

# MEXICAN LABOR NEWS

Published three times a month by the Press Department of the Workers University of Mexico  
ROSALES 26, MEXICO CITY.

Vol. 2. (CLIPPINGS OF MATERIAL USED WILL BE APPRECIATED) January  
No. 19. 13, 1937

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## MEXICAN LABOR WINS EQUAL STATUS IN TEXAS.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).-- As a result of a conference held in San Antonio, Texas, between representatives of the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) and of the Texas Federation of Labor, Mexican workers in the state of Texas will henceforth be admitted on a basis of full equality with Americans into the unions of the Texas Federation.

This agreement between the labor leaders of both countries marks the first step in the solution of a long-standing problem affecting both labor movements. The Mexicans in the United States, numbering approximately two millions, are for the most part concentrated in the states of Texas and California. Due to the policy of exclusion practised in the past by the A.F. of L., these workers have been exposed to the unbridled exploitation of employers and contractors of casual labor, besides being forced by their miserable living conditions into playing the role of strike-breakers on occasion. The starvation wages which they have usually been paid have been another factor menacing the position of American labor and endangering the solidity of the labor movement.

The CTM has been studying this problem ever since the organization was formed in February 1936. Its commission which visited the United States last year for the purpose of opening relations with labor bodies in that country made preliminary advances looking towards an eventual settlement, and it is as an outcome of those efforts that the recent conference was arranged. The local Federation of San Antonio and the State Federation of Texas invited the CTM to send delegates for a discussion and two members of the National Committee of the CTM were named to represent it in San Antonio.

In spite of efforts made from Mexico City by leaders of the CROM to block the conference and obstruct its labors, an agreement was quickly reached between the delegates. Henceforth, Mexican workers in Texas will be eligible for membership on a basis of full equality in



all unions affiliated with the Texas Federation of Labor and will thus have the support of the organized labor movement in their relations with employers. A solid basis for future fruitful cooperation between the CTM and the American labor movement has thus been laid.

#### TEACHERS UNITY CONGRESS TO BE HELD DESPITE REPORTED SNAGS.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- In a joint statement issued by the leaders of the two principal teachers' organizations, it is affirmed that the proposed Congress for the national unification of the entire teaching body will be held as scheduled in February.

The statement accuses certain reactionary officials, especially in the Federal District, of being responsible for the false rumors that teachers' unity was further off than ever. It asserts that these officials are attempting to block the formation of the new national organization because they fear the influence in it of the great mass of rural teachers and the consequent loss of their present privileged positions.

#### ATLIXCO TEXTILE FEDERATION FORMALLY ESTABLISHED.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- On January 7, thirtieth anniversary of the massacre of the striking textile workers of Río Blanco by the troops of Dictator Porfirio Díaz, the Federation of Textile Workers of Atlixco was declared formally established in a colorful ceremony attended by thousands of workers of the Atlixco region.

The nine individual unions formerly belonging to the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) and to the CROM (Mexican Regional Federation of Labor) have now been absorbed into the new organization which will be completely independent of both central bodies. It is hoped that as a result of this fusion, peace will now come to the Atlixco region, for years living under a reign of terror produced by the rivalries of the former unions and their struggle for complete hegemony in the textile factories.

Various labor leaders spoke at the inaugural ceremonies and General Francisco J. Múgica, Minister of Communications, addressed the assembly in the name of President Lázaro Cárdenas, author of the peace formula out of which the new federation has grown.

#### HUNGER MARCH OF LUMBER STRIKERS FORCES OFFICIAL ACTION.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN).-- A four-day hunger march of 1300 striking lumber workers from the mountain forests of the state of Mexico into the Capital has forced the authorities of the Labor Department and President Cárdenas himself to intervene in their dispute with the American-owned Suchil Timber Company.

The parade arrived in Mexico City after four days and nights on the road, exhausted but determined not to leave the Capital until some official action towards a solution of their problem had been taken.



Vicente Lombardo Toledano, General Secretary of the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers), secured an immediate interview with President Cárdenas to lay before him the facts of the conflict which has kept the hundreds of workers idle since last September.

When the lumberers asked the company for an increase of their daily wage from seventy centavos to one peso, the company's answer was to shut down operations and fire several hundred of its employees. The workers immediately declared a strike but have been unable since then to obtain any satisfaction from the company or even to induce the state Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to recognize officially the existence of the strike movement.

From evidence presented before the President and the Federal Labor Department, it appears that the company has been systematically violating the labor laws in many respects. Working hours for the past several years have been ten daily, instead of the eight-hour day stipulated by the law, so that the company owes its workers vast sums for unpaid overtime. Workmen's compensation for accidents has never been paid, and the number of legless and armless workers in the caravan bears mute testimony to the frequency of accidents in the sawmills.

The strikers are asking for immediate resumption of operations, the compensation due them, back pay for overtime and for the period since the mills were arbitrarily shut down, and a collective contract with wage increases. If the company refuses these conditions, they are asking that the equipment be expropriated by the government and turned over to them for the purpose of establishing a lumber cooperative.

The company claims that the timber of the region has been exhausted and that it can no longer profitably carry on operations. President Cárdenas has sent the head of the Labor Department to Toluca, capital of the state of Mexico, for the purpose of opening a general investigation into the conflict with the members of the state Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. An expert commission is also being named to investigate the truth of the company's claims as to the exhaustion of available timber. The strikers have been promised a speedy resolution of the dispute and while they remained in Mexico City, their wants were taken care of by the government Department of Public Welfare.

The hunger caravan aroused great interest among the public and fervent expressions of solidarity from labor organizations which gave valuable aid to the marchers along the road. As a result of this dramatic demonstration, an early solution favorable to the workers is confidently expected.

#### LEON TROTSKY ARRIVES IN MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- On his arrival in the port of Tampico on board the Norwegian tanker "Ruth", Leon Trotsky declared that he would respect the terms stipulated by the government for his residence in Mexico and that he would take no part in Mexico's internal affairs or in any way compromise Mexico's relations with other countries.



In accordance with its statement issued some days ago, the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) ordered all its affiliated organizations to refrain from demonstrations hostile to Trotsky and has reiterated its intention to leave the responsibility for Trotsky's presence with the government. It repeats its warning, however, against any maneuvers to take advantage of his presence in Mexico for the purpose of producing dissensions and splits within the labor movement.

#### BANANA STRIKE STILL LOOMS IN TABASCO.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN)--. In spite of the fact that notice was given some weeks ago by the Tabasco Union of Banana Workers of a general strike early this month, no action has yet been taken either by the Southern Banana Company or by government officials to avert the threatened walk-out. The strike is now scheduled to begin January 14.

In the event that no solution is reached before the deadline, the strike will paralyze nearly all economic activity in the state, not only because other labor unions have already declared their solidarity with the movement and their intention to call sympathy strikes but because the exploitation of the banana is the principal industry and source of income of the entire state. Various organizations and institutions of Tabasco have sent telegrams to the governor of the state and to President Cárdenas, requesting their intervention to prevent the strike and effect an immediate settlement of the conflict between the American company and the workers.

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INFORMATION.

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MEXICO, D.F.



KEEP POSTED ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN MEXICO. THE WORKERS  
UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO PUBLISHES TWO INTERESTING  
MAGAZINES: "FUTURO", a POPULAR REVIEW AND  
"U.O.", a PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO MODERN CULTURE AND HIGHER LEARNING.

Annual subscription to "FUTURO"... \$ 0.50 Am.Cy.,

Annual suscription 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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- Director: Dr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano. -  
- Secretary General: Lic. Alejandro Carrillo. -

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