

American Imperialists Preparing for Big Struggles

By JAY LOVESTONE.

The breath of imperialist battles and wars is in the air. While Germany is crumbling, England face to face with industrial stagnation, and France groaning under staggering taxation, the war poison of an intensely aggressive imperialism is seeping into the very tissues of our own capitalist economic body. Everywhere preparations are afoot which will give America the undisputed position of being the bell-wether of the world imperialist flock.

Yankee Imperialists Extend Sway.
J. P. Morgan has been away to Europe for quite sometime and nothing has been heard from him publicly. But in the Street there is loud talk of big things coming. Morgan is a doer.

Cuno, Stresemann's predecessor, was closeted with Coolidge and Hughes the other day on "important matters." Next morning the press carried optimistic stories about floating a huge German loan here. Kuhn, Loeb & Company were mentioned as the probable leading agents.

In Austria, American capitalists have done more than their share to turn the country into a cooley colony. J. P. Morgan & Company have bitten off a mighty substantial slice of the international loan chaining Austria as a galley slave to the imperialist oars.

And now our capitalists are landing heavily on Italian resources, making gigantic investments in Italy, rallying to Mussolini in economic despair, and displacing the French, German and Swiss exploiters. The other day there was announced the organization of the Italian Power Company—a hundred percent American corporation organized to finance light and power enterprises in Italy. Among the directors of this new American imperialist outpost are J. E. Aldred

of Aldred & Company, bankers, Chairman of the Consolidated Gas, Electric Light & Power Company of Baltimore and the Pennsylvania Water & Power Company; A. C. Bedford, Chairman of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; A. W. Burdard, President of the International General Electric Company; A. V. Davis, President of the Aluminum Company of America; F. P. Royce, Vice-President of Stone & Webster, Inc.; A. A. Tilney, President of the Bankers' Trust Company of New York; Philip Stockton, president of the Old Colony Trust Company of Boston; and D. G. Wing, president of the First National Bank of Boston. That this corporation is only the entering wedge of heavy American interests in Italy and the Balkans is plainly seen from the fact that the Italian Power Company is neither a holding nor an operating corporation, but "will confine its activities to providing a vehicle for the practical investment of American capital abroad under the supervision of a specialized group of American business men."

Of course since Secretary of the Treasury Mellon's Aluminum Trust is represented here and President Coolidge's Boston bankers are on the board of directors, we can safely assume that this new venture has got the undivided support of the Government behind it.

Getting Into Africa, and the Far East.

American capitalists are interested even in the wildest thickets of the jungles of African investments. In the present Tancrén controversy involving about half a dozen European countries, the United States, that is the Stone & Webster Electric and Power interests, are represented by Father Denning who is supposed to be bringing the light of Christianity and the power of the Savior to the backward tribesmen.

In China our imperialists are on their guard. At the conference of the Associated American Chamber of Commerce of China and Manila just closed at Shanghai our capitalists passed a resolution demanding that Washington immediately strengthen the American marine, naval and military patrol in China to the fullest requirements. It is said that this was "the most important meeting an American commercial organization in the Far East has ever held."

At the same time the Department of Commerce has sent out four groups of experts to serve as scouts for the American Rubber interests seeking new rubber lands. These experts to serve as scouts for the American Rubber possibilities in the Philippines, the Caribbean regions, along the Amazon in South America, and in the middle east including the Dutch East Indies. Our industrialists are bent on ending the present conditions under which they are losing hundreds of millions of dollars in profits, since the United States does not grow any rubber tho it is the greatest rubber consumer in the world.

Trouble Ahead For American Imperialism.

But things are not moving so smoothly for the American interests. The best proof of the "disturbed sensitiveness" now prevailing in some of our spheres of influence and investment areas was brought to light recently by Secretary of State Hughes in a speech before the American Bar Association. When so important a public officer speaking before so important a public body chooses colonialism as the theme of his address it is the best proof that colonial affairs have come to the forefront as a paramount issue in our political arena. Hughes minced no words as to America's role in the colonies and backward countries.

Since the Secretary of War Weeks has sent his telegram upholding General Wood in the Philippines the situation in the islands has become more acute than ever. The Filipino legislature is still on strike against General Wood.

In Cuba our imperialists are in the throes of a state of suspended animation, because of President Zava's signing the Tarafa Bill hitting the American sugar and shipping interests.

And Mexico, despite Obregon's surrender to Wall street, is very slow to respond to American recognition. The country is confronted with a gravely unsettled political situation and with a worse business and financial depression than at any time since Obregon took office.

Preparing for Show Down.

Our employing class is preparing for a show down on all fronts in its struggle for imperialist supremacy.

First of all the joint congressional reorganization committee is planning to submit to Congress a program aiming at a complete reorganization of the government machinery. The outstanding features of this plan are an increase in the centralization of power particularly in the hands of the executive division of the government. The obvious purpose of such proposals as giving the president an official assistant and consolidating the army and navy into one department of National Defense is to enable the government to function more swiftly and surely in case the working masses at home will display any restiveness over our new imperialist aggrandizement.

Besides the General Staff of the War Department has prepared tentative plans to mobilize over four hundred thousand officers and men at their home stations some time after the 1924 election. Army men are banking much on this maneuver

which is the first of a series to be put over under the National Defense Act. This mobilization will be the first grand show of military force in the country since the armistice.

Planning Colonial Secretary as New Cabinet Member.

From reliable sources in Washington, I have received a report which discloses the plan of our big industrial and financial magnates to end the present "chaos" characterizing the administration of our colonial affairs. The capitalists and bankers are sick and tired of having the authority over our insular possessions and customs collections in Central and South America divided in the hands of the War Department, Navy and Interior; Haiti, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and the customs receivership of San Domingo and the supervision of the civil government of the Canal Zone are in the hands of the War Department; while the Virgin Islands and Guam are run by the Navy Department.

The people closest to the Stock Exchange and the White House have worked out a plan whereby the entire administration of insular affairs and protection of all American interests abroad will be centralized in the hands of one administrative head bearing the title of Colonial Secretary and holding memberships in the cabinet.

This move is an outright notice to the American workers and farmers that our big business interests are ready for a flyer in imperialism. In other words the American workers are face to face with the situation which will inevitably, sooner rather than later, lead this country into a new war. Hard hit as England, France, and Japan may be at present no one seriously expects them to allow America to ride roughshod over their own imperialist plans.