

SOVIET FLAG TO FLY IN MEXICO THIS MAY DAY

Gomez Interviews Red Minister, Pestkovsky

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

On May Day the red flag will fly from the staff of the imposing white stone building at Calle del Rhin 37, in the "Colonial Juarez" of Mexico City, just off the elegant driveway of the Reforma. May Day is a national holiday in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the Soviet minister to Mexico, Comrade Stanislaus Pestkovsky, is most scrupulous in his adherence to the strict diplomatic tradition providing for the exhibition of the colors on national fete days.

The red flag will fly again on November 7, and on the anniversary of Lenin's death.

Soviet Coat-of-Arms on Door.

I did not see the banner when I called at the legation to interview Comrade Pestkovsky for the DAILY WORKER. But the Soviet coat-of-arms was there, right over the front porch. It was with a decided thrill that I recognized the familiar hammer and sickle. I felt as if I were getting into home territory.

A minute later and the front door was opened for me by Comrade Pestkovsky himself. He clasped my hand warmly in both of his.

"You will stay to dinner?" he asked.

A typically Russian beginning. Interviews go best with dinner. Every Russian knows that. And the first Soviet minister to be received anywhere in America is very much a Russian, even tho he was born a Pole. Anyway, he is like the Russians I know—but that may just be because he is a Communist—an old Bolshevik, with a party card in his pocket dating from 1902.

Meets Staff of Legation.

But I am getting ahead of the story. Naturally, I did not deduce all this from the fact that he asked me to stay to dinner. I saw a good deal of Comrade Pestkovsky during my stay

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in Mexico and we had many comrades talks together. And I met his wife, Mary—a former cigaret maker whom he married in London during the period of his exile. And Volinsky and Haykiss of the legation staff—and gaunt, bushy-haired, impatient Vidas, whose eyes lighted with joy when I gave him a pipeful of real Prince Albert tobacco from my pouch. All good comrades, who had entered the diplomatic service via the revolutionary movement of the working class. They were as different from every other official diplomatic family in Mexico as Bill Foster is from Col. George Harvey.

Yet Comrade Pestkovsky takes his diplomatic duties seriously. He is proud to be the first minister of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics in the western hemisphere.

It has always seemed strange to me that Mexico should have been the first nation of the west to recognize Soviet Russia. Russia and Mexico how far apart they seem, despite the fact that both are peasant countries and both have suffered thru long years of oppression. American imperialism is the irreconcilable enemy of both. But Soviet Russia is a challenge to American imperialism. Mexico is an object of imperialistic conquest. The workers' and peasants' government of Russia stands guard with fixed bayonets before an accomplished social revolution; it barters and haggles with the bourgeois government of the world, but always with fixed bayonets. The pseudo-laborite government of Mexico is linked by a hundred subtle ties with the very forces of imperialism which are striving to plunder its people. Still there is a fundamental underlying community of interest between Mexico and Soviet Russia. There can be no doubt that the Mexican people know this. In common with all other oppressed and exploited peoples who are menaced by imperialism, they feel instinctively that Russia is their friend. So it came about that, with his feet none too secure amid the shifting sands of Mexican politics, Obregon—ally of American imperialism—found it advisable to yield to the unmistakable pressure of the toiling peon masses and extend the hand of diplomatic welcome to the most dangerous ene-

Soviet Spokesman in Mexico



COMRADE STANISLAUS PESTKOVSKY,
SOVIET MINISTER TO MEXICO.

Drawn especially for the DAILY WORKER,
by Xavier Guerrero, Mexico, 1925.

my of all imperialisms, Soviet Russia.

The Bad Boy of Wall St.

Mexico remains the bad boy of Wall Street's own little family of nations of the western world. Right at the back door of the United States, in the very "mittel europa" of American imperial policy, is set up the first Soviet legation to be established on this continent.

Naturally, the Soviet minister did not express these thoughts. I doubt that he would want to see his name connected with them. As an accredited diplomat, he is interested above all else in strengthening the ties between Mexico and Soviet Russia. It is only a question of time, he declares, before the United States too will recognize the Soviet government.

Business Bosses Uncle Sam.

"The United States government is a 'business administration,'" he reminded me. "And business is business. Sooner or later the necessities of business will lead to the establishment of relations with us."

One day, when we were sitting together under the bold bronze plaque of Lenin in the reception room of the legation, I asked Comrade Pestkovsky to tell me something of his career and how he happened to become a diplomatist. He heaved a sigh of relief. At last he could give me something for the DAILY WORKER which definitely established his contact with the revolutionary proletariat.

"It is quite all right for us Soviet diplomatists to talk about our pasts," he said smiling. "What is past is past. Everybody knows about it anyway. We do not pretend that we have lived lives of bourgeois respectability."

A Record to be Proud of.

Bourgeois respectability! Well, hardly. Five terms in prison and active participation in the revolutionary movement in three countries is Comrade Pestkovsky's impeccable record.

The Soviet minister describes his former occupation as that of "revolutionary agitator, propagandist and organizer." He has carried the message of revolution to city workers and peasants. He has conducted systematic work among the miners. For two years he was chief of the Warsaw fighting corps of the social democratic party, an armed auxiliary organization semi-military in character. Born in 1882, in the Kalish "gubernia" of Poland, of aristocratic parents, Stanislaus Pestkovsky received a careful bringing up, which did not, however, keep him from landing in jail for revolutionary activities before he was twenty-one. This was during the last year of his college days at Lodz. He was a Polish nationalist at that time. Later he became a socialist and an active member of the revolutionary Polish social democracy. It was in 1906 that he formally joined the Bolsheviks, altho his membership card is issued as of 1902.

Active in 1905 Revolution.

Amnestied from prison in 1904, Comrade Pestkovsky took part in the Russian revolution of 1905, going afterwards to Poland, where he was again arrested and tried by court martial. This time he served four years at hard labor in central Russia and was then sent to Siberia, where he was to be exiled for life. After several attempts to escape, followed by repeated terms in prison, he finally made good his escape.

He made his way first to Austria, then to Belgium, then to England. From 1914 to 1917 he was in England, working part of the time as a switchboard operator in the office of the London County Council Electrical Tramways, (where he passed the most tranquil period of his life, sleeping peacefully on the night shift.) While in England, Comrade Pestkovsky was active in the British trade union movement. He also belonged to the British socialist party, besides being in contact with the Russian revolutionary groups in England.

After the overthrow of czarism, he made his way back to Russia and was active in the historic Bolshevik operations from April to November. During the revolution itself, he was assigned the task of capturing the telegraph station, remaining as chief telegraph commissar thruout the famous ten days that shook the world.

Comrade Pestkovsky has held many important posts in the Soviet regime.

IDAHO MINERS ESCAPE DEATH BY FEW SECONDS AS AIR LINE BREAKS

(Special to The Daily Worker)

BURKE, Idaho, April 26—The fourteen miners rescued late from the 2,000 foot level of the Hecla Mining company mine escaped death only by a few seconds, investigation by mine inspectors revealed today. Just after the last of the entombed men were brot to the surface there was a cavein, and a break in the air line meaning certain death in the mine.

All of the miners were rescued uninjured after 24 hours of furious fighting against fire and gas.

He was the first director of the Soviet State Bank.

"No, I have never been a real banker," he hastened to reassure me, anticipating my question. "But bankers were scarce in our ranks. I was a Communist and that was the main thing at the time. It was necessary to hold the institution and to cope with systematic sabotage. That was all the banking I ever did. I held the post only for three days."

In 1919 Head of Kirgiz Soviet.

When the Kirgiz Soviet republic was formed, Comrade Pestkovsky was made chairman of the provisional government. This was in 1919, after the territory had been recaptured from the counter-revolutionary forces. The Kirgiz republic is steppe country, with an area as large as Mexico. Comrade Pestkovsky remained there for a year, after which he became chief of the political department of the Soviet armies on the western front.

His first experience as a diplomatist was as chairman of the Russian frontier commission in the negotiations for the fixing of the Russo-Polish border.

Such is Comrade Pestkovsky's career. It is not the career of a professional diplomatist, but it amply fits him to be the first minister of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics in the western world.

His reception in Mexico was different from that of any other diplomatic representative in the history of the republic. A delegation of Mexican workers was waiting for him at the dock when his ship landed at Vera Cruz. They gave him a rousing welcome. They ran after his train as it pulled out for Mexico City. In the capital a big demonstration was waiting. Workers crowded the hall at the big meeting of welcome arranged by the Communist Party of Mexico. Comrade Pestkovsky spoke from the platform. Here was indeed an innovation. The cheers of workers rocked the hall.

Red Flag Waves in Mexico.

Comrade Pestkovsky presented his credentials to Obregon on November 7, the anniversary of the Russian revolution.

"You can bet the red flag was flying from the legation staff on that day," put in Mary Pestkovskaya, looking up from her glass of tea. And Haykiss nodded his head, and Vidas. And Volinsky lifted his brandy glass—a propos of nothing—and said: "Let's drink a toast to something!" We filled our glasses from the bottle of good old Mexican "habanero."

"Here's to the establishment of the first Soviet embassy in Washington," proposed Pestkovsky.

And that is something for the readers of the DAILY WORKER to think about.

American Capitalist Government Appointing Business Ambassadors

(Special to The Daily Worker.)

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The Coolidge administration is contemplating the appointment of commercial "ambassadors" thruout the world to aid American business in developing its foreign trade, it was learned today.

Under this program, the government would establish its official commercial representatives on the same basis as the diplomatic corps and in such numbers as to blanket the industrial world. The plan was proposed with a view to helping American business retain and improve the commercial advantages in the post-war construction period.

Secretary of Commerce Hoover is now seeking the services of a business man of recognized ability, it was learned, to send him to London as the first of these commercial "ambassadors." If the plan works out successfully there, business men of similar prominence will be sent to Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Peking and other important trade centers of Europe, the far east and South Africa.

T. U. E. L. General Meet Wed., April 29, 8 P. M.

The regular meeting of the Chicago Trade Union Educational League general group will be held Wednesday, April 29, at 8 p. m. at North Way

Klan-Farrington Combine Beaten

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the headquarters and arsenal of the klan.

Klan-Farrington Combine Loses.

The defeat of the K. K. K. in the mayoralty election is also a defeat for Frank Farrington, district president of the U. M. W. of A., as it means that the klan group in Local No. 992 (one of the largest locals in the district) will no longer have the support of the local authorities in the dirty work they are continually up to.

The K. K. K. group in Local No. 992 always have fought for Frank Farrington and his disruptive policies. This group (altho an insignificant minority in the local union) has resorted to every method from cheap trickery to gunmanism to control the affairs of Local No. 992. In this they were always ably supported by the klan, which have been more or less in control of local politics here. They came to union meetings wearing guns but were never molested by the local authorities.

Klan Aids Farrington in Union.

Last year when the regular annual election for officers of Local No. 992 had taken place in the regular authorized manner, it was found that the progressive candidates had carried the local. When the announcement was made, the K. K. K. group started a rough house and the meeting was adjourned by the chairman to prevent a fight.

After the meeting was adjourned and most of the membership had gone home, the klan group took things into their own hands and called a special meeting where they proceeded to hold an illegal election and elected their own candidate for chairman and secretary.

A protest was made but Farrington's henchmen, sent to adjust the trouble (as usual) ruled in favor of the K. K. K. "kandidates."

That this was part of a well-thought-out plan was realized later on when the national, district and sub-district election took place. In this election Local No. 992 carried heavy for the progressives, but the reactionary sec-

retary purposely failed to sign the return sheet which caused the entire vote of the local to be thrown out.

Had the vote of this local been counted, it would have given Frank Johnson, progressive candidate for sub-district secretary enough votes to defeat his reactionary opponent, in spite of the fake ballots and other fraudulent methods used elsewhere in the sub-district.

Murphy Smith the new mayor of Zeigler is not a radical, but he has guaranteed full protection against gunman methods of the klan in union meetings and elsewhere. He also promises full protection and freedom of speech to all speakers who wish to speak in Zeigler, regardless of creed, color or nationality.

Trick Didn't Work.

Just before the election, a clever move, designed to split the anti-klan vote was made when one Polovina, a Serbian, backed by ex-Mayor Hogan, was put in the field as a third candidate.

Hogan was supposed to be against the klan, but in one of the meetings held for his candidate, Polovina, Hogan unwittingly remarked that he had nothing against the klan and that he got out and worked for the klan candidate for township constable and was not ashamed of it.

Bob Sullivan Avenged.

This is the same Hogan who several years ago, while mayor of Zeigler, caused the Workers Party organizer, Comrade Sullivan to be beaten up and run out of town. This time his little scheme failed to work. The foreign element did not fall for the bait, and his candidate, Polovina, received but 15 votes.

The Workers Party did not kid itself about elections of this kind, but no progressive in Zeigler was sorry to see the klan meet defeat. That the klan both in union and city politics has the support of the coal mine operators there is little doubt. Past events all tend to show the connection and in their dirty work they have always been ably assisted by the Farrington machine.