

too exacting in our demands of a country like Mexico. Conditions that in a rich country like the United States keep labor almost at the point of bare subsistence, in a poor country like Mexico force labor below the point of independent subsistence, and compel a resort to arms. It is not that the Mexican is by nature warlike, but that economic conditions make a life of peace impossible. Should the Constitutionalist government restore economic conditions to a normal state, peace and quiet will follow; but should it fail to remove the economic evils, then it will have to make way for one that will.



The Mexican Constitution of 1857, to restore which has been the professed aim of the Constitutionalist party, is one of the most liberal ever written. But, as Carlyle said of the Constitution of the French Revolution, it will not march. The difficulty lies in the fact that no man has yet arisen in Mexico who has been able to protect the people in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, without depriving the classes of their privileges. Diaz solved the problem by suspending the Constitution. Madero undertook to make the Constitution march, but the classes overthrew him. Carranza promises to do what Madero attempted, but Villa distrusts him. Privileged classes are loath to surrender their privileges; and there is a subtle influence in the Capital city that dissipates the resolutions of the camp. It may at this distance seem a small matter that Villa should insist upon Carranza's carrying out the agreement of Guadalupe, but his cruder mind may argue, false in one false in all, and conclude that if his chief will not observe a military pact he will not enforce the Constitution. Villa is willing that Carranza shall be provisional president now, if he will agree not to be a candidate at the election; or that he may be a candidate at the election, if he will give up the provisional presidency. But since the control of the election machinery is the strongest point in the candidate's favor Carranza hesitates to accept either alternative. This, however, is distinctly a Mexican affair. We may regret the necessity for further fighting, but pressing troubles of our own bar us from meddling with those of Mexico.

s. c.



What Menaces Mexican Peace.

Mr. Guterrez de Lara, in his work on "The Mexican People," tells of enactment by the Mex-

ican congress in 1857 of a law of which the following is the first article:

The right of property consists in the occupation or possession of land, and these legal requisites cannot be conferred unless the land be worked and made productive. The accumulation in the hands of a few people of large territorial possessions which are not cultivated, or made productive, is against the common welfare and contrary to the principle of democratic and republican government.

For the practical application of this sound principle, the Mexican people have just passed through a bloody revolution. The break, or threatened break, between Villa and Carranza is, at bottom, due to suspicion that plans are afoot to deprive the people of the fruit of their victory. Refusal to furnish satisfactory evidence of the groundlessness of these suspicions is the one thing that will bring on another civil war. Permanent peace can be assured by making secure the right of every Mexican citizen to the use of Mexican soil.



The application of the principle of the land for the people will not be a hard matter, if the will to do so be not lacking. The holding of large territorial possessions in an unproductive state can easily be prevented through public appropriation of the rental value of land. This will not only free the land, and open opportunities for employment to all who want them, but will make unnecessary all taxes on labor or its products. The income from land values will provide ample public revenue. Upon those who block the adoption of such a measure must rest the responsibility for another period of bloodshed and revolution in Mexico, should that calamity actually occur.

s. d.



Undiplomatic Diplomats.

In view of the repeated indiscretions of foreign representatives to this country, and the absolute failure of the negotiations that preceded the breaking out of the European war, a doubt arises in some minds as to the fact of the vaunted superiority of the old-world plan of training diplomats, as compared with the American method of selecting them from the people. A man who devotes a lifetime to doing one thing becomes proficient in the technique of that one thing; but he not infrequently loses thereby his sense of proportion, and so fails to adjust his learning to the practical affairs of life. If international relations be a sparring for points by the representatives of individual sovereigns, then the technical training is the essential requirement; but if representa-