

Mexico's Dilemma.

Not war but peace is today the most menacing evil that threatens Mexico. The war waged by General Villa, whatever it may have been in its inception, is now a well-defined struggle in behalf of the outraged peon. Though it continue indefinitely, the lot of the peon would be no worse than it has been during the reign of Porfirio Diaz; and so long as the war does continue there is a possibility that it may succeed in restoring Constitutional government, and returning the land to the people. Indeed, there is every indication that if other nations keep hands off the Constitutionals will establish both peace and the constitution. But a peace that may be concluded at the Niagara conference, without the consent of the Constitutionals, will merely confirm in power the same class that supported Diaz; and such a government, backed by the administration at Washington, would be the end of all real effective redress of the wrongs of the peon. It might bring peace, but it would be the peace of Warsaw. Any triumph of the "governing class" means a continuation of economic wrongs. The form may be changed, in deference to public opinion, but the substance will remain. No privileged class ever voluntarily surrendered its privileges, and it is idle to expect such a thing in Mexico.



The best thing that can now happen for the cause of the peon is the prolongation of the peace conference at Niagara until General Villa has time to repair the railroads leading to Mexico City. Given a little more time, there is every indication that he will sweep the Huertistas from the field and set up a popular government. It may not at the beginning measure up to all that we should like to see; but it will at least be animated by a sound purpose, and it will be headed in the right direction. The man who could parcel out farms to his peon soldiers, and condition the allotment with the prohibition against selling them within ten years, has a grasp of primary relations that would put to shame some of our so-called ablest statesmen at Washington. The one supreme duty of this country at present is to confine its military forces to carrying out sanitary measures in Vera Cruz. Our government has shown a surpassing talent for cleaning up tropical cities and establishing hygienic conditions; but it has yet to demonstrate its ability to deal with the land question. When General Carranza protested against the offer of the A B C Mediators to settle the Mexican land question, because they had not settled the land question in their own countries, he might, without in any

way stretching the truth, have included the United States. General Huerta's offer to resign if peace be established means nothing. It is not peace that the mass of the Mexican people want, and are fighting for, but justice.

s. c.



The Mexican Problem.

A satisfactory settlement of the land question in Mexico through the Niagara conference requires the presence and participation of Constitutionalist envoys. For did not General Carranza state a most unfortunate truth when he said: "The foreign Mediators have not been able to settle this question in their own countries"? Not only is this true of the Mediators but of the American representatives; while the Mexican members of the conference Carranza well states "are men who hold radically opposite views to those of the great majority in Mexico." Permanent peace requires a settlement of the land question that will do for all time—one that will ensure to every citizen without exception, and to every child yet to be born, an equal right to the soil of his country. Such a system does not yet exist in any of the nations represented at the conference. The Mexican Constitutionals seem the only party interested who recognize the importance of such a settlement, the only kind that can establish "the new order," proposed by President Wilson, "which will have its foundation on human liberty and human rights." It will be unfortunate indeed if Mexico should be forced to accept anything less than what the Constitutionals would establish.

s. d.



Rockefeller's Worst Enemies.

No one has better cause to resent the suppression of free speech at Tarrytown, and the spread of sensational reports of prospective disorder than both the younger and the elder Rockefeller. But for the officious sycophants in authority, who have abused their official power to shield these individuals from an originally imaginary danger, the Rockefellers would not now be undergoing virtual imprisonment. Possibly they could even yet dismiss their guards and go and come without suffering any serious annoyance. They would certainly have run no greater risk at any time than any other individuals of prominence, but for the feeling stirred up—not by agitators—but by wielders of brief authority, anxious to pose as defenders of law and order and eager, in some cases at least, to obtain a rich man's gratitude for rescuing him from a non-existent peril.

s. d.