

...The "Game of Craft" Has Already Begun...

Proclamation Now Being Distributed in Leon, Nicaragua

WHEREAS, A civil war, which represents and embodies the spontaneous and decided will of the great majority of the inhabitants of the country, is now being waged against what has been the unpopular and discredited administration presided by Mr. Adolfo Diaz, whose unfortunate and censurable government and public policy to barter the country, under the pressure of a humiliating and insulting American intervention, are repelled, reprovved and condemned by the loyal and patriotic sons of the land.

2. Whereas, The inopportune and officious intervention of the naval forces of the United States, now in the Port of Corinto, in the internal affairs of the country, has been made manifest and effective in various forms and on several occasions, namely:

(a) By the protection which those forces extended and gave, under the disguise of a flag of truce, to a column of 400 of the enemy's troops, ambushed near the city of Leon, with the visible intention to assail the said city by surprise.

(b) By a wilful and flagrant violation of the laws of neutrality, in forcing their passage across to Corinto under threat of fire, well knowing the now existing state of war.

(c) By their attempt to cross over from Corinto to the enemy's camp, with a train of considerable war materials composed of cannons, guns, rifles and other arms and ammunitions.

(d) In having established permanent military camps on various parts of our territory, in the western section of the republic, without any right thereto, without authorization whatever from the legal authorities; an unlawful occupation which becomes more aggravating by the fact that private properties and dwellings are being usurped and appropriated by the forces of the United States to establish those camps, notwithstanding that Nicaragua is at peace with those states.

3. Whereas, A force of the United States navy has assumed command of the Port of Corinto, thus exercising an illegal power on a territory not pertaining to the United States, without our country being at war with those states, in contravention of the universal principles of international law, and to the detriment of our legal rights to hold and control the said port of Corinto.

4. Whereas, In consequence of the officious, unjustifiable and illegal intervention of the forces of the United States, a Nicaraguan citizen was shot and killed by one of the soldiers of their navy, in the city of Chinandega, without any cause or provocation whatever on the part of the deceased, to justify such a cowardly and brutal action.

5. Whereas, By a resolution of the supreme legislative council of the republic, Mr. Adolfo Diaz was and has been repudiated and disacknowledged as the head of the executive power of the country and a new government created, established and proclaimed, according to statute laws, whose visible chief, General Luis Mena, was and has been duly elected by said council and recognized by the people.

6. Whereas, The new government now holds and effectively governs and rules the entire western section of the republic, excluding the Port of Corinto, as well as the departments of Granada, Carazo, Masaya, Jinotega, and partly those of the Atlantic coast and the capital city of Managua.

7. Whereas, The chief of the new government, General Luis Mena, possesses and enjoys the full and entire confidence of the people, who loyally and resolutely sustain his efforts to retrieve the country from bondage and impending

The capitalist papers have not been telling you about it, but within the past month Big Business has been terrorizing the people of Nicaragua. Once before it deposed a president of that country because he would not enforce the payment of interest on fraudulent bonds that had been issued to American capitalists. The same issue is up today, as will be seen from the reading of the following which was sent the Appeal by a member of the American navy who was engaged in the contest and knows its nature. This member of the navy gives his opinion of the matter in these words:

"We captured the president and shipped him to Panama. The people elected this man president, but the present incumbent of the office refused to give up his seat and we are fighting to keep the usurped despot from throwing up his office. There is some big graft somewhere. When I get out of here I shall stay out of the navy for good. I don't want to fight for such an infamous cause, but I may have to go to it again."

The attached proclamation, which was enclosed in this letter, is being circulated at Leon, Nicaragua, by those who would seat the man legally elected president. The United States is fighting to keep in power a man who was NOT chosen for the office. Read the protest carefully. In some respects it is the equal of our own Declaration of Independence. Remember that it is addressed, not against the English, but against our own government under the domination of capitalism. Notice the charges it makes against the United States. You will see that the conquest of the territory to the canal is already in progress, even though capitalist papers do try to conceal it. It is a conquest, not for the people but for big capitalism. It will continue to grow worse during the next four years. This is merely the first fruits, and they couldn't wait until after election to begin their game of graft.

ruin; to restore its name and prestige in the concert of civilized nations, and to establish and uphold the rights of the citizens of a free and independent country.

8. Whereas, The pacification of the country and the restoration of order would have already been accomplished, and the insubordination and resistance of ex-President Diaz now confined within the limits of the city of Managua, crushed and annihilated, had not the intervention and promises of the representatives of the government of the United States contributed to encourage a decrepit and lifeless government to make resistance and sustain itself against the will and pleasure of the great majority of the citizens.

9. Whereas, Unlawful and arbitrary possession of our national railroad has been taken by an armed force of the United States, under a threat of fire expressed by Colonel Long in the following written terms: "And in case of a refusal to deliver the trains, I shall make use of the force at my command to fulfill this order" [the American admiral's].

10. Whereas, Our national railroad is not the property of the government of the United States, nor does it appertain or belong to any of the citizens thereof, but the property of the government and people of Nicaragua, which railroad was only offered and pledged as collateral security to a supposed loan contract entered into with New York bankers, said contract being legally null and void for the non-fulfillment and ineffective payment, by said bankers, of the money consideration thereof.

11. Whereas, The officer in command of the United States forces in this vicinity, with or without orders thereto, has committed a further outrage on the rights of the people, in attempting to take charge of the reservoir and water supply of this city, the exclusive property of a private company of Nicaraguan citizens.

12. And, whereas, The foregoing facts and grievances, embodied in this instrument of protest, constitute a series of

severe moral and material charges against the government of the United States of North America, which government, under the plea of humanitarian feelings and sentiments, surreptitiously sustain and impose on our people, in furtherance of the interests and views of a group of unscrupulous American politicians and financiers, the authority of a man, whose anti-patriotic sentiments and doings are well known, whose administration has been fruitful of wrongs towards the sovereignty and high interests of the nation, and who was and has been repudiated and disowned by the representatives of the people in congress duly assembled.

We, the undersigned, in our own behalf, and in that of the loyal and patriotic inhabitants of all the departments of the republic, do by these presents, most solemnly protest against the intervention of the American government in the internal affairs of Nicaragua, our free and independent country; however said intervention may have been solicited, or be and is a spontaneous but officious act of the United States government.

We protest against the protection which the representatives and forces of that government have extended and given, and may hereafter extend and give, for subversive motives, to a man who has been deplored legally of all faculty and power as the head of the government of the republic.

We protest against the violation, by the government of the United States, of the laws of neutrality, it being well known to the representatives of that government the prevailing and existing state of war.

We protest against the threats of the officers of the forces of said government to fire upon the citizens and people of this country who patriotically defend their rights and privileges for liberty and freedom.

We protest against the landing of American marines and troops on the territory of the republic, as well as against the occupation, by said troops, of the Port of Corinto, and the

power thereby exercised by officers of the American government on the territory of the republic of Nicaragua, contrary to the dictates of law and justice.

We likewise protest against the establishment, by the forces of the United States government, of the daily traffic of trains between the Port of Corinto and the city of Managua, notwithstanding the decisive prohibition thereof imparted to them by the lawful authorities of this city, said traffic being an arbitrary infringement of our rights to blockade and keep the insubordinate forces at Managua from all external communication, in accordance with the practice of war, sanctioned and approved by all nations, and observed by the very government of the United States during their war of cessation.

We also protest against the detention and confinement, in the island of "El Cardon" at the entrance of the Port of Corinto, of a number of citizens of Nicaragua and of other sections of Central America, under the guardship of the forces of the United States commanded by Admiral Sutherland, U. S. N.; said detention and confinement being incompatible with either the neutrality which the American government, in decorum to itself, is bound to observe, or with the authority which that government has arbitrarily assumed in Corinto, inasmuch as the citizens thus confined and detained, are not amenable to them for any offense whatever.

We further protest against the act of extortion perpetrated by the forces of the United States in wrenching from the custody of the constitutional authorities of our country, the steamboat "El Aguila," which was captured by our forces and was a legal prize of war, at a point called "el Tempisque," whilst at the service of the revolutionary faction at Managua, deserving the proceedings of the American commander, in this instance, the most adequate reproof for such a visible demonstration of partiality in a domestic conflict where prudence and the ethics of strict neutrality should be his counsellors.

We protest as well against the unlawful and arbitrary appropriation, by the forces of the United States, of the national properties, together with the private and individual belongings of the citizens, the said appropriation being devoid of all precedence and justification, contrary to law and equity, and deserving, for the physical force that surrounds its execution, the convenient qualifications of cowardly and furtive.

And, finally, we protest against all and every one of the hostile and aggressive acts and manifestations which the naval and military forces, or any other representative in this country of the American government, have perpetrated and may hereafter perpetrate against the sovereignty and independence of Nicaragua.

And it is our wish that this protest be considered also as a weak but energetic rebuttal of the immoral and inoble principle of force against right, as well as warning against the imperialist policy of the present government of the United States, the visible tendency of which is to crush and annihilate the Latin element of the races on this continent, opening, in this instance, in the history of the great North American nation, another "Chapter of National Dishonor."

Signed and executed in the city of Leon in the republic of Nicaragua, this tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twelve.

[Some fifty names are appended.]

A Little Study of Corporations

THE whole contest has been between organization of the people and organization of the privileged. It might be said, it has been between the public corporation and the private corporation.

The Public Corporation.

HERETOFORE the public corporation has been chiefly governmental in nature. The national government originally was an agreement or federation of states. It was hampered in service of the people from the start by reason of the president being elected by representatives instead of by the people; the senators being elected by legislatures instead of by the people; the federal judges being appointed instead of elected; and the constitution subject to change by the legislatures instead of by the whole people. Later on, it assumed to grant charters to states, although states had first granted the charter to it. It became a business institution when it took over the mail service and began operating that.

The state chartered other public corporations, including the county, the township, by inference, the road district and school district, as well as the city and town. These became less governmental than business in nature; for the town saw to the management of the streets; the county transacted road and bridge and business of record; the school district saw to the education of the children. The transaction of business has become a well recognized function of the public corporation in all its branches.

The Private Corporation.

SOME always see the possibilities of anything before all else. It, therefore, came that some saw the possibilities that lay in corporate organization ere it became apparent to all, and began to use it for their private gain before the people began using the corporation for general welfare. The first private corporation was the bank. By means of the national bank organization, the only private corporation chartered by the federal government, a few soon gained control of the money of the nation. So thorough is that control that most people imagine the whole people can not do anything for themselves unless they borrow money of the banks, paying interest for the use of it. This has led to the large national debt which now overshadows all. Yet the constitution expressly declares: "Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof," a charter to the federal government to monopolize money making.

AFTER the south was conquered numerous corporations were chartered having for their avowed purpose the exploitation of that helpless territory. Some of their work is remembered yet in connection with carterbagger days in that region. For twelve years that section was kept under military dictatorship, while the constitution, which made the president commander-in-chief of the army, was practically suspended in order to force the south into abject submission to New York city. But, so far from yielding, the south organized the Ku Klux clan, and resisted the aggression, even with vio-

lence. When the demand for railroads in the west became insistent, admitting of the use of the corporation in exploiting that region, the effort to subdue the south was abandoned for a time. But it was under a charter issued to the South Improvement company, and not used, which was purchased by Rockefeller for almost nothing, that the Standard Oil company gained the prestige which made it the power it is today.

Growth of Private Corporation.

The second corporation chartered by the government was the liquor interest. This grant does not appear in the guise of a genuine incorporation, but as a federal license. The result has been, in part, that the federal government licenses men to violate state law where prohibition or local option prevails, violating so the right of the state as outlined in its own constitution, and openly standing for lawlessness.

It was not until the fifties that the private corporation came into general vogue. Then it became necessary to do big things exceeding the power of the individual to do them, and the state government, instead of doing the work itself, began the chartering of private corporations. The federal government has not till this day chartered railroads and big industries, though there are some who, hesitating to assume the authority, wish congress to pass a law making the usurpation. The federal government, however, did make grants of lands and even of money to aid these private corporations. These land grants were not only violations of a trust, in that they gave away that which belonged to all, but they also placed the federal government in the anomalous position of encouraging the private corporation while disclaiming power to create it. The more to encourage it, federal courts, created by appointment and in no way responsible to the people, were brought into existence at the very time when the private corporation came into general existence, as if to defend them against the people—a thing they have done almost to the exclusion of all other work.

The private corporation was so notoriously a scheme of robbery that within a dozen years after it came into general life it precipitated the Credit Mobilier, the whiskey trust and other scandals, and resulted in the panic of 1872, perhaps the most severe one America ever experienced. In state affairs it resulted in chartering scores of railroads, to which were contributed by counties and townships various sums of money; and though many of these roads were never built, the federal courts saw that the counties and townships had to pay the bonds that were issued.

Grants of Piracy.

THE federal government was chartered by the whole people, the state governments (except for the thirteen original states) were chartered by the general government. It is doubtful if there is any authorization for the chartering of private corporations by either, and if all the charters and grants of land are not unconstitutional and therefore void.

The private corporation was char-

tered by certain states to do business in all states. This is exceeding the jurisdiction of state law. The mere fact that the head of business may be confined to the state issuing the charter does not change the fact that business is done, under the charter of, say New Jersey, in other states. The motive behind the business authorized by the private corporation is always and everywhere profit; therefore the charter (the franchise and license of the city being but different forms of the same thing) is merely a GRANT OF PIRACY. It is the same thing that was given by European nations in the sixteenth century. It has operated in various instances just as normal grants of piracy did; for the nations have compelled open markets with China; they have sent battle ships to collect debts due corporations, and they have fought wars to enforce the right to collect private tributes of profits on other lands. The private corporation becomes, then, unconstitutional from another viewpoint and utterly indefensible.

The Merging Period.

IT was not until the close of the last century and the beginning of this (less than twenty years ago) that the country ran wild on the idea of private corporations. About that time New Jersey, a little state lying adjacent to New York city, began chartering corporations to such an extent that all the expenses of the state were paid by the small fees that were given for issuing these grants of piracy. This little adjunct of that city issued to New Yorkers the authority to exploit all the states of the union, and even more, to exploit any foreign nation which they might wish. Nor this alone. It also permitted what is now known as watering of stocks, and merging of interests which gave the private corporation a strength greater in than that of all the rest of the nation combined. It was a deliberate selling out of the right of exploitation, an act of treason on the part of New York city and New Jersey. The result is apparent. Within twenty years New York city has become the dominant factor in America if not the world. It is richer than twelve of the western states combined. It has become master of the markets and raises prices for profit's sake to any point it may wish, until the whole people can hardly exist because of the high cost of living. The method differs scarcely at all from the piracy of the sixteenth century.

The Sale Established.

WHILE the private corporation does no more than the individual business man does in the way of exacting a tribute of profits, the fact that it operates under charter, franchise or license proves a sanction by the government which the individual operator does not possess. It is a direct grant to exploit the people, a monopoly of exploitation, proving a perversion of the government in the interest of the few and against the interest of the many. Not only is it a perversion of government, but it can exist only on the basis of a failure of the government or public corporation to do the service it was intended to do. The very fact that the public corporation has assumed the power of conducting schools and building roads and carrying mail proves the ability and right it may have to do

things. Instead of doing all it might it has delegated the doing of all those things where there are returns from the doing—that is to say, where there may be a tribute of profit—to private corporations. The fact that for this delegated authority it has taken license, incorporation and charter fees, proves its culpability. SHOWING A SALE. They, therefore who have granted incorporation papers, licenses or charters have SOLD the people in such a way that the price of the sale is apparent, and are to be RECKONED AS CRIMINALS.

It is another instance of the SALE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO CITIES, or to be more explicit, to a very few cities; and makes clear the reason for the fact that the cities have come to control America, bringing a problem of feeding the people as a very grave menace. There are no private corporations in the rural districts. It has depended on the public corporation for justice and protection, but has been betrayed. As a consequence of that betrayal the burden of maintaining the 90,000,000 people of America in food has been thrown on less than 15,000,000. A similar condition in other lands has enslaved Asia and Africa to Europe, or, more properly, to the cities of Europe; and thousands of the agriculturalists of India and other lands die of actual starvation every year. It is a condition that can be maintained only by a force of arms. It is for this reason that the nations of the world are arming to the bankruptcy of the people. Crime always compels further crime in order to maintain itself.

C. L. P.

THE average Socialist feels like he could enjoy thanksgiving this year—if he could get the turkey.

It was very good, but ought to have been a great deal better.



Big Business is again ready to raise the cost of living while sawing off the wages with which you might reach it

Who Pays the Taxes?

BY J. A. WAYLAND.

JONES pays the freight—but who the deuce pays Jones? All taxes are paid, and only paid, by the men who produce useful articles. In fact, all expenses of whatever nature or character are paid by the usefully engaged working class, and whenever anything is used to administer to the needs or pleasures of any person not so engaged with mind and muscle that thing is robbed by some device or other from the working class. It does not in the least alter the case if the non-producers are working—even at the most slavish labor—unless the labor is in itself productive. A large per cent of the people of all nations who are working with brain and brawn are as much non-producers and leeches as if they were looting in idle luxuriousness. All people in armies, in law, in personal service, as servants and lackeys, and in the making of useless ornaments, are non-producers—all are on the shoulders of and supported by unpaid useful labor.

That's What They Say.

Capitalism is founded upon the survival of the fittest—Socialism is founded upon the fittest to survive the brute.—*Socialist, Sydney, Australia.*

A non-Socialist is one who is willing to be robbed of \$10 in order to get a very slim chance to rob someone else of \$5.—*National Socialist, Washington.*

Sometimes a poor man who makes sacrifices for the cause of Socialism gets bawled out by his wife. On the other hand, it sometimes happens that John's wife, a Socialistic paper, and is openly sensible of the wrongs of the working class and the dark outlook for the future of her children, while John thinks of nothing but swapping horses and getting his friend nominated for sheriff on the old party ticket. Quite often, however, the husband and wife are both Socialists, attend the local together, and almost cease over which shall read the APPEAL first. "God bless our home!"—*Journal, Waco, Texas.*

When Warren Told the Truth

From speech of Fred D. Warren at Everett, Wash.

YOU know the mission of the newspapers in this country, and that is to lie. They have even accused the APPEAL of lying. I got my first newspaper experience when I was a boy. After my experience with the railroad I concluded to go into the newspaper business and I accumulated a lot of type and made a press and after I had installed this newspaper I went out on the street looking for news. The first thing that attracted my attention was Bill Shinn, the village drunkard, and I thought that would make a fine news item. I put it in type and the item ran something like this: "Bill Shinn, the village drunkard, is in town today on his usual spree." And I started out looking for subscribers and the first individual I met was this man's boy and he was about my size and in my innocence I thought people wanted the truth, and I handed him a copy of my paper, and I want to tell you, friends, that things happened in that old woodshed; that first issue of my newspaper was suppressed, my type was confiscated and the editor sent to the hospital for repairs. I there learned my first lesson in journalism and that is that it isn't always wise to tell the truth.

A little later on when I was editor of a republican paper, and I apologize to you for it—I am trying to live it down—I used to lie for the republicans. Now I am for the Socialists, trying to even up. When I became editor of this republican newspaper and when I saw Bill Shinn on the street I went back and wrote an item something like this: "William Shinn, our distinguished neighbor is in town today looking after his business interests, and of course when I printed that, William Shinn came around and bought up the entire edition and sent them back east. That is the kind of soft soap the newspapers hand to you. Listen, you know so powerful is the lying capitalist press of this country that they can make white look black and convince you that Dr. Cook discovered the north pole.

I want to say this to you this afternoon; that if I could write the headings over all the news dispatches that appear in the daily newspapers between now and November 5, then we would elect Eugene V. Debs president of the United States. The average man never gets much farther than the heading of the paper. The dispatch may say one thing and the heading may tell an entirely different story. And so the public reads the headlines, forms its judgment from these headlines and that is why most of the American people are in such dense ignorance all the time. And the curious thing about it is that the people who are deceived are the people who support these papers.

Not Under Competition.

Mankind has been trained for countless generations to hope for a reward proportioned to service. It has never got a reward so proportioned, and it will never get it under competitive industry.—*Socialism and Success, Ghent.*

TRAGICAL HUMOR.

Another Diaz has entered on the stage, strutted his little time, and is making his exit.

To add to the complexities of the Mexican situation Felix Diaz, a nephew of the Porfirio who was deposed by Madero, started an insurrection, the third or fourth one in the past two years, that opened auspiciously with the taking of Vera Cruz. Then, however, came the humorous part of the struggle. When Madero sent troops against him, the nephew of the old dictator forbade resistance, folding his arms and declaring the troops would surrender to him without a shot being fired. That was where he made the same error Mohammed made when he commanded the mountain to come to him. Instead of surrendering to him, as the troops sent to capture Napoleon did to the Little Corporal, they made prisoners of Diaz and his army. Now they talk of shooting Diaz; if he is not shot, he will likely be sent to San Juan de Unoa, the terrible prison his uncle established for the torture of his enemies.

The whole thing reads like a tale lifted from the days of the crusades. It is as incongruous as a chapter from Sancho Panza's history. But the days of the crusades are over. We are dealing now with the Twentieth century and modern capitalism. A few more breaks like that, and American capitalism will have the excuse it has long sought to rouse the American people to the point where they will interfere in the Mexican situation in the interest of modern ways if not of justice.

The comrade who wrote the following note card from Cleveland, Ohio, "I sent you about Sept. 1, 50 10-cent subs, all in the city of Newburgh, Ohio. Why don't they come. Did you send them to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Newburgh City, or a suburb of Cleveland. Hurry this correction and failed to sign it will please write to APPEAL TO REASON."

The Legal Department

We have all learned during the 1912 campaign how absolutely necessary it is to have men in our own party qualified to fill the offices, which require legal training. In our few counties and cities in the United States did we have men with such qualifications. The result was, we either had to leave the ticket blank, or nominate someone who everyone knew was utterly incompetent to fill the position. When a competent person is nominated on a ticket for any office, it always injures the chances of the other candidates. This difficulty will not arise again in our movement. Before another election we will have enough working class lawyers to fill these positions. We are anxious to have men with such qualifications to elect to them. We have passed one thousand mark in the APPEAL law class lawyers to fill these positions. Enroll now, we ought to have two thousand by the first of January.

An application came recently from an American Socialist now living in Paris, France. The thousand and more students are scattered here and there in every part of the United States, some in the Canal zone and some in the dominion of Canada. Inquiries and new enrollments reach us by every mail. Election is over and this is the best time to enroll and get to work. We are furnishing the best correspondence course in law that is to be had, and we will furnish you full information about it upon request. J. L. SHEPHERD, General, APPEAL TO REASON, Fort Scott, Kan.