

U. S. BAYONETS STILL MENACE PANAMA CITY

Deportations for Talk Against U. S.

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All-American Anti-Imperialist League.

ARTICLE IV.

Newspaper reports that the American troops are leaving Panama are now proven to be false. Likewise the story that the Panama landlords have given in to the striking workmen-tenants. And the regimental band is playing, "We won't come back till its over over there!" Only a portion of the troops are leaving. The rest are staying behind to complete the job of jailing workers, crushing Panaman nationalist (i.e. "anti-imperialist") sentiment and rendering the strikers helpless before the landlords.

Even when the last American soldier packs up his tent and departs, if that time ever does come, it will be "au revoir but not goodbye." In England during the height of the woman suffrage agitation, a peculiar police method was adopted, characterized by what was known as the "cat and mouse law." Under this ingenious law suffrage agitators who became weak from hunger-striking, were let out of jail until they could get a little of their strength back, whereupon they were promptly rearrested and put behind bars again. The government played with the suffragists "as a cat plays with a mouse." It is that way with the United States government and Panama. Whenever the nationalist movement and the anti-imperialist trade unions gather strength, the bayonets of American soldiers are called into play. The troops are always close at hand, massed threateningly just across the border in the Canal Zone.

Finance Capital Dominates.

The hand of American imperialism lays heavy on the so-called republic of Panama at all times. Even in "normal" times, there is an American financial "adviser" to look over Panama's finances in the interest of Wall Street investors, an American customs' "inspector" to take charge of Panaman customs' receipts for debt payment, an American railroad commission to take charge of the railroads and an American police inspector to see that Wall Street's investments are not endangered by strikes or other undue disturbances to "law and order." In addition, there is the

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American diplomatic staff—no mere polite handshakers, in a Latin-American country—forever browbeating and bullying.

Over all Central America and the Caribbean area the "Panama system" prevails in greater or less degree. It is the workers and peasants who suffer directly. While American imperialism rides rough-shod over the native capitalists whenever its interests demand, it tries to attach an entire section of them to its own golden chariot wheels; it does not hesitate to render prompt assistance to these petty bootlickers of imperialism whenever they are confronted with a militant and aroused working class. American workers enjoy little enough freedom of movement, but the underpaid toilers of these semi-colonies have no freedom of movement at all.

Wholesale Deportations.

Some weeks prior to the military descent upon Panama, American imperialism decided that there must be one of the regular periodical clean-ups in the near Latin-American area. The native labor movements were growing restive under the barbarous working conditions, under the leadership of Spanish, South American and other foreign workers who had won the confidence of the natives by their intelligent and resolute championship of labor's interests. This was bad enough, according to Wall Street. Some of the bolder elements, however, went so far as to commit the unpardonable sin.

They denounced American imperialism. Immediately, the American diplomatic bulldozing machine got busy, and every single foreign worker "known to have spoken against the United States" in Cuba, Panama and Central America, was arrested and deported. More than a score of workers were deported from Cuba during the raids. Men who had lived in Cuba for 18 years were torn away from their families and unceremoniously shipped out of the country. Native Cubans fared little better: Instead of being deported they were thrown into jail, one of the first to be imprisoned being Julio Antonio Mella, secretary of the Cuban section of the All-American Anti-Imperialist League.

A similar procedure was followed in the other countries. A labor leader by the name of Wendel was deported first from Costa Rica, and then from Panama. His instructions were to "Get out of Latin-America and stay out." In a number of cases the newspapers stated plainly that the men were being deported for speaking against the United States.

Part of American Empire.

Now it may seem a serious enough violation of the supposed right of free speech to deport workers for speaking against American imperialism in the United States, but the uninitiated worker might be forgiven for believing that no such action could be taken under any circumstances for speaking against imperialism in the so-called independent countries of Latin-America . . . That is, for defending the liberties of those countries! Nothing of the kind! Any such assumption ignores the fact that the Central American and Caribbean countries are part of the American empire. To speak against the United States government in Cuba or Panama is "treason," just as it is "treason" to speak against his majesty King George V. in India. That is the unpardonable sin, for which follows swift and sure reprisal.

The wholesale deportations from nearby Latin-American countries for the crime of denouncing American imperialism, proves conclusively that these countries are mere satrapies of Wall Street. Such complete domination as this reveals is made even more brutally manifest by the military occupation of the City of Panama. It will of course continue, whether or not the American troops remain there or finally go into temporary retirement across the border in the Canal Zone.

American domination will continue in Latin-America as long as the oppressed peoples of those countries can be kept powerless. But the national liberation movement is everywhere taking on impetus. The growth of the sections of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League in Cuba, Mexico and Central America indicates clearly that American imperialism is failing in its endeavor to crush out the liberating impulse in the oppressed peoples. If the working class in the United States lends active support to the Latin-Americans in their struggle against the joint enemy, Wall Street, an irresistible force will be created which all the governmental might of American imperialism will be unable to resist. Such a combination can take the American soldiers out of Panama and keep them out, and at the same time usher in a new day of freedom for the wage-workers of the United States.