

FIVE NATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO GET TOGETHER

Unity Blow to Aims of U. S. Imperialism

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

(Staff Correspondent of the Federated Press)

A union of the five Central-American countries into a United States of Central America has been officially proposed by Secretary of Foreign Relations Roberto Lowenthal of Guatemala.

As steps in that direction he instances the new commercial treaty with El Salvador for the abrogation of commerce barriers, the growing network of international roads between the five countries and increased cooperation along economic lines. As principal obstacle he sees:

"The intervention direct or indirect of one country in the internal politics of another or others (is he thinking of the 'one country'—U. S. A.—that has the guns of its battle-ships overlooking the principal seaport of Honduras just now?) has no doubt been the principal cause of the antagonisms which render difficult the fusion of the five central American republics."

Chile has just adopted an income tax bearing most heavily on real estate speculators and almost not at all on wage earners. Profits from real estate speculation are to pay 9%; securities profits, 4½%; profits on industry and commerce, except mining enterprises (it is said the U. S. state department had a finger in this), 3½%, and all salaries exceeding 2,400 pesos yearly, 2%.

Latin-American papers want to know why Lopez Gutierrez has been told under the guns of an American battleship that the U. S. state department will not permit him to perpetuate himself in the presidency of Honduras because the United States "views with concern, etc." The power of the same state department has been used ever since the fall of Castro to keep in power the odious tyrant of Venezuela, Juan Vicente Gomez, who no longer takes the trouble to hold elections. They ask whether the oil concessions granted by Gomez to the Standard Oil Co. have anything to do with it.

* * *

By the determined boycott of American and British packers, the law for the fixing of the price of cattle on the hoof in Argentina has been suspended after a bitter struggle. When the depression in the price of beef has ruined so many American farmers was felt in Argentina, the cattle raising farmers there forced thru a price-fixing law.

Interested parties were to participate thru representatives in the price fixing commission. The American and British packers refused to take part in the conference, and then refused to make any purchases of cattle until the law was suspended. In November it was suspended for six months. It is doubtful whether it will again be put into force. The packers have won.