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EDITORIAL

A CONSTITUTION FOR NEW MEXICO.

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THE constitution of New Mexico, over which Congress has been wrangling and continues to wrangle, differs materially from the constitution of Arizona. While the latter, with its initiative, referendum and recall provisions is denounced as “too radical,” the former is being found fault with as “too conservative.”

The feature of the constitution of New Mexico is that it renders amendment next to impossible, at least for the next 25 years. None but the unsophisticated will be taken in by any objection, on that score and as a matter of principle, on the part of a bourgeois assemblage such as Congress is. That objection should arise to the radicalism of the Arizona document may be easily understood. These are not the days to play with fire. For that very reason the constitution of New Mexico, one should think, would commend itself to Congress. Not at all.

During the month of May, when the discussion over New Mexico raged in the House, cats galore were let out of the bag—or leaped out unbidden—to explain the puzzle of a lot of bourgeois politicians objecting to a constitution that will afford “stability” for at least 25 years.

It transpires that the “stability” which the Constitution of New Mexico affords may be, and no doubt is, highly desirable to one set of capitalist interests, the landed interests which presided over the cooking, or framing, of the constitution, and highly undesirable to another set of interests. The essence of the cats that leaped out unbidden is that the constitutional convention which concocted the constitution of New Mexico resembled more a real estate exchange than it did anything else; furthermore, that the “delegates” were real estate brokers, in fact, receiving orders from outside the State, from individuals and syndicates that were “cornering land” for speculative purposes. The land grabbers with smaller capital to

operate, being left out in the cold, now are indulging in long-distance squealing through such mouth-pieces as they can secure in Congress.

These capitalists who are “investing in land”—both the bunch that ran the constitutional convention of New Mexico, and the bunch that was crowded out—have no faith in their otherwise favorite maxim, “You can’t become rich through legislation.” They know better, and are proving it. Those who succeeded in the convention of New Mexico, and those who seek to retrieve the fortunes of the day in Congress—the one and the other are seeking to legislate wealth into their pockets. The method or trick is “a constitution for New Mexico.”

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