

Sinister Anti-American Oil Interests Held Behind U. S. Government's Hostility to Mexico

Drive on Southern Neighbor Seen as Act of Deliberation

Arbitration Would Go Against Oil Companies, Wherefore Mellon, Coolidge and Doheny Will Not Arbitrate, Says Walling---Finds no Case for "Intervention" in Any Form.

By WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING

Author of "American Labor and Democracy" and Co-Author With Samuel Gompers of "Out of Their Own Mouths"

MEXICO CITY (by mail), Feb. 5.—Doheny, Mellon, or his brother and partner acting in his stead, Sinclair, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, some of whose officers are still in Europe to avoid appearance in United States courts alongside of Sinclair and Fall—these are the sinister forces that are behind Sheffield and Kellogg and Coolidge in the drive against Mexico.

The United States Government is exerting every ounce of its power in behalf of the most discredited, dangerous and anti-American of all our brutal and reactionary financial interests. The entire force of the nation, as Senator Borah says, is to be used in behalf of "force and fraud." The most dishonest and dishonorable means are employed by Mr. Kellogg with the full approval of Mr. Coolidge—and with the utmost deliberation, since Kellogg initiated his campaign 20 months ago, almost as soon as he took office, against a weak, unfortunate, struggling and certainly a more or less progressive neighbor.

All means are justified, apparently, in this war on behalf of private capital—even to the most positive and undeniable threats of war, campaigns of falsehood and Mussolini-like appeals from the President to stand by him even without discussion in his brutal aggression against another people at the instigation of these sinister interests.

Foolish Excuses Offered to Nation

Some new and foolish excuse, such as the false and stupid Bolshevik story or the digging up and misuse of the so-called Evarts doctrine, is offered by the White House to the supposedly gullible and submissive American public every day—to the amazement of civilized mankind. None of these excuses is good for more than a few days but the aggression continues though a thin disguise of pacifism and pussy footing is now being used to lull the people to sleep until Congress adjourns on March 4—when there is nothing to prevent our "pacifist" President from dragging America along in the footsteps of the Kaiser and the Czar, both of whom uttered as a cloak for war designs just as many volumes of pacifist platitudes as Silent Cal.

"Our" Interests Not Under Attack

One of the chief formulas the President used to fool the public refers to the duty "to protect American interests." The phrase is 99 per cent falsehood and fallacy. Protection assumes attack. The interests of American capitalists are not being fundamentally attacked anywhere on earth today. American capital is too powerful and its assistance is too much desired in every country. So there is no case whatever for United States Government intervention or "protection" in any form, even the most pacific.

On the other hand policies are followed in every country without exception that work in some degree against certain American as well as other interests. Secretary Hoover has made a great noise about certain practices carried on by Great Britain, Germany, France, Brazil, Chile and nearly every important country. Certainly American interests suffer in China and so do they in nearly every American city and nearly every American State. Can there be any question that the Mellons and the Dohenys would threaten war on Wisconsin and North Dakota if they could get them over the border?

Trusts Not "America" Inside United States

Then we must also ask whether

every American capitalist and every American dollar abroad is to be designated as America if it were attacked? What "American interests" are in question in Mexico? None whatever. The only "American interests" are the interests of the American nation as a whole. Our anti-social trusts and our lawless financiers and invisible government are not recognized as 'America' inside the United States; how do they become officially "American interests" when they get abroad?

American capitalists abroad have no claim whatever on our Government to protect their "interests." They can only demand that we protect their "rights." And what are these rights? They are living under a foreign sovereignty and neither the American Constitution nor any single American law or legal principle holds. They have the rights given them by international treaties and international law—and no other rights. But neither in Mexico nor anywhere else is there even a shadow of a violation either of international law or treaties—and if there should be President Calles has offered to arbitrate.

Oil Dictates Whole Campaign

The whole frightful campaign is dictated by oil—and nothing but oil. There is no dispute about American-owned mines or railways—only oil and land. But the highest estimate of American-owned land is \$200,000,000—and only a minor part of it is vitally affected by the new Mexican laws.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico estimates American oil property at \$500,000,000 and that is merely actual investment. The real value, including deliberately undeveloped properties, may be several times as large.

Much of this oil property is out of the discussion, being based on "concessions" obtained from the Government since 1917. Some of these properties, however, are based partly on titles obtained by the same shameless force and fraud that were used in early oil days in the United States. But far worse methods were employed in Mexico because of the helplessness of the natives and the glaring imperfections of nearly all land titles in that part of the country. These companies may stand to lose something by the new law, not because it is retroactive and interferes with good titles secured before 1917, but because it proposes to investigate all titles whenever secured—though the Government has been very liberal in calling poor titles good in view of the fact that so many oil shares are in the hands of innocent investors.

Titles of Doheny Companies Bad

Here then is the entire question. The only titles that are so bad as to be unacceptable to Mexico are those of the Doheny companies not yet completely sold out to the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, which has the Doheny standpoint in any event.

And right here is why Doheny and Mellon and Coolidge will not arbitrate. Titles that are non-existent or were procured by force and fraud at the expense of the wretched natives are clearly not arbitrable. There is literally "nothing to arbitrate." Arbitration would settle the matter—against Doheny and his Indiana Standard Oil heirs.

Therefore "to protect the American interests" of the great and good and

Biggest Labor Exhibit in History Planned For Chicago's Anniversary Exposition

By International Labor News Service.

CHICAGO, Feb. 00.—The greatest labor exhibit in history and world wide in scope is the ambition of Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer of the International Seamen's Union of America, who is one of the labor members of the commission appointed by Mayor William E. Dever to formulate plans for the international exposition to be held in Chicago in 1933. The exposition is to be held in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the chartering of Chicago as a municipality.

Other labor members of the commission are John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor; John A. English, organizer of Chicago Typographical Union No. 16, and Agnes Nestor, president of the Woman's Trade Union League.

In response to a letter written by Mr. Olander, the Chicago Federation of Labor has voted to give support to the proposition and instructed the

president to appoint a committee to cooperate with the labor members of the commission. Besides the labor exhibit, the local central body would like to see a permanent labor temple and convention hall included in the plans.

Mr. Olander plans to ask the officers of all American national and international unions for suggestions and advice as to the scope and character of the proposed labor exhibit. Following receipt of letters from these sources, the labor members of the commission will formulate a tentative set of plans which will be sent to national and international officers for their approval.

President Green and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will be consulted and asked to come into the situation as soon as something concrete has been worked out.

The Pan-American Federation of Labor also will be called upon to participate. It is believed that a very

credible exhibit can be furnished by the labor organizations of Latin America.

The legitimate labor organizations of Europe and other sections of the world also will be urged to take part. "Inasmuch as this great world exposition will not be held until 1933, it gives us ample time to plan for and display the greatest labor exhibit in history," said Mr. Olander to International Labor News Service.

"Heretofore there has not been sufficient time given to do justice to the exhibits displayed by labor at the various international expositions. All have been good, but they have not been as comprehensive as they might have been had more time been devoted to them.

"We have seven years to do the job in this time, and if we start now we ought to be able to show the peoples of the earth something really worthy of the labor organizations of all countries."

THIS WEEK'S STAR FEATURES

It Makes a Difference Whose Ox Is Gored!

Teamsters' Official Points Out Inconsistency of Business and Professional Criticism of Union Shop

By International Labor News Service.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 00.—Filing of a suit by an Indianapolis youth to compel a State court to admit him to practice of law discloses an interesting parallel between the attitude of bar associations and the attitude of trade unions with regard to membership requirements, in the opinion of Thomas L. Hughes, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America.

"Eminent jurists have seen a dangerous threat against freedom of contract in the desire of trades unions to institute the so-called 'closed shop,'" said Mr. Hughes. "And yet the bar associations of the land insist upon the 'closed shop' in their profession. In this Indiana suit the plaintiff quotes the State constitution which extends the right to practice law to any person of good moral character without restriction. The courts, however, have held that no person shall be admitted to the bar who has not first passed an examination as to his educational qualifications. This examination is given by the Bar Association, which is a voluntary organization and not an arm of the Government.

"I do not question the practical common sense of the rule in this case. The public is entitled to some protection against uneducated and unqualified lawyers. Why, then, can not the legal mind play as fair with trades unionism? Isn't the public entitled to the same sort of protection against untrained and unqualified truck drivers, carpenters, plumbers and railroad men? And are not craftsmen, the same as lawyers, entitled to protection against price-cutting incompetents who would lower craft dignity and living standards?

"In some ways, however, the stern

standards of conduct the world sets for trades unions has proven of advantage to them. Accepted trades union philosophy is the fairest and most unselfish standard of ethics that society knows, partly because public opinion has compelled it to be so. The labor movement is building upon a sound foundation. In many trades, unionism is carrying on educational work of great value to the public. Union leaders are committed to the principle that by elevating craft standards, they will be elevating the lives and fortunes of their members. The charge of anti-social selfishness will scarcely lay against them.

"All important groups in the social system are organized but not all of them display unselfishness in their aims. Beyond a doubt the time will come when inconsistency of lawyers, brokers, bankers and merchants, who criticize trades unionism, will become so apparent that they will be laughed out of court."

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Traducción

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de William English Walling)

Dice Walling que las fuerzas que apoyan a Sheffield, Kellogg y Coolidge, en su campaña contra México, son Doheny, Mellon, Sinclair y la Standard Oil Company of Indiana. Que Mr. Kellogg, con la aprobación de Mr. Coolidge, usa los métodos más reprobables para atacar a un país débil y desafortunado; que en esta lucha que favorece al capitalismo se han empleado toda clase de medios: amenazas de guerras, campañas de difamación, etc.; que con sorpresa del mundo civilizado, se le dan al sumiso pueblo norteamericano platillos consistentes en nuevas y estúpidas excusas, tales como la falsa historia bolchevique, etc., y que aunque estas excusas son buenas por sólo unos cuantos días, continúa la agresión que ahora está disfrazada con un velo de pacifismo que se empleará hasta el 4 de Marzo, en que el Congreso suspenda sus sesiones y cuando el Presidente "pacifista" arrastrará a los Estados Unidos, a la manera del Kaiser y del Czar; que los intereses norteamericanos no son atacados en ninguna parte del mundo actualmente, y que por lo tanto no hay motivo para que el Gobierno estadounidense intervenga o imparta "protección" en ninguna forma; que no existen realmente ningunos "intereses norteamericanos" en México, puesto que los verdaderos "intereses norteamericanos" son los de todo el pueblo estadounidense; que por lo mismo los capitalistas no pueden exigir que se proteja "sus intereses", sino "sus derechos", los cuales se les han otorgado por tratados y según la ley internacional, y que ni en México ni en ninguna otra parte se han violado estos tratados y esta ley; que de todos modos, el Presidente Calles ha ofrecido que se recurra al arbitraje; que toda esta horrorosa campaña está inspirada por el petróleo; que las empresas aceitíferas pueden perder algo por las nuevas leyes mexicanas debido a que se trata de investigar los títulos obtenidos antes de 1917, y que los únicos títulos que son tan malos que México no puede aceptar pertenecen a las compañías

de Doheny; y por esto Doheny, Mellon y Coolidge no quieren el arbitraje; y para "proteger los intereses norteamericanos" del patriota Doheny y de la Standard Oil of Indiana, se le pide al pueblo estadounidense que apoye a Mellon y a Coolidge para aniquilar a México; que el Presidente de la Federación Americana de Trabajo y el resto de la junta directiva han manifestado que todo es cuestión de "ganancias, ganancias y más ganancias."