

The Situation, the Opportunity and the Duty.

The True Colonists—the integral Cooperators and law-abiding resident members of the Topolobampo Colony are the opposite of disconcerted or depressed. Poor they are and struggling, but firm and determined as men and women devoted to a great principle ought to be.

The situation is that the Conspirators, who have been plotting, in and out of the Colony for the past two years, to overthrow the purposes of the movement and to seize the control of The Credit Foncier Company have, in a measure, destroyed temporarily the confidence of many friends of our Co-operative plan in the United States and elsewhere and have burdened us with difficulties not our own or belonging, under ordinary circumstances,

to our cause.

In Sinaloa the Conspirators, during their temporary control of the Ditch, at the time of the flood of 1892, allowed it to fill with mud which despite our efforts in cleaning the Ditch and building a dam at great expense, shut off the water in June, 1893, ruining our gardens and damaging all crops, thus cutting off to a great extent our income and our food supply. The Conspirators damaged the sales of our products by a preconcerted plan to cut prices; involved us in law and, at every turn, opposed our method of mutual help and broke our attempt to establish a thorough system of interdependence between those who have come to Sinaloa to put into practice integral cooperation; and to these injuries we must add, as we think we have reason, the Conspirators sent into our Log Camp a traitor who betrayed the

trust he volunteered to assume, and permitted our logs to pass out to the sea, to our great loss and discomfort.

The integral Cooperators are those men and women, in the Colony and elsewhere, who have borne all the expenses of Colonization; The surveys of Ditch, laterals, Railroad and lands; built the Custom House, the stone pier, storehouse and wagon roads; published and edited the Colony paper "The Credit Foncier of Sinaloa", and sent out the propaganda; attended to carrying and distributing the mail; made tin ware, shoes and boots; repaired harness; built boats; sawed lumber; ran the Grist Mill; collected and distributed eggs; caught and supplied fish; cared for the new arrivals, entertained the Colony's guests, kept the Colony's books, made the official reports,

etc. etc. and by their devotion to principle and by their many sacrifices and labors the Colony Concessions have been kept in order, large tracts of land have been secured and a foundation for a higher plane of life has been laid deep and broad and firm. But, as the Trustee Company, which secretly for many months plotted our ruin and now openly leads the revolt against us as a Cooperative Community, since the Winter of 1890-'91, has received and dispensed the moneys of The Credit Foncier Company, we Resident Colonists have been compelled to advance from our little private reservations, for personal needs, much of the means that have sustained, to a great extent, the affairs in the settlement since that time; and owing to the added cares and many extra duties

which the Conspiracy has necessarily put upon ~~us~~ our little group of earnest Cooperators and workers, we are not yet on our feet here in Sinaloa sufficiently well to show the merits of our plan or the resources of our locality. However, the pains of our pioneering in Mexico have been not in any grand or specific hardship, but in the length of time it has taken us to sift out the true from the false cooperators, to prove our purposes, to test our climate and to get settled upon our newly cleared lands and ready to put ourselves into comfortable houses that we may carry out the high purposes of our association; and it is now that we offer to our friends, wherever they may be, rare advantages and opportunities for diverse occupations in many lines of remunerative utilities and in one of the most health giving,

enjoyable and picturesque localities that is possible to be found on the North American Continent. But we only wish those persons to come who are fully imbued with the principles of our new departure and who are able and willing to work at farming, brick making, carpentering, house building, fence making, ditch digging, teaming, fish curing, shoe making, surveying etc. etc.. For such persons we in the Topolobampo Colony now offer the grandest opportunity of the century. ~~We wish to call attention to our carefully prepared statement of~~ ^{the} advantages to be enjoyed in our Colony, ~~which~~ are as follows:

- 1.- A valuable Colony Concession from the Mexican Government, with its enlightened friendship which its prompt and just decisions sustaining Mr Owen in all the difficulties that were crowded upon him

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by the Conspirators marks as being well protected self government for the Colony such as could not be had in the United States, or elsewhere.

2. - A magnificent Mountain-protected Bay that has no equal on this Coast South of San Diego, which is placed entirely by Concession, in the midst of lands held for us to possess, improve, beautify, perfect and enjoy.

3. - A lovely City site situated on the North

plain side of the Bay, which our labor can make into a paradise of homes while of the mountains adjoining and across the Bay we will make recreation grounds for all on such a scale never yet realized.

4.- A farm area, twenty-five miles square, on perfect land unsurpassed for stock, grass, Cereals, oranges and other temperate and sub-tropical crops (except perhaps the deciduous fruits) ornamented with small mountain look-outs, of which we own considerable, all of which can be had cheaply as it is almost unoccupied, and the same sort of land extends North, South and East, many miles, of which ~~co-~~operation may expand if it needs.

5.- Water rights from two beautiful rivers, the Fuerte and the Sinaloa, to irrigate and beautify these lands, and a ditch in

present use large enough for the wants of 20,000 people.

6. - Immense tracts of post-free sea lands, by Concession, to improve into Rice, Cane, Palm, Cotton, Coffee and Banana plantations.

7. - The grand Sierras back of it all, rich in timber and most rich in the world in all minerals which support civilization - so rich in iron that it darkens the sand washed down by the river - and fertile to bear all deciduous fruits and Northern Crops, and forming a romantic refuge from summer heats, in which the Concessions grant thousands of acres and many privileges.

8. - Above and around all these, the great Railroad and Steamer Concession that will enable us to bring all these possessions into a day's journey and connect them to both

Continents on the shortest lines of the world.

- 9.- A simple, kindly people sparsely occupying a line along the rivers and eagerly looking to us to build them up to a better and richer Civilization.
- 10.- The color to the grand picture is the superb climate that softens but does not enervate, charms but does not betray. Enables one to work every day in the year but repays that labor so lavishly that the grandest results may be reached and yet leisure secured to all.

The Duty.

The pioneers North and South (in Sinaloa and the United States) have sustained the movement against many attacks, built a ditch and pier, opened a farm now furnishing much food and ample supplies of forage, and established a reputation for

reliability and courage, and have proven the grand utility of the Concessions and the faith of the Mexican Government. In doing so we have exhausted our means, and in many cases our youth, health and vigor, and must be reinforced not by straggling parties who will not undertake to endure what we endure and who would benefit themselves or the Cause little if they should undertake it, but by a thousand good men and true who are able to assist the management as well as work, amply backed by at least ten thousand dollars per month for years, that all obligations may be met and tools and supplies furnished to put every one of the thousand into a home and at work to the best advantage and cut the inevitable pioneering down to the shortest time and least waste of human culture and happiness. The pressing work

before the reinforced pioneers will be to bring lumber from the mountains, to put a permanent head-gate in the ditch, to extend the ditch to the bay improving a series of natural reservoirs that will double the capacity of the ditch, to make brick and build homes at the City-site, to improve and plant the parks, streets and blocks, to open gardens and farms adjoining, to establish schools, shops and factories, to reclaim sea lands for rice and cane and to work upon the railroad.

How to Obtain the Colonists and the Means?

By organizing the cooperative sentiment of the United States into efficient energy. Every Magazine, paper and letter proves that this sentiment is there. All civilization is co-operation, but this sentiment is the desire for

a step higher to Integral Cooperation. Organization is necessary to the efficient expression of any sentiment, and unless we organize the Cooperative sentiment it may drift on ineffective till the natural tendencies of Competition force the dreaded war, to be followed by Empire and with it the hope of Centuries. The opportunity is ripe and passing. Our hands are full. Will you act? We will help. We suggest an outline as follows: The present Clubs to be taken as a starting point. Their members to be of two classes; inquirers who are present only on invitation, and regular members, who are all those who are now members or the Charter members of a new Club and such as are elected by these from the inquirers. Regular members to pay an initiation fee of \$3.⁰⁰, \$1.⁰⁰ to pay for subscription to the C. F. of C.; \$ for the New City, and the other, to the Club treasury; and a monthly due of which at least,

Ten cents shall be paid into the Credit Foncier treasury. When any of these regular members has paid for one share of Credit Foncier stock, such member shall be eligible to be elected a member of the State Central Club. The State Central Clubs shall be formed by selections made by ~~the~~ ^{and} from old tried friends of the Cause resident in the State as regular members who will peely devote much of their time to organization and propoganda. The State Central Clubs to unite their organizations in Mr. Owen, the Concessionaire, founder and head of all our great work. Club members who have become Credit Foncier stockholders have the same privileges as other stockholders and if they invest more money can have more shares, or may have lot, land or water-uses, or all in Home ~~Credit~~ ^{Credit} ~~or Home Bonds~~, besides the privilege of

Joining the Colony upon the permit of the Concessionaire. There should be kept in the field a vigorous Corps of organizers, lecturers and visitors that will reach each Club at least every quarter. By this plan, at a very moderate expense we believe 100,000 valuable members can be obtained from whom to draw money and Colonists and for whom we can prepare homes in advance of their coming.

It is a part of Mr Owen's plan to raise money to aid the Colony by Capitalizing his Railroad Concession on a plan that leaves its control in Co-operative hands. This, even if entirely successful, only meets the financial difficulty and does not furnish a school for intending Colonists and is open to the objection that it places an outside debt on the railroad which this organization could just

as well take. The organization would furnish the labor for construction. Had we such an organization it would materially aid Mr Owen in placing his rail road, and all are needed to place a chain of Cooperative Colonies along the whole line across the Continent and occupy the vast areas of Concession lands and ultimately continue our trans-Continental line across the gulf states to the Atlantic, when all the world will tend to peace and Integral Cooperation.

~~Issued~~
~~Approved~~ by the Board of Resident Directors
of The Credit Foncier Company.

Ida Hogeland,
Clerk of Board.

Albert Law, Chairman.

Foot Note.

* But the important advantage in having annual rentals for lot and farm lease rights is that it gives the Company absolute Control of the Land, at the end of each year, and is ever reminding those who would Commit a nuisance with impunity, or go wrong and molest the entire Community, that their lease-right or rights will not be ~~renewed~~ renewed in Case they do not Conform with the By-Laws they have assisted to make and have pledged themselves to support by living a life in Conformity to their spirit and language. Hence, while the Company is bound to provide the work and the legal-tender by which said rentals are to be paid, the Company holds the power to lease or release or not to lease and thereby forces otherwise bad Colonists to be proper in their ways and to live decent lives, or to leave the Colony; for without lease-right or rights no person can remain, within the Settlements, long, except at the Company's hotel or hotels and an expelled member will not be allowed to stop as the guest of the Company or of the individual longer than is necessary for him or her to get away. No well intentioned person is afraid of strict laws which Control persons from doing wrong; and those persons who wish the right to Commit public nuisances and to live demoralized, disorderly lives are warned, by these rentals, that the Popolovampo Colony is no place for them.

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