

MEXICAN LABOR NEWS

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MEXICAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS ASYLUM TO TROTSKY.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN).-- In spite of the protests from numerous labor organizations and left political groups, the Mexican government has announced that a request for permission to Leon Trotsky to enter Mexico has been acted upon favorably. The petition came from sympathizers of Trotsky in Mexico and was prompted by the fact that the permission of the famous exile to reside in Norway was about to expire.

The government bases its action on Mexico's traditional upholding of the right of asylum for political refugees from other countries. The case of Trotsky, it announces, has been considered as would have been any other and no reasons were found for denying the permission asked.

Vigorous protest against the decision has been registered by the Mexican Popular Front, the Society of Friends of the USSR, and the Communist Party of Mexico, as well as by many individual unions affiliated with the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers), on the grounds that respect for the right of asylum, while laudable in itself, is misplaced in the case of Trotsky whose political activities in recent years have served to strengthen the reactionary and counter-revolutionary forces of the whole world. They also contend that Trotsky's presence in Mexico will be a source of division and animosity within the working class that may lead to deplorable consequences. The CTM itself, although it expressed its opposition to Trotsky's presence when the possibility of his coming was first rumored, has since made no official statement.

It is significant that favorable comment on the government's action has come almost entirely from sources hostile not only to the Soviet Union but to the Mexican labor movement and to the labor government presided over by General Cárdenas.

LABOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES NEW HOUSING LEGISLATION.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- The Mexican Labor Department has proposed that enabling legislation be adopted to make effective the provisions of Article 123 of the Constitution relating to housing for industrial and agricultural workers.

The Constitution guarantees that all industrial and agricultural enterprises shall be required to provide adequate and sanitary housing for workers and their dependents at rentals not to exceed 6% per annum of the assessed value of the houses.

The Labor Department now proposes that in addition to providing such cheap habitation for workers, private enterprise be required to establish means by which the workers may buy their houses on easy terms so as to guarantee them a family possession that will be secure against any judicial action. It is hoped that this proposal will come up before the present session of Congress for appropriate action.

ATLIXCO TEXTILE WORKERS FORM SINGLE UNION.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- After several months of work, the various unions of textile workers in the factory region of Atlixco have at last formed a single unified organization which should put an end to the long-standing feud that has cost the lives of so many workers. The new organization is to be known as the Federation of Atlixco Workers and it will be independent of the control of both the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) and the CROM (Mexican Regional Confederation of Labor).

This solution comes as a result of the personal intervention of President Cárdenas last September and follows the lines of the agreement entered into with him at that time by representatives of the CROM and the CTM. Five CROM unions and four CTM unions have now been dissolved and their members inducted into the new organization.

In recognition of the success thus achieved in Atlixco, the CTM and the CROM have now asked President Cárdenas to act as arbiter again in the similar situation existing in the other great textile region of Mexico, the district surrounding Orizaba, Veracruz, where differences between unions belonging to both central bodies are threatening the development of serious conflicts.

The open partisanship shown by local government officials for CROM unions in the region has led the recent Congress of the Veracruz Federation of Workers (affiliated to the CTM) to vote a general strike of 24 hours throughout the state in support of their demand that he corrupt officials be removed from office. No date has as yet been set for the strike and strong sentiment within the CTM unions for making it a strike without time limit is growing. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, General Secretary of the CTM, has conferred with the governor of the state of Veracruz and it is hoped that a solution to the increasing difficulties will soon be found.

GENERAL STRIKE DECREED IN SINALOA.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- Difficulties between the United Sugar Company of Los Mochis, Sinaloa, and its mill and field workers have been of frequent occurrence during the past few years, resulting in numerous ##

strikes which have severely affected the life of the whole region. A general strike of all its members in the north of Sinaloa has just been voted by the Local Federation of Workers and Peasants in protest against the company's failure to live up to the terms of its collective contract.

The United Sugar Company is American-owned and is the largest producer of sugar in the Mexican field, the dominating member of the sugar cartel established during the time of General Calles. Labor troubles have been endemic in the plant and the present strike movement seems to have been voted in a determination to force the company, once for all, into compliance with the terms of its agreement with the workers.

The announcement of the strike has spread consternation throughout the northern part of the state, for it will shut down light and power, other public services, and private commerce and industry, as well as the sugar plant itself.

WALDO FRANK TO VISIT MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).--The League of Revolutionary Artists and Writers (LEAR) has announced that Waldo Frank, president of the League of American Writers, has accepted its invitation to visit Mexico to attend the Congress of artists and writers being organized by the LEAR and which will be held January 17, 1937.

Mr. Frank is well known in Mexico, which he has visited several times before in lecture tours which have carried him over most of Latin America. It is felt that his attendance at the Congress will tend powerfully to promote future solidarity and cooperation between the intellectuals of Mexico and the United States in their common struggle against war and fascism.

LAGUNA PEASANTS COMPLAIN TO CTM.

PROTEST AGAINST ACTIVITIES OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT BANK.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- The central offices of the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) has received a message from its affiliated organizations among the peasants of the Laguna region which indicates that all is not as rosy in the cotton belt after the distribution of lands as the official announcements would lead one to believe.

According to the message, officials of the government Bank of Ejidal Credit, the institution charged with furnishing credit to the newly formed cooperative farms, are carrying on splitting tactics among the agricultural workers and attempting to induce them to abandon their own organizations which conducted the strike of last summer that resulted in the partition of lands. The local unions charge that the Bank is also attempting to assume control of the existing consumers' cooperatives which the peasants feel should remain under their own management.

The CTM has communicated these charges to President Cárdenas, asking that they be investigated and that an end be put to any attempts on the part of government officials to encroach on the independence of the Laguna workers. A commission is also being sent to the Laguna by the CTM to make its own inquiry into the dispute.

WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS MEET IN OIL CONGRESS.

MEETINGS BEGUN TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES IN INDUSTRY.

MEXICO CITY.--(MLN).-- In accordance with the agreement arrived at three weeks ago by which the threatened general strike in the oil industry was postponed for four months, representatives of the workers and of the various companies in the entire industry have initiated a series of discussions before the Chief of the Federal Labor Department.

The main object of the meeting will be the discussion of the standard collective contract for the oil industry proposed by the Industrial Union of Oil Workers, affiliated to the CTM., which controls all workers in the oil fields and refineries. The contract was drawn up by the union as a means of regularizing and normalizing labor conditions throughout the industry, since it felt that equality of working conditions and wage levels in all the companies would go far towards removing many of the causes of recent strikes. It was the companies' refusal to accept this contract which led to the threat of a general strike.

The conversations now begun are to continue until a final agreement on the terms of the contract has been reached, and a period of four months has been fixed within which the contract in its final form must be accepted. Once the final contract has been drawn up, it will be signed by workers and employers and thenceforth will constitute the supreme law in governing labor relations in the oil industry.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HOLD LABOR HYGIENE CONGRESS.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- The Department of Public Health has announced plans for a National Congress of Medicine and Labor Hygiene to be held in Mexico City next February. The Federal Labor Department is cooperating actively in the organization of the Congress, to which labor organizations, employers' groups, officials of other government departments, and the public in general are urged to send delegates.

The program of the meeting will include discussions of such vital health problems as silicosis among industrial workers and miners; statistics on industrial accidents; a national organization to prevent occupational risks and disease; personal hygiene and education of the worker; general bases of the teaching of medicine and labor hygiene; the labor of women and minors; questions of professional ethics among the doctors of labor unions; and similar topics connected with the general subject of improving the health of the nation's workers and removing the causes of occupational disease and risks.

SECOND SESSION OF WORKERS UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL
BEING PLANNED

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- The Workers University of Mexico is now actively preparing the program for the second session of its Summer School for Foreigners, to be held next summer. The catalogue, containing the list of courses offered and the names of the faculty being gathered, will soon be available for distribution in the United States.

The first session of the school held last summer was an unqualified success and present plans indicate that the coming session will far outstrip the accomplishments of the first. While some courses are being dropped from the curriculum as being too specialized in character to offer responsibilities of real value without longer study than is practicable in a short session, others are being added and the general scheme of studies is being revised so as to provide a maximum of benefit for the students.

The large number of inquiries already received indicate that attendance at next year's session will be larger than that of the previous summer. Arrangements are now being made with the outstanding teachers and educators of Mexico to secure their services for the Summer School. It is hoped that as many persons as possible in the United States who are connected with labor unions or are interested in the vital subjects of labor education will be able to attend the Summer Session.

WORKERS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO.

Director: Sr. Florentino Lombardo Tolosa.
Secretary: Sr. Mariano Cervantes.

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KEEP POSTED ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN MEXICO.

THE WORKERS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO PUBLISHES TWO INTERESTING
MONTHLIES: "FUTURO", A POPULAR REVIEW AND "U.O"., A PUBLICA-
TION DEVOTED TO MODERN CULTURE AND HIGHER LEARNING.

Annual subscription to "Futuro".....\$ 0.50 Am.Cy.
Annual subscription to "U.O"..... \$ 1.00 "

"FUTURO" IS PUBLISHED
IN SPANISH EVERY MONTH

"U.O". IS PUBLISHED IN
SPANISH EVERY TWO MONTHS.

WRITE TO THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE WORKERS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO FOR
A COMPLETE LIST OF ITS PUBLICATIONS AND
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION.

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- WORKERS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO. -
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