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Velazquez, CTM general secretary, pointed out that the fight against Cerdan is at the same time a fight against Sinarchism, against reaction and divisionism. The CTM, he declared, will never yield before any kind of reaction, no matter how powerful it may be.

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HOPE FOR PEACE IN VERACRUZ  
BLASTED BY GOVERNOR CERDAN

MEXICO CITY (MLN) — CTM hopes for reaching an understanding with Veracruz Governor Jorge Cerdan have failed as a result of the continuation of Cerdan's gangster tactics against organized labor in the East Coast State.

Cerdan appeared before the President recently and promised to stop his attacks on labor and negotiate with the CTM for an understanding, but no sooner was he back in his own yard before his anti-labor activity began all over again.

Main source of the difficulty appears to be Cerdan's tie-up with the local Sinarcho-Fascist organization, which is supported by much of the Veracruz business and religious elements and wields considerable political power.

Cerdan's promise to the Federal Government to cease his anti-labor activity was a bid to retain favor with the national administration, while resumption of his gangster tactics on return to his bailiwick was induced by his desire to retain the political support of the Sinarcho-Fascists.

Cerdan henchmen and members of his family have a strong grip on all administrative offices in the state and to retain that power have allied themselves with the most corrupt political and economic influences in Veracruz, setting up a regime which bears a remarkable resemblance to the Huey Long dictatorship in Louisiana some years ago.

All members of the CTM in official positions or employed by the state government are systematically being fired to make way for political appointees recommended by Cerdan wardheelers. This shift in personnel



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has reached the stage where the state of Veracruz is largely under gang rule.

At the regional conference of the Veracruz federation of the CTM, which closed Aug. 18, Fidel Velazquez announced that the CTM will institute an organized campaign to rid Veracruz of the Cerdan dictatorship.

Velazquez, CTM general secretary, pointed out that the fight against Cerdan is at the same time a fight against Sinarchism, against treason and divisionism. The CTM, he declared, will never yield before the attack of reaction, no matter how powerful it may be.

Several Cerdan agents within CTM unions were expelled by the regional conference. While these men were a microscopic minority among the Veracruz federation, they had followed the usual custom of agents provocateurs and had wriggled themselves into several influential positions.

Cerdan's henchmen are also preparing for the conflict, with a private army being organized called the Cerdan Vanguard. This organization is made up mostly of pistoleros or triggermen, who offer their services to any political band which pays enough.

There is also the possibility of Nazi agents being active among the Cerdan crowd, as there is a close tie-up between the Cerdan-supporting Sinarchist organization and international Fascism. Investigation into the situation will probably be made shortly by the Mexican government.

#### MEXICO'S POVERTY--AN ARTICLE

By Vicente Lombardo Toledano

Mexico's principal problem is poverty.

The history of our country is the history of a people which has suffered for centuries. Hunger in the Pre-Spanish period, slavery under the conquistadores, privation during civil war, peonage on the huge plantations--this has been our history.

But the Revolution created a new Mexico. Between our nation of today and that of 1910 lies an abyss. The distance between our people today and our people under the Spanish viceroys is unmeasurable. But Mexico is still poor--poorer than Mexicans suppose or foreigners imagine.

Mexico has a population of 20,000,000. Of these 6,200,000 are economically active. Our annual income is four billion pesos.

Rural population is 68.8 percent of the total. Within this percentage are 4,300,000 economically active individuals. Out of the total national income they receive 26 percent, which means 20 pesos a month per economically active individual, or 40 pesos a month per family.

The proletariat of industrial and city workers represents 19.2 percent of the total population, with 1,200,000 economically active individuals. These receive 22 percent of the national income, or 60 pesos a month per unit, 120 pesos a month per working-class family.

White-collar workers are 6.8 percent, 450,000 economically active individuals, who receive 11 percent of the national income--75 pesos per unit or 150 pesos a month per family.



The bourgeoisie-business men, industrialists, landlords, professionals, government functionaries, and managers--represent 5 percent of the nation's population with 250,000 individuals economically active. These receive 41 percent of the national income, or 550 pesos per unit.

These data reveal the fantastic disproportion between the tiny privileged group, 5 percent of the population, which receives almost half of the national income; and the rural population, 70 percent, which receives only one-fourth of the national income.

These figures explain just how poor Mexico is, why it is impossible to think of national progress without raising the standard of living of the rural population.

Mexican industry cannot prosper without buyers. If we wish to keep on being a country which exists by selling raw materials abroad, we can keep on being hungry; but if we wish to organize our production for the benefit of the Mexican people, we must build our own industry which will satisfy our own needs before all. For this to take place, the great mass of the rural population must become purchasers of our industrial products. The greater the progress of our Indians and our farmers, the greater the progress of our working-class and middle-class. The poorer our farmers, the poorer will be our workers, employees, professionals and technicians.

Our economic structure is a pyramid based on the wide masses of our rural population, needling up to the 250,000 members of the privileged class who receive two billion pesos yearly.

Recent propaganda declares that the government must support the privileged minority in their efforts to reorganize the nation for their further benefit. This propaganda is opposed not only to historical laws but to physical laws. A pyramid does not rest upon its point, but upon its base. A government which rests upon the privileged group and not upon the great masses of the exploited people not only cannot build a better Mexico, but must collapse.

The only ones in Mexico who can build a better Mexico are the poor, the hungry, the needy, those close to the soil, those who formed the armies which fought for justice in the past, those who have given birth to all our national heroes and leaders.

The national income should be multiplied. The Mexican Revolution has begun this task, sweeping away the Diaz dictatorship and the relics of the viceroys. Science and modern technique, at the service of the people and complete national independence, will transform our present poverty into genuine wealth--wealth of the Mexican people.

#### TALKS CONTINUE FOR AGREEMENT ON NEW CINEMA UNION CONTRACT.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- Talks between representatives of the motion picture industry and the Cinema Workers Union were renewed August 20, with the date for a possible strike postponed to Sept. 2.

Hope was held out for settlement of the dispute, as the industry representatives have been much more conciliatory since their failure to put over a "Nazi" scare and get outside intervention.



Cinema workers are asking a contract revision to provide slightly higher wage scales in accord with the higher cost of living.

As the motion picture industry is completely in the hands of Hollywood and New York magnates, agreements have to be referred by the Mexican representatives of the industry back to the owners in the States.

The Cinema Workers Union is one of the strongest in Mexico and it is believed that the magnates will recognize the advisability of signing a new contract.

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMBER  
COMES HOME FROM FRANCO SPAIN

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- Roberto Vega Gonzalez, one of the last Mexican members of the International Brigade to be freed from Franco's prisons, arrived in Mexico City Aug. 15.

Vega Gonzalez was a cadet in the Mexican Military Academy at the time of the fascist invasion of Spain and was captured by the fascists in 1938 at Teruel. He was finally released thru international effort.

He reported that the Spanish people are only awaiting an opportunity to throw out the fascist invaders and local traitors. Franco will never compromise Spain to Fascism, he declared.

Famine is ravaging Spain, Vega Gonzalez reported, adding that the prison diet consisted of a soup made of the outer skins of dried Spanish peas.

Still a youngster, he will be active in Mexican anti-fascist organizations.

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