

Chinese Lessons for U. S. and the Philippines

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

FOR us in America there is one paragraph in the remarkable statement given out by General Chang Kai Shek thru the Associated Press immediately after the capture of Nanchang by the Cantonese forces, which has a particular claim on our attention.

"Our attitude toward America," said the Chinese revolutionary commander-in-chief, "is friendly, but we consider America an imperialist because she has not give the Philippines freedom. Any country holding territory outside its natural boundaries has an imperialist nature and must relinquish claims to such territory."

THIS simple statement by a leading Chinese revolutionary nationalist, experienced in the ways of imperialism, strips the mask of democracy from the face of Wall Street's government and exposes it as an instrument of finance-capital, using its police power not only against workers in this country but also against weaker peoples abroad. The fact that the United States is formally a republic does not prevent it from being ruled by a handful of financiers, whose lust for empire is no less imperative than if they were living in what is frankly styled the British empire. General Chang mentions only the Philippines, but the American empire includes also the colonies of Hawaii, Guam and Porto Rico, the protectorates of Cuba, Panama, Haiti and Santo Domingo, and a sphere of influence extending thru most of Central America and far down into South America.

NEVERTHELESS, as is set forth in the resolution on imperialism adopted at the last plenary session of the central executive committee of the Workers (Communist) Party of America, "the steady expansion of American capitalism upon an imperialist basis is accompanied by the enormous extension of the vulnerable surface which it presents to attack.

Nations exploited or threatened with exploitation by American imperialism, are drawn into the politico-economic conflicts of the American sphere. They strike back at the foreign power which seeks to dominate them, and every blow is a blow against the enemies of the American working class. The American class struggle thus becomes much more complex; it is not simply a conflict of opposing social classes but of classes, races, national minorities and subject peoples whose interests are summed up in the general class struggle. American workers must find a way to unite the labor movement in this country with the movements of all opposed groups thruout the American empire.

This requires first of all support for the cause of national independence and self-determination in all Wall Street's foreign possessions.

WHAT a powerful factor the movements of the oppressed peoples can become is dramatically pictured in the case of China. And now General Chang Kai Shek, whose business it is to fight imperialists, who cannot afford to mistake an imperialist when he sees one, points out the truth concerning American democracy, American labor cannot help but recognize the voice of a friend and an ally.

General Chang's Associated Press statement contains a lesson for the subject peoples of the American empire no less than for the American labor movement. In this connection it is worth repeating the paragraph quoted from him in my article of last week:

"This revolution purposes the downfall of imperialism, not as it is confined to China alone, but our opposition to it must spread to other countries under the imperialist yoke."

IN speaking of American imperialism General Chang makes special mention of the Philippine Islands. General Chang is a practical man. The Philippines lie only 620 miles from Canton—certainly not too far away to make every advance of the anti-imperialist forces in China of profound importance to the people of the U. S. island colony.

The Filipino people want their independence. Every session of the Philippine legislature adopts a resolution calling for the immediate, complete and absolute independence from American rule.

How is this independence to be achieved? It is in the consideration of this vital point that the Filipinos will have to learn from the Chinese revolutionary.

While recognizing the maturity, experience and wide scope of the Philippine independence movement at the present time, one cannot fail to note its very serious deficiencies. It is essentially a petty-bourgeois movement growing naturally out of a petty-bourgeois environment. It moves exclusively within the realm of legality; it is immersed in the conception of legality, and therefore really accepts the legal framework of imperialism.

FILIPINO leaders predicate their activities upon the assumption that the United States will grant Philippine independence at some time or other. Consequently, the independence movement, for all its noisiness and all its potential power in the national consciousness of the Filipino people, has a certain unreality about it. Sometimes it speaks the language of opportunism, sometimes of futile pacifism. It is like a parliamentary machine built for permanent operation under existing conditions. Most of its time is taken up with justifying itself to Amer-

ican imperialism.

The entire movement leans upon the reed of the Jones law of 1916, promising eventual independence to the Philippine Islands. Yet the reed is already broken. President Coolidge, in his last message to congress, that no important section of the American ruling class contemplates the total abandonment of the archipelago. On the contrary, he demands more power for the governor-general at the expense of the Philippine legislature.

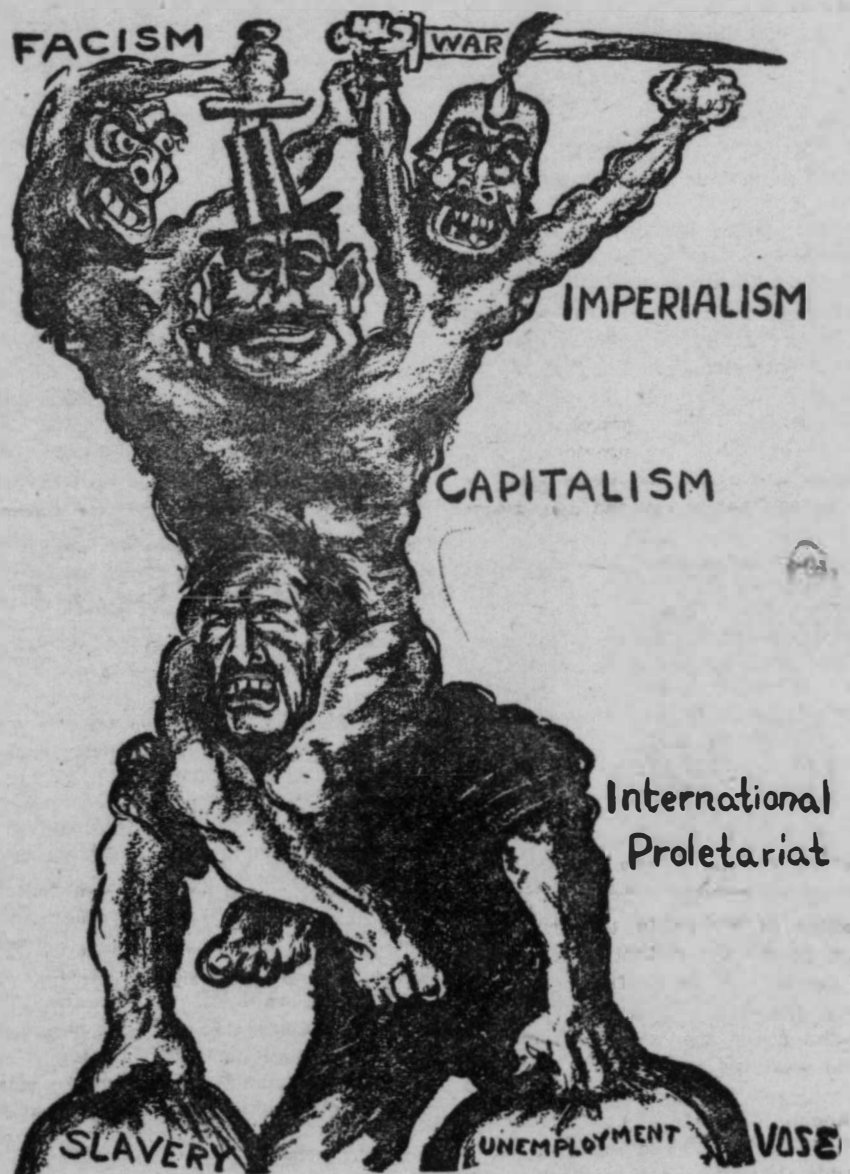
SIGNS are not wanting that the Filipino people are beginning to see that the United States will never willingly grant them independence. To anyone who has followed the development of the American empire in the present period it must be apparent that Wall Street and Washington are not giving away anything at this time. Territorial possessions are being added to, not diminished. American imperialism is on the upward, not the downward grade.

Inspiration for the Filipino cause must be sought in the revolutionary struggle, rather than in the phrases of politicians at Washington. General Chang Kai Shek's statement is the most important thing that has happened on the positive side of Filipino liberation in many years. Because of the epoch-making events in China of which General Chang is a protagonist, because of the nearness of the Philippines to the mainland, because of the present crisis

in the Filipino movement, it is to be expected that the statement will have considerable influence in the islands. The Chinese revolution itself has had a great influence upon the masses of the people there. THE Cantonese generalissimo's direct reference to the Philippine Islands will make them feel less lonely. It will tend to give them a new orientation, in which China and other oppressed nations figure as basic points of support. His general remarks regarding the nature of the Chinese struggle against imperialism, should impress at least the most advanced elements with the necessity of militant struggle. His conception of world upheaval should make some of them visualize the Filipino struggle in the perspective of international politics.

Out of such a conception would come a policy quite distinct from that now being followed by the Filipino movement. It would require greater daring and more courageous thinking, it might involve greater difficulties, it might still be surrounded by uncertainty. But it would at least have the advantage of standing upon its own feet. It would not start out by placing itself in the impossible position of depending upon the bounty of imperialism.

(In Comrade Gomez's next article, to be entitled "The Road to Filipino Independence," he will take up the question of a program for the independence movement).



Proletarian Odes.

By C. A. MOSELEY.

II.

This Gets Our Goat!

You flop house dwellers ought know,
That some poor critters have a show
Of lying down to snooze in ease,
Without cold drafts, bed bugs, or fleas,
Who do not, in a summer's dark,
Stretch out their frames in old Grant Park,
But, when the good god Morpheus calls,
Repose themselves between four walls,
With ceiling lights above the head,
And snowy linen on the bed,
And bath tub near, in which a bloke
Can take a good old week-end soak.

This interesting fact I reap
From out an undigested heap
Of items, pictures, and news-stories,
About the scintillating glories
And the undying, glorious fame
Attached to Army-Navy game,
Wherein invading foes do yield
Before a ball kicked around the field.

This is the 'news—just get it right—
The Navy's goat slept well the night
Of which the game was aftermath,
In a hotel—with private bath.

The Curious Christians

By COVAMI.

For "Jesus sake" they shoot you dead,
They fill you full of steel and lead;
They wreck your body, crush your soul,
Then pray to God to "make you whole."

They stand for war—with fervent breath,
They bless the instruments of death;
They flap the flag, they shout for blood,
Then weep beside the crimson flood.

They strike the light from woman's eyes,
Then "charitably" hush her cries;
They slay her husband, take her child,
Then tract her on "love undefiled."

They say, "'Tis not by bread alone
That mankind cometh to its own";
Then strive to bind the spirit's wings,
The upward sweep of changing things.

They preach "good will" and "peace" and "love"
The "golden rule," all else above;
They teach the brotherhood of man as true,
Then turn their wardogs loose on you.

Ah, verily, they say and say,
And preach and preach, and pray and pray;
Yet still the harvest comes as sown,
Still by its fruit the tree is known.

—Covington Hall Mena, Ark.