

GOOD NEWS FROM MEXICO

By Linn A. E. Gale.

MEXICO CITY.—Governor Celestino Gasca of the Federal District of Mexico, is working on a project for the construction of model workers' houses to be owned by the government and rented to workers' families.

The houses would be in the outskirts of Mexico City and would accomodate several families. Each house would contain sanitary baths and toilets, typical Mexican "patios" or courts in the center of the building with flowers and a patch of green, and clean, well-ventilated rooms. Rent would be placed very low to encourage workers in leaving the dirty, dark adobe dungeons in which so many of them still live.

The project involves the expenditure of about 5,000,000 pesos (\$2,500,000) and on account of the financial difficulties under which the Mexican government always labors—its sources of revenue being low—the scheme will have to be undertaken little by little.

Gasca, who is a former shoemaker and mechanic and makes no denial of the fact that he is a Radical, has recently instituted a "department of press and information" which sends out bulletins three or four times a week to all labor groups, telling them of what the government is doing. Special attention is paid to news of results of strikes. Thus the workers know what strikes are won and what ones are lost.

The capitalist press of Mexico City is exerting all possible pressure with a view to crushing the new Socialist daily, "La Lucha."

Orders have gone forth from "El Universal" and "Excelsior", the two most reactionary papers here that any newsdealer selling "La Lucha" will be refused "El Universal" and "Excelsior." Since these papers have big sales practically no newsdealer can sell "La Lucha."

Members of the Federation of Syndicates of the Federal District and other labor organizations are buying quantities of copies and selling them personally.

It is interesting to note that not only are sales heavy in union and Radical headquarters, but that the majority of clerks in the government departments buy "La Lucha."

Thwarted in his efforts to enforce dry Saturday afternoons and Sundays in the Federal District, Governor Celestino Gasca is figuring out a new scheme which cannot be upset by a court injunction.

Gasca's latest project will, if succesful, put the saloons out of business not only a day and a half a week, but seven days a week, leaving liquor only on sale in liquor stores and restaurants. Gasca says he intends to keep at it until the bars have been shut up entirely and workers schools and "People's Houses" substituted all over the Federal District.