

# POLITICS

## Leave it to the Americans.

By I. A m t e r.

The United States Government has invented a new term in diplomacy: the "unofficial observer." This unofficial observer binds nobody, merely expresses opinions and good wishes. Nobody is compromised if nothing is attained — and above all, the people at home, the good American people, do not believe that America is getting mixed up in "European entanglements". The American people has expressly stated that it will have nothing to do with European affairs, having enough of its own to take care of. So the "unofficial observer" goes to all international conferences, does the bidding of his masters in Wall Street, and everything is correct, as it should be, in international diplomacy.

The election campaign is on in the United States, and the Manchester Guardian reports that it has "developed neither incident nor interest". In fact, the Guardian declares that in many ways "there has never been a more apathetic campaign". The only topic of interest to the three parties — the Republican, Democratic and La Follette's party — is the Ku Klux Klan, which is practically the "only issue". The Berliner Tageblatt on September 18, reported something more of interest than even the Ku Klux Klan. Coolidge has suddenly discovered that "economy" is the watchword of the hour. He had been accused of effecting a curtailment in the budget only at the expense of minor items and of the workers. Now Coolidge intends to make a further cut, this time at the expense of the navy. He is being attacked by Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, but declares with all insistence that he will not relent. Fifty million dollars are to

come off the naval budget, if Coolidge has his way and is supported by the "people" at the coming election. This will tickle the "little man", who does not want the government to spend so much money; and it will cut into the support that La Follette might get from the pacifists and all "peace-loving" people. Coolidge is assailed as the agent of Wall Street, which is openly waging imperialist campaigns, which must result in imperialist wars. Coolidge, the agent of Wall Street, is now trying to prove the contrary. Fifty millions from the marine budget at one strike — when the world is peppered with wars; when the Dawes reparation plan threatens new complications; when China and Morocco are ablaze; when revolution menaces in Bulgaria; when Mussolini is falling; de Rivera about to be succeeded; Ireland flaring up; strikes in every country. Yes, Coolidge, the peace-loving agent of Wall Street, will have peace at any price — even at the price of fifty millions.

But let us examine this a little closer. In 1922, at the Disarmament Conference in Washington, the ratio of 5:5:3 was fixed for battleships. Both England and America knew that if one country began the race for the erection of battleships, it would be answered by the other. Hence there was a restriction in the building of this type of man-killer. This was accomplished with no chagrin, but with loud hurrahs as the dawning of a "new era" of peace. Armaments were limited: this would lead — eventually, but not now — to complete disarmament. The Washington Conference was another of the farces and lies that the international imperialists foist on the workers, diverting them away from the main issue. Of course, the building of battleships was limited. It paid the governments to arrange the conference for that purpose, for battleships were obsolete, as the last war demonstrated and the experiments with aeroplanes and aerial bombs showed quite conclusively. At any rate the Republican administration of the United States had a feather in its cap: it had brought about and carried to a successful conclusion the farcical "disarmament" conference.

Did this mean further plans for disarmament in America? Not at all. During the World War and immediately after, plans were drafted for the conscription of 17,000,000 men for the front and for the factory in "case of a new war." The full plans were evolved and approved — openly. Plans were made for the militarization of the railroads — the arteries of a new war. Everything was done openly, for as America had proven that she was a "peaceful" nation, these plans were only in case of a "defensive war."

On September 12, there took place "Mobilization Day", or as Coolidge in protest against the assertions of the pacifists and women's leagues, called it, "Defense Day." On this day, 400,000 regular soldiers, militia and reserve officers paraded before the admiring populace. The civil population was called upon by Coolidge to participate in the celebration, attesting their support of the government in its "love of peace". Pershing, the "fire-eater" and outspoken enemy of the working class, was the chief of the day. Pershing has been touring the country demanding preparedness, and a doing away with all vacillating policies. America must not be caught napping — she must be prepared to meet the strongest foe or group of foes. This propaganda was the appropriate sequel to the Washington conference. Neither partial nor complete disarmament was contemplated nor intended — only a change in the manner of armament.

Coolidge stated this quite frankly on September 17. In the past few years, far-reaching experiments have been made in aerial navigation. The successful trip of the American air pilots round the world; the experiments in air bombing; but especially the discovery of deadly explosives and gases, have given a new turn to warfare. Of what use are unwieldy battleships, that can be destroyed by a bomb from an aeroplane? Hence Coolidge preaches "economy". Learn to spend your money on something worth while, young man. America has decided to plunge into the construction of an air fleet superior to that of any other nation. The trip of the aeroplane across the country from New York to San Francisco in 21 hours (attaining an average speed of about 180 km an hour) proves that aeroplanes stationed anywhere in the country can be mobilised for service at any point within 24 hours. This means, for use on the eastern or western coast. The trip round the world demonstrated that American aeroplanes can easily be despatched to the Far East for service in a few days' time. This means conquest of the air and of time — and also of such enticing colonies as China, etc.

This explains in part the attachment of Edward Baker, formerly in the American oriental department and consul-general in Mukden, to the staff of Tshang Tso Lin who is now battling in China. According to reports, Lin's troops are excellently equipped with all modern war machinery, in the procurement of which Baker has acted as worthy "advisor". A big fleet of aeroplanes — and perhaps of Zeppelin dirigibles, which are now to be tried out — will put American in the foremost place in the race for armaments — and for WAR!

All this talk of economy and peace on the part of America is sheerest humbug. No nation is pushing war as is America. America has the economic means; the country did not suffer from the last war; the workers learned very little; an economic crisis is at hand and must be averted in some manner or other. Rebellion is raising up its head in Chile, Honduras. Europe is aflame. The Near and the Far East are in unrest. Coolidge preaches economy — to blind the voters — but Wall Street demands armaments and preparedness — to push its plans of imperialist conquest. The next president of the United States, no matter if his name be Coolidge, Davis, La Follette or Bryan, will be forced by Wall Street — through the press, patriotic leagues, manufacturers' associations, schools etc. — to adopt the "more economic" programme of a mighty air fleet — to be followed by a mighty, devastating imperialist war.

What are the imperialist plans of the American bourgeoisie? Its foremost plan is the encircling of Soviet Russia. The trickery being played in China is not only for "rights" in China by the imperialists, especially America, but to get a point of vantage against Soviet Russia in the East. The Chinese Railway, regarding which Soviet Russia has come to an arrangement with China, is disputed by America and Japan. The attempted rebellion in Georgia, which was instigated by the imperialists and was speedily put down by the Soviet Government was to give the imperialists a point in the South. Poland openly manifests animosity against Soviet Russia. The recent granting of part of the port of Danzig to Poland for the erection of a munition depot

is part of the same encircling plan. Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia and Bulgaria are being fomented against Soviet Russia. Bulgaria's recent demand that she be allowed to enlarge her army in order to put down the growing opposition of the revolutionary workers and deceived peasants will unquestionably be acceded to by the League of Nations.

The next move of the imperialists is the forcing of the Dawes plan upon the German workers. German industrialists are participating in this crushing process. German workers are to be made to eat the dust: they have not yet paid in full. When they have been reduced, the process will begin in the imperialist countries, which otherwise will not be able to "compete" with Germany which has a working class "accepting lower wages and willing to work longer hours." These plans, however, cannot be forced through without some bloodshed. Whoever is first prepared is prepared best.

This is Coolidge's "glorious economy". It is practical, just as the "unofficial observers" are. Leave it to the Americans. That is the way to do business and make war today!

## The Imperialist Powers and China.

By Nguyen-ai-Quac.

### The Colonisation of China.

Since 1895, China has raised 16 loans amounting to about 902 million Francs, 61½ million Pounds Sterling, 64,368,000 Dollars, 115 Million Yen, and 1,763,000 Dutch Gulden.

The customs, the revenues from the markets, the income from the railways and post-office, the profits from industry, the taxes on alcohol, tobacco, salt etc. have all been pledged as a guarantee for the loans.

An examination of the map of this ancient country reveals the fact that all commercial ports, all the strategical points and centres of production are in the hands of foreign powers.

In spite of its weakness, in spite of its inner dismemberment, this vast territory of 11,138,000 km<sup>2</sup> is too large a morsel to be devoured by colonial imperialism at one gulp. And it is impossible to bring about in one day the brutal subjection of 489,500,000 Chinese under the yoke of colonial slavery. China is therefore being devoured piece-meal, which is a cleverer if even a slower method.

The other reason why the conversion of China into an international colony must be accomplished by stages, is the rivalry of the bandits among themselves on account of their antagonistic interests.

France, who already possesses Indo-China, is ready at any moment to reach out her claws after South China. The costly construction of the Tonking-Yunnan railway line is a striking proof of this.

But this would hinder the plans of England. England would for the moment be content with the economic colonisation of China, using Hongkong as the chief base of support. She still has the control of nearly all the sources of production in her hands. She has no object in "guarding" such a vast tract of territory, which would entail an enormous expenditure. Besides this, Great Britain will in no circumstances permit France to become too great a colonial power in Asia. And as the reawakening in India has commenced, and she is beginning to revolt against economic subjection, it is necessary for British commerce to seek a market in China.

Japan with its teeming population would very much like to get hold of a slice of China. But this would be a danger for America, not only from a military but also from a strategical standpoint. The United States would naturally much prefer that the Chinese should become the debtors of America, the consumers of American goods, and, in the event of a Japanese-American conflict, they should also become the allies of the Americans.

### The Meaning of the Present Intervention.

The aim of the imperialists in the present intervention is a two-fold one. In the first place they want to obtain new concessions; then they desire to overthrow Sun-Yat-Sen. We know that the various governments which have succeeded one another in Peking have always followed the same policy: corruption at home, and passivity towards foreign imperialists.