

had received land. From 1935 through 1938, 813,000. It has been estimated that by the end of 1938, 41 per cent of the arable land had been turned over to ejidos. And the process has been continuing since.

To sustain these moves Cardenas has set up a new institution, The National Bank of Ejido Credit, with branches in the chief agricultural regions.

There is a new Agrarian Department, a large part of whose duties consists in care and advice for ejidos. The members of this department flow from the newly established agricultural schools.

The Irrigation Commission is in process of revitalization and has borne fruit already in the great Laguna cotton growing region where the Palmito Dam has been constructed.

Furthermore, since 1935 the majority of new ejidos have been set up in collective form and on a bookkeeping basis. Moreover they have been set up in precisely those regions where collective agriculture can be most effective, namely, the regions of the great commercial crops—cotton, rice, hemp and wheat. A beginning has also been made in sugar cane and bananas. By the end of 1939 about one-third of all ejidos were in collective form, and they controlled the majority of Mexico's chief cash and export crops.

Though, as before stated, these gains are due chiefly to the revival of the labor movement and its effect upon the whole federal administration, yet Cardenas has steadfastly refused to allow himself to become a pawn in the hands of the Marxist labor leaders. He is, above all, a patriot, a Mexican and true to his Indian heritage.

Here is the man of the centuries, defender of the oppressed, champion of champions. And while he fights the privileged groups of his homeland and struggles against governmental pressure from abroad, he must whirl to stamp out the treachery inspired by greed of gain in his own ranks. He has the brave heart and the sturdy will that seeks economic freedom for the masses. *But he does not know the way.*

A presidential election has recently been held in Mexico. The results, not yet announced, will decide whether the liberal policies of Cardenas will be followed, or whether the forces of oppression will once more gain the upper hand. But even if the man of Cardenas' choice is elected, the hopeless economic maze constructed by the liberal government is not the solution.

Would that a copy of "Progress and Poverty" were put in the hands of Mexico's leaders!

THE New Order in Europe:—Two-thirds of the Netherlands' poultry, and one-half of Denmark's cattle are being slaughtered—"because of a feed shortage"—and the carcasses are being exported to Germany.

A Glance at Brazil

BRAZIL today presents a complex aspect. It is a large country, larger than the United States, and its 4 million people are made up of native Indians, African Negroes and Europeans (mostly Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German and Polish). Out of this strange mixture, a more or less homogeneous race has evolved. The Brazilian economy is predominantly agricultural, but the country is seeking to industrialize itself and is trying to build up trade relations with the rest of the world. It is still a new and undeveloped land (comparable to the United States in its early days), and yet it finds itself in the midst of the complicated and advanced economy of the rest of the civilized world.

The Brazilian economy today is as distressed as any other. Trade is depressed, and there is industrial stagnation. As with other countries in similar circumstances, the government is assuming more and more importance. Labor legislation, workmen's compensation, public works, relief, and all other legislative symptoms of a country with unsolved economic problems, are in full force. As a corollary, Brazil is leaning strongly toward nationalism. For instance, all insurance companies must become nationalized, that is Brazilian owned.

However, some favorable progress is being made in legislation. Brazil formerly had a very reactionary government concerned mainly with the welfare of the great landed interests. The present government, while by no means doing all that can be desired, is at least open-minded to progressive reforms. One of the latest proposals is that titles to land be clarified and legalized, and only title to cultivated land be recognized. The purpose is to discourage holding land out of use.

Brazil is rich in natural resources. It has the largest iron ore and alluvial gold deposits in the world, and is the greatest producer of coffee, wild rubber, and matte. The trade possibilities are great—if trade were free—but present war conditions have greatly upset Brazilian exports and imports. Exports to Europe have declined, and it is extremely doubtful whether the United States can make up the difference despite good intentions.

Japan and Germany both are important rivals of the United States in trade with Brazil. Despite Pan-American agreements, Brazil—as is natural—wants the best customer. She does not want to lean too strongly in one direction, at the sacrifice of other markets. Any cooperation we seek to make with her must be based upon performance.

In the July issue of *Brazil* (published by the American Brazilian Association), William Mazzocco writes: "I believe that the time is opportune for everybody concerned in the promotion of business between North and South America to do all possible to remove any obstacles that prevent the building of a reciprocal, lasting, substantial volume of business, between Brazil and North America."