

Communists of Mexico in 2nd Congress

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(Special to "The Worker")

MEXICO CITY.—"You and your esteemed family are invited to attend a celebration on the occasion of the opening of the Second Annual Convention of the Communist Party of Mexico."

With this quaintly worded invitation full of Spanish formality the Communist Party of Mexico publicly announced its forthcoming convention.

The convention is being held in the "Casa del Pueblo" or "People's House", a huge low, one-story building, ancient and impressive, here and there the yellow "tezontle", or baked clay, cracked and red brick showing thru, till 1922 one of the ancient convents of Mexico.—the land of 8,568 churches.—and now "The House of the People." But one cannot mistake it for a convent for over its entrance flies a huge, weather-scarred red flag.

I enter the unguarded gate, walk thru long corridors where children play and chickens stroll, for the spacious building harbors many families of evicted rent-strikers, and I make my way into a huge, dim hall, the main one of the convent. The score of delegates are quite lost in front of it.

So these are the delegates! Peasants in peasant costumes, except that they have on a pair of shoes. Workers in ragged overalls. One or two with collar and tie and others betraying trade marks of "the intellectual". Their faces are almost entirely Indian, grave and thoughtful, high-cheek-boned, dark-skinned. The one who presides is a full-blooded negro.

On the high ceiling of the one-time convent are painted a sacred heart, crosses, a bishop's mitre. The whole front of the stage is a biblical scene depicting Christ in Jerusalem, but the figure of Christ has been covered by an enormous picture of Karl Marx and his disciples peep out between rents in huge Red Flags. And above, in gold letters, is emblazoned the legend, "This house was taken by the people, June 11, 1922, for the Communist Party of Mexico and the Union of Striking Tenants."

An official begins to read the report of the outgoing National Executive.—"To use all efforts to obtain a United Front of the working class in Mexico, eliminating and showing up as traitors to their class all those who opposed themselves to the benefits that the united front will procure for the workers."

"This resolution," declares the committee reporter, "was the principal instruction of the last Congress to the Central Executive." He proceeds to report on the mistakes and successes of the last year. He tells how the committee made mistakes in connection with the movement for a rival Federation of Labor, how as their united front activities grew the Communists met opposition both from the "yellow" leaders of the Mexican Federation, and the "red" anarchist leaders of the General Confederation. He declared that the opposition of the leadership of both factions, combined with tactical mistakes of the Communists in the early history of the General Confederation had been effective in aiding the leaders of both factions of the labor movement to set up a sanitary cordon around their organizations to quarantine them from Communist infection. "Our response," he declared, "was to go directly to the masses of the workers everywhere, arouse in them the already powerful longing for unity of the workers forces in the face of Fascism and the Capitalist offensives, until it became a burning and unquenchable passion. With this work the party must go on, and a United Front will inevitably result."

(Second Article Next Week.)