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REBELLION

Made Up of
Dreams and Dynamite

VOL. I.

MAY, 1915.

NO. 3



O' Man
O'Whatstheuse

"Texas Justice" Searchlighted

The Harvest Dance

Edited every month in the City of New Orleans
by Covington and kept by the Clan of Free-
Footed Rebels. Subscriptions: One Year, One
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REBELLION

COVINGTON HALL

Editor and Publisher

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

REBELLION is the outcome of my own and the expressed desire of many Rebels in different organizations for a magazine wherein could be discussed many things that cannot well be dealt with in official journals. It is not the organ of any organization nor the champion of any ism, save that the fundamental idea of it is to support at all times the Unity of the Working Class. It is sent free to no one. If it comes to you for only one issue it has been paid for by some Rebel. It cannot be distributed free, no more than anything that costs an act of labor. I cannot maintain it without YOUR help. Therefore, if YOU think it should live send in your subscription by return mail and as many others as you can. Note the sub-blank on last page and make use of it, please. Outside the offers made in this number, we make you the following proposals: Send in 50 cents for the subs of yourself and friends for EIGHT (8) MONTHS, and, if REBELLION suspends within THREE MONTHS, I will send each of you, free of further cost, a book of the "Songs of Love and Rebellion." Or, in clubs of two or more, we will send you REBELLION for One Year for 75 cents a sub, with the same offer of the Songs in case of suspension. This number is the crucial issue, will practically decide the fate of REBELLION. If you think it should live, let me hear from you by return mail, with your subscription or any donation you may see fit to give.

Yours in the struggle for Freedom,
COVINGTON HALL.

OUR FATHERS' WAY.

(By Covington Hall)

Or right or wrong, like men they fought,
Like men they lived, like men they wrought,
Like men they died—like men!—like men!—
How changed the Breed twixt now and then!

Then, blow for blow and woe for woe,
They brooked no insults from the foe;
And side by side, and man to man,
They rode together in the Clan.

They swore to swear to truth or lie,
To win together or to die;
So, come what would, no man was loth,
For by their blood they sware this oath.

They laughed to scorn the gunmen's might,
And forayed thru the fog-hung night;
From mountain crag and swampy dell
Like sheeted ghosts upon them fell.

They had no use for currish tricks,
The sophistries of politics;
Of Plundercrats they had no awe,
No ermined crook to them was law.

* * * * *

The wood was thick—the moon was bright—
The Clansmen knew that might was right.

"TRIALS" OF RANGEL AND CLINE; OR, "TEXAS JUSTICE" SEARCH- LIGHTED.

(By Covington Hall)

ITA EST.

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them (the people) under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." Thus spake our fathers in their Declaration of Independence, and I challenge whoso dares to answer to say that Rangel and his comrades would not have been justified and honored in our fathers' eyes.

"The crime of the oppressed is a demand for justice."—Judge Ben B. Lindsey.

"And these things we do that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."—Abraham Lincoln.

"The earth belongs by right of use to the living."
—Thomas Jefferson.

"Not by your Words shall you be judged, but by your Works shall ye be known and by your Works

shall ye be judged."—Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth.

"There is a considerable difference between justice and law. The wage slaves usually receive more law than justice."

In the Beginning.

In the beginning I am going to ask every reader of this article to send AT ONCE not less than ONE DIME to Mrs. Vera Mayfield, address 709 N. Brazos street, San Antonio, Texas, to aid and for the defense of the men in whose behalf REBELLION turns its searchlight on "Texas justice," and to appeal to every Local of the Socialist party and to every Local and National Labor Union to appropriate immediately all the money it can spare for the defense. Mrs. Mayfield is secretary-treasurer of the Defense Committee appointed by Local San Antonio, Socialist party, to aid these fourteen Libertarians, the present object being to appeal Cline's sentence and to finally bring about the freedom by "pardon" or otherwise, of these unjustly convicted Working Men. If every Rebel will ACT immediately, there is no doubt of the final outcome, for the Working Class CAN stop this victimization of its active members if only it so WILLS.

"No Quarter Given."

On the 9th day of September, 1913, a group of 20 men gathered at Carrizo Springs, Texas, from different parts of that State for the admitted purpose of making their way into Mexico to take part in

the revolution that had been raging in that country then for something like two years, that is, this seems to have been the intention of the Mexican members of the group, while Cline's idea was simply, it appears, to go down with them to gather what information he could as to the true state of things there, with the evident intention of using this information as historical material for the American Labor Movement.

On account of one thing and then another, they did not start for the border until the night of the 10th. They left Carrizo Springs during a violent storm and marched south about 15 or 20 miles, where they camped, intending to resume their march at daybreak next morning, September 11th. It was at about daybreak that they were first assaulted by the Sheriff's posse of Dimmit county, led by Sheriff W. T. Gardner. Cline's account of the death of Lomas is as follows:

"About daylight I had reason to answer the call of nature and started for a place removed from the camp; when I came out from among the trees I hove in sight of two men with their guns raised to their shoulders; I was in direct line of fire and thought they were going to shoot me, but, instead, I noticed Sylvester Lomas raise up and the two men commenced firing; they fired about seven or eight shots and then started running. Just then I saw Lomas fall forward and swerve, striking the ground and lying on his back, dead; for I immediately went over to where he was; the men were still running, so I examined Lomas and saw he was shot dead just as he was buttoning his pants, had

not even finished that, for the two top buttons were still unbuttoned. When the shots were fired I noticed the blood spurt from his left cheek, right under the eye. He was facing me with his back toward the men (W. T. Gardner and White). The bullet hole in the back of his (Lomas') head was a small hole, the one in his cheek large and ragged, about the size of a dollar, the one in his back about the size of a dime. The men fired on Lomas from behind scrub trees and bushes (and could only be seen by me, for I was on higher ground than Lomas), and it was impossible for him to see his assailants. I covered his face with his hat, for he was lying in the open and the sun was coming up, and returned to camp."

Shoot First, Question After.

After the time-honored custom of border "officers of the law," Sheriff Gardner's posse seems to have had orders to "Shoot first and ask questions afterwards," for the overwhelming mass of testimony is to the effect that no demand was made (then or afterwards) upon the Group to surrender before they were fired on by the posse, and the manner of Lomas' killing bears this out. Therefore, being in a hostile and lawless country, civilized people will hardly blame the assaulted men for returning the fire poured into their camp by men who did not even take the trouble to find out who and what they, the Group, were. Yes, the Group returned the fire, and it was the only course left them if they were not

to submit to being simply slaughtered by the deputies.

Buck and Ortiz Captured.

It was in the melee following the assault by Gardner's posse that "Deputy Sheriffs" Eugene Buck and Candelario Ortiz were captured by the Group. Buck seems, from all accounts, to have been as white-livered a cur as ever made a track on Texas soil; yet he was the State's "star witness." When in the hands of the Group he was as mealy-mouthed and cringing as a mangy coyote, but as soon as the boys had surrendered and were bound hand and foot, it was Buck who howled for lynch-law, and would have had his way but for Lieut. McLane of the Federal army, who had set a guard over the prisoners and who notified Buck and his fellow-coyotes that if they tried to touch the prisoners they would do so at their peril. Buck then quieted down, peril being the last thing sought by his kind. Of Candelario Ortiz little is known, save that he was a Texas "Deputy Sheriff," and a Mexican deputy sheriff in Texas is not only, of necessity, a spy on and a traitor to his race, but is usually a man of the lowest type, since no upright man will accept such work.

Death of Ortiz.

It was for the death of Candelario Ortiz that the fourteen men captured were indicted and tried (?) for "conspiracy to murder"—that old gag that has been used so often of late to railroad active working men to the gallows or penitentiary—a "charge" so

loose and vague that men indicted under it have hardly a chance to make a real and effective defense, while the courts and district attorneys are allowed the widest latitude in the prosecution of the victims of the Capitalists and Landlords. Better far for a man so indicted that he were tried by an out-and-out courtmartial, for the officers of such a court are at least subject to the restraint of the menacing laws of war.

However that may be, it was for the alleged murder of Ortiz that Rangel, Cline and their comrades were tried (?)—fourteen men in all—and sentenced from 5 to 99 years in the penitentiary. Yet there is great disagreement as to just how Ortiz met his death. As near as can be arrived at, Ortiz was killed some time during the day of the 12th; some say he was killed by Felipe Sanchez, a bitter personal enemy of Ortiz, and who deserted from the Group before its surrender and was executed that same September by order of General Jesus Carranza at Ciudad Porfirio Diaz, Mexico; others state that Ortiz was killed by the Sheriff's posse in its second attack upon the Group. One thing, tho, at least is certain—the Group had absolutely no intention of harming either Ortiz or Buck... Else is it to be supposed that men as experienced as Rangel, Cline and Alzalde (having entered such a "conspiracy") would ever have surrendered? Or that, after entering such a "conspiracy," does any sane man believe that they would have spared the life of Buck and returned him to the posse—Buck, a man far more dangerous to their lives and liberty than was Ortiz? No one but a district attorney or Burns detective

would argue that sane and experienced men, men seeking to get where they could give up their lives to the cause of Human Freedom, would so foolishly act. Yet all the juries seem to have fallen for this view, which, in my opinion, speaks very poorly for the intelligence or honesty of the jurors sworn to give these men a "fair and impartial trial." Either the jurors were devoid of common ordinary intelligence or else they did what they thought was wanted of them and convicted the Group, not on the LAW and the EVIDENCE, for it is seen that under the law of common sense the charge of "conspiracy to murder" falls of its own weight, but on some "ulterior motive" dictated by prejudice or self-interest.

"A Jury of His Peers."

According to the Constitution of the United States every accused is entitled to free and open trial by "A jury of his peers," that is to say, by a jury of his equals. This no Working Man has today anywhere in the Southern States. The nearest he can come to such a jury is to be tried by a jury of Working Farmers, and so, the accused had not the shadow of a chance—all the advantage rested from the beginning to the end with the prosecution, and this advantage the prosecution used without mercy and without compunction, yet they ask you, the American Workers, to accept their acts as deeds of justice! I will say to you that if you allow such acts to pass unchallenged and unresisted, that the day is not far distant when no man's life and liberty

will be safe from the Oligarchy that is now ruling this Nation unto ruin.

The "Ulterior Motive."

All thru the days and nights of the 11th and 12th of September, the Group staggered on toward Mexico, still harrassed by the posse that had broken its word to let them proceed in peace if they surrendered Buck, which was agreed to on the 12th, the document having been signed by Gardner, Buck and White for the posse, and by Rangel and Cline for the Group. It was in this second attack of the posse on the Group that it is claimed Ortiz was killed by the Deputies. Then the Group pressed on. It had been raining for the past two days and creeks and rivers were everywhere overflowed. In these circumstances, half-starved, cold, hungry and harassed, the Group reached an overflowed creek which (their guides having deserted) they took for the Rio Grande. Believing they had finally reached their destination they built a boat and crossed what they thought was the boundary river and prepared to rest and recover from their long and terrible march. That night Cline left the camp and was captured next morning by the posse. Also on that morning, September 13, the third and last attack was made on the Group. This time by, or with the aid of, United States regular soldiers. The Group believing itself to be on Mexican territory at first thought they were being attacked by Mexican soldiers and returned the fire, but Rangel quickly discovered the error and ordered the Group to cease firing, hoisted a white flag, and surrendered, it is

said, to Lieut. Allen, U. S. A. In this assault two members of the Group, Juan Ricon and Jose Guerra, were killed, and two others wounded. Also three members of the attacking party were wounded. Having surrendered to the Federal troops one would naturally suppose that the Federal authorities had jurisdiction over any offense committed by the Group, but the law "works in a mysterious way" to reach the ends of "justice." So the men were turned over to the government of Texas, a government of the people by gunmen for the Landlords, Lumber Kings and Railroad and Trust Magnates. And the "ulterior motive" was this: Had the Federal government prosecuted the captured men it, at best, could have charged them only with their REAL offense—"violation of American neutrality," for which they could have been sentenced, at the very most, to a few years in prison, and which, since the men were Mexicans and revolutionists, would have involved no stigma upon their names. So they were turned over to the Texas authorities to be tried (?) for "CONSPIRACY TO MURDER," to be pictured in the "felon press" as "murderers," "bandits," "smugglers," etc.—to the end that the American people should take quietly this outrage upon all their most cherished ideals and institutions. Not for the "murder" of Candelario Ortiz, for common sense proves that the Group was guiltless of "conspiracy to murder" this gunman, and never even had an intention to harm him or his partner in pandering,—no, this was not the crime for which these men were convicted: Their real crime was that in their camp was found a banner bearing the fatal

words, "LAND AND LIBERTY!" So the Group was not tried for violating the neutrality laws but for "conspiracy to murder." Thus it was hoped to take from them their lives or burke from them their liberty in a life that was worse than death and thus strike terror into the hearts of all who dared rebel against the destroyers of American life and freedom—the worst, the most shameless and most pitiless Ruling Class the world has ever known, the American Plutocracy. That was the reason for these trials for "conspiracy to murder." That was the "ulterior motive"—to attach the death penalty to an offense not carrying it—to strike terror.

If This Be Not Truth.

If this be not true, then WHY does the government of the United States allow the ASSASSIN OF MADERO, the Monster Huerta, the freedom of this country? I know Charlie Cline personally; know he would not even injure a gunman unless driven to the last extremity of self-defense. And I have it from people who know him that J. M. Rangel is a man of great and tender heart, a man who, if he ever took a human life, took it only as a soldier in the sacred cause of Human Liberty. Yet look, you Americans, you men and women whose fathers ALL WERE REBELS AND REVOLUTIONISTS—Rangel and Cline have been painted by the "felon press" as "criminals" of the blackest type and sent to the horrible prisons of Texas for 99 years for the alleged murder of the gunman-deputy Ortiz, while Huerta, his hands red with the blood of thousands of the innocent and helpless, is granted the FREE-

DOM OF THE UNITED STATES! Worse still. Press dispatches of this week, May 8th, announce that the Monster and the Butchers Porfirio and Felix Diaz, and Blanquet and all those terrible men who, above all others, are responsible for deluging Mexico with death and fire, are soon to assemble in the City of San Antonio, in the State of Texas, to engineer further schemes for the purpose of again chaining down the Mexican people under their frightful and dehumanizing rule. As ONE MAN, O Editors of the Labor, Socialist and Rebel press, I call upon you to DEMAND THE FREEDOM of Rangel, Cline and their innocent comrades! As ONE MAN to CHALLENGE the alleged GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS to make good its alleged horror of "Conspiracy to murder" by IMMEDIATELY placing under arrest Huerta, the Diazes and all their buzzard-breed the moment they set foot on Texas soil and turn them over to Villa or Carranza to be tried for the crimes they have committed AGAINST ALL MANKIND. Let us DARE the government of Texas to one REAL act of REAL JUSTICE! NOW, O Texans, it will be shown whether you are only brave enuf to punish the defenseless and the moneyless! NOW it will be shown whether YOUR government is a "government of the people, by the people and for the people," or just a "government of the people by the Rurales for the Plutocracy." Make good! Arrest Huerta and Diaz! Or have the common decency to free Rangel, Cline and their comrades.

Behold Dixie.

But no such miracle will happen. Huerta, Diaz and Company will be safe in Texas, for they will be in charge of their own kind. The "Concessionaries" of Dixie are at oneness with those of Mexico. THEY are the government of the South. Into their hands the Democratic party has betrayed ALL the Southern people. Little is the difference between the Lands of Dixie and Mexico. Economically, politically and socially, both are the prey of the Plutocracy. Only, Mexico has revolted against the dehumanizing system and the fear that this revolt MAY be spread northward is part of the "ulterior motive" back of the savage hunting of the Group. There is small difference between the Terrazas of Mexico and the Kirbys of Texas. The System is the same—it is PEONAGE imposed on TENANTRY, an economic system so utterly destructive of human freedom and progress and so utterly base in all its methods of government that only those who are devoid of all true MANHOOD will submit to it—a System that breeds Revolt and Revolution as surely as there is born under its Black Rule men and women in whose souls the Spirit of Nature has implanted the deathless "urge toward the light."

Land and Liberty.

In the King Ranch of South Texas there is more than a MILLION ACRES of land. The Kirby Lumber Interests claim title to somewhere around 900,000 acres. The Long-Bell to easily more than a million acres in the States of Louisiana, Texas and

Arkansas. The Great Southern Lumber Company (Goodyear Rubber crowd) to more than a million acres in Louisiana and Mississippi. The Taft Ranch in South Texas to more than 160,000 acres. Over 70 per cent of the soil of Louisiana is held under rent title. There are more than 80,000 tenant farmers in the young State of Oklahoma. Texas is fast becoming a second Ireland. Everywhere thru out Dixie the "Great Estates," builded on PEONAGE in the INDUSTRIES and TENANTRY on the FARMS, are "eating out the land." Absolute ownership and government of towns running as high as 10,000 people is claimed by and for these Estates. WHITE people are today held thru out the South to a condition of servitude the black folk never dreamed of suffering during the days of "slavery." Beholding such an industrial and agricultural system one can easily see why the Group was doomed to death or prison when in their camp was found the flag bearing the legend, "Land and Liberty!" Remember, too, you who dwell in other sections, that, whatever it may be "in law," the South IS IN FACT a "Conquered Province," and is governed and robbed accordingly. The Black Democratic party has been fully as merciless as the Black Republican party. The only difference is that the first served the Landlords while the second served the Capitalists, but both serve today these TWAIN made ONE in the Plutocracy. In this service the Louisiana Lumber Workers were "tried" and the Group sentenced for "conspiracy to murder." But the Sys-

tem grows old and totters, and dying, fangs itself and all within reach of its death-agony.

"Impartial Justice."

This fanging it calls "impartial justice." So to give an idea of how "fair and impartial" were the "trials" of these cases, I again publish the handbill gotten out by a moving picture concern when the cases were transferred to San Antonio. This "show" was advertised as "Approved by O. B. Colquitt," then Governor of Texas, who is the "Democrat" that vetoed the new charter of Tyler, Texas, providing for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, on the ground that, practically, "all democracy was a failure." It seems to be—especially in Texas under the Colquitts and Kirbys. The circular follows:

"6 REELS!

**TONIGHT AT THE LA COLONA
THE NOTORIOUS DIMMIT COUNTY
SMUGGLERS.**

These Smugglers were led by Kline, the I. W. W. organizer that caused so much trouble at Grabo, Merryville and other points. Kline and his friends are now in San Antonio jail, all indicted for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Ortiz. See Rev. Bruce Roberts, one of the sheriff's posse, play the part of a hero.

**THREE THOUSAND FEET OF THRILLING REEL,
FEATURING, APPROVED BY O. B. COLQUITT,
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS."**

The reference to Cline's record at Grabow (he was never there; not in Louisiana at the time) and Mer-

ryville, reveals another of the "ulterior motives" of the "State of Texas" (?), PROVES that he was hunted for his work as a Labor Organizer, was "tried," in fact, for his "crimes" against the Santa Fe Railroad and Lumber Trust, and not for "conspiracy to murder" a gunman.

"You Go To Hell."

This was the sum and substance of a message sent to a body of St. Louis, Mo., Socialists and Industrialists by District Attorney Linden of Bexar county (San Antonio) in reply to their courteous telegram asking him to postpone the cases so that they might have a chance to raise funds to defend the penniless accused. More than a million words could it tells what chance the accused men had and what "justice" means to the "Authorities of the State of Texas." The descendants of the heroes of the Alamo and San Jacinto should be proud of the record written in the history of Texas by the District Attorney of Bexar county.

Free Speech Suppressed.

A short while after the cases were transferred to San Antonio a committee of defense was organized by the Mexican Liberal Party Groups of San Marcos, Fentress and Staples, Texas—the "Comite Pro-Presos—with J. A. Hernandez as secretary, E. Garcia and assistant secretary, and Miss Elisa Aleman as treasurer. The first meeting of this committee took place at San Marcos on November 15th, 1913, and on the night of that date sent a telegraphic protest to Governor Colquitt. The protest was signed

by over 190 men and women and led to the mobilizing of troops in several parts of South Texas and to the issuing of an order by Governor Colquitt to arrest the officers of the committee. Hernandez and Garcia were arrested on Nov. 21st and taken before the Grand Jury, and the arrest of Miss Aleman and Juan Ulloa was ordered. Ulloa fled the State and Miss Aleman was never arrested. The Grand Jury later released Hernandez and Garcia, but the latter was immediately arrested on some minor charge, and after having laid in jail 90 days, was sentenced to 250 days in jail or the equivalent in money. On December 28th, 1913, Hernandez attempted to hold a meeting for the defense in the Carpenters' Union Hall, in Houston, Texas. Chief of Police Ben Davidson of Houston invaded the hall with 20 or 30 policemen and arbitrarily dispersed the assembly, on the order of the Mayor and Governor Colquitt, it is said. Even the Houston "Post," a Bailey paper, stated that the meeting had been perfectly orderly and further stated that the United States marshal and district attorney were present in the hall when the police of Houston so grossly violated the spirit and every letter of the Constitution of the United States. In other words, the Federal authorities aided and abetted Colquitt and his gang in their efforts to railroad these fourteen men to death or prison without giving them a dog's chance to vindicate themselves, for how can any accused defend himself if his friends are denied right to bring his case before the public? Even a Huertista paper of Houston protested against this shameless outrage.

Terror, Not Justice, Sought.

That "terror" and not justice was the aim of the Texas authorities is clearly seen in the fate of D. R. Rosas, the only member of the Group to be acquitted of the charge of "conspiring to murder." Three days after his acquittal he was re-arrested under a new accusation and taken to Carrizo Springs. From there he was taken to Uvalde and, on March 22, 1915, placed on trial and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. What the Plutocracy and its henchmen expect to gain by such methods is beyond the writer, but I am sure it is time that the American people waken and ask themselves whether this country is a Republic or a Diaz Oligarchy. It's beginning to look more like the last than the "Land of Freedom" our fathers dreamed they founded.

"Good-bye, Rangel."

"'Good-bye, Rangel,' said Judge Anderson in a kindly voice, reaching out his hand at the same time," is the way the San Antonio "Light" describes the last affecting scene in this tragic travesty on justice. Think of a judge who has just sentenced a MAN to 99 years in the penitentiary pulling off such a pharasical stunt! "The Light" (?) further says: "When asked by Judge Anderson if he had anything to say why the sentence of the court should not be pronounced on him, Rangel said in Spanish, 'I believe the sentence is unjust, because I am not guilty of the crime. I would have appealed the case, but I had no resources.'" "NO RESOURCES"