

MEXICAN WORKERS GIVE FOUR DAYS TO CELEBRATING GREAT INTERNATIONAL LABOR HOLIDAY

By JAY LOVESTONE.
(Special to the Daily Worker.)

MEXICO CITY, Mexico, April 30.—At a session of the Central Labor Council of Mexico City, I was somewhat surprised at the apparent ease with which the labor body was working, in view of the recent turmoil in particular and the youthfulness and inexperience of organized labor in Mexico in general. The proceedings went on very smoothly and were handled with despatch.

The chief subject of debate for the sixty odd delegates crowded into the small room, was the problem of organizing successful May Day demonstrations. Communications from local unions after local union showed that there was widespread interest amongst the masses for making the international workers' holiday one huge demonstration of the solidarity of the oppressed masses. To an American accustomed to "Anti-red" denunciations bearing the Gompers' union label every May first, and to July fourth spreadeagle orations on the Labor-Capital peace day in September, this attitude of the Mexican workers was most refreshing.

Russian Posters on Wall.

As a matter of fact the whole atmosphere surrounding the deliberations was in most striking and welcome contrast to the staid and stifling atmosphere so characteristic of the average American central labor body. On the walls of the meeting room there were posters inscribed in Russian, showing how the working and peasant masses of Soviet Russia repelled the world capitalist reaction, and how the Red Army was leading the working class to victory.

In the chair of the presiding officer there was seated an almond-eyed Mexican who was an example of the type reared in the union of Spaniard-Indian and Oriental. Amongst the delegates there could be the native Indian, the Spanish, Mestizo or Creole and the American or "Gringo" types. Here and there were to be seen women delegates. The representatives of the various local unions come to the meeting in their working clothes, in their overalls, in their tattered garments.

The salutations "Delegate" so and so and "Brother" so and so were significantly absent from the deliberations of the Central Labor Council here. The Mexican workers address each other as "companeros" or comrades. The communications from the various local unions to the central body called "La Federacion de Sindicatos de Obreros del Distrito Federal" all ended with the slogan "Salud Y. Revolucion Social." In the English of our trade union movement this would be the shocking closing of "Greetings and Social Revolution."

May Day Strike Planned.

There was considerable discussion over the question of taking the workers in the ice factories off their jobs on May 1st. The owners had made the plea that these workers should stay at their posts because of the hospital needs for ice. The delegates would brook no such ruse by their bosses. They were determined to present an unbroken front in the May 1st demonstrations. A special committee was appointed to see to it that there would be no scabbing in the ice factories.

Opposition from the ice bosses will very likely be encountered. One delegate reported that his employer had decided to run the ice factory on May 1st, that he had proudly boasted of his having no fear of a strike since he had already gone thru four strikes and had managed to "fix" them with bullets. In order to make sure that the bosses would toe the work, delegates from the chauffeurs, flour mill workers, transportation workers, department store clerks, and other unions volunteered to organize themselves into squads to prevent the ice manufacturers from violating the international holiday.

Remember Haymarket Victims.

All in all, the May Day celebrations planned by the Mexico City organized workers will last four days. Mass meetings, theatrical performances, concerts, parades, a demonstration to commemorate the murder of the anarchist workers in Chicago in 1887, an address by Luis N. Morones, president of the Mexican Federation of Labor, to be released to the workers of the whole country on the radio, are part of the auspicious program.

Extensive preparations for the celebration of the workers' international holiday are also keeping busy large sections of the unorganized masses of workers and peasants. The writer had the good fortune to take in a rehearsal of a great mass chorus of thousands of men, women and children. Crowded in the "Platio", a sumptuous arena in the court of the "Secretaria de Educacion, Publica," were thousands of workers and farmers dressed in their overalls and working clothes, singing under the directions of their leader who was preparing them for the inauguration ceremony to make the grand opening of the National Stadium on May 1st. The colors of the variegated shawls covering the Indian women blended in charming effect with the sad strain running thru the powerful mass tones. In music and color, in art and literature, the spirit of the masses bears the wholesome imprint of revolt against capitalist imperialist oppression.

As one looked down upon this vast mass of genuine enthusiasm he could not but be impressed with the powerful wave of revolt that these oppressed people will sooner, rather than later, let loose against their exploiters.

Mental Robot Factories Will Shock Liberals This Side of Revolution

(By The Federated Press)

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 2.—

English colleges have more academic freedom than America's goosestep institutions, Bertrand Russell, British Socialist and professor, replies to President A. Lawrence Lowell, Harvard university here. The argument started over an interview with Russell published in the college paper, Harvard Crimson, charging that control by capitalist trustees was responsible for the ban on radical speakers like Debs, Foster and Nearing by the Harvard union.

"Any one who cares more for academic pursuits and the advancement of learning than for political propaganda would wish to see the government of universities in the hands of men of learning rather than uneducated millionaires," saps Russell. After pointing out that learning is less respected than wealth in this country, he concludes:

"A university should be primarily a place of learning and education, where whatever propaganda may occur is neutralized by opposing propaganda. Under the existing system, however, the propaganda of one side prevades everything, while that of the other can only creep in thru an occasional cranny."

CHICAGO COUNCIL FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN WORKERS ACTIVE IN A

In order to organize the work of the foreign born workers, a council of Chicago composed of local unions and organizations, with a total of several hundred members, has been organized. The aim of this council is to organize a drive of the employers and to fight against any such drive.

The drive of the employers against the foreign born workers has culminated in a number of bills now before Congress which go against the rights of aliens in this country and the power to deport any aliens, with the intent to import any class of labor which is not in the industrial needs of the country.

Owing, however, to the exigency of the political situation and due to the fact that this is an election year, and if such a bill were adopted it would mean the defeat of the party advocating it, the Employing Class of this country have agreed to the passage of the Johnson Bill, which while on the surface a much milder bill, and which does not call for the registration of Aliens in this country, yet is as vicious an Anti-Labor Bill as could be found and one that must be fought by the Militant Workers in order to safeguard their interests.

The Chicago Council for the protection of Foreign Born Workers has thruout its secretary addressed the following letter to Congressman Johnson the originator of the Johnson Immigration Bill which has now passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"On behalf of the Chicago Council for protection of Foreign Born Workers composed of Local Unions and other working class organizations, with a total of seventy thousand affiliated workers, I am instructed to protest against the final passage of the Johnson Bill HR 6540.

We protest the final passage of the Johnson Bill because if its immigration clause, stipulating that applicants for immigrants certificate shall furnish to the consular office copies of his military record, and prison record if any, as well as copies of all available public records concerning him, kept by the Government to which he owes allegiance. We protest the passage of this bill for its stipulation that the documents furnished shall be permanently attached to the application and become part thereof and for its further stipulation that copy of immigrant's photograph is to be permanently attached to their immigration certificate as well as to the fact that this bill give the consular officials the power to select those immigrants they desire, and reject those whom they regard as objectionable.

All these provisions it is clear to us are made for the purpose of establishing a system of selective immigration, threatening prospective immigrants to accept a status of submission so they may be used by the employers in their endeavor to smash the existing labor organizations and lower the conditions of life of the workers in this country both native and foreign.

In view of the impending final adoption of this Johnson Bill, we call upon the Industrial Workers