plutocrats in general are bending every energy to overthrow Francisco Madero, no matter what the cost to the country. They are the Money Power of Mexico, and they have the Money Power of this country to help them, so it is very much more than likely that they will succeed in accomplishing their purpose. When he was only a writer, they were content to scoff at his "impractical Utopian dreams," dubbing him "el loco Don Pancho;" when he became a Presidential candidate against Diaz, they imprisoned him. Now that he is President, and they see that, far from being impractical, he knows exactly how to set about to realize a few of those "Utopian dreams," they are sparing no effort to ruin and misrepresent him.

The worst of it is that, in fighting him, the Cientificos have with them a great proportion of the peon class itself, for they have found it easy to avail themselves of the ignorance which they fostered for their own ends. These men know nothing. They are absolutely illiterate. They have no faintest glimmering of comprehension of the enactments, proposed or accomplished, of the Madero administration. They have no love for Peace, Law and Order, and who can blame them? They do not wish to hear about honest work and industry. Again, who can blame them? And they cannot realize, now that

peace might mean something different from the peace of Porfirio Diaz, that honest work might receive some approximate reward. They have arms in their hands; ammunition comes from somewhere; money comes from somewhere to pay them twice as much as the Federal soldier is getting; and, by avoiding garrisoned towns and real battles, and only raiding ranches and small villages (the tactics adopted by far the greater part of these "rebels"), they can lead a merry life of it while it lasts. They are just ignorant and childish enough to think it can last more or less forever.

There is very little probability, or indeed possibility, that Madero can save either himself or his country; but it is a sad mistake to suppose that he represents the plutocracy of Mexico, and that the peon is fighting an intelligent revolution to free himself from that plutocracy. The peon plays no loftier part in the tragedy than that of the helpless instrument of his own and his would-be emancipator's undoing. The Madero administration is doomed, but it is the Mexican Cientificos, and Wall Street, that will compass its downfall—the first because they prefer anything to having the Singletax go into effect upon those hundreds of thousands of acres of theirs which, under Diaz, were practically untaxed; the second, because Wall Street, aside from also owning land in Mexico, could not possibly sit still and let a genuine patriot and radical undertake the Presidency of any Latin-American republic. If they can manage between them to make Madero resign, and slip into his place the "wise and prudent" De la Barra, friend of Taft and Knox, also of the Cientificos, and also and particularly of the Mexican Catholic Church (against the religious and political tyranny of which Juarez and the old-time Liberals fought their forty-years War of Reform), well and good. If Madero should persist in sticking it out as the legal and constitutional President of Mexico, or if the Cientificos, once more in power, should be unable, even by stopping the revolutionary money supply, to cope with the situation they have created, it will be intervention, and our American army may go down into a desperate war to conquer for Wall Street and the Cientificos a country which Madero and the handful of altruists surrounding him were trying to free from their grip.

It is bad enough that such a man as President Madero should be facing exile and ruin, and very possibly death, for no greater crime than that of having loved his unfortunate country better than anything else in the world; but it is the cruelest irony of all that he should be misunderstood to a great extent, even by his brother radicals of other countries. With the Money Power of two countries united to bring him down, he is at least entitled to the moral support of every radical in the world.

DOLORES BUTTERFIELD.



Hughes is being talked of as a dark horse. One good thing about being a dark horse is that while acting in that capacity one is not compelled to go out traveling around the country for the purpose of showing how eagerly the office is seeking the man.—Chicago Record-Herald.