

American Dollar Diplomacy in Action

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ARTICLE IV.

Growth of Militarism.

The rule of dollar democracy by our financiers and industrialists at home has been translated into a regime dollar diplomacy abroad and in our vast colonial possessions. American democracy now truly rests upon a monarchy of gold and an aristocracy of finance.

In order to maintain control of our growing imperialist empire and sphere of influence and in order to serve American investors abroad the American government has been steadily developing and strengthening its military and naval machine. We have invested over \$4,000,000,000 in our navy. The aim of the American navalists is to secure a navy second to none. The 1923 report of the Secretary of the Navy Denby demands a further increase in the American fighting ships, gunboats, submarines, and fast cruisers are specially recommended. From December 31, 1912 to December 31, 1922, the value of the American Navy has increased from \$602,352,000 to \$1,445,992,000 or an increase of 259.4 per cent.

The extent to which the United States has been militarized is clearly portrayed by the report of the Secretary of War for 1923 in the following: "During the past ten years, while the cost of national defense has been doubled, the regular army has increased its actual total strength from 92,035 to 132,834, the national guard from 120,802 to 160,598, the organized reserves from 0 to 78,338, and the total of the army of the United States from 212,000 to 371,770. This increase alone, considered in relations to the decrease in value of the dollar and the change in character of the army, (including addition of such elements as motor transportation, tanks, aviation, and chemical warfare service) would apparently justify a doubling of the

total defense cost. In the same period, moreover, the number of citizens under training not as members of the army of the United States, has increased as follows: In the citizens military training camps from 0 to 31,000 and the reserve officers training corps (which corresponds to the unorganized military schools of the pre-war period) from 31,028 to 101,129. The total of individuals under training has thus increased from 243,865 to 504,010. From April 15, 1910 to January 1, 1920, the persons in military and naval service stations abroad rose from 55,608 to 117,238."

The national Defense Act of June 4, 1920, provides for one huge army consisting of the regular army, the national guard, and the organized reserve including the officer reserve corps. The country has been divided into nine territorial areas to carry this scheme into effect. This policy strives for a mark in militarism never before attempted. It proposes to organize an army of two million in time of peace, the creation of a distinct and permanent military propagandist caste thruout this country. The duty of this caste is to stimulate militarism. Under this policy the Regular Army is to be used to garrison overseas possessions, the Coast Defenses, and instruct the National Guard and organized Reserves. The organized reserves "will be available for emergencies within the United States or elsewhere."

The Department of Commerce thru its Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its Foreign Trade staff abroad, and the Department of State thru its diplomatic and consular staff abroad vie with the departments of War and Navy in rendering services to our imperialist exploiters. Congress has acted to help American capitalists find new sources of raw material needed by them in their manufacture and especially those sources of products now controlled by foreign interests. Thus we find the Secretary

of Commerce say in his last 1923 report: "There are a number of necessary raw materials for the supply of which we are predominantly dependent on imports from foreign countries. Possibly as a result of the war, but more particularly during the past 18 months, there has been a growing tendency for producers of these commodities to combine in control of prices as against the American market. This is particularly the case in nitrates, tanning extracts, quinine, rubber, sisal, tin, cork, mercury, tungsten, and various minor minerals." Under authority of Congress, the Secretary's report says, an exhaustive examination of such combinations was undertaken by the department before the close of the fiscal year to determine first, the character and extent of the combinations themselves; second whether alternative sources of these raw materials could be stimulated and there natural competition induced; third, what relief could be obtained by stimulation of synthetic or substitute materials within our own borders; and fourth, what protective or retaliatory legislation could be undertaken?

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. This 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.

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 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 membership 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 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.

(To Be Continued Saturday.)