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EDITORIAL

## MEXICO AND CHINA.

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**T**HE Spanish language may be mightily different from the Chinese, yet the thoughts expressed through either medium are identical. Similarly with the attitude of President Woodrow Wilson towards the two Republics. It is one, tho' the subjects seem unlike.

Woodrow Wilson's first official act concerned China—and the act sent a chill down the back of plutocratic politics.

Under the Taft Administration the instincts of politicians and financiers had converged upon China as a promiscuous quarry. Gold, lying idle in Wall Street, wished to be planted abroad, but that required the politician's backing; political aspirations after world-notoriety, stored up in the White House and the Department of State, panted to exert themselves on the international field. The downfall of the Manchu dynasty and the rise of a Republic winked to both high financiers and politicians as their opportunity. They took the wink. The financiers say the politicians approached them; the politicians counter-claim that the financiers took the initial step. At any rate, they merged. The result was a pact between the White House and Wall Street. Wall Street was to stand ready with the cash, while the White House was "diplomatically" to push Wall Street into a seat at the table around which European financiers were gathering ready for a raid upon China, and thus to acquire actual political power on the vast territory of the new Republic. Old Roman patricians, whetting their avaricious fangs for material gains and political glory over some distant neighbor, were not in it with the White House and Wall Street.

That was the situation that Woodrow Wilson found. Instantly he demolished the wicked scheme. With a public statement he notified Wall Street that it would have to paddle its own canoe, and the Republic of China that the White House

would keep its hands clear of her domestic affairs.

How about Mexico?

A pirate crew, euphonically styled by our press “the thousands of Americans who invested their capital in our neighbor Republic” had for years, and in increasing numbers, pounced upon Mexican “opportunities.” It was, indeed, “opportunities.” Besides the riches that lay there for the asking, there were, in Mexico, the aspirant native capitalists greedy for gain, even at the cost of turning their land into one vast peon pen, and, in Washington, the politicians, ready to play at a diplomacy that should fill their pockets while affording them the opportunity to pose as “civilizers” and as glorious patriots, ready to be protectors of American citizens, “wherever they might roam.” The game succeeded for a long while. The consequence was that Mexico was kept in constant trouble, culminating, with the able assistance of the Taft representative, Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson, in the Huerta-Diaz Administration. Was the game to be prolonged? Was treachery and assassination, and the negation of all constitutional order to be condoned at Washington under the false pretence of Christianity and civilization, and “protection of property”?

That was the situation that confronted Woodrow Wilson. Undeceived by Ambassador Wilson, his judgment undethroned by the noise that the “thousands of Americans” paid our subsidizable press to make, his hands unforced by the “war interests,” the President virtually sent the Taft Ambassador packing, and virtually notified would-be American “developers of Mexico” that, under his Administration, the Federal Government will refuse to be degraded into a bruiser for “entrepreneurs” abroad.

Identical is the language held by Woodrow Wilson concerning China and concerning Mexico. The language is the lofty language of self-respecting manhood. As such it deserves admiration. Even tho’ the holder of the language be a representative of Capitalist Society, the integrity is a breath of the approaching Socialist Republic.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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