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THE NEW YEAR EDITORIAL (TAKEN FROM "EL POPULAR")

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) --- As its New Year Editorial, MEXICAN LABOR NEWS reproduces the following which appeared in El Popular, Labor daily:

"Within the grave conditions created by the world imperialist war, Mexico has fought one of the greatest battles of its existence as an independent people.

"The bitterness of the recent electoral campaign resulted not only from internal contradictions and clashes, but from the international situation.

"For the first time Mexico reflected clearly the problems and antagonisms of the outside world. Mexico is already not only a field for its own differences, but a field for the quarrel which shakes the world.

"One matter was ended by the Mexican people in 1940: Almazan. Almazan, transitory leader of the national reaction, ended politically before the year ended. The defeat of Almazan was one more defeat for the reactionaries, the enemies of the people, and a victory for the progressive sectors united behind a revolutionary program.

"Whatever the future may bring, we have achieved a great victory in maintaining national peace, in defeating the rebellious plans of Almazan reaction and in preserving our liberties amid the most tragic and oninous international situation.

"But those who look forward to 1941 with ingenuous confidence will be doing no service. In the coming year the war will extend to many more countries, its intensity will be much greater; death, hunger, terror, oppression and demoralization will be on all sides.

"It is necessary to know this and to prepare for it with all the energy of the individual and the nation. We especially need to understand that America's turn is drawing near.

"Not thru fatalism, but by observation of the signs and symptoms which surround us -- especially the development of events in the United States -- we are forced to admit that the danger of our continent being drawn into the flames of war is a danger that becomes continually greater.

"We can all imagine what the extension of the war to this hemisphere would mean for our peoples.

"The developments which will probably affect our country in 1941 will sweep away implacably all illusion of isolation.

"And yet, how much light of hope there is in this hour of shadow. The people must always go ahead; that is their reason for being.

"History has been made by a succession of victories by the people over the obstacles of nature and social backwardness. Society plants no problem for which the elements of solution do not exist.

"Even now, when an unprecedented calamity confronts us, we can divine the beginnings of those great acts with which mankind will achieve a better future.

"Under the capitalist system, war produces only immense loss for the people. This truth is once again revealed in all its rawness; and at the same time those



and begin to move.  
own and in all the people of the world.  
one strength and organization of the workers of  
genuine peace, founded on social justice.  
es, here and in all the world the noblest part of humanity,  
of a better future, we give our cordial and enthusiastic salute.  
y the year of 1941 be a year of great victories for all the peoples and  
or our own in particular."

#### PRESIDENT SEES "MELIZ AÑO NUEVO" FOR MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- In a New Year's message to the Mexican people, President Manuel Avila Camacho called upon all citizens to work together harmoniously for the benefit of the country, in full confidence that the coming year will bring great opportunities.

These opportunities, Avila Camacho declared, "will permit Mexico to continue her evolution, alleviating poverty, elevating the standard of living of the workers, financing industrial activity and improving the collective well-being of the Republic.

"In these grievous times in which we live," the President continued, "no nation can feel itself apart from the ill-fortune of the rest. War in many parts of the world gives us occasion to appreciate the meaning of peace in our own hemisphere.

"Happily, the republics of this continent are working together in positive fraternity; but we cannot forget the tragedy which afflicts other nations.

"It is our hope that these conflicts terminate and that the spirit of harmony prevail above the clash of interests and the manifestation of force."

El Popular, Mexico's leading labor daily, in commenting the president's speech stated that Mexico has full moral authority to hope for world peace in the sense of the president's final paragraph.

"Mexico," the newspaper declared, "has no imperialist ambitions and desires no other solution to the catastrophe than the triumph of liberty and the rights of man. There is no hatred in our country towards anyone; we are not moved by hidden interests.

"Our only wish is that mankind achieve the enduring peace to which it has a right, so that in the future the periodical slaughter which destroys man and sows pain and misery on the face of the earth shall not be repeated.

"We wish this war to end, not in the victory of either of the imperialist forces, but in the victory of the human race."

#### ARBITRATION BOARD GETS MORE MEMBERS.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- Mexico's Federal Board of Arbitration and Conciliation will be enlarged in the first part of 1941. Three more special divisions will be added to the board, making a total of ten.

It is hoped that the widening of arbitration capacities will prevent the occasional delay in hearing cases which occurred in the past. At times in 1940 the board was swamped by appealing employers and workers.

Meanwhile the Department of Labor has been raised to a "Secretariat", which will broaden its powers.

#### RR UNION NAMES THREE FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- The National Executive Committee of the Railroad Workers Union has designated L. Santos Fierro, M. T. Castillo, and P. Cardoso as its representatives in the new government administration of the Mexican National Railroads.

The president is expected to appoint Enrique Estrada, Conrado Rochin, A. E. Vera, Luis G. Segura, and Manuel Mayagoitia as the government's representatives. Mayagoitia was railway executive for the Labor Administration.



The law creating the government administration of the roads was approved last week by both houses of the Mexican Congress.

No labor rights will be lost in the reorganization, the Railroad workers have been assured both by the president and the legislators.

#### MEXICO PAYS 1941 DEBT INSTALLMENT.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- Mexico began the New Year by handing out approximately three and a half million pesos to foreign interests in payment for various claims of damage resulting from the revolutionary wars.

More than half a million dollars were paid out to the United States alone as part of the eleven-year installment plan now in its seventh year.

Most of the remainder went to British claimants.

#### MEXICO LOOKS ASKANCE AT INVESTMENT SHARKS.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- Apparently a certain number of American capitalists, on reading the inaugural speech of President Manuel Avila Camacho, assimilated the portion offering guarantees to investors and overlooked the part warning against exploitation and starvation wages.

On December 27 the magazine "Time" published an article concerning a flood of financial adventurers who are preparing to enter Mexico in the hope of making small investments and realizing tremendous profits thru exploitation. Among these soldiers of fortune appear to be such individuals as J. A. Hastings, one-time promoter, George Creel, publicity shark of bad reputation in labor circles, and G. H. Houston, former president of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation and arch-conservative, among others of similar type.

Mexican political and labor circles appear to be agreed in feeling that these men can find better employment of their time elsewhere, especially since it has been learned that the price these men will ask for their "investments" is the repeal of practically the entire liberal program of the Mexican government. Mexico is already acquainted with the "mess of pottage" story.