

sooner had our battalion together than we started in. It did not take long when—bang—down goes one of our fellows with a bullet clear through his head. Death was instantaneous. That worked us fellows up to a savage mood. Kill? Right and left. We put the field guns in the middle of the streets and let fly. We had mercy on nobody, which was proper. Nobody showed a bit of cowardice. Murder and plunder was all we wanted, and we more than gave it to them. For every one of our fellows killed we shot down like dogs about ten Mexicans. It was rather hard for me to kill at the start, but when the fellow next to me was shot through the chest I became as savage as the rest. The fellow that was shot next to me let out a piercing cry and died in about thirty seconds. . . . Firing ceased at about 10:15 p. m. on Tuesday. We had about 150 prisoners, of which we court-martialed about eighty and shot them the same night. That's biz. Show no mercy is our policy now. We took the prisoners and made them dig trenches for us around the entire city. Made them clear the streets of the dead and pull around our three inches, etc. But we never torture them. We kill them just as fast as they show themselves, but never torture them. They would torture us if they were given the chance. We have plenty of grub, as we get a fresh supply from the ship every day. You have no idea how fast we kill them off. Perhaps you would like to know what we do with the dead ones. We take a horse and wagon and fill the wagon with bodies and drive to the outskirts of the city. There we go to an oil tank, sprinkle crude oil on them, and put a match to the pile. Up goes the whole works. What the flames do not consume the buzzards do.

It is due Mr. Loehrl to say that he probably would not have developed the kind of disposition displayed in this letter had he not gone to war. Had he stayed at home he would perhaps not have been the kind of citizen that looks so lightly on the killing of fellow-men. It is well indeed that hostilities have not yet been officially recognized as war, and that withdrawal without further fighting does not yet require the formality of a treaty of peace. That in case of war savagery and atrocities would not be confined to the Mexican side is painfully evident. Not national honor but deep national disgrace will surely be the result of even the most successful war we might wage in Mexico.

S. D.



A Forgotten Hero.

One searches the war news in vain for mention of the man who precipitated the present crisis in Mexican affairs. Whether this neglect be due to a studied policy on the part of President Wilson, whose hand was forced by an indiscreet action of a blundering subordinate, or to the fates that sometimes adjust reward to merit, it is most fitting. If we are to have a new batch of military heroes as a result of this trouble, it is to be hoped

that among them will not appear the name of the hair-trigger admiral who issued the ultimatum.

S. C.



Roosevelt's Unwise Friends.

Many Progressive party papers are showing how little they know about progress by positively claiming that had Roosevelt been elected President, Mexico would by this time have been a conquered subject province of the United States. They are paying Colonel Roosevelt a very poor compliment. In effect their statements mean that he would have put a foreign war ahead of all his promises of social justice, and have taken up the cause of the Hearsts, Otises, Rockefellers, Terrazas, and other monopolizers of Mexico's resources. Instead of devoting his administration to relief of Americans from oppression, he would have put it at the service of interests that oppress Americans and Mexicans alike. True friends of Colonel Roosevelt can not but hope that he is being misrepresented. Unless such is the case what a blessing to humanity was his defeat.

S. D.



Justly Rebuked.

A proper answer was returned by Secretary of the Navy Daniels to the complaint of a delegation of American refugees from Tampico. It was not enough that their lives were saved, was the substance of their complaint, but lives of others should have been endangered or sacrificed in order to protect their property in a foreign country. Secretary Daniels left nothing to the imagination in answering. If it is true that the complainants thereupon declared themselves ashamed of their citizenship, they have surely given their fellow citizens good cause to be ashamed of them.

S. D.



What Mexico Needs.

The officers and directors of the New York Peace Society show a thorough understanding of the fundamental cause of the trouble in Mexico in resolutions adopted on acceptance by the Administration of mediation. The following part of the resolutions points out the cause although it is faulty in its suggestion of a remedy.

Our country will have a clear right, also, in the conference, to use friendly influence for the settlement of the main issue between the warring factions in Mexico, namely, the problem of land and its ownership. It is well understood that the peons have been deprived of rights which they formerly held and that vast tracts of land have been irregularly acquired by a few individuals. The peons are now contending

for such peasant holdings as were gained in France by the Revolution, in Germany by the reforms of Stein and Hardenberg, in Ireland by recent land bills and in the Philippine Islands in consequence of laws passed since the American occupation. Merely including the contending elements of Mexico in a conference which aims to settle the present war, affords the best ground of hope for settling this paramount economic question. If the United States makes war on Mexico, the burden of it will fall most heavily on the disinherited peasants. We shall slaughter many, starve many and crush all by unendurable taxation. If no obstacle to a conference is interposed it may be possible to avoid foreign war, to end civil war and to effect a reform of land tenure which will make the Mexican peasantry for the first time really free and place them on a plane of comfort such as they have never enjoyed since the Spanish conquest. This will lay the foundation for a stable and constitutional government. Such a result would be an achievement wholly worthy of an administration which has desired only the welfare of our sister republic and has constantly striven for the maintenance of peace on any honorable and just terms.



A reform of land tenure will not bring peace if it does no more than substitute peasant proprietorship as it exists in France, for the present hacienda system. Such a change would increase the number of landholders, but it would still leave the greater number of Mexican peons landless, and all experience shows that the lot of the landless, when exploited by small landlords, is far worse than when exploited by a big landlord. The reform to be effective in establishing permanent peace must recognize the inalienable right of all to the use of the land.

S. D.



A New Kind of Real Estate Advertisement.

It is not very many years since well-meaning citizens were predicting that the first attempt to apply the Singletax would be met by the farmers with guns in their hands. But so far is this from being true that many rural communities have applied a modified form of the Singletax; and it has proven itself so popular among farmers that it is now being advertised as a means of attracting settlers. The Oakdale and the Modesto Irrigation districts of California are sending out printed matter boasting of the fact that the irrigation tax falls upon the land only, and urging people who are seeking homes to settle there because they do not "tax houses, barns, cattle, personal property or improvements or crops on the land for irrigation purposes." Nor is this statement issued by some rascally malcontent who, too lazy to acquire property of his own, seeks by this means to enrich himself by taking from those who are more industrious

and frugal; but on the contrary it is signed by the president and the trustees of the city of Oakdale, by the president and the directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District, and by the officers of the various public bodies, including bankers and editors. No hint is given of danger from irate land owners. Rather do they boast of the contentment of those already there, and urge their system of taxation as a reason why others should come.



This illustrates anew the peculiar merit that lies in the practicability of the Singletax. Not only is it absolutely just, but it is ideally workable. If the government were to pass a law confiscating all the land now in private hands there doubtless would be armed resistance. But if personal property be exempted from taxes, who is going to take up arms to resist? If homes be exempted, or factories, or any other improvements, at what point will the land owner meet the tax collector with a gun? Clearly at no point. Each step will commend itself and give assurance of the wisdom of the next step, up to the disappearance of the last vestige of Privilege. It should not be inferred from this that all citizens will be equally pleased with the introduction of the Singletax. Speculators who now thrive on the industry of others will be disappointed; but few of them will be willing to confess their cupidity by protracted opposition. Rather will they be disposed to rejoice in the prosperity of all.

S. C.



A Better Way.

To end the southern Colorado trouble Congressman Bryan of Washington has introduced a bill for condemnation and purchase by the Federal Government of a controlling interest in the mines. That is a clumsy and unscientific way of mending the matter, although it may be the only one within the power of Congress to apply. But the people of Colorado can settle the question more cheaply and effectively by applying the Singletax. Had Colorado adopted the entering wedge to that measure in 1902, when the question was before the voters, there would by this time have been no monopoly of natural resources within the State. But it is never too late to mend. Now is a good time for the voters to correct the error they made when they allowed the Bucklin proposal of 1902 to be counted out.

S. D.



Senator Penrose and the Singletax.

No outright declaration was needed to let it be