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## MEXICO IS QUICKLY RETURNING TO NORMAL

Trade Union Movement Progresses and Country Re-organized.

(By Chester M. Wright.)  
When the Pan-American Federation of Labor met in Mexico City in January it will meet in a country where there is a Labor movement constantly gaining in strength and constantly growing in resemblance to the American Federation of Labor.

With James Lord, president of the mining department of the American Federation of Labor and Treasurer of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, I have just returned from a tour of the republic to the south. Our trip took us from Laredo, on the Texas border, to San Luis Potosi, thence to Tampico and from there to Mexico City. Ed. Smith was passed through the important cities of Monterrey and Saltillo. We traversed in perfect safety a country that three months ago could be crossed only at great risk and without any night traveling.

These are facts about Mexico as we found it:  
1. Mexico is pacified.  
2. Mexico is an enterprising nation, going about the business of education and reconstruction in a thoughtful and orderly manner.  
3. The Mexican army, up to a strength of 300,000 but a few weeks ago, is being demobilized and may be cut to as low as 60,000. Generals are being demobilized and sent back to the ways of peace.  
4. Communal lands, lands which were granted to communities for community use under the ancient Spanish grants and which in many cases were communal lands before the advent of the Spanish, are being restored to the people. Restoration is proceeding at the rate of from twenty to thirty communities per month.

5. Trade union organization is proceeding rapidly and the practice of negotiation and trade agreement is being introduced gradually.  
6. Improvement in working conditions and increase in wages are being brought about as rapidly as possible, perhaps as rapidly as the safety of the national economic structure will permit.

7. There is a close sympathy between Government and the Labor movement.  
8. There is in Mexico today absolute freedom of speech and of the press.  
9. There is a wholesome movement toward the elimination of graft and corruption.

Plans are being made for educational work—education is the first principle and simple fundamentals needed by a people said to be eight-five per cent. illiterate. These are facts—facts that show the drift and tendency of the Mexico of today. If my observation is correct, Mexico today has the best Government in her modern history. We had ample opportunity for extended conversations with practically all important members of the Government and with a large number of trade unionists. There is a universal desire for peace and a general understanding of the paramount necessity of peace.

Intervention by force in the affairs of Mexico, in the light of the facts we found, would be beyond excuse, a betrayal of all international morality, and on its face an excursion of conquest.  
The oil question, long the bone of contention, can, I am satisfied, be settled. I believe it is not too much to say that Mexico would be willing to submit the oil situation to inquiry

by a joint Mexican-American commission for the ascertainment of the facts. Mexico would not submit herself to the recommendations of such a commission, but she would have every reason to believe, welcome a statement of facts found by such a commission.  
Efforts to disrupt Mexican affairs with communist propaganda have been made, as they have been made almost everywhere, but thus far without success. There are communists in Mexico—some of them are American draft evaders, some are native Mexicans, but the propaganda has had little effect.  
The constructive movement of trade unionism is dominant and the thirst for information concerning the progress and experience of the American Federation of Labor is keen.

Mexico today is coming to her feet. Freedom and hope is abundant in the light of the actual facts the demand for a "firm hand" the "civilizing influences of the American flag" and "American spirit" as it has been amended by the senator to read, or for intervention under any guise is a demand as unjustified as it is in-accumable.

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The song of the hammers, sing!  
Joyous their clamor rings.  
"Ring, Ring, Ring!"  
Metal on metal,  
They bang and rattle,  
Till life's old battle  
Grows easier far.  
In the endless war  
Against want  
So giant,  
With his hunger and tears,  
Oh, blessed years  
That give us the ring  
Of the song we sing:  
Bang, crash!  
Roar and clash!  
Hammer on hammer,  
No hesitant stammer,  
But round with a swing,  
They thunder and ring:  
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Oh, the joy that the hammers bring  
—J. W. Gally.

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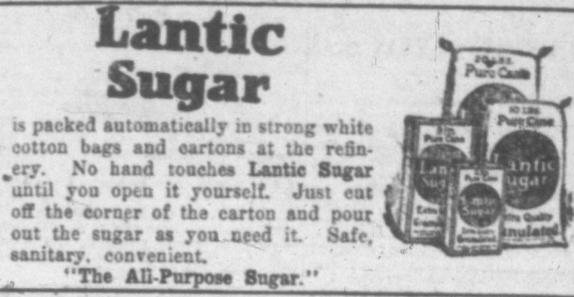
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