

President Defends Mexican Policy

The President's defense of his Mexican policy is clear and convincing. He says:

"While Europe was at war our own continent, one of our own neighbors, was shaken by revolution. In that matter, too, principle was plain and it was imperative that we should live up to it if we were to deserve the trust of any real partisan of the right as free men see it. We have professed to believe, and we do believe, that the people of small and weak states have the right to expect to be dealt with exactly as the people of big and powerful states would be. We have acted upon that principle in dealing with the people of Mexico.

"Our recent pursuit of bandits into Mexican territory was no violation of that principle. We ventured to enter Mexican territory only because there were no military forces in Mexico that could protect our border from hostile attack and our own people from violence, and we have committed there no single act of hostility or interference even with the sovereign authority of the republic of Mexico herself. It was a plain case of the violation of our own sovereignty which could not wait to be vindicated by damages and for which there was no other remedy. The authorities of Mexico were powerless to prevent it.

"Many serious wrongs against the property, many irreparable wrongs against the persons, of Americans have been committed within the territory of Mexico herself during this confused revolution, wrongs which could not be effectually checked so long as there was no constituted power in Mexico which was in a position to check them. We could not act directly in that matter ourselves without denying Mexicans the right to any revolution at all which disturbed us and making the emancipation of her own people await our own interest and convenience.

"For it is their emancipation that they are seeking,—blindly, it may be, and as yet ineffectually, but with profound and passionate purpose and within their unquestionable right, apply what true American principle you will,—any principle that an American would publicly avow."

"The people of Mexico have not been suffered to own their own country or direct their own institutions. Outsiders, men out of other nations and with interests too often alien to their own have dictated what their privileges and opportunities should be and who should control their land, their lives, and their resources—some of them Americans, pressing for things they could never have got in their own country.

"The Mexican people are entitled to attempt their liberty from such influences; and so long as I have anything to do with the action of our great government I shall do everything in my power to prevent any one standing in their way.

"I know that this is hard for some persons to understand; but it is not hard for the plain people of the United States to understand. It is hard doctrine only for those who wish to get something for themselves out of Mexico.

"There are men, and noble women too, not a few, of our own people, thank God, whose fortunes are invested in great properties in Mexico, who yet see the case with true vision and assess its issues with true American feeling. The rest can be left for the present out of the reckoning until this enslaved people has had its day of struggle toward the light.

"I have heard no one who was free from such influences propose interference by the United States with the internal affairs of Mexico. Certainly no friend of the Mexican people has proposed it.

"The people of the United States are capable of great sympathies and a noble pity in dealing with problems of this kind. As their spokesman and representative, I have tried to act in the spirit they would wish me to show.

"The people of Mexico are striving for the rights that are fundamental to life and happiness—15,000,000 oppressed men, overburdened women and pitiful children in virtual bondage in their own home of fertile lands and inexhaustible treasure! Some of the leaders of the revolution may often have been mistaken and violent and selfish, but the revolution itself was inevitable and is right.

"The unspeakable Huerta betrayed the very comrades he served, traitorously overthrew the government of which he was a trusted part, im-

prudently spoke for the very forces that had driven his people to the rebellion with which he had pretended to sympathize. The men who overcame him and drove him out represent at least the fierce passion of reconstruction which lies at the very heart of liberty, and so long as they represent, however imperfectly, such a struggle for deliverance, I am ready to serve their ends when I can.

"So long as the power of recognition rests with me, the government of the United States will refuse to extend the hand of welcome to any one who obtains power in a sister republic by treachery and violence. No permanency can be given the affairs of any republic by a title based upon intrigue and assassination.

"I declared that to be the policy of this administration within three weeks after I assumed the presidency. I here again vow it. I am more interested in the fortunes of oppressed men and pitiful women and children than in any property right whatever. Mistakes I have no doubt made in this perplexing business, but not in purpose or object.

"More is involved than the immediate destinies of Mexico and the relations of the United States with a distressed and distracted people. All America looks on. Test is now being made of us whether we be sincere lovers of popular liberty or not and are indeed to be trusted to respect national sovereignty among our weaker neighbors. We have undertaken these many years to play big brother to the republics of this hemisphere. This is the day of our test whether we mean, or have ever meant, to play that part for our own benefit wholly or also for theirs. Upon the outcome of that test (its outcome in their minds, not in ours) depends every relationship of the United States with Latin America, whether in politics or in commerce and enterprise. These are great issues and lie at the heart of the gravest tasks of the future, tasks both economic and political and very intimately inwrought with many of the most vital of the new issues of the politics of the world. The republics of America have in the last three years been drawing together in a new spirit of accommodation, mutual understanding, and cordial co-operation. Much of the politics of the world in the years to come will depend upon their relationships with one another. It is a barren and provincial statesmanship that loses sight of such things!"

No one can successfully attack the President's Mexican policy whether it is attempted from the standpoint of economics, politics or morals.

W. J. BRYAN.

The republican organs were fully agreed when President Roosevelt stepped in to prevent the strike of anthracite coal miners a number of years ago that he was acting in an honest desire to prevent a situation that would menace the comfort and business of the people. They are also in complete accord in believing that President Wilson was actuated, in his efforts to prevent a nation-wide strike of railroad employes, by a desire to gain votes.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND

Contributions to the democratic national campaign fund may be sent direct to The Commoner. Acknowledgment of receipt will be published in The Commoner and the contributions forwarded to the treasurer of the democratic national committee. Let every democrat contribute according to his ability in supplying the democratic national committee with the necessary campaign funds.

Following are a few letters from contributors: J. D. Grant, Shidell, La.: Herewith I enclose my check in your favor for \$250.00, my contribution to the national democratic campaign fund. If "the people" of this country realize the good work that has been done in their interest by the present democratic administration, there will surely not be any lack of funds forthcoming to insure the proper conduct of this campaign in every legitimate way.

Jno. P. Ruppenthal, Russel, Kans.: Herewith I enclose check for \$2., to be used in the democratic national campaign, as suggested by The Commoner. President Wilson and the democratic congress have made good and every true democrat and a whole lot of others will support them for another term.

Robert Beaty: Find enclosed draft for \$2.00, to be used for the democratic campaign fund to retain the present administration in power. I am past sixty-six years of age and think President Wilson is the only real people's president we have had since I can remember.

Chas. T. Philp: Find enclosed \$1.00 contribution to the campaign fund. The response made in small sums to Mr. Bryan's campaigns marked the beginning of the end of the rule of big business through the republican and democratic parties. The small contributions from the rank and file, while helping the cause in the campaign, help greatly to maintain the integrity of the principles and purposes of the party organization.

Hugo Hornlein: In your recent issue of The Commoner I was deeply interested in your article about the thirty-two treaties with foreign countries. Having been a subscriber and a contributor to the campaign funds since the birth of The Commoner, I enclose herewith \$1.00 for your campaign fund this year.

"LITTLE STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST ABOUT WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN"

In response to the notice in the July number of The Commoner I received several very interesting contributions to "Little Stories of Human Interest." They came from different parts of the United States.

If you recall any incident in connection with the life of Mr. Bryan which you think should be told to this generation, and by this generation to the next, I shall greatly appreciate it if you will write it out and send it to me. The contributor's name will appear when the article is published unless he makes request that it be withheld.

HARRY F. HUNTINGTON,
Columbus, Nebraska.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

Great Work The Commoner Is Doing

The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebr.: Can you send me a bundle of Commoners for sampling. If ever your paper was needed it is needed now, and though I am overworked I shall try to interest some friends and try to increase The Commoner's influence. I have been a reader since the first issue and can appreciate the great work The Commoner has done, is doing, and above all is yet left for it to do. Yours truly, Eugene Frey.

J. M. Deatherage, Waverly, Ill.: I am writing your personally to congratulate you for your part in the election of President Wilson. I think he is the greatest president we have had since Jefferson. If we are defeated in this campaign it will be due to pure ignorance.

M. T. Randall, Amboy, Minn.: Enclosed find money order for which please send copies of the August issue of The Commoner to each of the enclosed one hundred and forty names.

Horace G. Yergin, New Castle Ind.: Please send me for campaign purposes 225 Commoners, August number; also 225 Commoners, Septem-

ber number. If you can not send August number, then send October number instead. Enclosed please find my check for \$11.25 to pay for same.

F. A. Watts, Linton, Ore.: Please send The Commoner, including the last issue, until after election to the enclosed list of subscribers; credit my account with \$1.00 and \$1.00 for the Wilson campaign fund. Judge Hughes came and we saw the animal and heard his wallings. He left a cold trail behind him here. Many life-long, stand-pat republicans went home with a grouch, saying that President Wilson would get their vote for re-election and their enthusiastic support. Without doubt he lost votes here and gained none. His will be a worse defeat than that of Parker.

The Commoner is making a special rate of 2½c per copy where desired for free distribution as campaign literature. Copies will be mailed to individuals or campaign committees in bulk to one address, or to lists of names if desired.