

SUGAR TRUST BEHIND CAL VS. FILIPINOS

Secretary of War Weeks Is Also Involved Here

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(Special to The Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, April 9.—

When President Coolidge took the special pains to issue a lengthy message against the independence movement of the Filipino people, many wondered what was the driving force behind the Chief Executive's imperialist elbow.

An examination of the present conflict in the Philippines against the encroachments of the American capitalists tells the whole story.

Grabbing the Sugar.

The writer has obtained from unimpeachable sources the following facts which are typical of the policy of aggrandizement and exploitation pursued by the Washington government against the Filipino nation and the other subject colonial peoples.

No sooner had General Leonard Wood been sent to the Philippines than the American business interests launched preparations to take away the natural resources of the Islands from the natives. Mr. Atkins is one of the big sugar plantation owners in Cuba. Mr. Atkins also is the son-in-law of Secretary of War Weeks who is one of the bitterest enemies of Filipino freedom. When General Wood made his first attempt to drive the Philippine government out of business and hand over the sugar centrals to private American capitalist interests, this same Mr. Atkins used his intimate connections with the cabinet, particularly with Secretary of War Weeks, his father-in-law, under whom General Leonard Wood is working in the Philippines, to get in first on the spot, on the ground floor as it were, to grab up all the Filipino sugar centrals for himself.

The "Principal" Is Involved.

It was only the persistent determined opposition of the Filipino legislators and the native directors of these sugar centrals that thwarted General Wood's plan which would have thrown these sugar centrals into the hands of the family of Secretary of War Weeks. Mr. Atkins has repeatedly expressed great interest in getting hold of the sugar centrals of the Philippines, because, in his opinion, sugar can be produced much cheaper in the Philippines than anywhere else.

As it is the "sugar" agents of the son-in-law of the Secretary of War Weeks have been held up-to-date. Their prospecting has done little good and netted Mr. Atkins very slim results so far.

This case is characteristic of the policy of the government towards the weaker nationalities. Here we have President Coolidge, Secretary of War Weeks, and Governor General Leonard Wood tied up in a conspiracy to rob the Filipino people of their natural resources. It is the huge interests of Secretary of War Weeks and his crowd of Boston bankers that are making Coolidge so bitterly opposed to the Philippine independence movement.

Investigation Not Wasted.

But Congress is not showing any signs of life in bringing to the fore the resolutions demanding an investigation of General Leonard Wood's scandalous administration of the Philippines. In well-informed circles it is maintained that such an investigation would bring forth revelations far more shocking than the Teapot Dome disclosures.