

## SINGLE TAX REVIEW

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of Single Tax Progress.

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### PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

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### THE MEXICAN FIGHT FOR LIBERTY AND LAND.

Slowly but surely the underlying cause of the Mexican revolution is coming out. Had it been left to the newspapers the real facts of the struggle might never have been disclosed. But happily we are not altogether dependent upon the newspapers nor upon the Associated Press for information and enlightenment. The future history of Mexico may yet place Caranza, and Villa the "bandit," high among those who have made a heroic and victorious struggle for liberty.

A glimpse of the real cause for which the despised peon fights is partly revealed in the following paragraph from the *Mining and Scientific Press*:

"All of the arable land is held by 7,000

families. One single landlord holds an area of 16,000,000 acres, an area one-third the size of Great Britain, and this has been assessed for taxes at \$200,000."

And recently a work has been issued through the press of Doubleday, Page and Company which gives more than a glimpse of conditions in Mexico. "The Mexican People, Their Struggle for Freedom," by Guiterraz de Lara and Edgcumb Pinchon. Senor de Lara is a Socialist, but this need not prejudice us, for he has a very intimate knowledge of conditions and a real love of liberty. He reviews the railroad land concessions and land grabbing which went on uninterruptedly under Diaz, and interruptedly before. He shows us the real reason for the Mexican hatred of the foreigner who with the aid of native politicians have pillaged by the refined methods known to modern financiers the unhappy country to the south of us. He helps us to remove what Professor Charles A. Beard, of Columbia, calls "a current American myth that thousands of brave men are laying down their lives in Mexico for the sheer love of folly and tumult." Senor de Lara gives us the appalling history of the evictions, the destruction of the agrarian democracy, and the re-establishment of peonage. It is a work which should be in the hands of every Single Taxer who wishes to keep his mind straight on the Mexican situation.

If the occupation of Vera Cruz by the American sailors and marines has hastened the downfall of Huerta and the triumph of Caranza and the splendid specimen of a "bandit" who is fighting the cause of Mexican freedom, then those who yielded up their lives in the fight that followed the landing have not died in vain. But it must be remembered that any liberty that is worth winning must be won by those who are to exercise it. It cannot be given or imposed.

And who would expect the *N. Y. Times* to say, as it said in its issue of April 3, "A land tax is the first essential toward peace and good feeling in Mexico." But let us see. Was it not the *N. Y. Times* that in its issue of Jan. 25, 1889, and Jan. 10, 1890, advocated the Single Tax for New York City?