

THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE MISSION

By JAY LOVESTONE.

A new mission on which are represented some of the ablest and most fearless Filipino leaders, like Quezon and Osmena, has arrived in Washington to plead for the freedom of the Philippine Islands from the clutches of the Wall Street Washington government.

We are not particularly anxious to be harsh with these spokesmen for a cause which we indorse wholeheartedly and for which we have been fighting side by side with the Filipino laboring and farming masses. Yet there are a few little items to which we desire to draw the attention of the new Freedom mission. As friends of the brave Filipino people in general, and the poor tenant farmers and exploited workers of the Islands in particular, we feel we are fully justified in advising, and that our remarks will be welcomed by the newly-arrived representatives of the Philippines.

First of all, if the mission has come to Washington to seek freedom for their nation, they are bound to be disappointed. Today Washington is the last place on earth where national or working class freedom of any sort can be found. On the threshold of the steps leading to the rear of the White House is to be placed the blame for the most outrageous crimes that have been committed by the capitalist Military Governor General Leonard Wood in the archipelago.

Secondly, if the new mission expects to learn new lessons in the art of self-government for the masses, it is doomed to the severest disappointment. Washington is a nest of all the employing class agents that have been robbing the workers and farmers of the United States of the most elementary civil rights guaranteed them even by the Constitution. Washing-

ton is the capital of Teapot government. The Dohenys, Sinclairs, Falls and McLeans are the real rulers in Washington. More than that, Washington has been the headquarters from which operations were launched to destroy the first republic in the Orient, the Philippine Republic, and the Republic of Santo Domingo. Here the plot was hatched and the plans were laid for the destruction of more republics than in any other capital in the world today. For today Washington is the real headquarters of international capitalist imperialist reaction.

Finally, we feel sure that Washington is not the place where the Filipinos will find their genuine friends congregated. We are with the mission one hundred per cent in its demand on the Coolidge-Wall Street owned government for complete national freedom. But we fervently hope that these ardent champions of national Filipino freedom will not fool themselves into the untenable notion that Washington will ever give any oppressed nationality or class anything without a hard battle for it. We workers and farmers have had a good deal to do with our capitalist dictators, and we know their iron hand even when it is hidden in the silk gloves of sweet promises.

If the Filipino mission, if Quezon and Osmena, want to find their real friends, let them go to the working and farming classes of this country, who are oppressed and exploited by the same coterie of financiers and industrial magnates as the Filipinos are. Towards this end we are ready to do everything in our power to unite the working and farming masses of the Philippines in one big fight against their one big and powerful enemy—the American imperialist capitalist ruling class.