



Striking Growth

OF FASCIST MOVEMENT IN MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY, (Associated Press)—Conceived in jest and at first accepted by the nation in the same spirit the Fascist movement in Mexico has made such rapid strides during the past few weeks that it is now reckoned as an important political factor which doubtless will figure largely in the presidential elections two years hence. Starting in the small city of Jalapa, capital of the state of Veracruz, it was declared even by its founders to be a mere local society without definite aim and certainly not nation wide in its scope. The name Fascist was adopted more because of its present popularity than because of the ideals sponsored by the Italian organization. But certain persons who have suffered at the hands of a government which has pressed down rather harshly on property owners during the past ten years, grasped at the movement as a safe and effective means to protest against alleged injustice. It offered an opportunity for the landed classes to fight certain

radical reform laws that have been imposed on them during the past few years. Without becoming actual revolutionists against central authority, they were able through the new society to organize their interests with a view to gaining sufficient strength ultimately to make demands on the Mexico City government.

Against Bolshevism.

The Jalapa Society was immediately copied in Tampico, and Monterey, Mexico City, Puebla, Guadalajara, Merida, Oaxaca and Mazatlan followed suit. Within a few weeks a temporary national Fascist organization was perfected with Gustavo Sainz de Sicilia, a young engineer, as provisional chairman. Offices were established here and within a few days 22 traveling representatives were sent to scattered parts of the republic to spread the propaganda of protest against Bolshevism and radical law-making. The second week in January was fixed as the time for a national convention at which time the Jalapa and Tampico societies, which have been operating independently, will join the larger organization. With more than 100,000 members already enrolled it is stated that by June next there will be at least 1,000,000 Fascist in Mexico. Meanwhile officials at the national palace here were undergoing a change of attitude toward the movement. President Obregon at first scoffed at the idea and dismissed it as a local society of no importance. He declined to consider it as a movement similar in any respect to the Italian Fascist. Indicative, however, of the fact that high officials now see a threat in the impetus gained by the society, is a recent declaration by Adolfo de la Huerta, secretary of the treasury, who described the Mexican Fascist as an "exotic plant that cannot flourish in this republic." He ridiculed its importance and expressed the hope that the Mexican proletariat would not "commit suicide" by adopting it. And in deprecating the movement he did what its supporters desired—recognized it as a factor to be considered in the political future.

Movement Encouraged by Church. With the growth of the Fascist there is a general understanding current in the republic that the Catholic Church in Mexico, although not actively sponsoring it, is not at all averse to its spread. Official denial has been made by the Archbishop of Mexico that he or the church is in any way interested. Senor Sainz also says the church has nothing to do with the movement. But there is nothing to prevent the individual Catholic from joining the society. According to Senor Sainz the Mexican Fascist is not a military organization. "We do not intend to copy the complete program of the Italian Fascist," said Senor Sainz to the Associated Press, "although their fundamental ideals are also ours in that we are both organized to fight for a new order of things and to combat Bolshevism. We do not want to shed blood, but if we are attacked, we shall be prepared to defend ourselves. We intend to fight our battles through exerting economic pressure. There will be no street demonstrations, no parades. We shall go about our work quietly, organizing our forces, and weeks, perhaps months, may pass with but slight indications of our activity. But at the proper moment we intend to strike. Backed by our hundreds of thousands of adherents we shall make certain demands on our government. If it fails to meet them, then it must deal with us directly. We are in no sense anti-government and we have every desire to construct not destroy. We are recruiting our forces from all classes of society and we make no distinction in creed or political faith. We have declared war on radicalism and we are prepared to carry on." Mexico City newspapers have adopted varying attitudes toward the movement. Excelsior has openly espoused the cause and EL UNIVERSAL vigorously opposes it. EL DEMOCRATA and EL HERALDO are not enthusiastic in its praise. EL MUNDO sees in it an attempt by the Catholic church to gain ascendancy in the republic. The January convention is awaited by all with keen interest.

St. John's Ambulance.

The present St. John's ambulance association was originated from the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Medieval legend tells us that this order was first instituted by certain wealthy merchants who founded a hospital in the Holy City for pilgrims and dedicated it to St. John the Baptist.

During the first crusade the head of this hospital earned the gratitude of the knights by nursing their wounded. Consequently, after the capture of Jerusalem, the crusaders did every thing in their power to show their appreciation. The hospital was enlarged and donations of land and money were showered on the new establishment.

The order now consists of knights whose duty was to take up arms in any holy cause, priests and those who did the nursing. From the time of the first crusade they took a regular part in all religious wars. But, owing to the privileges granted by the church and their ever-increasing wealth, the order was becoming very independent of the clergy. At length it practically broke away and became a military organization.

In the thirteenth century the order was driven from Palestine by the Turks. They captured the Island of Rhodes, however, and established themselves there. But from that time the organization commenced to deteriorate. At length, as things grew worse, headquarters were opened in England. It was then that the present St. John's ambulance association was first formed. The king is its head, and anyone performing a service for humanity receives a medal of appreciation. This association did its part

nobly towards alleviating the suffering of our soldiers in the last great war.

Mr. Andrews has very kindly interested himself in forming a St. John's ambulance class for our staff and friends in Kamloops, and Doctor Willoughby of this city is to be in charge. The class is to consist of forty members, who will meet every second Tuesday.—E. D.

Zita of Austria May Live in Bavaria.

BERLIN.—Zita, former empress of Austria, has been visiting her mother, the Duchess of Parma, in Bavaria for the last two months and will probably remain with the duchess for several weeks longer. Zita left her Spanish retreat in the Pyrenees, which had been placed at her disposal by the King of Spain, because of the excessive cost of keeping up the establishment. She has purchased an estate at Starnberg, near her mother's estate, on which it is understood she will erect a house. She has still a number of faithful retainers from among the Austrian nobility who act as her court officials.

Our Alphabet.

No one really knows all about where the alphabet came from, because it grew slowly. But we know quite well that no ingenious man sat down and made the alphabet, and we know quite well, too, that the alphabet began as pictures.

Just as a child reads or takes things in by pictures long before it can read letters, so men used to read and write by pictures, and then these pictures were gradually made simpler and simpler, until at last they could be used in every and any way, as our letters can.

We know that the letter O was at first the picture of an eye, and that gradually men made the picture plain, until at last they drew an O. The letter H was once the picture of a house and very likely a capital A may have been at first the picture of a pyramid.

Ages and ages ago, in Egypt, men used both hands in writing. The priests used the oldest kind, which was the pictures. This was called the sacred writing. But the ordinary people used a different and newer kind of writing, in which the pictures were turned into letters.

Not very many years ago men tried in vain to read the old sacred picture writing of the Egyptians, but they could not. Then they found the wonderful Rosetta stone, and this had written upon it the same thing three times—once in the picture and once in the letters, and also once in other letters, and so men got the key to the picture writing, and now it can be read easily.

New Typesetting Device to Set Radio Copy Direct.

PARIS, Jan. 20.—A French engineer claims to have invented a new machine for composing and setting type which is a great improvement on and simplification of the linotype. The new machine has far fewer parts and can be handled by a child, according to the statement of the inventor. A special device is attached which allows wireless copy to be received direct on the machine.

Austrian Crown Has Become Stabilized.

VIENNA.—That the Austrian crown will remain indefinitely at about the exchange value of seventy thousand to the dollar is the opinion of Austrian financiers. The League of Nations plan for restoring Austrian finances provides that there be no further increase in the quantity of paper money in circulation, but it makes no provision for reduction. The quantity of paper issued is regarded as absolutely necessary for the normal working of business, since its purchasing value is something like 14,000 times less than before the war. Eventually all bills of denominations lower than a hundred will be eliminated. Even a hundred crown note is of little use; it is scorned even as a tip.

BUSINESS RELATIONS ADJUSTED Austrian business is in such a sensitive condition that any sudden rise in the exchange value of the crown would be a disaster almost equal to a sudden fall. Interior affairs, as well as foreign business relations, have gradually been adjusted to the abnormal relation of the crown to other money and it is considered best that it remain unchanged for the present. As there is nothing left in Austria so insignificant as to be reckoned in single crowns, tens of crowns, or hundreds, bills of those denominations will gradually disappear to be replaced by five hundreds and thousands.

Don't forget to come to the T. A. Hall on Feb. 12th. T. A. Ladies' Auxiliary will hold a Card Party and Dance; also pancakes will be served by the ladies. Bennett's Orchestra will be in attendance.—Jan 29, 71

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