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Proclamation on the Mexican War by The Socialist Party of America

Again we are being lashed into war by those who profit from war.

Capitalist drums are beating, trumpets blaring and forces recruiting.

All this that the nation may be goaded into war and the workers made to consent to shoot and be shot.

For centuries the resources of Mexico have lain dormant. Of late that country has been touched by the magic wand of capitalism and the same development is taking place there that always takes place when modern capitalism clashes with backward feudalism.

Ninety per cent of her population are still landless and propertyless. For hundreds of years her people have struggled against almost insurmountable difficulties to overthrow tyrants who have ruled and ruined them.

For hundreds of years the Mexican people have been in a state of continuous revolt because the great majority are in a condition of peonage. Robbed of their land in an agricultural country, the change from the Spanish rule to an independent republic avails the Mexican people little or nothing. So long as peonage remains, revolt must follow revolt.

In vain did the Mexican people elevate Madero to the presidency. Their hope that he would recognize their need and restore the land to the people was not fulfilled. They are still fighting to win Mexico for the Mexicans.

In Sonora, Durango and Chihuahua, where the revolutionists are in control, the people are taking possession of the land. Now, when the revolutionists believe that victory is in sight, the great American republic, controlled by sinister capitalist interests and without a declaration of war, lands an armed force on Mexican soil. No nation in modern times has ever begun hostilities upon a pretext so shallow as the flag incident at Tampico.

The war will inevitably unite all factions in Mexico against the invaders of their country. Their resistance to the forces of the United States must fail, yet it will cost thousands of lives through bullet, bayonet and disease.

In order to subdue Mexico, the American army must march across that country like Sherman marched to the sea. Our army will leave behind a

path of desolation, ruined homes and death.

And finally, when American arms have triumphed, who will be the winners? The American people will not win. The Mexican people will not win. German, English and American capitalists, backed up by our army, will exploit Mexico and the Mexican peon as capitalism always exploits the working people everywhere.

Moreover, the effect of the war on our own country will be deplorable.

War strengthens every force hurtful to civilization, every force hurtful to labor. While war lasts there will be no social legislation. Enough money will be used up in dealing death to human beings to provide old age pensions, accident, sickness and unemployed insurance for every worker in America for a generation.

Every piratical power will seize this opportunity to prey upon our people. Exploiting capitalism will meet every attack by wrapping the American flag around its plunder.

Remember that the capitalist class in Colorado, destroying with machine guns American workers struggling for better conditions, is the very same class that seeks to rule Mexico.

The Socialist Party is opposed, as a matter of principle, to every war of aggression. We believe that there is but one justification for war, and that is to fight for freedom. Our freedom has not been assailed by the Mexicans. There is no reason why American workingmen should leave their homes and families to have their bodies mangled on Mexican battlefields.

In the name of two million American Socialists, in the name of thirty million Socialists throughout the world, in the name of humanity and civilization, we protest against the war with Mexico.

BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

Victor Berger.
Adolph Germer.
Geo. H. Goebel.
James H. Maurer.
J. Stitt Wilson.

Attest: Walter Lanfersiek,
Executive Secretary.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR.

By Charles Edward Russell.

Washington, April 24. If one nation may make war upon another nation for any such reasons as were alleged to Congress for the war we are now making upon Mexico, there is an end of the pretense of civilization and peace on earth, and we are revealed as no better than a gang of savages.

If in these days war can be excused on such grounds, then it must be true that all our talk about arbitration treaties and international good will was but humbug and what we were really trying to do was to get other nations off their guard that we might seize and devour them.

With a single exception of the Boer war, which in modern times has ever been a hostility upon a pretense of self-defense as ours or had a cause so indefensible.

A boy in the street steps on my toe. He says he is sorry and his father comes to my house and adds his own expression of regret. I am not satisfied because I suspect he is not sorry enough. I say he must get down upon his knees and beat his head twenty-one times against the ground. He says he is willing to do it five times. I insist upon the twenty-one. When he refuses I get a gun and blow him to pieces.

Are we ready to endorse that kind of doctrine?

Turn the thing another way for a moment. Let us suppose that a warship of another nation was lying at New York—a warship of Sweden, for instance. A boat's crew comes ashore and lands at a spot that is forbidden by the regulations of the New York police. An officious lieutenant from the Forty-seventh precinct comes along with some policemen and arrests the boat's crew. When his superior discovers the arrest he orders the release of the prisoners. The mayor of New York apologizes for the error of the lieutenant. Then the president of the United States adds his apology. Then Sweden says that these apologies are not enough, and the entire navy of the United States must line up and fire salutes to the Swedish flag. What do you think we should do?

We should tell Sweden to go to, and lose no time about it.

But when exactly these things happen in Mexico to a boat's crew of Americans, we yell for our salute and overwhelm our small and weak neighbor with our battleships and great guns.

President Huerta offered to fire five guns. We insisted upon twenty-one. So the substance of the situation is that we are going to war for sixteen guns.

Grand spectacle for a Christian nation!

Where now are our peace societies and grand peace banquets? Where is our Carnegie Peace Foundation? Where is Elihu Root, that eloquent orator of the peace conventions? What did we mean when we sent to all nations proposals for disarmament? What do

we mean when in public papers and messages we speak of Christian duty and the precepts of the Christian religion?

After this most humiliating exhibition, who can have faith in us or our professions?

And let no man overlook the facts in this story that the newspapers are diligently concealing.

For more than three years there has been at work a sinister and powerful influence, manifestly bent upon forcing American intervention in Mexico. More than once the intervention desired by this influence has been but narrowly prevented. As often as it has been defeated, it has returned to the subtle attack. All men that know what is going on in Washington have been well aware of this power and its work. Some have detected in it the gigantic Oil Interests and some have seen the great American land owners, threatened with the loss of their property through the revolt of the Mexican peons. But all have recognized the Interests at their work.

So at last they have secured what they have been seeking so long. The United States is about to intervene in Mexico.

Because an officious Mexican subaltern arrested an American boat crew and released them with an apology.

ASTOUNDING THAT NOT A MAN IN CONGRESS WILL PROTEST AGAINST THIS PROCEEDING! ASTOUNDING THAT HARDLY A NEWSPAPER IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL REFUSE TO BE LED AWAY BY THE HYSTERICAL CRY THAT "WE MUST SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT"! ASTOUNDING THAT THE CHURCHES ARE SILENT AND THE MEN OF GOD HAVE NO PROTEST AND THE UPLIFTERS ARE INDIFFERENT AND THE REFORMERS HAVE NOT A WORD TO SAY!

But the Socialist party does not fail of its duty. We are opposed to war, whether undertaken for sixteen guns or for the plain purposes of pillage by a gigantic corporation. Always and under all conditions we are against it. We know, even if the clergy have forgotten, that at all times war is unnecessary, savage, beastly, murderous and detestable. If the Socialists must stand and protest alone, so be it. But at least they protest.

DEMAND ELECTION BE ANNULLED.

The Socialists and German members of the Baltimore parliament have introduced resolutions asking that the last local elections in their nation be annulled because of the violent and coercive character of the government. In the newly formed Turkish district where they have extensive influence, they are hoping to secure a number of independent representatives, the idea is to get to the point of electing the government. The delegates are demanding that the government be annulled and a new election held. It is thought that another election will be ordered within a few months.

HOLLAND MAKES PROGRESS.

The annual report of the Socialist party of Holland shows considerable progress. The number of members increased from 15,000 to 20,000 and the number of branches increased from 100 to 135, an increase of about 35%. Of the new members, 10% or 13 per cent are women. During the year, which took place in 1913, 370 new members were secured. The number of Socialists in the national house increased from 100 to 150 during the year, the vote increased from 100,000 to 150,000, while the number of municipal councilmen went from 121 to 247.

A PLEDGE.

I refuse to kill your father. I refuse to slay your mother's son. I refuse to plunge a bayonet into the breast of your sister's brother. I refuse to slay your sweetheart's lover. I refuse to murder your wife's husband. I refuse to butcher your little child's father. I refuse to wet the earth with blood and blind kind eyes with tears. I refuse to assassinate you and then hide my stained fists in the folds of any flag.

I refuse to be flattered into hell's nightmare by a class of well-fed snobs, crooks and cowards, who despise our class socially, rob our class economically and betray our class politically.

PROTEST AGAINST SCAB MINE.

Some mine owners near Huntington, Ark., have been trying to run a mine with scab labor. The people of the district don't seem to like the idea and 1,500 of them marched to a school house located about 150 yards from the mouth of the mine and held a protest meeting. The mine owners are trying to bring in the militia but it is hardly thought possible that they will be able to do so. Arkansas is not eager for the sort of advertising Michigan secured.

WIN IN ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Seven Socialists have been elected to the Argentine Chamber of Deputies. The total Socialist vote in Buenos Aires is said to exceed 100,000. In 1898 only 52 Socialist votes were cast in the entire country. Among those elected are Enrique Dickman, editor of La Vanguardia, the Socialist daily, and Antonio De Torres, national secretary of the party.

CELEBRATE TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY.

The Independent Labor party, the largest Socialist party of England, is twenty-one years old this month. A big conference and celebration will be held at Bradford where the first conference of the party was held. It is expected to be the greatest affair in the history of the English working class.

BELGIAN PARTY GROWS.

The report of the Belgian Socialist party for 1913 shows considerable growth. In 1910 the total membership was 292,584; in 1912 it increased to 327,821, and in 1913 climbed to 269,830. Over 126,000 members belong to trade unions.

TWO COUNCILMEN IN BURLINGTON.

Burlington, Iowa, joins the column with two Socialist councilmen. They also came within 224 votes of electing the mayor.

BRING SUIT FOR LIBEL.

During the Milwaukee campaign Mayor Bading charged the Socialists during the Seidel administration with having received a bribe from a local merchandise house and that the money had gone into the Socialist campaign funds. The Free Press and the Germania Herald published the story and Victor Berger and Emil Seidel immediately started suit against these two papers for libel. The matter is now in the courts.

BIG GAIN IN NEW JERSEY.

Gordon Demarest, Socialist, was not elected congressman from the Patterson, N. J., district, but he gave the old parties such a great scare that they will know hereafter the Socialists are a factor to be considered. The Democrats sent some of the ablest speakers they have in the country into the district. The final vote stood: Republican, 10,620; Democrats, 5,240; Socialist, 1,953; Progressives, 618.

JAMESTOWN GETS ALDERMAN.

The Socialists succeeded in electing one alderman in Jamestown, New York, though the Republicans carried the rest of the city.

CONGRESS PASSES BILL FOR WOMEN'S EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Washington.—The House of Representatives today passed a bill prescribing an eight-hour day for women employed in department stores, mercantile establishments and other institutions in the city of Washington.

This bill, should it become an act, would aid a large number of women employed by the local stores. It is the result of agitation waged by Socialists and unionists.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Socialist Party Press Service.

Washington, D. C., April 23.

Who are the men behind Wilson in forcing armed intervention in Mexico?

This is the question which is puzzling Washington, because Washington knows perfectly well that the American people do not want armed intervention in Mexico. Let the men behind the men behind the guns unmask and step forth, so that the workers of the United States may see who is using Wilson, Congress, and the army and navy to throw this country into months and years of deliberate murder.

Whoever wants this war is playing an old gag on the American people. They are playing the old gag called "the honor of the flag." They are appealing to the flimsiest of sentiments, and they are of course rallying to their support all the pinhead politicians who are accustomed to appeal to their constituents for votes in exactly the same manner.

Every newspaper correspondent in Washington who has a grain of sense knows that certain big interests are responsible for the manufacture of the war sentiment, and that beyond this artificial stimulation the war lust has been faked. Last week the correspondent of a big New York daily, in fact, telegraphed his editor a story picturing the antics of the Washington officials as those of characters in opera bouffe, but the story was not printed. Today, however, the time for laughing has passed; the comedy has become serious, and war impends.

The triviality of the excuse for armed intervention made by Wilson is so obvious that it is plain to all observers here that Wilson's pretense is nothing but a pretense, and that in the background there is some shrewd game being played by some shrewd individuals for ends best known to themselves. Wilson, the college professor, and Bryan, the "prince of peace" orator, have been used as the handiest instruments to take Mexico for those interests.

Representative Kent of California is the one member of Congress who told the whole truth when he voted against the resolution permitting intervention. What he said is this:

"This man Huerta, who has been branded as a bandit, a traitor, and a murderer by our government, has been asked to make an apology, an apology as head of a responsible nation, and this demand has come to us through a subordinate in the navy. What absurd logic is this that we are called upon to indorse? The man whom we do not recognize as the responsible head of the Mexican government has apologized, the man who committed the offense of arresting American sailors has been punished, and now because, forsooth, a little more gunpowder will not be burned than this particular underling in the navy thought ought to

be burned, we are declaring war.

"This resolution means war, and nothing short of it. This is no declaration of peace. This is not a declaration against one man. It is to every man who knows Mexico a declaration of war against the whole people of Mexico, and nothing else, for the moment we put armed forces into Mexico all the forces of racial antipathy, all of the old historic struggles will be revived, and we shall find that we shall have to take the country and rule it.

"It is all very well to say this resolution is in the interest of peace, but I, who have been in Mexico and know the people of Mexico, know how jealous they are of the aggressions of what they are pleased to call us—the gringos.

"Before we get through with the spanking of this man, whom we do not recognize even as spankable, we shall have upon us all the horrors, all the heartbreaks, all the waste and loss that will come of war.

"I believe as firmly as I stand here that by voting for armed intervention in Mexico we are condemning to death many of our own citizens who, without the passage of this resolution, would live happy lives. I can see no use or excuse at this time for picking trouble, for declaring war, on any such a petty or trivial basis as has been given. (Applause.)

"The honor of our flag is no more in the keeping of Mr. Huerta than it is in the keeping of a Papuan cannibal who might have eaten an American missionary who had a flag in his valise. The honor of the flag is involved in preserving a just peace in the world, in minding our own affairs, and in promoting the welfare of our own people along the lines of self-governing democracy and equalized economic opportunity. This is no case, in my opinion, to authorize intervention, to authorize the murder of American citizens in a useless war, for a useless war is murder, for which we collectively and each of us must assume responsibility."

But the papers did not print it.

Who are the men behind Wilson in forcing armed intervention in Mexico? They are the men who are doing exactly what they want with this country, with its government, and with the lives and happiness of its people. They are the real enemies of this democracy.

Seven PARTY BUILDER Sub. Cards for \$1.50

JAIL 104 UNEMPLOYED.

Los Angeles and the entire Pacific coast has a great unemployed problem on its hands. Men have flocked to the coast in answer to railroad advertisements, hoping to get work on the Frisco or San Diego road lines. The result is that California is overrun with unemployed men. Recently 104 men who could not secure work and had no place to sleep or eat, went out to the banks of the Los Angeles River and established a camp. They were raided by the police and arrested. In a conference in the chief of police's office, Socialist politician Fred C. Wheeler charged the police with acting under the direction of General O'Connell in raiding the camp of the unemployed and arresting the men. The police chief listened and uttered not a word of denial. It is costing the city at a rate of \$90 a day to try the cases of the men arrested, one man being placed on trial each day.

THOSE WHO WANT BLOOD.

If the masters want blood, let them cut their own throats.

We don't want other people's blood, and we refuse to waste our own.

Let those who want great victories GO TO THE FIRING LINE AND GET THEM.

If war is good enough to VOTE for or PRAY for, it is good enough to go to—UP CLOSE where bayonets gleam, swords flash, cannon roar, rifles crash, flesh rips, blood spurts, bones snap, brains are dashed; UP CLOSE where men toil, sweat, freeze, starve, kill, groan, scream, pray, laugh, howl, curse, go mad, and die; UP CLOSE where the flesh and blood of betrayed men and boys are ground and rounded into a red mush of mud by shrieking cannon balls, by the iron-shod hoofs of galloping horses and the steel-bound wheels of rushing gun trucks.

They say "War IS HELL."

THEN LET THOSE WHO WANT HELL, GO TO HELL.

—G. R. Kirkpatrick.

WHAT IS WAR?

War is:

For working class homes—emptiness.

For working class wives—heartache.

For working class mothers—loneliness.

For working class children—orphanage.

For working class sweethearts—agony.

For society—savagery.

For peace—defeat.

For death—a harvest.

For buzzards—a banquet.

For the grave—victory.

For worms—a feast.

For nations—debts.

For justice—nothing.

For "Thou shalt not kill"—boisterous laughter.

For "Put up thy sword"—a sneer.

For Christ—contempt.

For bankers—bonds, interest.

For big manufacturers—business profits.

For preachers on both sides—ferocious prayers for victory.

For leading business men, leading politicians, leading educators, leading preachers, leading editors, leading lecturers—for all of these windy patriots who talk bravely of war—never positions as privates in the army up close where they are likely to get their delicately perfumed flesh torn to pieces.

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SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE REPORTS FAVORABLE.

Washington. The first amendment was favorably reported to the Senate today, every member of Woman Suffrage Committee except Cannon, New Mexico, being for it. The Susan B. Anthony resolution to bring it again before the Senate. This resolution was introduced one year ago today by Senator Chamberlain, favorably reported, received majority vote, re-introduced, and again favorably reported in one year. No action has been taken on the Shafer resolution.

THE PARTY BUILDER

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CIRCULATE THIS PAPER.

The great daily newspapers of this nation exert a powerful influence in molding the thought of the nation.

They are now almost a unit in seeking to influence the public mind and plunge this nation into war.

The only organization in this nation that is committed to a policy of peace is the Socialist party. We are for peace because we represent the working class. The organized working class is opposed to war because one common bond of brotherhood unites the workers of the world.

In all countries of the world the working class are robbed of the fruits of their toil.

In civilized countries the workers organize into unions and use the strike. They join the Socialist party and vote.

In semi-civilized countries, like Mexico, they resort to arms and revolt.

If the workers have any interest in the Mexican struggle at all, that interest lies with the revolutionists who are fighting for land—a place to live.

If the intervention of the United States meant that the Mexican soil would be restored to the dispossessed peons, then our intervention would be in the interest of humanity and justice.

But when has a capitalist government ever intervened to assist the working class to win a nation?

The United States has the best developed capitalist system in the world.

Can we trust an administration that does nothing to assist the workers of Michigan and Colorado to gain the right to live, to establish justice for the working class in Mexico? Can we expect that when Washington turns a deaf ear to the workers of our own land, that this same administration will help to overthrow capitalism in Mexico?

We distrust the motives behind the armed invasion of Mexico. We see in it only a shrewd move of the oil interests, the mining interests, the landlords and other exploiters of the Mexican people to save their property.

So with what means lies in our power, we protest. We have issued this edition of The Party Builder to register that protest.

We have hurried it to the press in the form most effective for distribution.

We ask you to distribute this edition.

THE BOMB-SHELL THAT HENRY FORD FIRED

The Socialist movement of the world claims many of the great writers. Many honored names are on the list, but the man whose name has been attached to more pieces of propaganda literature than any other is Allan L. Benson.

The National Office sold in 1912 two millions of his pamphlet, THE GROWING GROCERY BILL, which created a sensation, being one of the cleverest and most timely pieces of literature ever written.

He also wrote THE USURPED POWER OF THE COURTS, a stinging indictment, much needed at the time, and no less valuable now. The National Office has distributed 200,000 of this pamphlet.

Last summer THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM came out; one of the clearest and most readable expositions of Socialism ever written. More than 50,000 of this twenty-five-cent book have been sold, and it is still a steady seller and will be for years.

Recently Pearson's Magazine printed an article by Benson, called THE BOMB-SHELL THAT HENRY FORD FIRED, a piece of work as monumental as The Growing Grocery Bill. It will appeal to the farmer as well as the city wage worker; to the business man, big or little; to the professional man, to the wife and mother. Just as The Growing Grocery Bill was the biggest stunt in 1912, so this will be the big thing in the coming congressional campaign.

Benson shows that Henry Ford proves most of the Socialist claims. We have said that the worker under Socialism could have a living equivalent to what a \$2,000 income could give him under capitalism. Ford, the automobile maker, gives his floor sweepers \$5.00 a day, and his more skilled workmen more than that, and yet he is giving back to them, in increased wages, only half his profits. Benson shows how the trusts and all big business COULD AFFORD to do what Ford has done, and PROVES IT. So our claims have not been dreams. We have been practical, we have been awake, and it is up to you to awaken the other fellow.

You must read this pamphlet. You must distribute a million this summer. I assure you it is the "goods" and you need not hesitate. We believe enough in this pamphlet to print a half million of them right off the bat, and we know that will not be enough. One little request in The Party Builder has brought advance orders for more than 50,000, even before its printing was assured. We cannot promise another edition, so if you want to use this in your district, you had better get your order in. You will not find another piece of printed matter with such a general appeal and at such a cheap price.

Benson has generously agreed to waive his royalty, and Pearson's and Huebsch (who have the book rights) have given permission to use it; so we can sell you this 16-page booklet at the dirt cheap price of \$2.50 per 1,000, if you buy 10,000. Four copies, 64 pages, for one cent. Can you beat it? It will be the same size and style as The Growing Grocery Bill.

PRICES

10,000 copies, you paying express	\$25.00
1,000 copies, prepaid	3.50
500 copies, prepaid	2.00
100 copies, prepaid50
50 copies, prepaid35

THE SOCIALIST PARTY
803 WEST MADISON ST. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Provision has been made for printing an unlimited quantity. The prices are \$3.00 per thousand, prepaid. There is no time to lose if we would make this protest effective.

Call your comrades together and raise what money you can, and order copies of this issue for distribution among your fellow-workers.

Seven PARTY BUILDER Sub. Cards for \$1.50

VICTORIOUS IN GRAND RAPIDS.

Charles G. Taylor, Socialist, has been elected member of the Grand Rapids, Mich., school board. He received a plurality of 6,565, which is the largest given any candidate elected. Taylor was formerly a school teacher and is now a laborer in a furniture factory.

ALMOST ELECT MAYOR.

Socialists of Sioux City, Iowa, succeeded in electing Fred Martin to the City Council. They also came within 27 votes of capturing the mayor's office. The Socialists gave the old gang politicians a close race throughout the city and it is only a short time before Sioux City will surely join the red column.