

THE LABORER

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EDITORIAL

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

We note with much satisfaction, deep emotion and unique pride, the several manifestations and very fine sentiments of commendation and praise expressed publicly and otherwise, especially those published in the local papers of His Excellency Enrique A. Jimenez on his assuming the office of President of the Nation. We of the Bar Tenders and Waiters Union of the Republic of Panama, use this means in joining in these manifestations and expression in high hopes that His Excellency will, through the help of Providence, on Whom he called at the time of his inauguration, carry out the promises made.

In referring to the publications of the papers cited above, all of which were to the point, special mention is made to a portion of an article in one of these papers, to wit:

"With the assumption of office as chief executive by Don Enrique A. Jimenez, a distinguished scholar, cultural gentleman, an official of proven merit and a true liberal of long standing, the Republic enters confidently upon a new era that will set the course of its destiny, and place the country among the most advanced and elevated nations of the world. The Second Constituent Assembly has received a clear and unequivocal mandate from the people that the nation is dedicated to the ideals of liberalism and democracy. That is the popular will as expressed in the recent elections, which has been accepted in every quarter as the fairest and purest held in the history of the republic. The least that can be expected, is that all their actions and thoughts will be responsive to this august decision. They are not preparing a document just for to-day, hurried by the dictates of expediency but for posterity and for the future greatness of the land and the happiness of all the people within its gates. They are setting the mold into which the nation will be regenerated, and to this task the recently chosen Assemblymen can carry only consecration and devotion to the welfare of the nation and be guided by humility, justice and truth and inspired by the highest principles of humanitarianism. It would be ghastly travesty if in this supreme moment there should be manifest either self-interest, cheap chauvinism or petty politics. The time requires breath of vision and greatness of spirit."

We desire to openly express our feelings of gratitude to the Editor of the paper from which the above quotation is made, and to enjoin on the public to take note thereof. In it there is much food for thought.

There is as we find among too many people of every nation, the things called: "IMPERFECTION" and "FALLIBILITY" with man, "UNGRATEFULNESS" so very often practiced by him; in that, while aspiring for a particular goal, he makes no end of promises, some of which, of course, he knows fully well are impossible to fulfill, and after succeeding to that which he aspires, he proves not to be that which he was at first thought, but the contrary, uses his office to satisfy personal ends and ambitions to the edification and displeasure of those who had looked up to and still look to him for good leadership. The ultimate outcome of which is "UNGRATEFULNESS." We predict that our present Chief Executive will not prove to be such a man. In fact, knowing him as we do—a distinguished, honest and upright son of the soil—a gentleman in every sense of the word—there is no reason for us to harbor for one blessed moment any "COLOR"

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JOSE BLACKBURN

The above photograph of Mr. Jose Blackburn, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bar Tenders and Waiters Union, who in addition, to be a member of the Board, is one of the most active and zealous members of the Union.

This gentleman spares himself no pain in seeing to it that the union is kept in the forefront at all times, and left no stone unturned in his effort to build up the membership of the said union. We, therefore, openly commend him for his untiring service in the hope that he will continue in the future as he has to the present; and it is the desire of the union that other members there of will follow along Mr. Blackburn's lines.

Bad Interpretation Of a Labor Law

In the Spanish Section of this paper, there appears a very important article relative to the discharge of employees. In this connection, we find that on too numerous occasions the General Labor Office, fails to properly interpret Article 12, of Decree Number 8 of 1941 (28th July, 1941). As at present the office requires employers to pay employees when discharged, i.e., if employed by the week, one additional week's pay, but we find that this week's pay is that of the very week in which discharged. On the contrary and which is correct, the decree provides that the week's part should be for the subsequent week, and for work by the day, in like manner, also monthly employees will be paid one full month's pay in addition to the month already worked.

Employees intend quitting their employment are required to give their employers a like amount of days week or month notice in advance of quitting in order that their employers may secure proper replacements.

Inasmuch as the law is quite clear on the subject, there is no excuse on the part of the labor office or employers, as well as employees making an y misinterpretation thereof.

INFORMATION

Colon Branch B. T. & W. Union.

The Executive Officers of the Bar Tenders and Waiters Union desire to bring to the attention of the members of the Colon Branch that as a result of steps taken in conformation with the authorization given them at the meeting of the 10th May, 1945, after some trying time, Mr. Pascual Fuentes, has final paid over to the Provincial Attorney (Fiscal) of Colon, for the Union, the sum of two hundred and ninety dollars (290.00), which amount he states was all he was accountable for to the said union. Inasmuch as the Executive Officers have not full knowledge of the exact amount that was in the custody of Mr. Fuentes, they were unable to dispute the same, in view of which it is intended, to call at an early date, a general meeting of all members in order to undertake further investigation of not only the then Treasurer, but other affairs which need settlement.

We want to assure all concerned that we had no end of trouble with Mr. Fuentes before he would finally agree to effect settlement of the within stated amount, and this

only after a communication was sent him and the ultimate hailing him before the courts.

It has been brought to the attention of this Union that for one full year, both Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Celestino Estrada, have done everything possible at their command and power to hamper the Union's progress—spreading of false statements, etc., but thanks to the untiring efforts of all those who cooperated these gentlemen failed in achieving their end.

We are sensible to the fact that in every undertaking there must be found trouble makers, who are never comfortable unless they make others around and about them uncomfortable, but by weeding out they will be rid of. In every flock there must be a black sheep.

It is the expressed purpose of the Executive Officers of the union, that with the assistance of the membership to exert every effort to have the union placed in the forefront; with zealously at heart and a will to serve, make our union a fact as in name.

A suggestion Re. Machinery and Office Equipment; American Federation of Labor Interpretation of certain Labor Laws

In the North American Labor News, published by the American Federation of Labor, Washington D. C., a copy of which we received recently by mail, an article appears therein under the heading "EL OBRERISMO y LA PAZ." In this article, a translation of which is given below, the A.F.L. has under consideration the free issuance of certain machinery and office equipment to labor syndicates in the countries devastated by war, thereby assisting such syndicates coming into being again. In this connection, we the Bar Tenders and Waiters Union of the Republic of Panama, is considering the advisability of approaching the American Federation of Labor in the premises. In that we would be willing to treat with the Federation on the idea of its loaning to the syndicates in Latin America with a view of selling to them like machines. It is a fact that to the present our printing of the "LABORER" is done by one of the local press, but at times delays are caused through circumstances over which the press has no control—resulting in embarrassments to us.

We give, as stated above, the translation:

"The economic stability and peace of the world after this war, will depend highly on the

vigor and the autonomy of the international labor movement." This is a statement made recently by Mr. Matthew Woll, vice-president of the A.F.L. Speaking in a radio program, during which President Green of the Federation begged that the Atlantic Charter be compiled with, he urged all the syndicates affiliated with the A.F.L. and their members, to back the campaign in favor of the Free Syndicates Committee. This campaign was initiated by the Workers League for the Rights of Man with the aim of collecting a million dollars to be used in reestablishing the democratic and free workers movements in the liberated countries.

Mr. Woll explained the project of endowing labor movements of these countries with printing machines, publicity writings and illustrative movies, also the paying of rent of localities for syndicates, the salary of office staff and proportionate typewriters and office effects.

He also said that the workers of China are equally in need of assistance. Predicting for China after this war, an industry of the highest pitch, he urged prompt action be taken to avoid exploitation of the workers of that country which

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