

United States War on Mexico looms up.

By John Pepper (New York).

Greedy American imperialism is preparing a new crusade: It wants to conquer Mexico.

The United States Government first sold arms to the Obregon Government and now it has sent warships to Tampico.

The Coolidge administration declared at first that it was selling weapons to Obregon because that is the "constitutional" government in Mexico, and because the United States is interested in the maintenance of order and peace in Mexico.

The Coolidge Government now declares that it must send warships to break the blockade established by the government of Adolfo De la Huerta at Vera Cruz, "to prevent interference with legitimate American commerce".

The U. S. A. workers and farmers must be aroused. The greatest menace is facing us. The United States, the youngest, greediest and mightiest imperialist country of the world, now aims openly at conquering Mexico, after it has undermined it economically. But the conquest of Mexico not only constitutes the greatest danger for the workers and farmers of Mexico, but is also the greatest menace to the workers and farmers of the United States. The costs of the great world war were paid in blood, money and sweat by the workers and farmers of the United States. The workers still pay through the increased cost of living. The farmers still pay through the frightful bankruptcy of millions and millions of tillers of the soil. A new war against Mexico would mean the sharpening of the world crisis, it would mean the increase of the army and navy, the growth of centralized government and ever new burdens upon the working population.

This is the most cunning and most unscrupulous game played by American imperialism. United States imperialism first forced the Obregon Government to its knees. The Obregon Government was recognized by the United States, but only after Obregon recognized all the prerogatives and privileges of American capitalists in Mexico, and after Obregon, the representative of young Mexican capitalism, had not only betrayed the interests of Mexican native capital, but had begun to oppress the workers and disarm the peasants who had supported him until then.

The United States government recognized the Obregon Government after Obregon had capitulated; but the Obregon Government is still too radical for the United States, and American imperialism, at the same moment that it recognized Obregon was stirring up a counter-revolution in Mexico against him. Behind the Adolfo De la Huerta counter-revolution, stand not only the big landowners who had to give up a part of their land

to the armed peons, not only dissatisfied army officers and the reactionary Catholic church, but also the powerful American oil interests.

Wall Street recognizes Obregon, and Coolidge sells him weapons, while on the other hand the De la Huerta counter-revolution is financed by Wall Street, and simultaneously with that Coolidge sends warships to break the sea blockade established by the De la Huerta government.

It seems nothing but a mass of contradictions. It appears to be mere madness. But there is a frightful and bloody method and logic in this madness. This method and logic is the logic and method of imperialism.

The seemingly contradictory acts of the United States are explained by the plans of Wall Street and the White House to conquer Mexico. The United States supports Obregon and supports Huerta, in order thereby to render any government impossible in Mexico. American capitalists want to invade Mexico. The Chicago Daily Tribune has given away the plans of the imperialists. The Chicago Daily Tribune, which represents that tendency of American imperialism which does not want to have anything to do with Europe but wants to conquer Latin America, declares:

"We have guarded and backed the right man, but if he is friendly and wants to develop a peaceful Mexico it is highly moral to give him arms and ammunition. If that method will not succeed, the United States eventually will be driven to more direct intervention, as it has been driven in Haiti and elsewhere.

In that case the wise thing for America to do would be to enlist and direct the Rurales, well paid Mexicans, to keep the country in order, just as the Filipino constabulary does in the islands. That naturally would cause an uproar, but it would be justified. It may be avoided by supporting a Mexican administration in the way our government is now doing."

It will be the task of the Workers Party of America to arouse the workers and farmers of the whole country, to expose the plans of American imperialism, to fight against the new war. The workers and farmers must see that one step will follow the other. First came the sale of arms. The second step was the sending of warships. The third step will be the landing of troops. The fourth step will be the complete mobilization of army and navy. And then it will end with the new conscription of the manpower of the nation.

And there is a possibility that the Mexican War will not remain isolated. Already there is a conflict between American and British oil interests in Mexico. Today, the United States sends war ships to protect "legitimate American commerce". Tomorrow, Great Britain will send warships to protect "legitimate British commerce".

In the imperialist period of capitalism, there is always the possibility and even the probability that no local war remains isolated and localized. In 1914 the insignificant local conflict between Austro-Hungary and Serbia led to the explosion of the world war. Who can guarantee that the local conflict between the United States and Mexico in 1924 cannot bring on a new world conflagration? We must realize that war danger and war is not an accident in the period of imperialism, but that it follows with iron inevitability from the very nature and inner structure of this period of imperialism. What is being done today by the United States Government in Mexico was already explained theoretically on November 8, 1923 in the speech of Hoover, Secretary of commerce, before the American Marine Congress:

"It seems worth repeating at times that our international trade is one of the very foundations of our standards of living; that our whole fabric of living and comfort are dependent upon the import of commodities which we do not and cannot ourselves produce — tin, rubber, coffee, sugar, and a score of others; further, in the main, the amount of these commodities we can import will depend upon the volume we export. Moreover we need a constant expansion of our export markets to give stability to our internal production by a wider range of customers."
