

Imperialists Busy at Panama Conference

Pan-Americans O. K. American League Plan

PANAMA, June 25.—(AP)—The Pan-American congress here has approved a resolution for the creation of an American league of nations.

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

THREE seasoned advance agents of Imperialist policy are working day and night among the delegates to the Bolivarian centenary conference at Panama to win support for the idea of an American league of nations, which, as it is expected, would be under the exclusive domination of Wall Street and Washington. These three men are John South, Charles W. Hackett and William Jennings Price, the representatives of the United States government. Price is the diplomatist who "negotiated" the robber treaty with the republic of Panama, whereby the government of that helpless country delivered her over to perpetual control by the United States.

Latin-America's Program vs. Wall Street's.

Late reports from Panama indicate that the U. S. representatives are having some success with their propaganda, a resolution favoring a pan-American association having already been introduced. There is known to be strong opposition, however. Against the scheme for Wall Street's own little league of nations—continuous pressure in favor of which was foreshadowed more than a week ago when Brazil gave notice of withdrawal from the league of nations—is set the idea of a federation of Latin-American states.

Those who favor a Latin-American federation lay stress on the facts that, (1) the Latin-American countries are united by the bond of a common or similar language; (2) all are "undeveloped" countries exploited by foreign capital; (3) all are directly menaced by the steadily growing aggressions of U. S. imperialism. Not the United States government but the American working class is looked to as the ally of Latin-American freedom in the United States.

Another factor strengthening the tendency toward Latin-American co-operation, especially active just now when the eyes of all Latin-America are turned toward Panama, is the great Bolivarian tradition. The force—or even the existence—of that tradition is not appreciated by the workers of the United States. Few will even remember hearing the name of Simon Bolivar who helped free Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia from the rule of Spain, and

won the title of "the Father of Five Republics." Fewer still know anything about the conference he convened at the city of Panama on June 22, 1826, of which the present Panama conference is the centenary celebration.

Bolivar the Liberator.

Perhaps it would be well to recount a little history to supply this deficiency.

About the middle of 1819, the Liberator crossed the Andes and struck decisive blows for the freedom of what was then the Spanish viceroyalty of New Granada. Before the close of the year he had united New Granada and Venezuela in a single state, which he named the Republic of Colombia. He was soon to incorporate Ecuador with the new republic. Moreover, he exercised influence over the policy of Argentina, and offered to Chile a contingent of troops to free the archipelago of Chiloe, still in possession of Spain. On the north he fought to extend his influence to Mexico, to liberate the Antilles, one of which, Santo Domingo, had already declared itself in 1821 an integral part of Colombia.

In December 1824 he wrote from Peru his memorable circular addressed to the governments of Buenos Aires, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Central America, in which he insisted upon the immense benefits that would accrue to the young republics from a meeting at Panama to consider the joint protection of their institutions.

First Panama Conference.

The congress was hurriedly called and only the delegates from Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Central America arrived in time to attend the sessions. There was also present a representative of Great Britain and Holland and an unofficial observer. Chile professed friendship for the congress, but delegates were appointed too late to arrive. Bolivia's delegates had the same fate.

Bolivar's plan was for a strictly Latin-American congress and his first invitation did not include either the United States or Great Britain. However, the vice-president, Santander, took it upon himself to send subsequent invitations to these powers.

Two United States representatives were appointed by President John Quincy Adams, but one of them died en route and the other, to quote the Mexican diplomatist, Isidro Fabela, "either could not or did not wish to" arrive at Panama in time.

The congress was to consider, according to a letter from the Colombian government, a number of matters of common interest, among them, "re-

newal of the treaty of union, alliance, and perpetual confederacy against Spain or any other power which might attempt to dominate over us." (Emphasis mine. M. G.) The decisions arrived at were wholly in harmony with the spirit in which the congress was convened. Unfortunately, however, they were never ratified.

U. S., Not Spain, the Present Menace.

Since the days of Bolivar the Bolivarian tradition has persisted and gathered force. A number of Latin-American congresses have been held in the intervening years, based more or less upon the original plan of Bolivar. There have been repeated moves for unity of the Latin-American states, with first Mexico, then Peru, the Mexico again taking the lead. Of late years these have become crystallized into a clearly defined movement.

Today it is not Spain that Latin-America fears but the imperialist capitalism of the United States. Indeed Latin-American freedom can be preserved only in uncompromising struggle against U. S. imperialism—which

is the reason for the steady growth of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League, with sections in ten Latin-American countries as well as the small section organized by revolutionary working class elements in the United States.

If Bolivar had reasons for not wanting the U. S. government represented at the first Panama conference in 1826, the Latin-American countries have a thousand times stronger reasons today. It is everywhere understood that the U. S. government would never have been invited if it were not for the fact that Panama is today a U. S. protectorate and the president of Panama, who issued the call for the Bolivarian centenary celebration, is a servile tool of U. S. imperialism.



Read it today on page 5.

Up and Down They Go!



By Wm. Gropper.

Rapid political changes in Portugal result in effort to put late King Manuel back on the throne at Lisbon. But the chances are that Manuel will continue to spend his parasite life in other parts of Europe.