

Mexican Workers and Farmers Unite to Crush the Reactionists' Effort to Seize State Power

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MEXICO CITY.—If there was any doubt as to the attitude of the workers and peasants of Mexico toward the government of President Obregon, the counter-revolution of General Guadalupe Sanchez in Vera Cruz and of General Enrique Estrada in Jalisco has settled the matter.

No sooner was this Fascisti uprising effected than the president received the immediate adhesions of the Confederacion Regional Obrera (Mexican Federation of Labor), the Labor Party, the Communist Party, the Agrarian Party, the Agrarian Communities and scores of individual unions and organizations of workers and farmers even including the two picturesque organizations of intellectuals, known as the League of Revolutionary Writers and the Union of Painters and Sculptors.

The peasants, already partially armed as a result of former revolutions and the liberty of bearing arms, which the constitution guarantees, are clamoring for more arms and more powerful and modern ones.

Thanks to the energetic aid of armed peasants, Jalapa, capital of the State of Vera Cruz, with a garrison of only 200 soldiers of the regular army, is still holding out against General Sanchez, who is attacking it with a force variously estimated at from 4,000 to 15,000.

The counterrevolution pro-De La Huerta, for it is in form at least a personal political counter-revolution, would not have promoted such overwhelming response on the part of the organized workers and farmers if it had been merely a question of personal succession to the presidency. But, in spite of the former revolutionary tendencies of De La Huerta, recent political events have slowly but steadily tended to line up the reactionary forces of the country behind him and make him, wittingly or unwittingly, their instrument. While Calles tended to take a more and more definite class stand for the workers and farmers, the manifestoes and speeches of De La Huerta spoke increasingly of pleasing all classes, of giving effective guarantees to property, etc. But the personality of De La Huerta and his views as well, the they serve as the rallying cry of the counter-revolution, are rapidly receding into the background and neither friendly nor enemy papers are mentioning his name. The state of war proclaimed by the rebellion, sharpened and clarified the class issue. Even professional politicians of the Cooperatista Party, who have held the reins up till now, such as Jorge Prieto Lorenz, are scarcely being mentioned. Two personalities stand out with stark and revealing nakedness. — General Guadalupe Sanchez and General Enrique Estrada. And whatever may have been their uncertainty, confronted with De La Huerta and even with Prieto Lorenz, the peasantry are no longer uncertain. General Sanchez has always been an avowed enemy of the agrarian program of the landless farmers. It was he that tried to disarm the Vera Cruz farmers, that gave protection and support to the big landowners. They have no doubt about him. And as to Estrada—he was the man to whom Obregon had offered the department of land distribution, only to withdraw the nomination when Estrada made declarations to the press completely hostile to the agrarian program of the present government.

The counter-revolution came suddenly, reached its maximum swiftly, and judging from present indications, will be over shortly. Up to a few months ago, Calles was the only candidate in the field, offered his nomination by both Cooperatistas and Laboristas, supported by De La Huerta, and opposed only by the big land owners. He had to choose between Cooperatistas and Laboristas. He chose the latter and split the Cooperatista Party. Followed in swift succession the resignation of De La Huerta from the cabinet, his nomination by the remnant (a majority, but a slight one) of the Cooperatista Party, the charge by the new secretary of the treasury that the former one, De La Huerta, had been guilty of malfeasance in office and diversion of the nation's funds, an impassioned defense by De La Huerta, the publication of photographed and facsimile proofs, and his "political trip" to Vera Cruz. The day he arrived, General Sanchez raised the standard of revolt. Two days before, the Cooperatistas had 129 deputies in the lower house, the Callistas only 124. On the eve of the revolt, only 70

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Delahuertista deputies showed up, and it was obvious that they had left the parliamentary field to appeal to force.

They have appealed to force. From Vera Cruz comes the report, now officially confirmed, that the first juridical act of Sanchez was the summary execution by rifle squad of Heron Proal, hated by the landowners because he was the leader of the Union of Striking Peasants of Vera Cruz. Sanchez has not yet captured Jalapa and on three sides federal troops are closing down upon him with reinforcements for the peasants and the two hundred soldiers of the garrison there. The government has closed the custom house of Vera Cruz, retaining the one at Tampico.

General Estrada, in Jalisco, whose forces I cannot accurately estimate, an account of conflicting reports, is being approached by the loyal armies of Guanajuato and other neighboring states, as well as the army released by the surrender of General Romulo Figueroa, who had revolted in Guerrero a week previously, although it is not at present apparent whether in agreement with Sanchez and Estrada or for the purely local reasons that he alleges.

The accounts that some of the American papers published the first and second days of the revolt are grossly exaggerated. Neither Villa's brother, nor Madero, are implicated. The state governments of Puebla, Queretaro, and one of two contesting and rival governments in San Luis Potosi have been removed without bloodshed, all other governors and all other important military divisions remain loyal to Obregon. The North of the country, the Maya region of Yucatan, the Yaqui Indians remain loyal, all this by way of refutation of the false reports cabled by the New York Times reporter here, De Coursey, who has been arrested on account of his activity as an alarmist.

It does not appear at this writing that American financial interests, who have subsidized so many revolutions, have a hand in this one. The finance capitalists seem content with the debt recognition of the Obregon government. The Doheny interests have just advanced (less than two weeks before the revolution when there were already clouds on the horizon) 10,000,000 pesos on account of taxes of next year as a loan to the government.

The net effect of the uprising promises to be, a clear field for the presidential candidacy of Plutarco E. Calles, nominee of the Laboristas, Agraristas, Communists and other parties of left tendencies; opposition only by some such candidate as Angel Flores, representative of land-owning interests, who is remaining neutral in the present crisis; a further veering toward the left of the present and future governments as they lean more heavily than heretofore upon the workers and peasants; and a forward impetus to the work of land distribution and socialization which was slowing up to such an extent on account of the political power of the reactionary forces that it was practically at a standstill.

Canadian Labor Party

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The fifth annual convention of the Independent Labor Party of Canada held here affiliated with the Canadian Labor Party. This makes the Labor Party...