

# U. S. Delegate Tells of Latin-American Labor Meet

William Simons, metal worker, recently returned from five weeks in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentine, where he attended the conference that created the Latin American Confederation of Labor, states:

"The workers of Latin America take seriously the solidarity pact signed with the representatives of the Trade-Union Educational League. They expect a great deal of it. We have real duties to the workers of Latin America, oppressed and menaced by American imperialism. Already, since returning to the United States, I have received a letter from one of the Montevideo congress delegates from Sao Paulo, on a tour of the affiliated organizations in that Brazilian state, which is highly industrialized. Everywhere, he says, the workers are happy to hear of the pact signed with the revolutionary workers of North America, and will do all they can to carry it out. They expect this of us, too.

## Our Responsibility.

"It is our responsibility to popularize it, and carry it into effect, to prevent any scabbing on Latin American workers when they are on strike and to check the plans of American imperialism, which is enslaving them.

"Delegates at the conference, when shown the Daily Worker were well pleased with the articles on the fruit plantation strikes in Colombia. Raul Mahecha, leader of the banana strike in Colombia last year, was enthusiastic about the Daily's support. The delegates were pleased with Harrison George's interview with the Bolivian minister in Washington at the time U. S. imperialism was driving for a Bolivia-Paraguay war, in which the minister admitted the decisive role played by Standard Oil.

## Smash Imperialist Lies.

"After hearing the address to the congress by the two fraternal delegates of the T. U. E. L., Isaiah Hawkins, Negro miner from Pennsylvania, and myself, the Ecuadorian delegate declared that he was glad to hear of the real conditions in North America, as United States imperialist propagandists were trying to convince the workers in Ecuador that every worker in the United States lived better than the bourgeoisie of Ecuador.

"One of the difficulties in establishing the proper relations between the workers of North and South America is the language difficulty, which must be overcome.

## Big Congress.

"The Montevideo congress itself had 55 delegates from 15 countries, all the most important except Chile, where the labor movement is driven underground by a fascist government."

The agenda dealt with the following: Report of the Montevideo Committee; Struggle against British and American Imperialism and Against Native Reaction; Attitude toward the Pan American Federation of Labor and Amsterdam; Program of Immediate Demands; National and International Trade Union Unity; Problems of Immigration and Emigration; Problems of the Indians and the Organization of the Agricultural Proletariat; Creation of the Latin American Organization of the Agricultural Proletariat; Creation of the Latin American Confederation of Labor. The Negro, Women and Youth problems were also considered. On each point, except Negro, and Women, elaborate theses had been worked out.

The struggle against the reformists was emphasized, both against the Pan American Federation of Labor, which was still attempting to make inroads in Central America; and against Amsterdam, which had opened a bureau in Argentine and had a base among the railroad workers of Argentine. The problem of the Indian is exceedingly important for Latin America, where they are numerous in agriculture; and in the mining, textile and sugar industries. The Executive Committee was instructed to study the possibility of calling an all Indian Latin American Congress in Ecuador. The Negro question came up for the first time, showing the existence of a sharp race problem, due partly to the influx of Negroes from the West Indies into Central American countries, where they were used by the United Fruit Co. to batter down the conditions of the native workers and in some cases to act as overseers; in all cases bringing on sharp race conflicts.

## Permanent Organization

A General Council was elected, with an Executive Committee of 7, to direct the work from Montevideo. A subcommittee of 3 was elected for the work in Mexico and the Caribbean countries.

A Seamen's Conference, lasting two days, was held with representatives present from Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Paraguay, which elaborated a statement showing the poor conditions of the marine workers, and elected a committee to unite the efforts of the various Seamen's Unions in Latin America. The committee affiliated with the International Transport Propaganda and Action Committee, and sent a telegram of greetings to the Russian Seamen's Union.

In addition, Simons pointed out, there was an anti-imperialist war conference, in February, 1929, which was led by the committee arranging the Montevideo congress, and much enhanced its prestige.

The Latin American Federation of Labor affiliates with the Anti-Imperialist League, and calls upon all of its constituent bodies to do the same.

**The Gastonia Textile Workers' trial began July 29! Twenty-three workers face electrocution or prison terms! Rally all forces to save them. Defense and Relief Week July 27—August 3! Sign the Protest Roll! Rush funds to International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York.**

## WORKER SUFFOCATES.

CLEVELAND, Ohio (By Mail).—Louis Saydos, laborer, 18, was suffocated while at work in the White Sewing Machine plant. He fell into a 50-foot bin of sawdust and shavings.

## JAIL INDO-CHINA WORKERS.

HANOI, French Indo-China, (By Mail).—Several workers who were accused of having visited the grave of one of the leaders of the Anti-French movement were sentenced to penal servitude for this act of reverence.

Not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons—the modern working class—the proletariat.—Karl Marx (Communist Manifesto).