

MEXICO.

Is Going Red.

The fact stands out in bold relief against a background of recent developments that are making capital here sweat blood and swear frantic oaths.

The demonstration on Sunday, September 26th, in the National Palace, when Filaberto Villaral ran a red flag up a pole on the top of that ancient building, and thousands of workers rent the air with their yells for Bolshevism, was the last link in the chain of evidence that Mexico is nearing the Red Dawn.

To-day, 75 per cent. or more of the Mexican Federation of Labour are as revolutionary as the members of the I.W.W., the Communist Party and the Syndicalist Unions. All are going in the same direction. Scientific working-class education is still painfully lacking among the majority of toilers, but Radical sentiment is unmistakeable. Even the Conservative Labour leaders have been swept along in the current and hurled toward revolutionary destinations.

Antonio Diaz Soto y Gama, in charge of the Government's project of restoring land in small tracts to peons and retired soldiers, and one of the leaders of the Socialist block in the Chamber of Deputies, delivered, in the Palace, a speech predicting the early coming of Bolshevism in Mexico. "In the distance," he said, "we can see the Red Flag coming. It is coming to Mexico. It is coming everywhere. Its red stands for the blood of the capitalists and bourgeoisie, who will try to crush the rising workers with guns."

Felipe Carrillo, Deputy from Yucatan and President of the Yucatan Socialist Party, delivered the most fiery speech of all. "We want no more Congressmen, Presidents, churches and bourgeois Governments," he thundered. "Soviets and Communism are what we want. We demand them. We are going to have them, peacefully, if we can, otherwise if we must. It would be better to dynamite the National Palace, the home of the Catholic Archbishop and the Cathedral than to permit the will of the masses to be thwarted." The next morning, the press of the whole city was screaming that Carrillo had advocated arson, pillage and murder.

Luis N. Morones, head of the Mexican Federation of Labour, and friend of Samuel Gompers, to whose school of ideas he was formerly supposed to belong, was hardly less emphatic than the others. He advocated Bolshevism frankly, and appealed to the workers to prepare for the day of Soviets. Morones is in charge of the Government Munitions Factory.

Deputies Manuel Fabio Altamirano and Luis León spoke from the balcony of the "Salon Rojo," Mexico City's finest movie house, also endorsing Bolshevism, and calling for the overthrow of Capitalism.

The occasion of the demonstration was a procession through the streets, whose purpose was to demand the amendment of Articles 27 and 123 of the Constitution, along lines more favourable to the workers. Article 27 is the article nationalising oil and minerals, and Article 123 deals with labour. The delegations went to the Palace to speak on these amendments. Eduardo Moneda, head of the Government Labour Department and close friend of President De la Huerta, was present at the speech-making in the Palace. De la Huerta was in Chapultepec Castle, where he has been ill several days.

The demonstration was peaceful from beginning to end, but marked by deadly earnestness.

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