

THE COMMUNIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

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SUBSCRIPTION:

\$2.00 per year
\$1.00 six months

Single Copies 5 cents
Bundle Rates on Application

Published Weekly By THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
1221 BLUE ISLAND AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILL.
A. J. MCGREGOR, Bus. Manager

KNIGHTS OR ROBBERS?

It is a clearly established fact that Britain went into the war for purposes of noble character. Never has Britain been guided by narrow nationalistic interests. On November 10, 1914, the House of Commons, Lloyd George called to witness God Himself, in that Britain entering the war was guided by no ulterior motives. "I swear by the name of God that Britain does not desire a single yard of foreign territory. We participate in this war for consideration of noble motives—we defend the weak." The tears of unfortunate Belgium forced the British lion to dive into the whirlpool of war. In his parliamentary speech of February 27th, 1915, the same Lloyd George with indignation branded as slanderous inventions of the enemy rumors to the effect that Britain was striving to seize foreign lands. He said that Britain played only one part; that of the merciful Samaritan.

War has ended. Let us see what became of the promises of British imperialism. According to the Versailles "peace" (abolishing any possibility of a permanent peace), the following territories went over to Britain: German East Africa possessions—384,180 square miles; 7,665,000 population. (Before the war there were in German East Africa ninety British citizens;) German possessions in southwestern Africa—322,000 square miles; 190,000 population; Samoa Island—1000 square miles; 36,136 population; Nauara Island, Bismark Archipelago, German part of New Guinea, Solomon Islands. Poor God of British imperialism in the name of whom the earthly semi-god Lloyd George gave his vow! During the war Britain has completely put her paw on Egypt. The seizure of Egyptian territory, in the language of diplomacy, is called a protectorate. The Allies, including the American government, approved the act of British protectorate over Egypt. We must give here some details as to how Britain pocketed the thirty million population of Egypt. The advance guards of British imperialism appeared in Egypt towards the end of the eighties. Britain solemnly declared to the world that she came save Egypt from Turkish atrocities. She, Britain, had in view only the welfare of Egypt. She never dreamed of a British protectorate over Egypt, much less the conquest of the country. The late Gladstone (prominent English statesman) used to say that Britain staked her honor for the freedom of Egypt. These assurances of Gladstone were repeated from year to year by Lord Salisbury, Chamberlain and Campbell-Bannerman. And, in spite of all this, Egypt has been annexed. It has become a British colony. This is how the "word of honor" of the British imperialists has been kept. The attitude of the Egyptian people toward their foreign oppressors was manifested very clearly this spring, in the form of several armed uprisings. All honest elements in Egypt revolted against the British tyranny. And the mailed fist of Britain still reigns in Egypt.

Such are the British conquests on the African continent. If this is not highway robbery in broad daylight, what is it? To crown all this, Britain now has an eye on the former German colonies, Cameroon and Togo. She will have to come to an understanding on this question with Mr. Clemenceau's France. We are sure that she will get a fat slice of it. From this dry list of plundered riches, the reader will make a corresponding conclusion; knights or robbers?—ex.

MEXICO NEXT?

It seems that the Yankee capitalists are getting ready to satisfy their appetite for the natural resources of Mexico. The yellow press is clamoring for intervention for the ostensible purpose of "protecting American lives and property."

That is the avowed purpose, but beneath it is one that is far more compelling. The respect for lives shown by the American government has not been so great as to lead us to take seriously this hue and cry about the sacredness of human life. If the government were to show a little more concern in protecting the lives of the workers here at home we might fall for the bluff and bluster about safeguarding the lives of American citizens. Just a few days ago five workers were murdered at Argo, a suburb of Chicago, and we have noticed no haste on the part of the government to punish those guilty or to remedy the conditions which made this outrage possible. Human life, as such, is not sacred in the eyes of the ruling class in this country. There is one thing, however, that is sacred in the estimation of our dear masters: **private property.**

For years surplus American capital has been employed to exploit the natural resources of Mexico. That country has been a fertile field for the investment of wealth wrung from the sweat and toil of the American workers. Revolutions have been financed by Wall Street that they might be in a position to secure rich concessions south of the Rio Grande.

Quite naturally, the Mexicans have learned to hate the Americans because of their sinister activities. Concessions made to American capitalists have carried with them the right to exploit the workers in the most ruthless and brutal fashion. The natives, coming into contact with the great corporations only through the persons of overseers and managers of properties, have taken their vengeance upon them. From the samples they have seen the Mexican have come to hate all Americans for their brutality.

Things have come to such a pass that the American and British concessions in Mexico cannot longer be profitably exploited. America must intervene if the investments are to "pay." If "our" government does not, England will, and that would mean the abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine.—America for American imperialism. The imperialistic element in this country is anxious to seize Mexico, and if the people can be worked up into the proper psychological condition it will be done. Yankee imperialism needs room for expansion and what would be better than to seize a country so rich in natural resources and so conveniently located as Mexico? True, it would be in conflict with the principles of democracy and the rights of small nations—but leave that part of it to the school-master at Washington. With a few glittering phrases he can easily explain that away.

THE LEFT BANK OF THE RHINE.

The number of the Free Nations was augmented by the addition of the Rhinish Republic. Another people has been liberated from the yoke of Prussianism.

All will remember the conflict engendered at the Peace Conference by the determination of France to annex the Rhine provinces. Not satisfied with the return of Alsace-Lorraine and the acquisition of the Saar valley, the French delegation was determined that the whole of the German territory on the left bank of the Rhine should be joined to France.

The population of the Rhinish province is mostly Catholic. The French imperialists utilized the age-long hatred between the Catholics and Protestants, who comprise the majority of the German population, in order to set the conservative Catholics against the Fatherland. A separatist movement was organized, the object being separation from Germany and the establishment of an "independent republic."

Certain local capitalists would benefit by this arrangement. The transfer of the Saar valley to France deprived the Rhinish manufacturers of the much needed coal and other raw materials. A desire to save their skins at any cost was engendered in the German capitalists by the harsh terms imposed upon Germany by the Allies.

Concessions and privileges were to be granted the province if the separatist movement succeeded. France went so far as to promise freedom from the high tariffs which were placed upon German goods, if the Rhinish Republic were created. It is clear, then, why Rhinish capitalists were such enthusiastic Separatists.

These bribes and inducements, however, might not have