

American Interests in Mexico

On another page will be found an editorial entitled "Enhancing Values," which recently appeared in the Chicago Tribune. It states with unblushing candor the creed of "dollar diplomacy." Exploiters are to go into undeveloped countries, buy up property at a price which takes all risks and uncertainties into consideration, and then the government is asked to step in and make the investment profitable. The farmer's boys and the laborer's boys are to furnish the blood and the taxpayers are to furnish the money and the exploiters are to reap the profits. This is "patriotism" as the Tribune interprets it, and this is why "PREPAREDNESS" is supposed to be necessary.

W. J. BRYAN.

A RICH WOMAN'S EXAMPLE

One of the eastern papers complains that Mrs. Hettie Green, recently deceased, "made a thrift unattractive." Well, her example is a good deal more helpful than the example of those who, by lavish personal expenditure and vulgar display encourage extravagance among their imitators and excite bitterness among the destitute.

There is, however, good ground for criticizing Mrs. Green's will. The last will and testament of persons of great wealth is the best photograph that the world gets of the real person. When the possessor of millions leaves nothing for education, charity or philanthropy it is proof conclusive that the life has not sympathetically attached itself to an altruistic enterprise. The family tie, while a strong one, is not nearly so strong nor so indicative of high thought and lofty ideals as the tie that binds the heart to the needy and unfortunate. The avenues of benevolence are innumerable, and the soul that can wing its flight from the earth with no anxious thought of the unfortunate is not the kind of soul that challenges admiration. Mrs. Green's charities may have been numerous, but that they were not sufficient to keep pace with her growing income is proved by the amount left to members of her family. Her frugality could be more easily excused if she had shown a more generous spirit in the final distribution of her enormous wealth.

THE TRIBUNE'S ANXIETY

The Chicago Tribune is again on a nervous strain. It was enough to have the American prisoners in Mexico returned without intervention. The blow "almost killed father," but right on the heels of that it suffers another shock. A movie company has had the temerity to put on an anti-war picture without asking the consent of the Tribune. So it feels moved to devote a large amount of editorial space to a criticism of it. It is alright for the Battle Cry of Peace to scare dollars into the pockets of munition manufacturers, and it praises "How Great Britain Prepared," but it ridicules, in its most ponderous style, the idea of picturing the horrors of war with a view to promoting a peace sentiment. Poor old Tribune.

THE INDIANA FORUM

The Commoner welcomes The Indiana Forum to the field of journalism. It is owned by public spirited progressive democrats, and edited by Horace H. Herr, whose experience, ability and loyalty to the people's interests fully qualify him for the important work which he has undertaken. The Commoner cordially commends The Forum to the democrats of Indiana. There ought to be a weekly paper like The Forum in every state. The weekly paper is not an expensive business proposition and is, therefore, within the means of the average democrat. Success and influence to The Forum; may its ribs increase.

THE MEXICAN SITUATION

The mothers whose sons have been summoned to the border and the mothers whose boys would be needed in case of intervention, have reason to be grateful to the President for refusing to yield to pressure of republican leaders and the republican press. "He has kept us out of war" is still the slogan, and is popular because we have been close enough to war to appreciate its horrors. There is no humiliation in withdrawing our troops now that Carranza promises to preserve order in northern Mexico.

THE ROAD TO PEACE

The people of nearly all the belligerent nations are professed followers of the Prince of Peace, and can not therefore approve of war except as a last resort and when no other settlement is possible, and the same rule applies with even more force to the continuing of war. Those responsible for the beginning of this war could not foresee the results that have followed, while those who assume the responsibility for continuing it must do so with full knowledge of its unspeakable horrors. The rulers of the belligerent countries deny the responsibility for this war. As they all declare that they neither began nor desired it, we must assume that they do not desire to continue it. After an unparalleled expenditure of money and an unprecedented sacrifice of the lives of the best and bravest of their subjects, they must earnestly desire the war to end. Why then, do they not definitely state the terms upon which the restoration of peace is possible? Why do they, by delay take upon themselves the responsibility for prolonging this carnival of blood and passion? They must know what they are fighting for, and the ends which they have in mind must be ends which they are not ashamed to make known to the world. Why do they not inform the public? A clear and detailed statement of the ends which they expect to secure by force of arms will be equivalent to a statement of the terms upon which they are willing to agree to peace.

Honesty and frankness are virtues which are appreciated in international affairs as well as among individuals, and the rulers at war should be willing to make a simultaneous statement of the terms of peace, but if any of them refuse to join in a simultaneous statement, those who are willing to state terms will deserve the greater credit. A statement by one side would in all probability compel a statement by the other side, and these statements, when made, would doubtless result in a discussion which would lead to an agreement. The terms of peace must be stated eventually; why not now? As all the rulers engaged in this war shrink from the responsibility for beginning it, each should desire the honor of bringing it to an end.

The world is praying for peace. May the Heavenly Father inspire the sovereigns of the belligerent nations to vie with each other for the undying fame which those will win who lead the world out of this dark night of force and hatred into the light of that day when enduring peace can be built upon love and brotherhood.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE RURAL CREDITS SYSTEM

The enactment of the law establishing a rural credits system is a real triumph for the farmer. This system for the agriculturist and the currency system for the commercial world, taken together, constitute a revolution in the financial affairs of the nation. They ought to draw to the support of the democratic party an overwhelming majority of the voters. And these reforms are only a part of the party's wonderful record of achievement.

THE PARTY'S GREATEST NEED

The greatest need of the democratic party is a national bulletin, issued by the government, containing all the important governmental news and editorial comment thereon by representatives of all parties. This would enable the voters to pass an intelligent judgment on official acts. The corporation controlled press is against the democratic party.

The jingoes have had three sad days — the day the troops were withdrawn from Vera Cruz, the day the German note silenced the talk of war, and the day Mexico released the American prisoners. How dry they are!

The President has a new reason for desiring to keep out of war, namely, that Colonel Roosevelt may be kept out of Mexico.

The Logic of Conquest

A recent issue of The Independent illustrates how impossible it is for the annexationists to conceal their interest. The Independent is a high class publication—one of the fairest in the country. It is supporting Hughes, but it is doing it in a candid, clean and honorable way.

In its issue of July 3d—page 3—it disclaims for the nation any desire for territory: "The United States has no hunger for Mexican territory, no thirst for selfish aggrandizement."

On page 4, however, it protests against any "binding of our hands." "We have no purpose of conquest or aggression," but—"BUT we do not know what the future will bring forth. We can not know what our DUTY will be when our immediate task in Mexico is done."

And then, on page 6, we read, under head of "Essentials of National Independence," "We need no more room for expansion, though we need to have control of more tropical territory for the raw materials that it alone can furnish."

Here we have it. The logic of conquest is very plain—"We need it," but, of course, we don't want it. Needing it, they say we should not bind ourselves not to take it if "duty" compels it.

It is the old story of lust for land, which leads to conquest, excused on the ground of duty. If this country has any duty it is to suppress the doctrine of conquest and to teach love and brotherhood.

W. J. BRYAN.

"OUR FRIEND—THE ENEMY"

Mr. Roosevelt denounces the democratic party violently—no one assails it more bitterly, and yet who has ever rendered the party more service? In 1912 he gave victory to the democracy by splitting the republican party, and now he is helping the President while he condemns him in most undignified language. The President's greatest weakness lies in the alienation of the German-American vote, and this weakness is being reduced to a minimum by the speeches which Colonel Roosevelt is making against this same element. It will be easier for them to support the President than to support a man supported by Mr. Roosevelt.

The critics who object to the withdrawal of the troops from Mexico on the ground that it would look like a compliance with Carranza's wishes, are like the man who, when asked how he received his bruises, replied "I was coming down stairs and my wife said 'be careful,' and I won't be dictated to by any woman."

The preparedness parades came at an inopportune time. The marchers exhausted their patriotism in one day—they have not been conspicuous at the recruiting stations.

OPPORTUNITY

By Walter Malone

[Poem which Mr. Bryan read to the prisoners at Sing Sing penitentiary, July 4, 1916.]

They do me wrong who say I come no more
When once I knock and fail to find you in;
For every day I stand without your door,
And bid you work, and rise to fight and win.

Wall not for precious chances passed away,
Weep not for golden ages on the wane!
Each night I burn the records of the day—
At sunrise every soul is born again!

Laugh like a boy at splendors that have fled
To vanished joys be blind and deaf and dumb;
My Judgments seal the dead past with its dead,
But never bind a moment yet to come.

Though deep in mire, wring not your hands and weep;
I lend my arm to all who say "I can";
No shame-faced outcast ever sank so deep
But he might rise and be again a man!

Do'st thou behold thy lost youth all aghast?
Do'st reel from righteous retribution's blow?
Then turn from blotted archives of the past,
And find the future pages white as snow.

Art thou a mourner? Rouse thee from thy spell;
Art thou a sinner? Sins may be forgiven;
Each morning gives thee wings to flee from hell,
Each night a star to guide thy feet to Heaven.