

Take From Poor in Mexico to Pay Wall Street Debts

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

(Special to "The Worker")

MEXICO CITY.—Many hundreds of government employes have been fired by the federal government of Mexico and all the remaining ones, including even the army, the post-office and the teachers have been cut ten per cent in wages. (A soldier gets about fifty cents in American money a day.)

The reason given for the cut in wages and the dismissals is the government deficit, which deficit is in good part due to the recognition of the debt to American bankers contracted by pre-revolutionary governments and confirmed in the De La Huerta-Lamont treaty. The sum of 21,000,000 pesos has already been put aside in New York for the meeting of the debt.

Attack on De La Huerta.

The order of the new minister of the treasury, Albert Pani, announcing the firings and the wage cut was accompanied by a long attack on the former minister, Adolfo De La Huerta, who has just resigned to become a candidate for the presidency. President Obregon supplemented the attack with another declaring his former minister has spent funds without presidential or congressional warrant and without his knowledge and has left the treasury in a "complete state of financial and moral bankruptcy." The parties pro-De La Huerta brand this as an attack for political purposes, while the parties pro-Calles make political use of it.

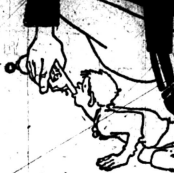
The Communist party has just posted up on the walls of the capital a manifesto denouncing the proposals of the present minister of the treasury as "anti-social and reactionary" and proposing to solve the problem of governmental deficit, not by economizing at the expense of social service nor by reduction of inadequate and scarcely adequate salaries but by a sliding scale reduction of salaries over 300 pesos monthly, by taxing big incomes, inheritances, large profits "and especially those of Mexican property owners resident abroad and foreign capital that comes to exploit the country"; by a thirty per cent increase of the tax on the big estates growing maguey (the cactus plant from which pulque, the principal intoxicating beverage of the country is extracted; a similar increase in the tax on the saloon and on the importation of liquor, by a tax of 100 per cent on articles of luxury, such as "jewelry, diamonds, imported dresses, automobiles of luxury type, glassware, etc." To understand the inclusion of glassware it is necessary to know that the poor (and also anybody with artistic sense) uses the beautiful baked earthenware dishes and pottery that is made in the country whereas the glassware is an imported article, dear and of poor quality.

Furthermore, the manifesto declares against the tax on federal water service to the peasantry, which tax the minister proposed, and against the reductions that he has forced in education and other social services.

The manifesto consists of ten proposals, the tenth of which is: "If it is necessary to choose between paying the North American banker and paying the employes, the government must pay its employes . . . It is the task of a revolutionary government to take from the rich that do not produce, but never from the poor that work."

Attack Communists in Brazil.

The Communist Party of Brazil has just been declared illegal and the following active Communists, have been thrown into jail: Perez, Silva, Brando, Canellas, Marcillo, Teresa



Escobar, Everardo Diaz and Astorgildo Pereira.

The pretext offered by the government of Brazil, a government dominated by a combination of United States finance capital, native "cockroach" capital, and the clergy, is a recent provincial revolution of so-called "liberal" elements. Brazil is a country of provincial revolutions that begin under some military chieftain in some God-forsaken extreme of the country and last until the central troops arrive. They have nothing to do with Communism or any other social issue. But anything serves as a pretext for an attack on the working class except where the latter has powerful daily papers to spread its side of the story. These are lacking in Brazil.

The police are engaged now in a campaign of sacking locals, smashing printing presses, and jailing everybody in sight. A union that adopted a resolution of protest was immediately dissolved and forbidden to meet again.

A new law has been adopted to "suppress the revolution." The following clause is eloquent of the state of affairs in the country where a United States naval commission is "showing them how":

"No syndicate (union) shall celebrate a meeting without the presence of a representative of the police."

The protest of other Latin-American countries has a considerable effect upon the internal government of any country in Spanish-America, but as the Brazilians speak Portuguese and all the other countries speak Spanish, their proletariat is somewhat isolated from the rest.

Nevertheless, the current issue of "Fuerza y Cerebro" (Power and Brain), official organ of District One of the Mexican Railroad Carpenters' Union carries a stirring protest calling upon the Mexican proletariat to hold demonstrations and protest meetings, send protest cables to the Brazilian government, and picket the Brazilian consulate.

The writer has introduced a motion into the Union of Newspapermen of the Federal District, proposing that the news be reprinted in all newspapers under control of the union. The motion, having gone to the proper committee, will probably pass without opposition, and as the union controls all but one of the dailies in the metropolitan area, and as "control" includes the membership of every one from the managing editor to the bookkeeper's sixth assistant, wide publicity will likely result.

Workers' Unity in Uruguay.

The Uruguayan workers are showing intense animation and taking fresh courage for the class struggle as the date of the congress for workers' unity approaches. It is generally expected that unity of the various workers' organizations will result and make nascent fascism turn tail and scurry for its hole. Uruguay may be a little country but it has already discovered a method of beating reaction that the workers of the big countries of the world will do well to imitate.

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