

Death Brings United Front To Mexico

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

In face of the tremendous loss of their greatest national figure, Felipe Carrillo, and their greatest international leader Nicolai Lenin, the peasants and workers of the federal district here joined hands irrespective of party or faction in the most complete united front that Mexico has ever seen. In the auditorium of the school of engineering assembled members of the Agrarian, Communist, and Labor Parties and of the Socialist Party of the Southeast. Louis N. Morones, leader of the Mexican Federation of Labor, presided over the memorial meeting. Gutierrez Cruz, president of the League of Revolutionary Writers, bitter personal enemy of Morones, stood on the same platform to recite a poem he had written in honor of Nicolai Lenin. What was perhaps more impressive was the joint presence of long-standing political enemies on the same platform united in the bond of a common sorrow.

Inspirational Atmosphere.

The vast auditorium was decorated by the Union of Communist Painters. The center of the platform was occupied by an enormous canvas of the face of Lenin painted by Mexico's greatest artist, Diego Rivera, who had known the great Communist leader personally, and put all his love and admiration for the man in his futuristic canvas painted in jet black upon a red background. To the side of the Lenin painting was one painted by Xevier Guerrero of the dreamer's face of Felipe Carrillo, martyr governor of Yucatan, Socialist leader killed by the rebels in the recent uprising. The foreground of the stage was decorated to represent the soil, symbol of the agrarian movement in this dominantly agrarian country. The soil was jet black and torn by red furrows, and on it stood red plows with black steel blades. Above the stage hung a silver hammer and sickle, and o'ertopping everything else, the red star of Communism, illuminated, and casting over everything a strong red glow.

The side walls bore manifold legends such as; "The rifle in proletarian hands is the guarantee of liberty"; "The hennequen of Yucatan ties the sheaves of Russian wheat"; "Peasant, the earth yields a hundred for one and you get one for a hundred"; and most prominent of all—"Lenin has died but his work continues."

The meeting was opened by a speech of Diego Rivera on behalf of the Communist Party of Mexico. He traced the significance of Lenin in the world revolutionary movement, declaring that Leninism consisted above all in the judging aright of the role of the farmer and peasant in the revolutionary struggle. He pointed out that the slogan of 1905 of "a workers' and peasants' government", the slogan, "All power to the Soviets" of 1917, the new economic policy, the so-called Trotsky shears, and the formation by the Communist International of an international peasant-farmer organization, were logical realistic applications of the leninist estimate of the significance of the peasantry.

"Lenin Lives—Carrillo Lives!"

Turning with great emotion to the lifelike face he had painted on the stage, he declared: "Lenin lives! Carrillo lives! In the audience and in the Mexican region there are thousands

of peasants, rifle in hand, avenging the death of Felipe Carrillo and carrying on his work to complete socialization of the land. In Russia there are millions of peasants rifles in hand ready to defend the work of Lenin and carry it to its conclusion in the socialization of the entire world. His work is the man and will live forever."

Followed two minutes of profound silence on the part of the audience and then Manuel Carpio, private secretary of the Minister of Agriculture, Ramon P. De Negri, got up the speak. He read De Negri's address to the audience for De Negri was on the Western battle front with the president. Lenin, declared the address, was a man of sober realities. He preached no creed or dogma. He created no glistening dreams. For this he was the greatest leader the workers and peasants had ever had.

The workers, the address continued, demand all and will continue to demand all till they win all. Lenin understood that to win all, a dictatorship of the proletariat was necessary. In place of the dictatorship of the Czar, he proposed neither the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie nor a personal dictatorship by himself, but the dictatorship of the working classes.

Leninism, declared De Negri's message, implied a new social ethics. Sooner or later humanity would put into practice this Leninism. The triumph of labor was written on the dawn by Lenin. His name will live while lives on the earth one man who toils.

Of Felipe Carrillo, De Negri's message spoke more briefly, but with equal intensity of feeling. He told how the Maya Indian and the mestizo (mixed breed) worker, had received a baptism of ideas from their great leader and how the Yucatan peninsula had been working out the problem of the emancipation of those who toil, under his able guidance. "The cowardly attack upon Felipe Carrillo is useless," concluded the minister of Agriculture. "His work lives on and his murder will be costly to the traitors who have perpetrated it and the rebel leaders who are morally responsible for the assassination, for he is transfused into the blood of a host of workers and peasants and they will avenge his death and complete his work."

Followed the secretary of the Agrarian Party, Lauro G. Galoca. He summed up what Leninism meant to him with a few simple maxims such as "he who works shall eat, and he

who does not work shall not"; "To each what he produces"; "Where there is no economic liberty, there exists none of the liberties whatsoever," and the like. The justice he preached, applied to Mexico meant redistribution of the land to those who tilled it. Caloca emphasized what he called Lenin's gift of knowing how to be mistaken.

Rifle Necessary Adjunct.

Followed again two minutes of silence and then a poem to Lenin by the revolutionary poet, Gutierrez Cruz. A band of 75 pieces played a funeral march and then Deputy Mena of the Socialist Party of the South East, of which Carrillo had been leader, spoke of the work of Felipe Carrillo in Yucatan. "Felipe's motto," he declared, "was: 'Give the toiler land, books and liberty.' Now from his death we learn to add to land, books and liberty, a rifle to protect these dearly bought freedoms from the oppressor."

Perhaps it is this realization of the lesson of the necessity of a proletarian dictatorship that explains the

sudden drift toward Communism in certain circles in this land of contradictions, during the last month or two. Be the explanation what it may, the drift is obvious. The fact that Luis N. Morones stood on the same platform with Deigo Rivera the Morones said never a word, is eloquent of that tendency. The frank praise on the part of the Minister of Agriculture for the dictatorship of the proletariat is even more eloquent. "We thought we could do it peacefully, but the rebellion has proved us mistaken. We see we may have to borrow a few leaves from Russian history," declared Robert Haberman, ever an avowed enemy of Communists and Communism, in a recent interview to an American newspaper. At all events, the loss of the greatest leader that the struggle for social freedom has produced, brought for a night at least, the united front for which worker and peasant are longing, and all factions of the farmer-labor movement voiced their gratitude as Mexico acknowledged its debt.

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