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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

| | |
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| TWO DEAD IN POLITICAL STREET FIGHT | TELEPHONE STRIKE HELD ILLEGAL |
| POWER STRIKE WINS WAGE INCREASES | LABOR AND PEASANTS TO PRESENT JOINT CANDIDATES |
| LATIN AMERICAN LABOR REJECTS MONROE DOCTRINE | PEMEX ACQUIRES TWO NEW TANK SHIPS. |
| OIL VALUATION PROCEEDINGS IN NEW DELAY | LA LAGUNA PRODUCES LARGE COTTON CROP |

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TWO DEAD IN POLITICAL STREET FIGHT.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- Two men were killed and two others wounded in a gun battle at Pachuca, capital of the State of Hidalgo, on January 14, when fighting broke out between partisans of presidential candidates General Juan Andreu Almazán and General Manuel Avila Camacho.

The riot occurred at the Pachuca railroad station when a train arrived bringing a contingent of Almazán followers from the states of Puebla and Tlaxcala to a meeting at which the candidate was to speak. Reports thus far available are not clear as to who was the aggressor. Both sides claim that their opponents started the shooting.

President Cárdenas, through the Interior Department, has issued a statement vigorously condemning the use of violence in the political campaign and ordering the Federal Department of Justice to make an immediate and thorough investigation of the incident in order to punish those guilty of the attack to the full extent of the law.

The President has frequently insisted since the beginning of the campaign that local officials everywhere must maintain strict impartiality towards all parties and groups. It is charged that federal and state authorities in Hidalgo were partially responsible for last Sunday's shooting and the government investigation promises to deal drastically with them should this be found to be the case.

The interpretation of the Pachuca and other similar brawls that have recently taken place, given by the labor movement is that these incidents are being deliberately provoked by the Almazán campaign managers for the purpose of lending color to their general theme that Avila Camacho is the "official candidate" being "imposed" on the people in violation of democratic rights.

January 18, 1940.

As evidence of this, the labor press points to the practice of transporting crowds of Almazán adherents from place to place to swell his political rallies, and adds that many of these supposed followers are professional gunmen hired for the purpose of provoking disturbances.

No report on the Pachuca riot has yet been issued by the Justice Department, but it is expected that it will be forthcoming within the next few days.

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TELEPHONE STRIKE HELD ILLEGAL

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- A strike against the Ericsson Telephone Company, which tied up its lines throughout the country, was held illegal by the Federal Board of Conciliation and Arbitration after two days. In its decision, the Labor Board found that the workers had failed to comply with various stipulations of the Labor Law, particularly with respect to the formal list of demands presented, since the original demands had been satisfied before the strike was declared.

The strike was called by the union of the company's employees, which is affiliated with the CGT (General Confederation of Workers). Difficulties over the collective contract have been developing for the past several months and nearly resulted in strike action a few weeks ago. The decision of the Board temporarily puts a stop to the labor dispute and the workers returned to their posts as soon as it was announced, but it is possible that the dispute may be renewed.

The Ericsson Company is the Mexican subsidiary of the Swedish telephone trust which operates extensively throughout Latin America as well as Europe. It is one of Mexico's two telephone systems, the other being a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

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POWER STRIKE WINS WAGE INCREASES.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- After a one-day strike which had halted all electric power service throughout the State of Chihuahua, an agreement was reached between workers and the company granting immediate wage increases of 21 per cent.

The settlement was arrived at after the intervention of a high official of the Federal Labor Department who persuaded the company to grant the wage increases and to discuss the minor points of the collective contract with the workers. Service was resumed in the power plant immediately after the agreement had been signed. Some 20,000 miners in the State of Chihuahua would have been forced to stop work had the strike continued, as the mines would have shut down for lack of power.

Originally, the workers had demanded a 37 per cent increase in wages, but reduced it, during the course of the discussions, to the figure finally granted. According to a report in El Popular, labor daily, the managers of the company refused a proposal for a joint Worker-Labor Department commission to investigate the financial condition of the enterprise in order to determine its

January 13, 1940.

ability to pay the higher wage scales asked. The employer representatives are reported to have replied that no investigation was necessary, as the company did not deny its ability to increase wages; it was refusing simply because "the profits of the electric plants of Chihuahua do not belong to the Mexican Workers but to the company's stockholders in New York."

The company is a subsidiary of the Electric Bond and Share Company.

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LABOR AND PEASANTS TO PRESENT JOINT CANDIDATES.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- The two largest working class organizations of Mexico, the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) and the CNC (National Peasant Confederation), have issued a joint statement to the effect that in the coming election both organizations will support candidates chosen in common.

The statement declares that in view of the efforts being made by the reactionary opposition to split the PRM (Party of the Mexican Revolution), to which both organizations belong, it is necessary in the interests of the unity of the progressive forces to set up joint candidates in order to avoid factional struggles within the party.

Internal elections of the PRM for the designation of the party candidates in next July's national election have been set for March 10th. The CTM and the CNC will thus vote as a single bloc in the selection of party candidates.

At the same time, the statement adds, neither of the two organizations believes that all the candidates must necessarily be either workers or peasants and that they are not seeking a monopoly of electoral posts.

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LATIN AMERICAN LABOR REJECTS MONROE DOCTRINE.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- On Friday, January 12th, the same day that President Cárdenas said in an interview that Mexico had never accepted the Monroe Doctrine and that it had been replaced by the concept of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, General Secretary of the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) declared at a labor meeting that "the Monroe Doctrine, in the light of the experience of nearly a century, has been an unilateral thesis of a powerful country which implied the economic and political subjection of the weak nations of America to the advantage of the powerful . . ."

"At the end of the last war," Lombardo said, "the signers of the Treaty of Versailles, in payment for the aid of the United States in the war, recognized the Monroe Doctrine as the rule that would govern future relations between America and Europe. Should the United States enter the present war on the side of England," he added, "the same sort of result, to an even greater extent, might be expected, with the surrender of the Latin American economic interests of several European countries to those of the United States."

Lombardo declared that he did not expect an abrupt change in the Good Neighbor policy of the American Government. "The most important problem of the moment," he said, "is to devise the forms of the voluntary cooperation of the

January 18, 1940.

21 American nations and the free inter-change of goods and services among them on a basis of mutual respect and equality. Otherwise, he warned, the American Continents will be converted into a single powerful nation with 20 colonies.

The meeting at which he spoke was held in honor of Bernardo Ibáñez, General Secretary of the Chilean Workers' Federation, now visiting this country.

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PEMEX ACQUIRES TWO NEW TANK SHIPS.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- It has been officially announced that "Pemex", the Mexican Petroleum Administration, has purchased two tank ships which have been tied up in Mexican ports since the beginning of the war.

One of them, the "Times Asmussen", is a German vessel which has been moored in Puerto México since last August with a cargo of aeroplane gas on board. It will be used by Pemex for transportation of crude petroleum and refined products in the Gulf of Mexico. The other ship purchased is of Norwegian registry and will also be used for coastwise traffic. The foreign crews of both ships are being sent to the United States and new crews are now being signed on in the Mexican ports of Tuxpan, Tampico, Veracruz and Puerto México.

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OIL VALUATION PROCEEDINGS IN NEW DELAY.

The expert to represent the expropriated oil companies in the valuation of their former properties has not yet been designated by the court, due to a fresh delay in the proceedings as a result of the plea made by several of the Standard Oil subsidiaries here to revoke the court's ruling holding them in contempt.

Their plea is based on the claim that the companies concerned were not mentioned specifically in the Expropriation Decree of March 18, 1938. Hearings have been held this week and the court's decision will probably be taken in the course of the next few days.

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LA LAGUNA PRODUCES LARGE COTTON CROP.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- The National Bank of Ejidal Credit has announced that in spite of the severe drought in the Laguna region this season, the cotton harvest has thus far produced 67,800 bales. Earlier in the season it was thought that the drought would reduce the crop considerably, but those fears have now been dissipated.

The Laguna cotton belt has produced larger quantities of cotton in former years, but at the price of devoting much greater area to this single crop. At present, large sections of the cooperative farm communities are being planted in wheat, alfalfa, and other crops, and this year's cotton crop shows a high yield in proportion to the area planted.

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