

TANCA-ARICA JUST DIPLOMATIC; BOSSSED BY MANY GENERALS

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Less than a week ago the Chicago Tribune printed an editorial entitled "Not General Lassiter!" The editorial assured Tribune readers that if anyone should be appointed to take General Pershing's place as head of the Tanca-Arica plebiscitary commission, it would not be General Lassiter, whose "whole character, training and method make him decidedly unsuitable for a post requiring the utmost diplomacy and tact." The next day President Coolidge announced the appointment of Pershing's successor. It was General Lassiter. Lassiter sailed immediately for Panama on the cruise-ship Cleveland; he is due to arrive at Arica Jan. 19.

Lassiter, the man who ordered the occupation of the city of Panama by U. S. troops a few months ago, is a typical colonial military governor. It is precisely those characteristics that the somewhat careless editorial writer of the Tribune cited against him that resulted in his selection for the Tanca-Arica post by President Coolidge. No, he is not a diplomat. General Pershing was not a diplomat either. It is not a diplomat that is wanted in the Tanca-Arica area.

From the very beginning the United

States government has shown by its actions that it is not "trying to secure a fair plebiscite as between Chile and Peru in the disputed provinces. The method and purpose of the U. S. government is to establish a tradition of American imperialist authority on the Pacific coast of South America—just as this was established in Central America and the islands of the Caribbean. General Pershing arrived at Arica accompanied by a military force; and American cruiser has been at anchor in Arica harbor throughout the past five months. One ruse after another has been used by American imperialism to delay the plebiscite. Whether Chile or Peru wins in the vote—if it is ever held—American imperialism aims to be the controlling factor in the situation.

When Pershing was chosen as president Coolidge's representative on the Tanca-Arica commission, there was considerable comment in Latin America as to why a military man should have been selected for what Chile and Peru naively believed to be a diplomatic assignment. The appointment of Lassiter to succeed Pershing signifies that this represents a settled policy on the part of the United States government. It is an insult to both Chile and Peru. And it is a threat to all South America.