

Mexico Menaced by Big Land Monopoly

MEXICO CITY—Outside the revolution proper, President Huerta and his administration have big questions to deal with. The Madro policy has awakened the common people, and congress is divided among their friends and those of the big land monopolists. The great trust here is the land trust. Something like 1,800 families own the bulk of the good land of Mexico, and for generations they have been ruling the country. They have had their lobbyists here at the capital, and when they have piped the statements have had to dance. The power of this land trust was well known to Porfirio Diaz, and the opposition to it brought about the downfall of his administration. President Diaz knew that the time had come to divide up the lands, and he was planning to tax them with a view of so doing. But the power of the hacendados in the federal congress and the state legislature was more than he could overcome, and he failed. He tried to tax the big estates which were not in cultivation, and to thus bring about their division. But he was balked at every turn, and the result was his downfall.

What President Madro Did.
It was understood to be a plan about a land division that Madro made his campaign for the presidency. He stumped the country, saying that if he became president he would tax the big estates that the owners could not afford to keep them. He also said that he might compel the hacendados or large handholders, to give farms to men who were working for them. He told the people that their wages would soon go up to \$1 a day. He said they would have a chance to buy land, and that he would create a class of small farmers.

It was these big landholders that largely aided in bringing about the defeat and death of Madro, and President Huerta and his party are indebted to them. The common people, however, have learned too much and gone too far to recede. The government knows that there can be no permanent peace without a movement toward a division of the lands, and congress is now trying to bring forth some scheme which will result in such a division. One plan which is agitated is the restoration of the communal lands about the towns to the Indians who formerly owned them. And there are other plans to wipe out the feudal system, which now gives a few families this great land monopoly and makes them the ruling aristocrats of the country. The fight of the future is to be between the landless and the small landholders and the land monopolists, and it will go on in one form or another until Mexico belongs to the many instead of to the few.

Among the Land Barons.
How would you like to have 600 families own the whole United States, such a division would be somewhat the same as that which exists in Mexico today. There are men who own millions of acres of farming and grazing land, and who in addition have mines, houses and gold galore.

Let me give you a few instances. The biggest landowner of all is Don Luis Terrazas of the state of Chihuahua. He and his immediate relatives own outright 7,000,000 acres of the most fertile lands of northern Mexico. They keep it in big tracts and the most of it is employed for stock raising only. Terrazas brands 60,000 calves every year, and he has on his place enormous droves of horses and mules and flocks of sheep and goats. He owns nearly all of the land between Chihuahua and the United States boundary, and you may ride further than from New York to Washington on the railroad in crossing his farms from north to south.

They are wider from east to west than the distance between Baltimore and New York, and indeed, the boundaries are so poorly defined that no one knows just where they end. The people here say that Terrazas does not know how much land he has and that he could lose 100 beef cattle and not feel the loss. He is without doubt about the richest man in Mexico. He is worth something like \$100,000,000 and is the autocrat of the state of Chihuahua.

Another man who has millions in this same state is Enrique C. Creel, who was formerly the Mexican ambassador at Washington. He is a son-in-law of Terrazas, but is said to be worth about \$20,000,000 in his own right, much of it being in land and cattle. Mr. Creel was born in Chihuahua. His father was a Kentuckian who came to this country during the Mexican war and later settled here. He had a family of seven, and Enrique C., his oldest boy, was named after Henry Clay.

Greater Than Job.
Just across the border of Chihuahua is the state of Coahuila, where the Madro family owns its vast estates, which are now liable to confiscation, and a little to the southwest, in San Luis Potosi, is Encarnacion Ipinha, who holds more than 1,700,000 acres. Ipinha has five stores which exceed in number many times that of all the cattle, camels and sheep owned by Job, the famed monopolist of the Land of Uz, and he also raises corn, wheat, beans and potatoes. Nevertheless, not one-twentieth of his lands are under cultivation, and his Indian workmen cannot buy an acre to hold in fee simple.

Another big owner in the same state is Mrs. Sarah H. De Lee. She has over 1,500,000 acres, and of these she cultivates only 50,000.

In the state of Tlaxcala, which is about half the size of Connecticut, thirty-nine persons or families own all the land, and it is notwithstanding the population is almost 500,000. In the territory of Telle, which has over 17,000 inhabitants, the country is practically owned by thirty-nine families, and in Tlaxcala lives Manuel Gonzalez, who owns three and one-half million acres, or an area which is almost two-thirds as big as Massachusetts. Nevertheless, Gonzalez cultivates only one acre in every 700 and his vast lands of rooms do not such the land upon which their rude homes are built.

Some Big Tracts of Farms.
The state of Vera Cruz is largely made up of tropical lowlands, and its proffered about the most subdivided of all the Mexican states. Nevertheless, there are many landholders there possessing from 150,000 to 250,000 acres each, and a named Brandt, who is of British and Spanish descent, has 21,000 acres planted to wheat and many square miles devoted to cattle. He has thirty acres of lawn in his home grounds and he lives like a lord. His hacienda employs 1,500 men, and it takes a population of more than 5,000 to care for it. Ten thousand cattle feed upon its pastures, and among them are some of the best animals which fight



Bringing in Cattle on a Hacienda

In the building of Mexico City. This plantation has large irrigated areas, and its owner has erected dams and canals at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The plantation has railroads upon it and a flour mill worked by electricity.

In Yucatan there are also large estates, some of them exceedingly profitable, owing to the cultivation of hemp. The same large holdings might be cited in other parts of the republic, but this will show you how the lands are tied up and kept out of the hands of the people who would cultivate them.

Extravagances of the Rich.
These hacendados, as the plutocratic landholders are called, have money beyond the dreams of avarice. They usually live magnificently upon their estates, but just now, while the rebels and bandits are moving about over Mexico, a large number of them have come here to the capital, while others have left for Madrid and Paris. In some cases the fighting is going on upon their haciendas and they want their families to be away from the danger of mobs. On this account, not a few of them have rented or bought houses here, and for the last two years have kept off their farms.

It is on some of the biggest estates that most of the fighting goes on. Take that of Terrazas. The rebels of Chihuahua have torn up the railroads and the Mexican Central line, which goes south from El Paso, has been long out of running. The trouble there has largely come through Terrazas himself, who is said to be as autocratic as the czar of Russia. He is now an old man, but his sons rule and it is they who are trying to protect the property.

Don Luis Terrazas.
I have heard a great deal about the Terrazas family since I came here. Outside the land the old man owns the most of the public utilities of his neighborhood and he also loans money at high rates of interest. He controls the banks and his income is enormous. He lives like a lord and entertains royally on his great hacienda. He can house 100 guests at a time, and he keeps up an establishment of servants fit for a king. Some time ago he asked the archbishop of the Roman Catholic church to dedicate a new house of worship on one of his ranches. The holy father came with a great corps of guests and Don Luis kept them for more than three weeks, making up hunting parties and excursions of various kinds. During this time the guests had white horses only, the old hacendado having picked out of his thousands of animals those of that color and had them trained for the purpose.

Thirty Thousand Hired Men.
Don Luis' big estate came largely from a grant which his father obtained for his services in the war of Mexico's independence, and in 1860 he got other grants for his own work in holding the state of Chihuahua against the army of Maximilian. He has, I am told, something like 30,000 peasants working for him, and some of them are engaged in the present rebellion.

Many of the buildings on the Terrazas estate were put up long ago. They are surrounded by stone walls twenty feet high, with square towers at the corners, upon which there are cannon. The houses are of Mexican style, the flooring of the patios being of diamond-shaped tiles of different colors. In the niches of the wall stand statues imported from Italy, and the patios itself is lined with all the plants of the tropics, while a fountain plays in its center.

The rooms are large and they face the patio, the windows being barred with iron so that they make you think of a prison. Some of the quarters are beautifully furnished from Europe. When Terrazas went to the St. Louis exposition he carried sixty members of his family with him, and he took a special train for the journey.

The Day of Small Farms.
It is believed here that the day of moderate sized farms is already at its beginning. The agitation as to the subdivision of the big estates is increasing, and besides there are numerous other movements under way to give lands to the people. The government owns about 52,000,000 acres of public lands, scattered throughout the various states and territories, and it is reclaiming millions more from the concessionaries who have failed to live up to the terms of their contracts as to colonization and development. Most of the public lands have been taken off the market, with a view to resurveying them and to the gathering of statistics as to their character and soil. It is the intention to plant the farming lands into small tracts, which will be offered to natives on long-time payments at a low rate per acre.

The government is also backing a development bank with large capital, and this institution has been authorized to issue \$100,000,000 worth of bonds for the improvement and progress of agriculture. Much of this will be let out to the native farmers at reasonable rates and on long time. Some of it will probably be used for the purchase of lands, and a great deal will go into irrigation enterprises and into buying tools and live stock.

Money in Farming.
There is no doubt but that there will be eventually a great deal of money made in Mexico farming, and that, not only through selling to Mexico, but in exporting farm products to the United States and elsewhere. This should be one of the best corn-raising countries of the



Farm Village in the Tropical Lowlands

world. Nevertheless, the government report for last year shows that some 11,000,000 pesos were sent abroad for corn alone, and very large amounts for cotton and other crops which can be raised here. I am told that the prices of corn, wheat and beans, which are the staple foods of the country, have become about double those of the United States, and that the land, if properly cultivated, will yield just as much as our land per acre. In many places two crops can be raised in a year, but the farming is so rudely done that the total output, as a rule, is much smaller than ours. I see plows drawn by oxen which look for all the world like those of Palestine and Egypt. They are the same as those used in the days of the scriptures.

I see them threshing wheat by driving horses around a ring to tramp out the straw, and the corn is shelled with a hand or by rubbing the ears over a rough stone. A common means of farm transport is by ox carts with wooden wheels, each of which weighs 100 pounds or more, and everything is done in the most extravagant way. Wages are low. Farm hands receive 20, 30 and 40 cents a day, and for this they labor from daylight to dark. A great deal of the work is done by the piece, and not a little is on the share, half the wages being paid in money and half in crops.

Mexico Our Future Meat Basket.
With this subdivision of the ranches, Mexico is bound to become the breeding ground for our beef supply of the future. In the northern part of the republic are millions of acres adapted to cattle, but on account of the long dry season, the feed is not sufficient throughout the year to fatten the beasts for the market. The present plan is to breed the stock here and then drive them across the boundary for fattening. Mexico is a good breeding ground. The losses of calves are small and already many yearlings and 2-year-olds are sent to the United States to be fattened.

The ordinary Mexican cattle are undersized, and when full grown seldom weigh more than 1,200 pounds. This standard can be increased by crossing the stock with our larger animals.

The country is excellent for sheep and goats, and it has millions of them. The Mexicans are fond of goat meat, and there are some ranches which kill as many as 3,000 goats in a year, 800 or 900 being killed in one night.

A great many kids are sold and a common sight of the cities is the peddler who goes from house to house with a half dozen kids hung over his shoulder. He pinches the kids to make them cry and their baby-like shrieks are the sign of his trade. On my way to Mexico City I stopped at a station where 200 kids were unloaded for the market. They were dear little things, 4 or 5 months old, and would sell, I was told, for about \$1 apiece.

Mexico's Cotton Plantations.
One of our agricultural experts has said that Mexico has cotton areas almost equal to those of the United States. This is a question. I have just had a talk with an American who is interested in a big plantation near Torreon, in the central part of the plateau. He says that the irrigated lands of the Naga river, in the region known as the Laguna district, have the only soil that will pro-

duce cotton in comparison with our cotton belt. There are patches of country around the edges of the high plateau where the plants will grow and there are some south of the Rio Grande near Brownsville and also about Tampico and along the Pacific coast. But as it is now 90 per cent of all the cotton grown in those of the Laguna district, and the most of this is from the plantation I have referred to.

Trying to Squeeze the Americans.
The big plantation of the Laguna district is owned by an American syndicate, whose president is Mr. James Brown Potter. It is said to be the largest cotton plantation of the world under one ownership. Its lands cover about 200 square miles, and when in full bearing the estate has more than 100,000 acres of cotton. Just now the revolution and the disputes as to the water rights have affected the cultivation of this property, but, nevertheless, the amount of land under crop is enormous.

The estate covers the site of what sixty years ago was the second largest lake of Mexico. This lake was fed by the Naga river, which is subject to torrential flows. During one of these flows the river changed its course and left this lake basin dry. The American company redeemed the land, and made hundreds of miles of canals to irrigate it. It has spent more than \$5,000,000 in its development and has made the property worth altogether something like \$10,000,000 or \$20,000,000. It has divided the land into great farms, has constructed forty miles of railroads, has built 300 miles of automobile roads and established a town for its laborers. It was raising cotton by the thousands of bales and the plantation had something like a potential output of 75,000 to 100,000 bales, when a scheme was conceived by some influential Mexicans to dam the Naga river and divert much of the water which was going to this plantation. This, the Americans claim, is a violation of their concession and they have brought the matter before the government of Mexico, and have also appealed from the decisions of the Mexican courts to the United States. The matter will probably be submitted to the tribunal at The Hague, where it is likely that the American claims will be sustained.

Why Women Are Not Rich.
Man is a millionaire many times over in the possession of blood cells. Woman is not quite so rich, for scientists have proven that the normal man has five million—the woman only four and a half million to a cubic millimetre of blood. A decrease in number of red blood corpuscles and a person "looks pale"—in fact, is anemic, the blood does not get the right food and probably the stomach is disordered.

Dr. E. V. Pierce found years ago that a glyceric extract of golden seal and Oregon grape roots, queen's root and bloodroot with black cherry bark, would help the assimilation of the food in the stomach, correct liver ills and in Nature's own way increase the red blood corpuscles. This medicine he called Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. By assimilating the food eaten the system is nourished and the blood takes on a rich red color. Nervousness is only "the cry of the starved nerves for food," and when the nerves are fed on rich red blood the person loses those irritable feelings, sleeps well at night and is refreshed in the morning.

"I was attacked with a severe nervous disease, which was caused by a disordered stomach and liver," writes Mrs. J. A. D. LITTLE, of Washington, D. C., "and I was advised to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and derived much benefit from same. My case had run so long, I had become so chronic that nothing would give a permanent cure, but Dr. Pierce's medicine has done much for me and I highly recommend it. I heartily advise its use as a spring tonic, and further advise alling people to take Dr. Pierce's medicine before they disease have run so long that there is no chance to be cured."

Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser, 31 stamps, to pay for wrapping and mailing only.

It stands in the midst of the citadel surrounded by barracks and officers' quarters, and is not far from the great arsenal and the manufactures of war implements. Directly about it is a small cleared square which gives just enough room for the movements of the small company which does guard duty there. The tower is cylindrical and is built of heavy masonry with nothing to relieve its massive effect. It rises about thirty-five or forty feet from the ground and is almost as thick through as it is tall.

Entrance to the tower is made through triple steel doors, each guarded by a system of "simultaneous keys" held by different individuals, and by a constantly changing band of sentries. One set of keys is with the chancellor of the empire and the other with the president of the committee for the debt of the empire. The local guardian of the treasure was made curator by a decree of 1874, under orders from the chancellor.

The gold that makes up this "Reteh-kriegsschatz" is in twenty-franc pieces the very same that were paid as the French war indemnity. The gold coin is stored away in bags in dozens of small cabinets or safes built into the walls. These are on various levels and are reached by a spiral staircase.

Twenty-four men usually compose the guard. Of these eight are continually on duty, the guard changing every two hours. The patrol is made about the base of the tower, within the tower and on the top.

Once a year the amount of the gold is certified by an official reckoning. The coins are not counted. Instead, the gold is weighed in bulk and minute fractional differences due to dampness and other atmospheric conditions are noted.

The amount of gold in the Julius tower has never varied, and there has been but one attempt at robbery. This was by a drunken cobbler of Spandau, who in some mysterious way, according to the story, managed to get by the guards. When he was half way up he fell and broke his neck. Robert W. Poindexter of Los Angeles is the American who got into trouble with the Spandau authorities because he got too near the German treasure.

Mr. Poindexter told the sentinel that he wanted to see the commandant, and marched into the tower while the soldier's back was turned. He was detained until the police could be summoned, and then taken before the au-

thorities, whom he had difficulty in convincing of his purpose.

The Julius tower was first used by Frederick the Great as the Prussian "war chest." The reserve held there was turned over to the empire when it was founded and the tower itself used for the storage of the \$30,000,000, the small fraction of the billion dollar indemnity paid by France. The money has been kept in reserve to defray the expenses of the quick mobilization of the German army in case war should break out. It would pay for the horses and military supplies which are already contracted for in such an emergency.

It has been figured that the present \$30,000,000 would be exhausted in a day and a half in case a war was declared.

Spandau is an island at the confluence of the Spree and the Havel rivers. A greater part of it is made land—New York Sun.

Always that Way.
"There's a difference in time, you know, between this country and Europe," said a man in New York to a newly arrived Irishman. "For instance, your friends in Cork are in bed and fast asleep by this time, while we are enjoying ourselves in the early evening."

"That's always the way," exclaimed Pat. "Ireland never got justice yet!"—New York Telegraph.

Germany's Pile of Gold
Hoard of War Treasure Guarded in Julius Tower at Spandau.

The report from Berlin that the German government in the course of its new war program plans to triple the treasure it has stored away in the famous Julius Tower at Spandau has caused a revival of the speculation regarding this great secret hoard of 130,000,000 marks (\$30,000,000), which will now be increased to \$50,000,000.

An officer of the German reserve, who at one time was stationed in the fortress of Spandau, but who is now living in this country, told The Sun recently something about the tower and the treasure it holds.

The tower itself is not impressive.

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You should have a full and free movement at least once a day. If you pass a day you are constipated, and the result will be that you will catch a cold easily or have a more serious ailment. To cure the constipation and forestall all graver trouble take a dose of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin at night before retiring and by morning relief will come, without disturbance from sleep or any inconvenience.

Legions of people use it regularly in such emergencies, some of them formerly chronic invalids who have suffered from constipation all their lives. Mr. A. B. Danner, 325 Riley St., Harrisburg, Pa., says: "Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin gave me almost instant relief from stomach and bowel trouble. I now eat anything I want and sleep well." Many others will tell you that they have tried most things recommended for this purpose but have found Syrup Pepsin the only one always reliable. A bottle can be obtained at any drug store for fifty

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