

The Communist

Official Paper of the Communist Party of America

Vol. 1, No. 7

CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1919.

Five Cents

Forward to Mexico!

"An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be weak or strong. Unless this principle be made its foundation, no part of the structure of international justice can stand. The people of the United States could act upon no other principle; and to the vindication of this principle they are willing to devote their lives, their honor, and everything they possess."—From Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points.

"We shall fight for the privilege of men everywhere to choose their own method of life and obedience."—Wilson's war message.

"Self-determination is not a mere phrase. It is an imperative principle of action, which statesmen will henceforth ignore at their peril."—Woodrow Wilson, Feb. 18, 1918.

"The settlement of every question, whether of territory, or sovereignty, of economic arrangement, or of political relationship, upon the basis of free acceptance of that settlement by the people immediately concerned, and not upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery."—Woodrow Wilson, July 14, 1918.

A visitor from Mars who could read the ideological and high sounding phrases of the spokesmen of the United States government would conclude that the one reason for the existence of this government is to establish self-determination of all peoples of the earth. Should the visitor then pick up a capitalist paper and peruse its headlines he would be startled by frenzied shrieking for invasion of Mexico, obviously against the will of the Mexican people and their government. Meanwhile Mr. Wilson, the spokesman for the government, says nothing and permits his cabinet members to do his talking for him.

For several years war clouds have been lowering along the Mexican border. The financial interests of the country, centered at Wall Street, have had designs upon Mexico because of the marvelous supply of minerals and oil within the confines of that country. The intrigues indulged in by American imperialists went to the extent of deliberately hiring Pancho Villa and his gang of cutthroats to make raids across the American border in order to provoke a declaration of war against Mexico. Everything was being carefully prepared in the spring of 1916 for annexation of Mexico, when the larger interests of international capitalism detracted the attention of the government to the European situation. In order to conceal the sordid motives of American imperialism which plunged the country into the European whirlpool, it was necessary for Professor Wilson, the expert phrase-monger, to furnish the idealistic cloak of words. This he did to

perfection. His talk about freedom, democracy, self-determination, liberty and justice was used to browbeat the manhood of America into the ranks of a conscript army, without ever asking their consent. It was also used by ignorant and vicious federal prosecuting attorneys to inflame the minds of juries and secure convictions, carrying with them long terms in American federal prisons, the vilest on earth, for mildly criticizing the war policy of American imperialism. After depriving the people who live in this country of all the so-called "inalienable rights" such as "free speech, free press and free assemblage," while the European war was on, the same ruling clique desires to perpetuate its censorship, because it has other imperialistic conquests in store.

No sooner had the armistice been signed with Germany than the propaganda for intervention and control of Mexico was renewed. The renewal of the propaganda was accompanied by an immediate rise of Mexican securities on the New York stock exchange. The large financiers invested millions of dollars in order to take advantage of the Mexican "opportunities." The capitalistic press of the entire nation, artificially stimulated by the Wall Street plunderbund, is demanding that the government pacify Mexico and protect the lives of American citizens within the borders of that nation. These citizens who have fallen victims in the Mexican disorders were fully aware of the danger involved while attempting to live in a country kept in the throes of civil war by the capitalists of the United States. They were not there representing the United States government, but their own interests; most of them were land owners and there for the purpose of exploiting the Mexican peons. After treating these miserable, half-starved slaves with the utmost brutality, one of them would attack and kill an American owner, then the reptile Morganized press would again deliriously howl for an invasion of Mexico.

The last move on the part of the American imperialists for conquest of Mexico was the case of the two aviators who are alleged to have been captured by Mexican bandits and held for ransom. After a few days a sum of money was paid to someone and the aviators released unharmed. The incident should have closed, and would have closed, had it not been for the financial interests at stake in Mexico.

The Mexican situation has also assumed complications with the British imperialists, who hold billions of dollars worth of Mexican property rich in oils and minerals, if we are to believe the capitalist press. The truth of the matter

is that the British holdings are no more in danger than they ever were before, but the British imperialists realize the fact that American soldiers are to be sent to Mexico in the interest of Wall Street and so they want to have a hand in the annexation of Mexico in order to prevent the United States capitalists encroaching upon their possessions.

The American press has been complaining that America "gets nothing" out of the European peace settlement. While as yet, America has only succeeded in protecting the loans of American capitalists to the Allies in Europe, we seem to be about to grab Mexico as the American share of the world plunder.

No intelligent person can doubt for a moment but that Mexico is doomed to fall under the sceptre of Wall Street and that the lives of the young men of the country will be sacrificed to achieve that end.

We wonder what phrases Mr. Wilson will coin in order to cloak this act of international brigandage. Perhaps he will tell us that the invasion of Mexico is really a move to liberate the people of Mexico, who "subconsciously desire" to be under the domination of the capitalist class of this country and that it is the duty of this nation to arouse that desire to full consciousness. Perhaps that is the method of reasoning he uses toward Porto Ricans, Philipinos, Santo Domingans, Nicaraguans, Virgin Islanders and Haiteins.

Sentimentalists and petty bourgeois will protest against the annexation of Mexico as an international crime, but the revolutionist must keep in mind the fact that history has decreed the doom of small nations under capitalist imperialism, because imperialism must constantly extend, constantly encroach upon new and undeveloped territory. Since 1898, the date of the entrance of this government into the war with Spain, the foreign and domestic policy of the American government has been imperialistic. Every year saw the constant extension of this imperialism, until today it is one of the foremost imperialistic nations of the earth.

American soldiers are now in Mexico without a declaration of war for the purpose of provoking retaliation on the part of the Mexican people as an excuse to completely subdue that nation to Wall Street and London capitalists. The only people in this country who will profit by a war against Mexico will be the ruling class. But those who do the fighting will be the working class. When the reports of the casualties arrive from Mexico we will never read of the delicate carcass of John D. Rockefeller Jr., dangling upon a barb wire entanglement be-

(Continued on Page 8)