

POLITICS

The Offensive of American Imperialism in Asia and Africa.

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Imperialist America, who was working behind the scenes at the Conference of Locarno, succeeded in realising her programme in Western Europe. In its chase after new markets, American imperialism is now developing a feverishly active policy in the East, it is making convulsive efforts to extend its "sphere of influence" on the Asiatic and African continents.

In China. American capitalism is supporting the Chili group with Wu Pei Fu at its head and is egging him on to definite acts of war.

America appears in China under the banner of the policy of the "open door" and professes, in words, to be a "friend" of the Chinese people, but in reality is carrying on an independent imperialist policy of oppression which aims at ousting America's competitors from the Chinese market and taking possession of the natural wealth of China. At the **Peking Conference on Customs**, America is also pursuing a line of her own which deviates sharply from the interests of Japan and the other competing imperialist Powers.

In Persia. The American General Administrator of Persian finances whose sphere of activity is Teheran, has, since autumn 1922, actually directed the finances of Persia. But that is not enough. American imperialism is at present attempting to extend its field of activity. Only recently, the Persian Parliament, on American initiative, passed a law which allows the Government to appoint twelve more American specialists for 3—5 years. One will be nominated director of agricultural policy, another is to be expert at the head of the railway department, and the rest will concern themselves with directing the affairs of the country. Agriculture, railways, finances, foreign trade, tariff policy, in one word, the whole economic life of Persia is threatened with the fate of falling into the clutches of American imperialism.

In Syria. American imperialism has for a long time been interested in this country. As early as in 1919, at the time of the Versailles peace negotiations, an American commission went to Syria to study its economic resources on the spot. The war of the French troops against the Druses, the insurrection in **Damascus, Homs, Hama** and other places in Syria have attracted America's attention. Two American torpedo boats were recently sent from **Gibraltar to Beirut**, the chief port and centre of administration of Syria.

Morocco. The deposits of ore in the territory occupied by the Riffis, attract the capitalists of all imperialist countries. The French and Spanish capitalists who ruled in this territory even before the imperialist war, carried on a desperate fight against the German firm of **Mannesmann & Co.** which was trying to gain an economic hold throughout Morocco. After the war,

German imperialism, which had lost all its own colonies and its possessions in the colonies of other imperialist countries, disappeared from the scene. In the place of the German capitalists, there are now active in Morocco: numerous French firms, the English firm of Gardener, the Dutch firm of Müller, which possesses more than 7000 hectares of land in the Spanish zone, and finally Italian capitalists. In quite recent times however, American imperialism has appeared in the Moroccan arena. The American capitalist Otto Kahn, who in April of this year carried out personal explorations in Morocco, is at present working at the creation of an American syndicate which, by agreement with Abd el Krim, is to exploit a territory which stretches for 80 versts along the coast, east and west of Alhucemas Bay, and reaches to the borders of the French zone.

The Otto Kahn & Co. will work the zinc, iron and antimony deposits in this district, is preparing to construct railways and roads, is planning to undertake extensive irrigation-works and to equip some water power works. American capitalists are investing a capital of 200 million gold francs in these undertakings.

Liberia, nominally the independent negro republic on the West coast of Africa, has long attracted the attention of American imperialism, which is at present engaged in consolidating its rule there.

The fact is that the gigantic American rubber trust, Garvey-Firestone, has succeeded in obtaining a very advantageous concession for rubber plantations in Liberia. The Firestone Co. which is closely connected with Ford, the motor car manufacturer, acquired one million acres of land for rubber plantations and assigned 100 million dollars for the equipment of the plantations. A plantation of 1000 acres which belonged to the English and was in full working order, has already been bought by Firestone, and its whole production of raw rubber has passed into the hands of American imperialism. This is not all however. According to the plan of American capitalists, 300,000 workers (mostly negroes) will be continuously engaged for five to six years in building harbours, railways and a whole number of towns, in a district which, to-day, is impenetrable jungle.

This undertaking on so large a scale will cause a complete revolution in the international rubber industry. Whereas to-day America holds 3% of the world production of rubber, and 97% is in the hands of English (partly Dutch) imperialism, America will, when the plantations in Liberia are equipped, produce 250,000 tons of rubber annually, which represents more than 50% of the present world production. This will put an end to the present Anglo-Dutch monopoly. It is interesting to note that Liberia was only chosen for this purpose when American imperialism arrived at the conclusion that the Philippines, Mexico and Central America are unsuitable in view of the growth of their revolutionary movement.

It goes without saying that, as a result of this American economic penetration, Liberia will become a colony of American imperialism without any rights of its own.

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Thus, American imperialism, which since the war has generally shown a tendency to conquer new colonies, is now receiving a new impulse to increase its activity. The aggressiveness of American imperialism in Africa and Asia will necessarily grow. This circumstance will inevitably lead, and is already leading, to conflicts with other imperialist robbers who have divided up the colonies of the whole world amongst themselves. In the Far East, the efforts at expansion of American imperialism clash with the interests of Japan, in the Near East they encounter in the first place France's interests and finally, in Liberia, those of England.

The increasing bellicosity of American imperialism which intensifies the world conflicts, involves the danger of new wars. For this reason the working masses of the Soviet Union and of the whole world must carefully follow the activities of the imperialists and of their fights among themselves. In this connection it should not be forgotten that the conflict of interests between the imperialist Powers is a powerful ally of the Soviet Union. Looked at from this standpoint the increase of the activity in the colonial policy of American imperialism, which intensifies the contradictions, implies that the creation of an imperialist united front against the Soviet Union and against the national revolutionary movement in the colonies and semi-colonial countries will become more difficult.