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EDITORIAL

THE MEXICAN LIBERAL PARTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE advocates of the Mexican Liberal Party—"Partido Liberal Mexicano"—express decided mistrust of, if not antipathy for, the party that Madero has called to arms and is still keeping in the field. They say Madero's is a rich man's movement. This sentiment, combined with the Liberals' admission that Madero aims, not merely at the overthrow of the individual Diaz, but also at the establishment of the principle of One Term, a principle dear to the Liberals themselves, justifies a closer inspection of the Liberal program.

This may be divided into two main categories—one, political or of form; the other, economic, or of substance.

The demands of the former category are such as one is familiar with in all movements that make head against autocracy. They limit power, and strip it of its clerical and kindred wardrobe. Historically they are known as "radical bourgeois demands."

The demands of the latter category are less easy to classify.

The prohibition of what is known in the United States as the "pluck-me store" iniquity, common in mining regions especially; the prohibition of child labor under fourteen years, and not the absolute prohibition of the child labor crime; the establishment of a maximum rate of wages, thereby recognizing the sanctity of private ownership in the necessaries for production;—these and similar clauses savor of the demands of Labor Parties in their infancy, at the stage of nonage, when the working class is yet in the dark upon the mysteries of capitalism; still imagines the Beast's claws can be clipped; still indulges in visions of possible prosperity and freedom; and has not yet "seen the cat," which to see is equivalent to realizing that it is easier far to end than mend the feline. In short these demands denote an awakening but still groping proletarian class instinct.

On the other hand, such economic demands, or demands of substance, as the suppression of all taxes upon a capital of less than \$100,000, and the expropriation by the Government of all lands not in use—these and such other demands typify small-bourgeois aspirations, the aspirations of a class that resists domination from superior economic powers, and at the same time seeks to profit by its own superior to dominate the Proletariat's inferior economic power.

The analysis of the Mexican Liberal Party's program places the same in a unique category. If it correctly reflects the country, then it indicates that the country of whose conditions it is born, itself occupies a unique position. It would indicate that Mexico—too advanced to produce a party of anti-political autocracy pure and simple; not advanced enough to produce a party of anti-economic autocracy, pure and simple, that is a party of Socialism;—is now traversing a period in which phrases about “the poor” and “freedom” have not yet crystallized into definite meaning, and in which a sort of hippopotamus party—partly of the water, partly of the earth: partly bourgeois, partly proletarian—is the *deus ex machina* of the situation.

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