

all, and that they be compelled to keep the peace and not unfairly interfere with one another."



This is a fair sample. Like most comments of its kind it ignores the fact that the warfare between Capital and Labor is one of the superficial effects of the social system that is entirely wrong, the basis of which is special privilege and monopoly, and until such conditions are done away with the warfare must continue under no rule, or rules that will change with change in sentiment and circumstances.

The opponent of organized labor is engaged in a scrap over what these rules shall be. What is needed is a scrap for radical change of the underlying conditions so that the Capital-Labor war will cease. While it continues one can not but feel a strong inclination to side with the under dog, and that is always the laboring man, because special Privilege and monopoly is never in his favor, and always in favor of Capital.

Labor unions are just as unnatural as monopoly, but it is not for monopoly to throw bricks at labor organizations. That means labor organizations that can do things, not merely labor organizations proposed by some opponents that will take rules from and be governed by the monopolists. The way for Labor to do things is to get together and stand together and strike; and presumably also to boycott; and though it can not and should not be advocated or defended, it is hard to look upon the overt acts of organized labor with any greater indignation or less solicitude than upon the crimes of any other class. When manufacturers study their true relation to sound economics they will understand more of their true relation toward their employes and labor organizations, and have more toleration and less of the snarling, biting and scratching quality exhibited by some manufacturers at present.

By all means crime should be dealt with lawfully. But such dealing should not be the basis of an endeavor to wipe out a system or a class to which much crime might incidentally be traced. Let us invoke the law of the land under the rules of fair play, but let's not go any farther.



To the intimation that such a position is dangerous to society it need but be said that the type of agitation carried on by some capitalists is extremely dangerous, promoting class hatred in such a degree as to make wide-spread results possible under unfavorable conditions. The burden of that philosophy which would abolish Privilege

is Peace. The burden of that which ignores fundamental causes is distinctly War, and if the employers who fight organized labor succeed in ever starting it it will make quick work of them and their industrial enterprises. They, indeed, are playing with fire, and their failure to realize it is indeed a public misfortune.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE SEIZURE OF VERA CRUZ.

Mexico, June 6.

The attack on Vera Cruz was a complete surprise to all in the interior, as there had been so many "crises," with no result, during the past year that any reprisal for Huerta's impudence by the Americans was thought to be a remote contingency.

The American daily, however, the Mexican Herald, had been warned on April 20 of the impending event, and that same night it transferred its staff and presses on a special car from Mexico City to Vera Cruz, where it has since appeared regularly. After joyfully letting itself be influenced for years by Porfirio Diaz and Huerta, to whitewash or to conceal the crimes of Mexican despotism, this shameless sheet has now suddenly discovered that Mexico is unable to rule itself and is outdoing Hearst in its demand for an immediate invasion and annexation.

After the seizure, all private mail and messages were stopped by Huerta and the Mexican populace was then bombarded with official bulletins. In the Federal district Huerta's bulletins were unopposed but in the States the municipal authorities endeavored to counteract the danger to resident Americans inherent in the venom and mendacity of the Federal placards. The disgraceful conduct of the Spaniards during the excitement enabled us to better understand General Villa's antipathy to them.

On Wednesday, April 22, the Spaniards had Huerta proclaim that the Americans had sunk their warship, the Carlos V., at Vera Cruz. The same day the placards stated: "That Zapata had joined Huerta with his 20,000 men, that Villa had embraced General Velasco and the new friends had at once captured El Paso and Brownsville, that the Sonora rebels had invaded Arizona, and that all rebels were again brothers to Huerta and would sustain him against the hated invader." That afternoon there was some marching, and at night the Federal officers met the local Spanish leaders and planned big demonstrations for Thursday, a holiday.

The chief features of the Thursday processions of "patriots" were huge banners, bearing the device, "Muera a los Invasores." The marchers were government employes, students and some of the middle class; the masses held aloof. Most of the enthusiasm had to be manufactured by brass bands, and by the Spaniards who dragged American flags through the mud from their feet or from wagons. Some Spaniards even ventured to incite the mobs to anticipate the invasion and attack resident Gringos at once.

Luckily, the Spanish advice was unheeded and,

beyond some broken windows in the American stores of Mexico City, little damage was done to Americans in the big cities. Not only were the lower class against Huerta but the native reactionary party, his supporters, did not dare let loose a criminal mob onto the Americans for fear their own palaces might suffer from the riots. Besides, the main object of the demonstration was not to frighten resident Gringos but to recruit the Federal army.

As a recruiting ruse the provocation of the Americans to seize Vera Cruz had tangible results. Hundreds of the unsophisticated, especially students, enlisted "to repel invasion" during the first week of official deception. Later, when the trapped patriots found themselves being transported north to fight Villa, they realized their mistake, but it was then too late, for desertion was punished by death. A few companies, formed entirely of Spaniards, succeeded in escaping near San Luis Potosi by deserting en masse.

As the workmen were generally against Huerta and refused to enlist, even "to repel invasion," the levy was again put in force, and in a dreadful way. In Mexico City, itself, hundreds of factory hands were rounded up at the noon hour and boldly transported in street cars to the barracks, under guard of their soldier captors. In the country districts the levy has long been conducted in the style of an African slave raid. A peaceful village suddenly finds itself surrounded by soldiers, and all the folk must submit at once or perish. The desirable men are then rapidly picked out and before the women folk can realize what has happened, the troop is far away with their brothers and husbands. When the stolen recruits arrive at the big city they are announced by the press as "captured bandits consigned to the army."

Of the great Capital dailies, *El Pais*, *La Nacion* and *El Diario* have been extinguished, and only the obedient *El Imparcial* and *El Independiente* are now allowed to appear. Many of the attacks of *El Imparcial* on President Wilson and the Yankees during the first week were not only mendacious but vilely abusive, while the following is quoted from an official placard posted in Tlaxcala, dated April 30, and signed by Rafael Hernandez.

The same Yankees who robbed us in 1847 have arrived to despoil us again. If Admiral Fletcher's statement that he has come merely to inspect our government were true, it would be outrageous, for what right has he to meddle with our politics? But it is false, for the vile Yankees have come to enslave us as they have already enslaved millions of their Southern Negroes. They have also come to steal our Tehauntepec railroad, our Magdalena Bay, our Northern States containing our best gold and silver mines, and our oil fields, the richest of the world. The crisis demands the cessation of our discords and the support of our heroic President Huerta in his resistance to the wicked invaders. Death to the Gringoes!

When first blockaded the whole stored stock of crude oil from Tampico was thought to be necessary as a reserve for the military trains, so all other traffic was stopped. After a few days, when it was found possible to bring in oil from the Tehauntepec isthmus, via the Pan-American railroad, and to run some trains with coal or wood, the passenger traffic was resumed, but restricted to one train a day on each line.

After the resumption of travel and the extent of the official mendacity during the first week became generally known, it reacted on the government and lost it some of its few remaining friends. For as said one former Huertista: "Can I longer risk supporting a man who does not scruple to jeopardize my family by inducing me to join the army by lying reports?" This growing enlightenment caused the complete failure of the anti-Gringo manifestations organized for Sunday, April 26, and none have since been attempted.

The actual barbarity of the Federal regulars equals anything reported of the bandits. I recently, in a country district, encountered a Federal troop on the march who were straggling along a mile of road in a drunken condition, due to their looting of several rumshops in the last village passed. This troop had just returned from a punitive expedition through the Indian country of northern Pueblo, and the troopers told me that they had burned the houses, and shot down the unarmed villagers like rabbits, over a strip of land 50 miles long.

The few remaining resident Yankees are now more popular among the Carranzista masses of Federal Mexico than either the British or the Germans. The former are disliked because of the subsidizing of Huerta by Lord Cowdray, while the Germans are hated because of their bloodthirst exhibited in their pursuit of the Covadanga (Pueblo) murderers. The Covadanga atrocity was committed on German subjects by drunken Maderistas in 1911. The resignation of Rudolf Reyes, Huerta's first minister of justice, a year ago, was said to have been a protest against the execution, at the behest of the German consul, of six Covadanga suspects when only three had been proven guilty.

Not only has Huerta terrorized his subjects but also his ministers. Even a hint in favor of President Wilson's request for resignation is believed to have caused the downfall of Dr. Urrutia, Gamboa, Aldape and Portilla y Rojas. Huerta's plan of unlimited greenbacks was luckily frustrated in April by the big banks which persuaded him to accept instead a donation of \$45,000,000 (paper), a new unsupported issue of bank notes which they gave up in exchange for \$50,000,000 of unsold Federal bonds.

Two precautions must always be taken by a Latin-American dictator if he wishes to escape to Paris and live happily ever after; he must first secure a fortune in keeping with his sybaritic tastes, and then destroy any witnesses to crimes which might be extraditable under international law. Judging from recent events, Huerta is preparing for Paris.

Private pickings were scarcely overlooked by Huerta even in pre-Presidential days, but recently his "squeeze" has become unblushingly bold. A favorite trick is to scare a corporation manager with the threat of an excessive fine for some alleged infraction of the excise law, and then to compromise for a fraction of the huge fine, on condition of payment in cash with no receipt asked.

The destruction of confidential agents who might become dangerous witnesses is proceeding apace. General Zepeda, former drinking chum and governor of the Federal district, was murdered last winter; Chavez, the head of the secret police, disappeared in May; while Dr. Urrutia, minister of the Interior during last summer's slaughter of Federal

deputies, was recently proscribed, but, being warned in time by his friend, General Blanquet, he fled to Vera Cruz last month, and took ship for Europe.

Huerta's preparations for escape seem well timed, for a plot to assassinate him in the capital on May 24 was only discovered by an accident, and involved the death of ten Federal mutineers at Tacuba, D. F. When even the Pretorian guard begins to mutiny, it is time for a tyrant to take heed. Hitherto, Huerta has exhibited the utmost recklessness to personal danger; he has ridden around without guards and could be seen often of mornings at the Globo public cafe in Mexico City, drinking brandy with one or two companions only. This careless conduct perhaps indicates more shrewdness than bravery on Huerta's part as he well understands the degeneracy and cowardice of the populace of Mexican cities.

RESIDENT OBSERVER.



McNAIR'S VICTORY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 11.

It appears to be popular to be known as a Singletaxer in Pennsylvania. During the recent primary campaign the Palmer-McCormick-Rowley ticket was supported by the National Administration. The Budd-Ryan-McNair ticket was actively supported by the old reactionary element. Of all these candidates but one was openly radical, namely McNair. McNair was the conspicuous Singletaxer. When at a meeting of the Singletaxers Mr. McNair proposed to enter the campaign as a Singletaxer he was strenuously opposed by our local Singletax leaders on the ground that it would hurt rather than help the cause.

Here is what happened:

On the Administration ticket were Palmer, McCormick and Rowley; on the opposition ticket were Budd, Ryan and McNair. Palmer beat Budd by 49,050, McCormick beat Ryan by 20,270; but McNair turned the table around and beat Rowley by 32,080. The newspapers of Pennsylvania were so sure of the complete sweep of the Palmer-McCormick-Rowley ticket that for nearly a week they kept on printing Rowley's name as among the winners. McNair's Singletax activities gave the unpopular Budd-Ryan ticket thousands of votes, and likewise Budd's anti-Wilson speeches on the Panama toll question, and Ryan's "afraid-as-death" attitude to say something radical lost McNair many thousand votes. If McNair's name had been associated with the administration side it is safe to say he would have led the ticket.

The Democratic ticket as it stands is: For Senator, A. Mitchell Palmer; for Governor, Vance C. McCormick; for Secretary of Internal Affairs, William N. McNair.

H. W. NOREN.



Willis: What's the election today for? Anybody happen to know?

Gillis: It is to determine whether we shall have a convention to nominate delegates who will be voted on as to whether they will attend a caucus which will decide whether we shall have a primary to determine whether the people want to vote on this same question again next year.—Puck.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

REFORM IN ASSESSMENTS SPREADING.

Cleveland, O., June 11.

The city of Austin, Texas, will hold an "informal" election some time during the month of July, at which the citizens and taxpayers will, upon the request of the City Council, vote on the question of the adoption of the Somers System for the re-assessment of the real estate of that city. The City Council by a vote of 3 to 2—the 2 votes being in favor of accepting the proposal for the installation of the System—at first decided to submit to a referendum an ordinance for the adoption of the Somers System and the making of a contract for its installation. It was afterwards provided, however, to hold an "informal" election which would not be mandatory upon the Council. Although the election will not be mandatory, three of the five members of the Council declare that they will be bound by its results.

Mayor Wooldrige is a very strong supporter. He declares that the city cannot continue to prosper and progress unless there is more money raised for general expense purposes. The campaign in behalf of the system in Austin has been directed by the Young Men's Business Club. Editor A. C. Baldwin of the Austin Tribune has taken a very active part in the movement, and declares that he anticipates the election will result in a 6 to 1 affirmative vote on the adoption of the proposal.

San Antonio and Corpus Christi are the two latest Texas cities to adopt the Somers System, the reassessments in those cities having been completed within the last week.



In Multnomah County, Oregon, the commissioners having charge of the assessment of the cost of good roads have adopted the Somers depth percentage, as used for measuring the depths of city lots, as the basis for distributing the cost of the roads to land lying a mile on each side thereof. Lands nearest the good roads are of course benefited more than those at a distance, and it was found that the Somers depth percentage used for measuring values of inside lots in cities presented a very fair relation for the computation of benefits.

Assessor Henry E. Reed of Portland, Oregon, last November invited a proposal for the installation of the Somers System, with the result that it was accepted and the work of reassessing the entire city is well under way at this time. Of the 50,000 buildings in Portland more than 40,000 have been measured and appraised; of the 120,000 lots in the city about 30,000 have been computed, the basis of such computation being the judgment of the assessor of the values of the Somers unit-foot upon the various blocks. There has been no opposition in Portland, but the most cordial co-operation has been shown by the owners of real estate throughout the city.

Under direction of the State Tax Commission of Arizona the Somers System has recently been used for the revaluation of the land in Phoenix, Tucson and five other cities in Arizona. The members of the Tax Commission recently visited the various