

# MEXICAN LABOR NEWS

Published Weekly by the Press Department of the Workers University of Mexico  
ROSALES 26 MEXICO, CITY

VOL. 8  
No. 61

\$ 1.00 A YEAR

April 10th, 1941.

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LABOR AND FARMERS  
HONOR GEN. ZAPATA.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- April 10 the workers and farmers of Mexico honored Emiliano Zapata, the great agrarian leader who mobilized the landless farming masses for the struggle that marked the beginning of the Mexican Revolution.

Zapata was killed 22 years ago after a life dedicated to Mexico's most oppressed sector. Born a peon, he differed from many of the fluctuating "revolutionary" leaders of his time in that he knew from first hand experience what he was fighting for.

Zapata from the first recognized that the basic problem of Mexico was the problem of the landless, enslaved farming masses. It was his slogan of "Land and Liberty" which epitomized the Mexican Revolution.

He was profoundly hated by many of the powerful political chieftains of his day who were already capitalizing on the revolutionary movement to make personal gain. But no other revolutionary succeeded in capturing the affection of the masses to the extent that Zapata did.

"So long as one farmer remains with a gun in his hand," Zapata said, "we shall not allow landlords to control the people's land."

Zapata's bitterest fight was waged after the revolution was won on the field of battle, against the political manipulations of big-shot generals and influential ward-healers.

Zapata did not fall into the common error of many of the "ultra" revolutionaries of his times; he did not weaken the fight against the basic evil by directing it against religion.

"I hate a lie," he said, "but I do not fight priests; they are a

product of misery and ignorance. The religious problem will end when we have.... our own land and schools."

Attending the ceremonies in honor of the great agrarian leader April 10 were members of the national committee of the Federation of Farmers, representatives of the national committee of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, and high government officials, including President Manuel Avila Camacho.

#### NEW FEDERAL LABOR LAW REFORMS GO INTO FORCE.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- Mexico's new labor laws went into effect March 10, on publication of the complete reforms in the *Diario Oficial*

Passed by the Senate and House of Deputies after a great deal of debate, the reforms to the Labor Law clearly guarantee the right to strike.

The new laws provide a complete mechanism for declaring and arbitrating a strike, with penalties provided for both labor and bosses if violations occur.

Main reforms, published previously in *LABOR NEWS*, are as follows.

1. Before a strike can be declared the employees must send the employer in writing a statement of their demands and an announcement of their intention to strike. This notice must be given six days before the strike begins. The employer must answer within 48 hours.
2. As soon as notice has been given the official board of arbitration will call together representatives of workers and of the boss. If the workers do not reply, they cannot legally strike, If the boss does not reply, he is subject to court action.
3. A strike must be limited to the act of suspension of work. Personal violence or material damage are forbidden under penalty.

Certain additional features already present in Mexican labor law, such as the fact that scabs cannot be brought in to break a legal strike, tend to make the reformed labor laws satisfactory on the whole to the Confederation of Mexican Workers.

Some fear has been expressed that the new laws may lend themselves to anti-labor interpretation in the hands of a reactionary government; but the CTM has expressed its complete confidence in the government of Avila Camacho.

#### MEXICAN LABOR PLANS HUGE MAY DAY PARADE.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- The Confederation of Mexican Workers, together with the CROM and other labor federations, will celebrate Labor's May Day with nationwide parades and public meetings.

In Mexico City the CTM militia will take part in the gigantic demonstration, with a preparatory meeting of battalion commanders scheduled for April 17.

Americans can take special pride in the huge manifestations which take place in Mexico each May Day, as every worker can tell you that the parade is in commemoration of the Chicago Martyrs, slain by the bosses during the fight for the eight-hour day.

It may come as a surprise to many Americans to learn that the Haymarket victims are part of the "folklore" of labor in all Latin American countries, their contribution more widely recognized than in the United States itself.

Approximately 300,000 will take part in the Mexico City May Day parade, which is expected to include many labor organizations which previously did not take part in the manifestation or had their "private" demonstrations.

#### CTM FORMS COMMITTEES TO FIGHT NAZI-FASCISM.

MEXICO CITY. (MLN) -- Tightening the defenses of Mexican Labor against reaction and fascism, the Confederation of Mexican Workers March 10 called upon its member organizations to set up regional committees "For Defense of National Sovereignty and Against Nazi-Fascism."

A national committee for the same purpose is also being selected.

Mexico's nazi-fascists, under the direction of Spanish Falange agents and backed by Hitler money, have worked out an exceptionally smooth program.

They have adopted the slogan of "Down with Yankee Imperialism," seeking to create the impression that they are fighting on behalf of the Mexican people.

Their role, however, is obviously that of a provocateur and follows exactly the program laid down by Hitler, which is to provoke a conflict between the United States and Latin America.

Mexican labor is not blind to the danger of United States imperialism, but it does not want to provoke iron-handed repression. In addition the CTM believes that the penetration of nazi-fascism is an even greater threat to the developing democratic institutions of Latin America than United States imperialism.

#### PROFITEER GROUPS ATTACK NEW PRICE-CONTROL BOARD.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- Indications that the new Market Regulative Commission being set up by the federal government may actually be an effective organ are seen here as a result of wide-spread indignant protest against the new commission by the Chambers of Commerce.

Mercantile groups have hastened to invoke the word "Democracy" and are already labelling the new commission a "governmental invasion of the rights of business."

The rights of business apparently include speculation, profiteering, and enforced starvation for the Mexican masses.

Mexican labor is unanimously backing the Commission, which will have a great deal more power and financial resources than the previous half-hearted board which was set up to regulate market prices.

The CTM has asked also that labor be given representation in the price-control committee as a guarantee that it will function in accord with its announced objectives.

RAILROADERS CONDEMN  
PROPOSED SALARY CUT.

MEXICO CITY (MLN) -- Meeting here April 9, Mexico City locals of the Railway Workers Union voted full support to President Avila Camacho in his reorganization of the National Railways.

At the same time the locals announced that they would fight any attempt at wage lowering or mass firing during the course of the reorganization, directing this warning to Gen. Enrique Estrada, head of the railways.

The railroaders declared that reorganization could be carried out efficiently and the roads placed on a paying basis without making the Railroad Workers bear the burden.

J. R. Solis, executive head of the union, in a speech at the meeting, declared that "a national problem cannot be solved at the expense of the workers," and reiterated that the condition of the railways is the result of a general economic situation.

Solis said that the Railway Workers Union was at all times prepared to defend the rights of its members but warned of "provocation".

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