

From Barren Creeds Man Turns To Life

Alfred Russell Wallace, the man who shared with Darwin the glory of proving to man that he is a rising, instead of a fallen angel, is dead, aged 91. A great worker! A man who devoted a career which stretched far beyond the usual term to a tireless hunt for the great facts of life, and who, with his mind's keenly, and the solemn and profoundly melancholy written statement: "I have come to the general conclusion that there has been no advance either in intellect or morals since the days of the earliest Egyptians. There exist in our midst horrors and dreadful diseases never known before. Our whole social environment is rotten, full of vice and everything is bad." To millions of Mexicans, inhabiting a vast and fertile country, their blanket is their home. Tens of thousands of Americans and Englishmen, members of nations justly proud of their record for intelligence and industry, will see today's sun go down without knowing where the commonest worker will allow them to rest their heads. "Our whole social environment is rotten," rotten to its core.

Speaking in Los Angeles recently, Tom Mann quoted the late Prof. Huxley's deliberately-recorded statement that, as between being born a British workingman and a South Sea savage, he would choose unhesitatingly the latter lot. Huxley was no penny-artist, writing what the public or the "interests" are supposed to want. He was a man of wide observation and fearless thought; a co-worker with Darwin; one of the few incorruptibles whom Science honors justly by honoring. He generally may be said that the really great men of science are a unit in their sweeping condemnation of existing institutions, which have to seek their justification—and that a miserably half-hearted one—among the prettily-scientific exhortations who have donned plutocracy's livery and earn their living as lackeys in its train. No really scientific man; no man who devotes himself to the examination of facts with the sole object of deducing from them the true conclusion, can have the slightest tolerance for social arrangements as they exist today. No such man can be, at heart, other than a revolutionist. The reddest of the red, agreeing with Wallace that "our whole social environment is rotten"; agreeing with Huxley that it is better to be anything than a common British or American workingman; agreeing with me when I write that the condition of the homeless Mexican and the shelterless Englishman or American is decisive, absolutely decisive, placing the matter beyond the pale of argument, and leaving as open for discussion only the question of how things can be altered.

One thing is clear as crystal, viz., that no man of our generation—no man ever high his social rank or proud his culture, need be ashamed to call himself a revolutionist; the reddest of the red. He has ample warrant, both from the company in which he will find himself and from the facts themselves. On the other hand, if a man can look on the game as it is played today and remain trustful as to the future of his country; if he can view the buying and selling of what we still call "justice" and retain his faith in the stability of existing institutions; if unmoved he can witness the incessant spectacle of those who do the hardest work living in a poverty against which sheep would rebel, while thieves who corner necessities, and vampires who live on the boardings of the dead, pass parasitic existences that leave them without one shred of character; if this is a man's state of mind, then will he have cause to be alarmed. He may play at being alive, but he is practically dead; and the best thing for him would be to find himself in Mexico, with federals and rebels alternately taking pot shots at him.

I should like to know why a self-respecting, poor, living in Mexico, should not turn bandit. I should like somebody to explain to me why it is not braver and nobler for a man to help himself freely than to cringe beneath the whip, working from sunrise to sunset for a beggar's pittance, and at disgusting tasks, with the knowledge that his children after him must pass through the same hideous hell. I should like to know what people mean by ironing out their faces over the girl who deliberately prefers prostitution to the brutal existence inevitable if she become a common laborer's lawful wife, in the United States or Europe. I should like to know why men should not choose any way of earning money rather than that of sticking pigs ten hours a day for Armour, or shovelling ore into white-hot furnaces for the Guggenheims, or becoming flunkies to empty-headed dukes who regard them as sticks of furniture. I should like to know why modern man should not be on fire with the spirit of revolt, and why it should, not exhibit itself in what are called "criminal" tendencies, of the most socially destructive type. Indeed, that is exactly what is happening. The herd is breaking through the legal corral at every point, to the frantic alarm of all the goody-goodies who think man was brought into this world expressly to be corrupted.

Wallace saw no improvement since early Egyptian days, and in the same paper that gave me this information I read an address by President Faunce of Brown University, who had just returned from the Orient. He discovered that there no one dares stand alone; that in India caste divides all life, and he considers that the real conflict will come when the growing individuality of the West comes into contact with that denatured herd which priestcraft long since welded into a disciplined, spineless mass; in which custom, reaching out its shivelled hand from the tombs of ancestors buried in forgotten cen-

Mexican Notes

part of Mr. Lind's task was the securing assurances that the Mexican congress should not be convened again, as proposed by Huerta. To such convening President Wilson had two rooted objections; first, it would clothe Huerta with the respectable garment of an apparent legality, and, secondly, it was considered certain that such a Congress would immediately take in hand the all-important questions of OIL CONCESSIONS. Money must be got, one understands.

Another important act opens with William Bayard Hale, President Wilson's personal representative, as the star. He had a long session with Carranza and his cabinet at Nogales, Nov. 12. The Associated Press describes the meeting as having been considered by both sides as epoch-making; as probably deciding the question of peace or war, "the salvation or destruction of a nation." Of course the nation is Mexico, and the implication is that if she does not come to terms she will be destroyed. Its correspondent reports that great secrecy is maintained, but that "among guarantees demanded were said to be restoration of general order in a reasonable time, safety of Americans and other foreigners, and the ultimate establishment of honest representative government."

Writing for himself alone, the editor of this section wishes to remark that Carranza, a lawyer, well-to-do, eminently respectable, is simply Madero over again; ready, as Madero was ready, to form an alliance with the money power of the United States for the sake of getting into power, and restoring that law and order imperatively necessary to the preservation of Monopoly's life. Carranza is a well-to-do lawyer. Of course he stands for land monopoly, orderly and so-called representative government, and all that is so dear to people of his class and social rank. Men always seek the alliance that is natural. To whom, do you suppose, do men of the Carranza type find themselves most attracted, alike by financial interest and taste—to the unlettered cultivator of Mexico's soil, or to the polished gentleman who can negotiate in courtly phrases and is thoughtfully at home among those legal documents over which the peon vainly cracks his head?

Note that in the reported "demands" not a word is said about the restoration of their lands to the Mexican disinherited; not a word about the abolition of their poverty. Simply the restoration of order and the establishment of that representative system for which the peon does not care one jot, and which has proved to the disinherited of Europe and the United States the MOST ENSLAVING FAKE EVER IMPOSED UPON THE CREDULOUS.

The present position in Mexico is this. The Presidential chair is occupied by a gentleman who got there by the sword, and rules frankly by the sword. It is sought to be occupied by a gentleman who proposes to get there by the purse, a foreign purse; backed, of course, by arms, and foreign arms.

Carranza declares that, if permitted to import arms, he can quickly gather an army of 100,000 men and capture Mexico City. Let him not be overconfident. Public opinion in Mexico may come to the conclusion that he is merely the tool of the United States, in which case he may grow even more unpopular than did Madero. The arms imported may be used for purposes very different from those he contemplates today. Representative Manu, the Republican leader, evidently understands this, for he is reported as saying that "it would be just as safe to allow the issuance of arms to highwaymen as to the bandits of Carranza's army." However, there is now much talk among United States politicians of the desirability of allowing the Constitutionalists to import arms and ammunition, and President Wilson is said to be leaning to that view.

To Texas Workers

There are moments in the lives of communities when all men and women, must show unanimous activity and, forgetting differences of opinion, unite solidly for the defense of the work.

Such a moment has now arrived in Texas, and it is now that the workers of that State, in view of the black persecution being conducted against their Mexican comrades by the authorities, must unite and decide to take up their defense, energetically and conscientiously.

In the prisons of Southern Texas are more than a dozen Mexicans belonging to the Mexican Liberal Party, who were arrested in the neighborhood of Carrizo Springs last September. These revolutionists are workingmen who were on their way to Mexico, that they might fight for the cause of the workmen; that cause which proclaims Land and Liberty for all and seeks to make of all Mexican men and women, instead of being slaves and dependents on the master and official, as they are today, free masters of themselves, working their own land and running their own industries at their own will, and enjoying the fruits of their labors. These men are not criminals. No! They are men who left their firesides, tore themselves from their families and despired a peace that would be infamous, that they might fight for the happiness of their race and of their class—that happiness which can come to the peoples of the earth only by the implantation of economic liberty.

These revolutionists are men of brave personality who, by their record in the past, by the sufferings they have undergone at the hands of the Mexican and United States authorities, which are opposed to the Mexicans becoming free, and by their deeds, written in blood on Mexico's battlefields, have won for themselves a place in the hearts of their class. These men are not criminals. We repeat it still more loudly, they are not criminals; and in the government of Texas accuses them of murder, it is due to the hatred with which all Mexicans conscious of their rights inspire them, and to the cause which continues society in its present state of corruption. It is due to that race prejudice against the Mexican which runs high in Texas; a race prejudice exhibited everywhere—in barber shops, hotels and restaurants; it is due to thirst for Mexican victims, to be immolated for the satisfaction of the cowboy's savage yell.

Rangel and the other comrades are not guilty. The lawyer for the defense declares that the authorities cannot find the revolutionists responsible for the crime of which they are accused, but that the juries are sentencing them against the law and against the evidence, owing to the influence exercised by the sheriffs of the different counties. And this is the crime we must prevent. Innocent men must not be made to stand on the scaffold or be sentenced to the penitentiary.

Infamous Texas!

Chained together like wild beasts, Charlie Cline and his comrades, guilty of a crime, not even yet having stood trial, are marched into prison in San Antonio. They are all well and hearty; their pack of white-skinned Apaches trailing and howling at their heels. And this is done in the sacred shadow of the Alamo! And we are told that we must "respect the courts and the law!"

You are not asked to take our rebel word for it either, but the word of the San Antonio "Daily Express," one of the most "respectable" of all the kept press that serves the Government of "Sultan" Paoli and "Whiskey Ring" Oscar. Says the "Express": "Chained together, the eleven members of the band of smugglers, ammunition-runners, alleged to have killed Deputy Sheriff Ortiz and wounded ex-Sheriff Beck last month near Carrizo Springs, arrived in San Antonio yesterday afternoon in charge of T. H. Poole, Sheriff of LaSalle County. They were brought to San Antonio on a change of venue granted by the district judge at Cotulla. "The prisoners were met at the train by Sheriff John W. Tobin, Deputy Sheriff Alfonso Newton and other deputies. They were marched to the County Jail and there locked up. "District Attorney W. C. Linden, who will be associated with the district judges of LaSalle and Dimmit counties in the prosecution, said that no trial could be given the alleged smugglers until after January 1, as the criminal statutes of the Thirty-seventh District Court have been made up to that time. It is planned to try the men separately. "CHAINED TOGETHER! And yet convicted of no crime, only under charges of being guilty of committing the impossible crime of murder by killing a Texas 'deputy sheriff,' one Ortiz, a member of as merciless, unscrupulous and corrupt a force of Rurles as ever cursed the earth, those hired assassins of the land, lumber, fruit, sugar, oil and railroad kings, whom the scalwags of the Democratic party have commissioned to protect the loot plundered from the 'Conquered South' by British and Yankee carpet-baggers—assassins armed by traitors to their native land to keep the southern working class forever in the bonds of peonage, forever in the rags of tenancy."

Working men and working farmers of Texas and the South, we are no longer men if we let this crime against these soldiers of humanity and freedom be committed in the shadow of the Alamo!—("The Voice of the People.")

OUR TEXAS COMRADES.

The eleven trials of our Texas comrades will be held in San Antonio in January, and the time for propaganda being very limited, it is most important that there should be no needless delays. The I. W. W. papers are giving these cases some publicity, but unfortunately they have the Wheatland and a great number of other important trials also on hand. J. W. Kelly of St. Louis has written us encouragingly, and we have heard from Vincent St. John; his letter notifying us of the appointment of the Committee of Defense at San Antonio, Tex., with Elisa Aleman, P. O. Box 52, Station A, San Antonio, Tex., as secretary. We noted in last week's issue the formation of this committee.

The Rangel-Cline Defense Fund is actively at work sending out circular letters, and leaflets with particulars of the cases, to hundreds of presumed sympathizers, secretaries of labor organizations and editors, having had printed five different sets of appeals and a subscription blank. It is as yet too early for general responses to the matter so mailed, but the fund has to acknowledge the receipt of \$12.60, collected by Comrades R. A. Doramie and J. T. Doran at a street meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., and forwarded by the latter, who is secretary of I. W. W., Phoenix.

Another Affidavit.

Simply in order that the public may not forget the general record. Not in the hope any longer of procuring the release of our comrades in McNeil Island penitentiary, but with some faint hope that we may arouse Americans to the principles—if one could call them such—on which the administration of the criminal law is run by professional man-hunters, greedily for fees and not without ambition, do we give space to another affidavit bearing on the method pursued to convict the imprisoned members of the Mexican Liberal Party, Junta. The story has grown so monotonously stale that you feel the need of giving this brief introduction as an apology. It should be considered that the plight in which our fourteen comrades imprisoned in Texas find themselves must be much worse; for that State has a record infamously notorious to every student of criminology.

On Oct. 20, 1913, Cernersindo Valenzuela, being duly sworn, in the City of Los Angeles, deposed as follows: "That, on the thirteenth day of May, 1911, he was arrested in the city of Los Angeles on a charge of forgery and taken to the Los Angeles County Jail. "That a search of his clothing and other effects showed that he was a member of the Mexican Liberal Party and that thereafter, and regularly every week during the first two months of his imprisonment in the said County Jail, he was taken to the Federal Postoffice building, questioned closely by officials, with the aid of interpreters, as to his connection with the Magons and other members of the Organizing Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party, against whom indictments were then pending, and assured by the said officers that he need have no fear of the charge being pressed against him if he would consent to testify against the Magons and their co-defendants. "That he refused consistently so to testify, inasmuch as such testimony would have been perjurious, and that after two months the officials gave up said attempts and, he the deponent, lay in the County Jail five and a half months awaiting trial. "That he was assured by said interpreters that, if he would testify as desired, he would receive three dollars a day during the trial. "That subsequently, to-wit, on the 30th day of October, 1911, he was brought to trial and sentenced to twenty-six months' imprisonment in the Federal penitentiary at McNeil's Island, having pleaded guilty because he had no money with which to bring, from Beaumont, California, the witnesses who would have testified in his favor; and because he was advised that all influences were against him, although he was in reality entirely innocent of the offense charged. "That at the time when he was arrested the officer who made the arrest, one Talamantes, declared in the deponent's hearing that, whether guilty or not, he the deponent, should be convicted and sent to prison. "That it was matter of common knowledge in the County Jail during deponent's detention there that all possible inducements were being held out to those who would consent to testify against the Magons and their co-defendants, and that deponent was convinced at the time and is still so convinced that he would not have been prosecuted or sentenced as aforesaid if he had testified as desired.

THE REAL ARMAGEDDON.

This is the world's great conflict, now begun in Mexico. Whichever way the drift may temporarily go, the final result will be a complete religious, political and economic revolution, not only in Mexico, but in the U. S., and soon to follow in all Latin America. How is that? Because it cannot be prevented. Capitalism, Religion and Despotism will line up together. It will be a final struggle for their existence, and in it they have got to spend their every effort.

In this struggle let the U. S. keep hands off Mexico, otherwise than to furnish arms and ammunition to the real revolutionists. Let no one be surprised at this proposition. The powers will be busy in Mexico, and when they set foot on her soil there will be a movement started that cannot be stopped until it has fulfilled its mission. The bandits think they have got the world in their grasp, with its wealth and religious and military power at their back. You, sleepy Lobsters, Labor cranks, Socialists, Anarchists, Won't Works and What Nots, WAKE UP! There's going to be a collision that will shake you out of your slumbers. (Lucien Stebbins in "The People's Press.")

Mass Meeting.

In commemoration of the Chicago Anarchist Martyrs a mass meeting will be held at Manzanillo Hall, 517 S. Broadway, Sunday, Nov. 16, 8 p. m. This meeting will be under the auspices of the Rangel-Cline Defense Fund, and properly so; it being felt that there is serious danger of the Haymarket Tragedy being repeated in Texas, and that, while it is well to keep in memory the men who perished on the scaffold, Nov. 11, 1887, it is still better to save revolutionists of today from a similar fate.

Admission will be free, and there will be speeches in English, Spanish and Italian.

Protest Meeting.

At the Young People's Socialist Lyceum Auditorium, 116 1/2 E. 3rd St., Monday evening, Nov. 17, 8 p. m., there will be held a protest meeting in connection with the arrests growing out of the hop-fields tragedy at Wheatland, Cal. The call issued states that it is to "protest against the brutal actions of the exploiting landowners in California, who are trying to send to the gallows and prisons a handful of workers that had the courage to ask for better conditions under which to live and work." Able speakers, representing various working class organizations, are promised, and admission will be free.

Mexico's Present Position.

Naturally the annual speech delivered by the British Prime Minister, Nov. 10, at the Lord Mayor's banquet, has attracted much attention. According to the Associated Press report he expressed himself as follows: "Our interests in Mexico call for vigorous care. It is still in the throes of a civil war, but there never was and never has been any question of political intervention by Great Britain in the domestic concerns of Mexico, or in the Central or South American States.

"IT IS NO PART OF OUR DUTY TO PREVENT REVOLUTIONS OR CONTROL CIVIL WARS. The utmost we can do is to give what protection is possible on the coast to British subjects and property. There have been rumors that after the United States had adopted a line of their own in regard to Mexico we took a line calculated deliberately to thwart America. There is not a vestige of foundation for such a rumor."

We all direct attention to the passage we have capitalized, as showing that Great Britain is today the true upholder of the original Monroe doctrine, while the United States have twisted it into a call to interfere wherever a weaker nation is not running things to its particular liking. Mr. Asquith went on to explain that his government had recognized Huerta because, "having neither the will nor the power to intervene, we were bound to deal with the de facto government."

Bryan has made public the text of the note presented by Huerta to the foreign diplomats in Mexico City. It contains a most solemn pledge that he will on no account accept the position of President, even if the count of votes should show him to have been elected, since he considers himself barred by the constitution from doing so. He declares his one anxiety is to secure a free election and fulfill his "sacred duty of consulting the national desire to consecrate by the suffrage of the people the executive who is to rule definitely the destinies of the country." Fine language! Huerta boasts publicly that he is of pure Indian stock, and no man knows better than he how little the Indian constitutes, pure and mixed, some three-fourths of Mexico's population—believes in "consecrating" a ruler by voting for him.

As the name of Japan crops up constantly in Mexican discussions, it may be worth noting that at the Guildhall banquet the Japanese ambassador specifically denied the rumors that the Anglo-Japanese alliance would be abrogated. Among other things he said: "I hope the alliance will ever continue, as a guarantee of peace and the consolidation of our mutual interests."

Looks Like Real Crisis.

The despatches of Nov. 12, published just before we got to press, indicate a really critical situation. Lind has taken his final departure from Mexico City; a departure rendered all the more significant by the fact that he waited from 6 o'clock until midnight in the despairing hope that Huerta would reply to the ultimatum he had presented. He waited in vain, and Nelson O'Shaughnessy, the American charge d'affaires, found his attempts to get into personal touch with Huerta fruitless. Thus ends the curious experiment of trying to talk a gentleman off the throne; doing the talking, moreover, through interpreters.

It is understood that the essential

Work! Comrade workmen of Texas and by aiding the defense save a phalanx of Mexican day-laborers who are guilty of no other crime than that of combating for the people's liberties.

From all Texas; from El Paso to Beaumont; from Amarillo to Laredo; from Texarcana to Brownsville, let this be the cry:—"Liberty for Rangel, and the other Mexican comrades!"

Let the day laborer in the cotton fields and the miner in the coal-bearing depths, the railroad section-hand and the woodcutter in the mezzquits, answer this appeal and show the public that the Mexican workmen of Texas are defenders of their race and of their class.

(From the Spanish of Antonio de P. Araujo, a former resident of Texas.)