

## THE COMMUNIST

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### War with Mexico?

THE drive for an invasion and conquest of Mexico, in behalf of American and English finance-capital, now proceeds at a feverish pace. In fact, the pace is too fast to be kept up. The Junkin incident is altogether too flimsy to serve as the pretext for the war, but it is sufficient for an intensification of the war propaganda, a propaganda which becomes more and more insistent, which uses its paltry materials to the utmost. A complication in the further development of this incident, or some new allegation of affront to American national honor—and there will be realized the Hearst dream of a three-years adventure of an army of 500,000, with the finish of a Mexico annexed to the United States, to be civilized by a protected exploitation of Mexican resources and Mexican labor by American and English capital.

The feature item of the propaganda is the loss of eight American lives in Mexico during the past six months, though there is no showing of responsibility for these deaths on the part of the Mexican government or of official condonement. Certainly Mexican law and order during the past six months could not have been so frightful a thing as the law and order which has prevailed in the United States, with its constant lynchings, raids, massacres, and daily toll of banditries and murders. Quite a few nationalities might make a reckoning of eight lives and more lost in the United States during the past six months because this government is incapable of maintaining order.

How convenient it would be to precipitate another war at this time as the solution of the vexatious domestic problems! Think of the "patriotic" shield for the instant military suppression of all "unrest", backed up by a new series of war laws to jail or deport all who do not shout in tune with this "patriotism", yet refuse to keep their silence!

The precedents established by the German war would be a starting point for the amplification of the strong-arm policy. Threat of conscription and use of conscription would take care of the aggressive youngsters in the labor movement. The universal compulsory military training project would come in under easily acceptable auspices, without fear of political retaliation by a middle class expressing in time of peace its aversion to militarism. Radicalism would be ruthlessly hounded under the Espionage Law and its elaborations. Liberalism, now crawling out of its cowardly hole to lead the middle classes in protest against the more extreme policies of finance-capital, would quickly return to acquiescent silence or even active promotion of the militaristic expansion of the investment field. The howling about high cost of living and profiteering would be put to rest for a while, and there would be more wallowing in the trough of the public treasury. Governments by administrative chiefs and boards would make further inroads upon the too-

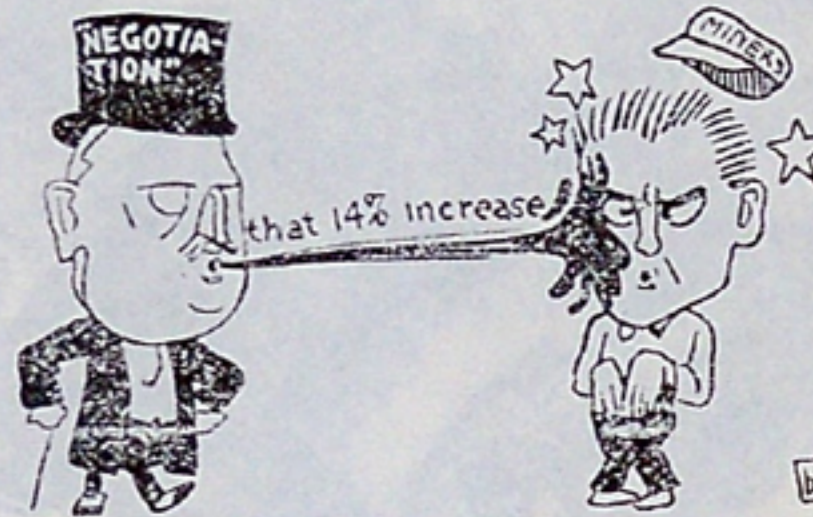
slow, too cumbersome and too conspicuous methods of Congressional action (and even these are not so open but that there are dozens of ways of putting things over without anyone knowing how it happened and who did it).

The work of American militarization in the interests of foreign investment begun in 1917 would be nicely rounded out by a prolonged intervention in Mexico; and in the meantime the direct investment gains for American capital would be enormous. It is an inviting prospect, indeed, from the viewpoint of finance-statesmanship.

### Fourteen Points

FOURTEEN points—this time fourteen percentages points aimed at the heart of the miners' strike. This is the new edition of Wilsonian camouflage covering 100% service to the finance oligarchy.

The operators themselves offered 20%; the highly conservative Secretary of Labor proposed 31%. Now it is 14%—insisted upon by the Department of Justice and the Department of War, with Garfield as the Wilsonian mouthpiece.



The trump card of the Administration-operator combine is that the price of coal is not to be raised. This is counted upon to warrant anything done by the government against the strike. It is the public that is being protected—as usual.

Senator ~~McAdoo~~ <sup>McAdoo</sup>, with shocking disregard of the etiquette which should govern gentlemen on such occasions, has seen fit to give sharp reminder of what he learned about the profits of the coal operators while he was Secretary of the Treasury. The figures were public records all the while, and there is much more, ever so much more of this nature concerning which McAdoo has heretofore retained his gentlemanly poise. But it is now open season for presidential aspirations; the operators will understand.

Garfield suddenly emerges as the masterful exponent of the strong arm—as suddenly as Professor Wilson and little Mr. Baker underwent the metamorphosis into mighty warriors some month ago. These men of liberal words! Garfield easily sweeps aside the item which had been given unfortunate publicity for several days, that it would take about three times fourteen percent just to equalize the miners' wages with the advance in cost of living.

It is the public that is to be saved. This happy idea of not allowing the coal to go any higher—why was this not heralded forth just a bit sooner, let us say just before the last 100% or perhaps 200% jump in return on capital invested in the mines? Strange that the beneficent regard for the public should coincide exactly with the moment when the miners make their unambitious demand for a living wage! But, of course, the public will be highly elated that it is remembered now—even on the government's own showing that it means to compel a cut in what was already the miserable "American standard of living" among some three million men, women and children whose living depends on mine wages.

This fourteen-point assault against the

miners—and against the whole working class of America—is to be carried into the mines with bristling bayonets. With the steel workers the military intervention was not even given a fourteen-point camouflage. The steel union is not considered so strong. Besides, who cares about "the American standard of living" of hunkies?"

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The Great Fourteener is doing remarkable service in tearing away the veils of bourgeois democracy. The fourteen peace points in contrast with the brigand performance at Versailles have effectually disposed of the democratic buncombe going with the world war. The fourteen percentage points veil ever so transparently the government onslaught against the coal strike. This new fourteen-point camouflage ought to bring quick and sure enlightenment to the working class of the United States about the "neutrality" of the government in the labor-capital life and death struggle.

The question now is as to the intelligence and courage of the workers of the United States. There are methods of working-class action equal to the occasion. There is the possibility of organization more powerful than all the forces, direct and indirect, of capital. But that organization must take account of the entire mass of the workers; it must lose its craft and caste lines of separation; it must hew to the line of the class struggle, and it must take on the aggressiveness of a program for complete social control by the working class.

The issue is rapidly becoming clear-drawn between industrial absolutism and Communism—between imperial capitalism enforcing a standard of slave subsistence and a working class array which opposes itself to the entire institutionalized power of capital. The issue is a more abject slavery versus revolution.

On the capitalist side it is the liberals who call for a stop who appeal frantically for a postponement, a side-tracking of the irrepressible conflict. On the labor side it is the archaic Trade Unionists and the Socialists who beg delay, pointing to past gains and insisting upon the stupor and weakness of the general mass of the workers. They refuse to admit the virtual emptiness of their claims to gains; they refuse to accede to the clear record of paltry concessions as the price of eternal servility. They refuse to see that imperial capitalism is now determined against the least enforced concessions through unionism or parliamentarism, because it is evident that the time has come for the "showdown".

Imperial capitalism senses that it is no time for compromise. It goes the inevitable way of military mastership; it demands the martial regime in industry, it demands a government with a powerful trip-hammer executive and entirely acquiescent legislative accompaniment—and it is getting just exactly what it wants in the United States.

On the labor side it is the Communists who meet this challenge. It is the Communists who realize that the everyday struggle of labor against capital must take on the organization power and the conscious purpose of the proletarian revolution. There must be a new mobilization of labor, meeting the challenge of unified capitalism operating through the servile government. Labor must pit its overwhelming mass power against the whole social architecture of capitalism. It must clear the ground for the new social structure of Communism, to be given an assured start under the protection of Dictatorship of the Proletariat.