

OBREGON DECLARES AGAINST CHURCH

Current Events

CHICAGO police had been searching for Al (Scarface) Capone for months on suspicion that he was responsible for the murder of Assistant State's Attorney William McSwiggin.

THIS was putting the finger on the sore spot. Sleuths were supposed to be exploring every nook and cranny of the underworlds of six of America's largest cities, but still the elusive Al could not be located.

HE was booked on some contemptible charge of violating the Volstead law by the federal government and then turned over to his friends in the state's attorney's office.

THE wolves are now howling in chorus for the infliction of punishment on Mexico for that country's temerity in putting the screws on the catholic church.

EVIDENTLY angry because Paris bubbled in on its monopoly of fables about Russia, Riga came across last Saturday with the prize winner to date.

HUNGARIAN PRESS IS FORCED INTO SILENCE ON TRIAL OF 58 WORKERS BY LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER

VIENNA, July 16.—(By Imprecorr)—All the Hungarian press received a confidential letter from the Press bureau of the prime minister in which they are instructed to report the Ragosi trial as laconically as possible.

In accordance with these instructions, the bourgeois papers have given very little space to the trial. Contrary to their attitude during the past week they confined their reports to a few lines on the proceedings and even these reports were printed in an unobtrusive part of the paper.

FRED LUNDIN, G. O. P. BOSS FOR LEN SMALL, SAYS SMITH SWITCHED HIS POSITION ON WORLD COURT ISSUE

Frederick Lundin, reputed organizer and brains of the former Small-Lundin-Thompson machine, is not a politician but a farmer who does a little thinking on the side, according to his testimony at yesterday's afternoon session of the senate slush fund investigation.

FRANC RAISES AS BANKS WIN RATIFICATION

Poincare to Convoke the National Assembly

PARIS, Aug. 3.—The Poincare government having surrendered, perhaps willingly, to the pressure of financiers demanding that the Mellon-Berenger debt agreement be ratified at once, the franc yesterday began rising again, going up during the day from 40.13 to 37.95 to the dollar.

Got It Without Fighting. Ambassador Berenger, who was one of those who a month ago sat in a conspiratorial meeting to overthrow the constitutional government and dissolve parliament by the use of troops in order to get the debt agreement ratified, has accomplished that object without such military action.

The French cabinet has approved Poincare's project to establish a great sinking fund to retire the national defense bonds totaling \$1,215,000,000. It is intended to get the approval of this as a fundamental law of the national assembly, by having the senate and the chamber of deputies meet jointly at Versailles.

The national assembly, which meets at Versailles, consists of the senate and the chamber of deputies in joint session. If they sit at Paris, these two bodies must act within the constitution, but meeting jointly at Versailles as the national assembly, they have no restrictions whatever, and may change, modify and even set aside the constitution. It may well be that if Poincare has the deputies and senators well in hand when they meet at Versailles, that something more than technical problems will be urged upon it.

Pays Installment. WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—France yesterday paid \$10,000,000 to the United States as an installment on the \$40,000,000 owing for war supplies sold to France at a great discount after the war was over. This sum was included in the whole debt funded under the Mellon-Berenger agreement, but because that agreement is not yet ratified, the payment was made on the war supplies purchase.

ROUMANIA DECLARES A MARTIAL LAW REGIME ON BULGAR FRONTIER

LONDON, Aug. 3.—The Rumanian government has declared martial law for a distance of thirty kilometers along Dobrudja frontier to prevent incursions from Bulgarian comitadji, according to a Vienna dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph.

Lundin gave expression to his opinions in a loud voice. He denied having any profitable business connections with politicians. He opposed McKinley because he voted for the war, for the "Cosack espionage law," for conscription and for the world court.

Smith Changes Position. "I would not support Frank Smith because in 1920 he would not stand up for our platform which resolved against all foreign entanglements. In 1924 when the republican party favored the world court he supported the whole republican ticket and I voted for Senator LaFollette because he voted against the war, conscription and espionage law."

Lundin virtually charged Smith with changing his position on the world court. In 1917, Lundin said, Smith opposed a plank attacking "all foreign alliances" at a republican state convention in Springfield. The senate slush fund committee will extend its Illinois inquiry to include all anti-saloon league activities in behalf of any candidates in the recent million-dollar Illinois campaign, it was definitely announced yesterday afternoon.

To Probe Wet and Dry Issue. Senator James A. Reed, democrat of Missouri, chairman of the committee, announced the wet and dry question would be delved into because reports had reached him of activities of the league in the recent Illinois campaign. Frank Smith, winner in the campaign, and William B. McKinley, the loser, were both endorsed by the league.

A subpoena was issued this afternoon for the "league's state paymaster," his name was not revealed. Small is "Soulful."

Lundin gave an "inside story" of his relations with Governor Small. "Gov. Small is an old man," the witness declared. "So am I. I've known him for over 39 years. He's a wonderful fine soulful man. But I only support him when I think he is right. I have no alliance with him or any man or any set of men. I can't go along with them all the time, because they are politicians and they must have the support of a majority of the voters."

Lundin said his only expenditures in the campaign were for the circulation of a political paper. This cost him between \$1,500 and \$2,000. He knew nothing of other finances in the campaign. William Hale Thompson, former mayor of Chicago, was the star witness at yesterday morning's session of the senate slush fund investigation in the federal building.

Thompson returned from William Randolph Hearst's ranch in California (Continued on page 2)

MEXICAN LABOR PARTY CONTROLS LOWER CHAMBER

All Credentials Were Contested

(Special to The Daily Worker) MEXICO CITY, Aug. 3.—With the contest on credentials to the Mexican chamber of deputies half over, the lower house of the Mexican parliament will without doubt be controlled by the labor party and its allies in the coming term. Nearly every credential was contested.

After trying to take forcible control of the green room of the chamber, the opposition bloc has not returned to the chamber. Only the representatives of the "Labor Party-Socialist Alliance" were present when the credentials of the newly-elected deputies were examined.

Support Calles. The government bloc is not a strictly socialist bloc in the European sense of the word. It is rather a sort of loose confederation of many decentralized parties calling themselves socialist. The only genuine mass party is the "Patriotic Laborista," which is controlled by Morones, minister of labor, and his colleagues of the Mexican Federation of Labor. This party is the chief support of the Calles administration.

Federal Troops on Duty at Mexican Churches



According to the new Mexican constitution, the property of the churches in Mexico belong, in the last analysis, to the government. When the clergy abandoned the churches on Sunday, they were taken over by committees of citizens appointed by the mayors of municipalities. Church property, jewels and equipment in Mexico is worth billions of dollars. It has accumulated out of the meagre pockets of the mass of population and the contention of the Calles administration is that it rightfully belongs to them.

Class Lines in the Mexican Church Conflict

By MANUEL GOMEZ. ARTICLE II.

NEARLY 100,000 workers paraded thru the streets of Mexico City a few days ago, demonstrating their support to President Calles in his conflict with the Roman catholic hierarchy. The capitalist press represents the number of marchers as 50,000, but even the latter figure is large enough. It must have made a lot of people think. The demonstration, organized by the Regional Confederation of Labor (C. R. O. M.), will help to throw light on the question of the present line-up of forces in Mexico.

What everyone is asking about the Mexican situation is: Where do the Mexican people stand? American workers have read in the newspapers that there are 10,000,000 catholics in Mexico, and some of them must be frankly puzzled as to how the Mexican government can proceed so confidently with its anti-clerical program when apparently two-thirds of the Mexican population is against it. The truth is, of course that like many organizations, the church does considerable padding of its membership rolls. Nevertheless, Mexico is undeniably still a "catholic country." Catholicism embraces undeniably wide sections of the population, and no other denominational creed has succeeded in supplanting it.

How does it happen then that in a "catholic country" the government should dare embark on an anti-clerical campaign?

Decisive Areas Lost to the Church.

The answer to that is two-fold: First, many of the decisive areas of catholic strength have been lost to the church; and second, there are deep class antagonisms within the ranks of "the faithful" themselves.

One reads much these days of catholic riots against government authority. These are magnified many times over for publicity purposes but they do happen. They happen particularly in the Federal District, in Puebla, in Guadalajara, in the states of Guanajuato and Michoacan—where the clerical power is concentrated. But go into the states of the north or along the coastline, where the revolutionary struggles of the past 15 years have been fought out, and you find a totally different state of affairs. The active clerical minority in these areas is very small indeed for a "catholic country." Among the tolling masses, and even among the petty-bourgeoisie, the back of the church has been broken. That could be seen several years ago in the reception accorded to the constitution of 1917.

I have gone into church after church in the state of Sonora and found them deserted except for a few women. I have noticed the same thing in Vera Cruz, and in Tamaulipas. That cath-

olicism has lost its hold during the experiences of revolution and counter-revolution is common gossip in these parts. They are important parts, for every successful revolutionary movement in recent history has swept toward the center from one of them.

Catholics But Not Too Seriously.

The convinced catholics, however, are by no means all clericals. Mexico, catholic Mexico, has a long record of struggle against the church. In-surgent soldiers of the anti-clerical revolution of 1854-56 died with an "Ave Maria" on their lips. Indignant at the swollen wealth of the catholic episcopate, its greed and its countless petty impositions, millions of bare-footed peons long ago began to har-

STREET CARMEN TO SUPPORT 'L' MEN'S DEMANDS

Will Stick Together in Fight Against Insull

Workers on Chicago surface lines have decided not to go into negotiations for a new agreement with the company until the elevated men, now talking a new wage scale over with the bosses, have completed their settlement.

William Quinlan, president of the Surface Lines division of the Amalgamated Street and Electric Railway Employees said that would be the union strategy in the present fight being waged by the men both for an increase and against a wage cut offered by the company as a counter proposal.

All Have One Boss. The Insull interests control both the street lines and the elevated as well as the North Shore line, workers on which are also in negotiations. The surface line men will ask for the gains the elevated men secure as the result of their negotiations.

The North Shore men, who are getting 76 cents an hour are out after a 6 cent increase. The company is talking about a 3 cent reduction but it is known that it would be perfectly willing to pay the old rate.

Meetings Continue. The surface line men met at Carmen's Hall in their monthly meeting and came to the above decision. The elevated employees' representatives will meet with the bosses today for the first tilt in the negotiations and the North Shore men will continue their conversations with Insull's agents today and tomorrow.

EX-PRESIDENT BACKS CALLES IN CHURCH WAR

Obregon's Stand Averts Civil War

(Special to The Daily Worker) MEXICO CITY, Aug. 3.—Breaking the ring of doubt that surrounded his position with regard to the present controversy between church and state in Mexico, former President Alvaro Obregon has issued a clear cut declaration in support of the stand of the Calles administration. This brings considerable relief to supporters of the government. Obregon is still a man of much influence. He is a likely presidential candidate in 1928. There had been rumors circulating that Obregon might take advantage of the fight between the church and the Calles government to throw his support to the church and win back power. This would have meant civil war.

Blames Clergy. Gen. Obregon was emphatic in his denunciation of the clergy and placed the entire blame for the contest on the church. Obregon's statement follows: "It is evident that the high dignitaries of the catholic church provoked this conflict, when, thru the mouth of its most exalted representative, Senor Mora y del Rio, the first declarations were made public, with an evident rebellious spirit against the fundamental laws in force.

Points To Foreign Plot. "These declarations, without any previous incident that could have brought them on, coincided with the international crisis provoked by the big foreign interests, which considered themselves injured by the promulgation of the petroleum and alien and laws.

"All of us who know the proceedings of the clergy thru the different armed political conflicts that Mexico has been obliged to wage in order to sustain its independence, know that it was not a mere coincidence, these actions of the clergy.

Alliance With Outside. "Furthermore, we know that these acts of the clergy were for the deliberate intention of accumulating a new difficulty and to demonstrate to discontented foreigners that within our own frontiers they had allies to combat our own constitution, thus placing at the service of the political interests the faith of the believer."

"Truce" Turned Down. A so-called truce, evidently a piece of diplomizing on the part of church dignitaries, was presented to the administration yesterday saying that certain foreign diplomats had offered their good offices to intercede in the dispute as arbitrators.

The episcopal letter containing the offer was summarily turned down by President Calles with the announcement that it was the government's intention to continue the fight.

(Continued on page 4)

BEDACHT TO SPEAK AT GENERAL GROUP MEET OF CHICAGO T. U. E. L.

Max Bedacht, just returned from a long stay abroad, will be the speaker at the Trade Union Educational League Chicago general group meeting tonight at Northwest Hall, North and Western Aves., at 8 p. m.

His subject will be "Lessons of the British General Strike." All Chicago trade unionists are invited to attend the meeting and take part in the discussion that will follow the lecture.

OHIO STATE FEDERATION FAILS TO ACT ON LABOR'S IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, BUT DOES SOME GOOD

AKRON, Ohio.—The convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor went its usual way. It came together on Monday, July 26, to hear innumerable speeches that contained nothing but reminiscences and jokes and managed to keep the delegates interested and awake, and then rushed through meaningless resolutions on jurisdictional disputes, slams of the United Garment Workers, at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers as being a dualistic and outlaw union, etc., etc.

It declared itself for the union label, but did not give a moment's time to consideration of the organization of the unorganized, which would render the union label superfluous and unnecessary. Fundamental questions were ignored for the old men present dominated and as one of them said, "There are too many young men here, and they are a menace." Menace for Fogies, Maybe. The young men, however, were not a menace, for a few of them are progressives, their number was small and they were not organized. Hence they sat in the convention, angry and disgusted, and vowing to come back (Continued on page 4)









