

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 27th,
No. 21. 1937

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Agricultural Bank reports on Laguna activities.....	# 1	Mexico rejects Geneva Labor Conventions.....	#3
Spanish Republican Leader in Mexico.....	" 1	Education Minister Bans Teachers' Strikes.....	"3
CTM Issues instructions to Unions in Trotsky Case.....	" 2	Jurisdictional Dispute Causes Railroad Strike.....	"4
Mexican Popular Front now a reality.....	" 2		

-----000-----

AGRICULTURAL BANK REPORTS ON LAGUNA ACTIVITIES.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- At a recent meeting of the directors of the National Bank of Ejidal Credit, there was read a report of the bank's president, now in Torreon supervising the institution's activities in the organization of ejidos (cooperative farming societies) in the Laguna region.

According to the report, 258 cooperative communities have been organized and there remain only 17 still to be formed. The number of peasants now grouped in these societies totals 26,690 and they are cultivating a total area of over 1,500,000 acres devoted partly to wheat and mainly to cotton. The Bank has so far made credit available to the new ejidos to the sum of 8,124,693 pesos, divided into various disbursements for fodder, machinery, farm implements, tools, and seed.

SPANISH REPUBLICAN LEADER IN MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- Marcelino Domingo, Minister of Education in the first government of the Spanish Republic and actual leader of the Left Republican Party, has arrived in Mexico after an extensive speaking tour of the United States and Canada on behalf of the legitimate government of Spain.

On his arrival here, Sr. Domingo denounced the avowed neutrality of England, France, and the United States in the Spanish conflict as a concealed form of intervention on the side of the rebels and a violation of the canons of international law. He asserted that the civil war would probably last for a good time to come but confidently predicted the ultimate victory of the Azaña Popular Front government over the fascist mercenaries of General Franco.

Sr. Domingo spoke at the Congress of Writers and Artists being held here, explaining in detail the actual situation in Spain and calling on all honest intellectuals of the world to support the Spanish people's government. At the National Congress of the Communist Party, which he was invited to attend, he had warm words of praise for the Communist Party of Spain, which he characterized as one of the most loyal and steadfast supporters of the Popular Front.

In a statement to the press, the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) expresses its satisfaction over the arrival of Sr. Domingo and announces its intention to invite him to speak at various meetings it is preparing in honor of the Spanish people. The Spanish leader has also been paid signal honors by the Permanent Commission of the National Congress, now in recess, and by the administration of the Federal District. Sr. Domingo expects to remain only a short time in Mexico, after which he will return to the United States to continue his work of enlisting sympathy and support for the government of his country.

CTM ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TO UNIONS IN TROTSKY CASE.

MEXICO CITY.--(MLN).-- The following statement has been issued by the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers):

"In view of the reports published by the press during the last few days in connection with the residence of Leon Trotsky in our country, the National Committee of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, with the purpose of defining the line of conduct which should be followed by all its constituent organizations, has reached the following decisions:

"One.-- No importance should be given by the Mexican working class to the presence of Trotsky in Mexico, in order to avoid the possibility of his stay among us being used to foment divisions in the labor movement.

"Two.-- All organizations which are members of the CTM should refrain from all public manifestations to comment on the presence of Trotsky in Mexico.

"Three.-- In no case should the expulsion of Trotsky from Mexico be petitioned, as the CTM has officially left the responsibility for his residence in the country with the government.

"Four.-- The National Committee of the CTM is sending a circular to all its affiliated organizations explaining the differences which exist between the program of our Confederation and Trotskyism, for the education of the workers of the CTM and as a base for the confederation of the case within the assemblies and meetings of their unions".

MEXICAN POPULAR FRONT NOW A REALITY.

MEXICO CITY.-- (MLN).-- According to an announcement just made by the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) over the signature of its General Secretary, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, Mexico will soon be the

third country in the world to complete the organization of a Popular Front of all the progressive forces of the nation.

After three months of consecutive negotiations with the various organizations involved, the CTM is now able to state that an agreement in principle has been reached and the formal pact of union will be signed within a brief period.

The Popular Front will be integrated by the following groups and bodies: The Mexican Peasant Confederation, representing all the organized peasants and ejidatarios (cooperative farmers) of the country; the National Revolutionary Party, the official political party of the government; the CTM, representing 90% of the organized labor movement; and the Communist Party of Mexico. The invitations issued by the CTM to the other three groups for the formation of the Popular Front have now been accepted and only minor details of organization still remain to be worked out.

The specific program of the Popular Front has not as yet been published and is being reserved for the manifesto to the nation which will be launched as soon as the new organization has been definitely created. In general however, it may be said that the Mexican body will differ from the Popular Fronts already existing in Spain and France in that it will not be a political party contending in national or local elections but will function as a united front organization of all progressive forces and elements in the country in defense of the interests of the peasants, the working classes, the lower middle class, and in general the interests of the nation as a whole against the aggressions and encroachments of foreign imperialism.

The creation of the Popular Front marks a tremendous stride forward in the unification of the country's workers and peasants and in the struggle for the complete economic and political independence of Mexico.

MEXICO REJECTS GENEVA LABOR CONVENTIONS.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- The superiority of Mexican labor legislation over many of the conventions adopted by the International Labor Office in Geneva has led to the anomolous situation where Mexico has had to refuse its ratification of such conventions or else run the risk of emasculating its own Labor Code.

This is the substance of the reply just sent to the International Labor Office by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The specific conventions which Mexico has refused to ratify as being less favorable to labor than its already existing legislation are the following: No. 3, relating to the employment of women before and after childbirth; No. 5, on the minimum age of minors in industrial labor; No. 20, which refers to the night work of bakers; and No. 47, which contains the general provision of the forty-hour week.

EDUCATION MINISTER BANS TEACHERS' STRIKES.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- In an effort to stop the epidemic of teachers' strikes which has been spreading from state to state throughout

Mexico during the past few months, Gonzalo Vázquez Vela, Minister of Education, has issued a statement declaring that the government will no longer tolerate such movements which it feels are a betrayal of the Revolution and of the teacher's obligations to the children of the working classes.

In a joint reply made by the two chief teachers' organizations, the National Confederation of Educational Workers and the Mexican Confederation of Teachers, the school teachers' representatives declare that the many teachers' strikes are in no sense to be construed as movements hostile to the government or to the Revolution; that the teachers do not go on strike because they enjoy it but because throughout the country they are being victimized by an intolerable oppression on the part of reactionary elements opposed to the government's socialist education and by local administrations in league with them; that school teachers have been attacked, wounded, mutilated, and in many cases killed in the performance of their duty; that strikes will continue as long as no other means are provided them to obtain their rights and defend themselves against aggression.

After this presentation of the thesis that the way to avoid strikes is not by forbidding them but by removing the causes which provoke them, the statement reiterates its assurance of loyalty not only to the government but to the Ministry of Education, which the two organizations specifically exempt from their charges against local officials and state administrations.

JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE CAUSES RAILROAD STRIKE.

MEXICO CITY.- (MLN).- A curious survival of craft conflict within the industrially organized Railroad Workers Union has led to an attempted strike movement in some of the shops of the National Railroads of Mexico.

The dispute has arisen between the carpenters and boiler-makers in the union as to the division of work in the construction of new railroad cars and the repair of old ones. Originally, this work was almost entirely the province of the carpenters, but in recent years, with the increasing introduction of steel cars, they have seen a large part of their field of labor gradually withdrawn from them. The dispute is still possible because the railroad union was in past years formed by the unification of the various railroad craft brotherhoods and has not entirely lost all vestiges of that character in the time that has passed.

By agreement between the two groups, the conflict has laid before the Federal Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. Delay by the board in rendering its decision gave rise to the strike call, which was only partially supported in the various shops of the railroads. In view of the crisis thus precipitated, however, the board hurriedly announced its decision, dividing the work of handling sheet steel, the main point of controversy, between the two groups. The Railroad Workers Union, through its General Secretary, then announced that the strike had been called off and that normal conditions were prevailing throughout the shops of the lines.

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 subscription to "U.O"..\$ 1.00
Am.Cy.

"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 PUBLICATIONS AND FOR DETAILED INFORMATION.

- WORKERS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO -
-
- Director: Dr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano. -
- General Secretary: Lic. Alejandro Carrillo. -
-
- ROSALES # 26 -
- MEXICO, D.F. -
