

The Next War

By Bertram D. Wolfe

5. Anglo-American Conflict

(Concluded from last issue)

Financial "Advisers"

In their efforts to get on the inside track on loans, investments, markets and raw materials, American bankers have officially placed financial "advisers" (dictators) in 25 foreign countries. Aggressive American capital penetrates even into the British dominions (in Canada it holds a superior position to England in matter of investments) and what is more, into British industry, as well. America's penetration of the British electrical industry was the cause of the recent international battle between Sir Hugo Hirst and American financial interests, for control of British General Electric, in which battle American shareholders were deprived of all voting rights. On the other hand there is the Shell Oil Company's penetration of American oil fields and its calculated policy of exhausting American oil reserves as rapidly as possible, while it keeps its reserves in other parts of the world largely untapped.

The Uses of Government

Both governments, their state departments, commerce departments, treasuries, armies and navies, "intelligence" and diplomatic services, are completely at the disposal of the gigantic industrial-financial contestants. Government and big business are even identified to the extent of interchangeable personnel. In America, to mention only a few of the outstanding cases, there is Morrow, (Morgan partner), Dawes, Mellon, Young, Hughes (from Secretary of State to Standard Oil corporation lawyers, and thence to the Supreme Court bench), Hoover, Guggenheim, and the multi-millionaire Davis, Hurley, Lamont, Adams, etc. in the cabinet. It's a far cry from the days of government trust-busting, to the present situation of big-business ownership of government!

On the British side there is Lord Birkenhead, Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for India, on the Board of Directors of the Imperial Chemical Industries; Lord Reading, Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, Lord Chief Justice, Viceroy of India, and director of banks, insurance and utility companies and of Imperial Chemical Industries; Reginald McKenna, first Lord of Admiralty, Chancellor of the Exchequer, now chairman of the great Midland Bank and other important financial corporations, etc. etc.

Fighting For the Sea Lanes

In the battle for supremacy in shipping in which Great Britain continues to have a tremendous lead, both governments subsidize ship-buiding, specify that merchants ships must be so built that they can mount six-inch guns in war time (Jones-White law in U. S.) use what are technically known as "lighting" ships to capture certain trade routes, and bar each other's vessels out wherever possible. The United States even goes so far as to set aside the 18th amendment on ships under its control to compete successfully for passenger trade.

The Nerves of Empire

In the international battle for the control of what Ludwell Denny has aptly called the "nerves of empire", the United States has tried to overcome Britain's virtual cable monopoly by the huge, government-promoted RCA - General Electric - Westinghouse - American Telephone and Telegraph-General Motors-Victor-International Telephone and Telegraph super-merger. Great Britain has countered by its Imperial Wireless and Cable Conference and its Cables and Wireless and Imperial Communications merger. While these two super-merger, power-trust giants are skirmishing for position, Major General Harbord, president of the Radio Corporation of America, and former Chief of Staff of the American Expeditionary Force in the World War, has delivered himself of the following:

"Sitting between the hind legs of the British lion with the tail of that noble beast wrapped around his neck would be a poor perch for the American eagle from which to recover lost leadership in world communications. . . . This new combined British communications interest will effect American relationships in every part of the world. . . . The national defence of the United States must reckon with the planetary domination of communications by the British." (U. S. DAILY, June 25, 1929.)

And the Journal of the Royal Empire Society, "United Empire", for January 1929,

publishes an analogous article by the British radio official Roland Belfort, which concludes:

"Today the British and the Americans are again standing in battle array."

Closely related to the shipping and communications conflicts is the effort of America to strike a blow at the very heart of the British Empire by seeking strategic concessions near the Suez Canal, while Britain manoeuvres for a canal concession in Colombia and oil and gold rights on the Panama border and in Panama (where the United States insists there is neither oil nor gold.)

In the tariff war Britain seeks to use the weapon of imperial preference as an offset to the huge tariff wall of the United States which has been raised still higher by the Hawley-Smoot bill.

The Battle for Oil

As in the case of the huge power giants, there are rival chemical combines; feverish activity to secure a dominant position in aviation, a battle for control of nickel, tin, nitrates, potash—in short, a world-wide struggle for control of every industry and raw material of military or economic importance. Probably the biggest of all is the oil war between these two ruthless giants of finance, Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell. It is a war with a far-flung battle front—a tangled network of schemes and plots, lies and intrigues, fomenting of revolutions and counter-revolutions, buying of governments and treaties, faking claims and documents, maneuvers by diplomats and naval men and secret service agents, interventions by State-Departments and Foreign Offices under the most astounding pretexts, ultimatums, open and veiled, temporary truces promptly and trickily violated, guerrilla wars and even wars between puppet governments, brazen and naked greed, fraud and force, and the most revolting and pious hypocrisy.

The oil war is on wherever there is oil, or potential oil, or a market for its products. Now smoldering, now bursting into still localized flames, the accumulated antagonisms of this titanic world rivalry for oil and other raw materials, for markets and investment spheres, for control of the sea and the land and the air, provide materials so inflammable that today, tomorrow, the day after, they will be the source of a conflagration which will sweep all the lands of the earth.

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In the next number, Comrade Wolfe will write on the other outstanding source of war-danger today: "The War Plot against the Soviet Union." The final articles in the series on "The Next War" will answer the questions "What It Will Be Like?" and "What Can We Do About It?"

BAKERS LOCALS HELP REVOLUTIONARY AGE

By a vote of 68 to 6 Bakers Local No. 1 of the Amalgamated Food Workers, in a spirited meeting decided to help the *Revolutionary Age* in its fight against the attempt of the government to suppress it. The local also voted to donate \$25 to help support the *Revolutionary Age*.

The local union meeting was addressed by Comrade Lovestone. There was much enthusiasm among the workers after Comrade Lovestone made his appeal for a united working class front against capitalist reaction, for a militant struggle against wage cuts, unemployment, and the open shop drive.

The loyalites rallied to their support against the *Revolutionary Age* the most backward elements. The alliance of loyalites, syndicalists, and pure and simple craft unionists succeeded in mustering only a baker's half dozen in their plea against the Communist Party (Majority Group). The overwhelming, enthusiastic support accorded the *Revolutionary Age* was in line with the similar action taken two weeks before by Local 3 of the Amalgamated Food Workers, which was address by Ben Gitlow. Bakers Local 3 voted a donation of \$25 and subscriptions to the amount of \$10. Local No. 164 has also donated \$25.