

Lodge As Peacemaker

By JAY LOVESTONE.

SENATOR LODGE'S proposal for another world peace conference and for the entry of the United States into an international world court, separate and distinct from the League of Nations, comes so late in the session of congress that one wonders as to the cause of the eleventh-hour peace bow of the chairman of the foreign relations committee.

Coming on the heels of the "peace" resolution of Senator Pepper, and with only about three legislative weeks before congress, this move of the Massachusetts senator is simply a political maneuver of the Old Guard. All talk that it will embarrass the Coolidge administration is unfounded. Coolidge and Lodge have had their heads close together too long to permit a situation developing whereby the reactionary senate leader would take any steps inimical to the G. O. P.—the party of graft, oil and pelf.

The Lodge resolution is simply a straw showing which way the wind will blow in the Republican camp on the question of capitalist foreign policy, especially European policy. It

has been thrown out merely to test the reaction of the mass of voters to be fooled in the coming campaign. Essentially the Lodge resolution offers nothing new in the way of fraudulent capitalist peace proposals. The reversion to The Hague system of impotent conferences, the plan to have a machinery of "justice" apart from the mechanism of the practically defunct League of Nations, and the proposal to avoid domestic questions have all been put forward at some time or other in the same or slightly different form.

There is one phase of the Lodge measure which is of tangible significance at this time, in view of the official support tendered to the Dawes plan by Wall street and its government. The plan to have the international judges chosen regardless of their nationality from "among persons of high moral character," is worthy of the most serious consideration. It shows that the American capitalists feel that with the strategic hold they will have in Europe under the Dawes plan, they can safely entrust more of their European affairs

to such a court. This removes the old objection to the League of Nations' court plan on the score of insufficient American representation by superficially avoiding the issue, but in reality enabling the Yankee imperialists to dictate the personnel of the new court. The American capitalist government would be glad to put its faith in an international court where men of "high moral character," hailing from such satrapies of Yankee finance as Colombia, Peru, Chile, the Argentine, and Brazil are "adequately" represented. Thru this Lodge method the honor and faces of the British and French imperialist ruling classes would be saved and the unchallenged supremacy of the American dollar would be secured.

In short, the Lodge peace proposal, the measure just introduced by the Massachusetts senator, who has for years been vitally interested in munitions works, is simply another step in the direction of American capitalism evolving the effective plan they have long sought for establishing their world hegemony hidden behind the mask of a world "peace" organization.