

Oil Trust Gained Hold In Mexico By Fraud

Expropriation Is Declaration of Independence from Wall St.

By Roberto Garcia

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

MEXICO CITY, April 20.—By fraud and violence the oil trusts acquired their land in Mexico. By fraud and violence they consolidated their power in the Republic.

If wretched Indians owned lands suspected of containing oil they were murdered. If officials refused to validate fraudulent titles they were bought. If the government attempted to enforce the law of the land and protect the nation's right, generals were corrupted and civil wars fomented. If workers attempted to organize and improve their miserable condition of subsistence, "White Guard" company police shot them down.

When the highest tribunal of the nation ruled in favor of the oil workers' unions, the companies openly expressed their intention not to obey the Supreme Court. When President Lazaro Cardenas attempted to reach a settlement with the companies, they deceived him.

Then on March 18, 1938, the power of the oil trusts of Mexico ended forever. President Cardenas, abiding strictly by bourgeois canon of law, by the Mexican Constitution of 1917, "by reason of public utility and on behalf of the nation," declared the expropriation of all the properties of the oil companies.

Over two years have passed since Mexico thus declared its economic independence from Wall Street and the City of London. In these two years Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell have not ceased attempting to recover their "stolen properties." They have used the only means that imperialists understand — fraud and violence. And these methods they are planning to apply tomorrow on an even greater scale than heretofore.

TIMES CHANGE—SO DOES
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Immediately after the expropriation decree, when deceit and bluff had failed, General Saturnino Cedillo, openly espousing the cause of the oil trusts, rose in arms against the Mexican Government. That was on May 20, 1938. In two weeks the rebellion, supported only by a handful of misguided troops and camp followers, was crushed and Cedillo, a debauched traitor, was dead.

That was two years ago. A "liberal" sat in the White House, proclaiming the Good Neighbor policy, non-intervention in the internal affairs of the other American Republics. Times have changed and the man in the White House has changed with them. Naked imperialism is now the policy of Washington. Cedillo's ghost can rest in peace. General Juan Andreu Almazan has taken up where the dead left off. General Almazan has the support of the "Yankees," the indispensable prerequisite of Mexican traitors.

In the spring of 1940, Cordell Hull is sending threatening and insulting notes to the Mexican Government. The American army along the Rio Grande has been strengthened. The administration of Washington has a political jackal, Martin Dies, who howls that Russians and Germans are plotting a "Red" rebellion in Mexico.

THE MEXICAN FRANCO

Within the borders of Mexico, the partisans of Almazan, sworn enemies of everything that the democratic Mexican Revolution stands for, are increasing their provocations, attacking the campaign headquarters of General Avila Camacho, the popular candidate.

The "liberty and order" that Almazan has promised his backers will be distinguished, among other things, by a settlement with the oil trusts, the return of the large expropriated landed estates to their foreign owners, as well as to the Mexican landed proprietors.

The illegalization of the Communist Party, the smashing of the trade unions and the creation in Mexico of a state modeled on the "New Spain," where an Almazan will play the part of Franco, and Franklin D. Roosevelt the part of Mussolini—all these things are promised by Almazan.

The statements of leading Al-

(Continued on Page 6)

W. H. ...
4/21/40
2-1

mazanistas that Mexico will be "saved" by bullets if ballots fail, is only one indication that the oil companies have already arranged with Almazan's followers for the delivery of Martin bombers, tanks, machine guns and other implements of American democracy and civilization.

MASSES PROTEST

At the present writing, the reply of the Mexican government to Hull's note has not been made known. The reply of the Mexican masses was given on April 1 when hundreds of thousands of Mexican workers and peasants paraded through the streets of all the cities.

President Cardenas has stated on numerous occasions that Mexico will never relinquish its right to administer and exploit the wealth of its subsoil as guaranteed by the Constitution. The oil conflict, the President has stated, is not one between the government of the United States and the government of Mexico. It is an internal affair of the Mexican nation, a conflict between private companies, that operated under a franchise which subjected them to Mexican law, a franchise under which the companies relinquished all right to appeal to foreign governments for intervention, under penalty of forfeiting of all their holdings should they violate this ruling. As such, the oil conflict is not a matter of international arbitration.

"OIL IS WORTH BLOOD"

Behind the sudden interest of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the plight of his erstwhile enemies of Wall Street, the Mexican people see the poorly disguised war plans of the American imperialists. Every Mexican school boy knows the famous words cabled by the French war lord, Clemenceau, in 1917, to the apostle of peace, Woodrow Wilson: "A drop of oil is worth a drop of blood!" Well-known too are the words of Lord Curzon, spoken the day after the armistice of 1918, "The Allies have floated to victory on waves of oil."

To American imperialists, determined to enter the second imperialist war, the Mexican oil is worth seas of blood. Almazan has prepared to rise in rebellion. The oil trusts and Washington are prepared to back him. The Mexican people realize all this.

They have not forgotten that when the American Navy bombarded Vera Cruz in 1914, the Secretary of the Navy was Josephus Daniels, now American Ambassador to Mexico; and that the Under-Secretary of the Navy was Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Mexican workers and peasants, the majority of the army, the Party of the Mexican Revolution and the Communist Party of Mexico, are prepared to give their lives for the nation's political and economic independence. They realize that the working people of all countries will stand with them.

They face the future resolute and unafraid.

