

IMPERIALISM IN WORD AND ACTION

By Arthur C. Parker

General Butler's "Pacifism"

From the World Tomorrow comes the statement by one of our military protectors, General Smedley D. Butler. He says, "We don't want any more wars but a man is a damn fool to think there won't be any more of them. I am a peace loving Quaker, but when war breaks out every damn man in my family goes. If we're ready, nobody will tackle us. Give us a club and we will face them all.

"None of us would walk out and sock Jack Dempsey on the nose if we did not know how to fight and both hands were crippled. Well, we don't go out to nobody else unless we've got the goods and can produce them. There is no use talking about abolishing war; that's damn foolishness. Take the guns away from men and they will go fight just the same.

"It takes a hell of a lot of abuse to get us riled up but once we get going, look out for us. In the Spanish American War we didn't have any bullets to shoot, and if we had not had a war with a nation that was already licked and looking for an excuse to quit, we would have had hell licked out of us.

"No Pacifist or Communists are going to govern this Country. If they try, there be seven million men like you rise up and strangle them. Pacifists? Hell, I'm a Pacifist, but I always have a club behind my back."

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Generals Die in Bed

General Butler is a typical imperialistic military mind. Stagnated, unprogressive, coarse, pugnacious and lacking in both logic and reason. I don't think the many peace-loving and progressive Quakers I know in Philadelphia and vicinity are at all proud of Mr. Butler or his claims.

Thinking people today know that just such belligerent old men, who wear the medals and ribbons and give orders ten miles from the firing line -- and the comfortable fat munition manufacturers, industrial heads and marine princes -- plan, agitate and foment war and get fat, rich and bald while the sons of the working class leave their arms, legs, heads and souls weltering in the gory slime of some hopeless battle field. Only a homicidal mania causes nations of Christians or pseudo-Christians to stab bayonets into each others' stomachs.

"There's not to reason why, there's but to do and die" -- mostly die.

War, like many other industries, has been made scientific. Doubtless another World War, what with disease germ bombs, aeroplanes poisons, poison gas, and other infernal agents of destruction, would wipe out our civilization. Admitted that there is much in our politico-economic system that should be either changed or wiped out, sensible men don't intend to suffer death or the tortures of the damned to get it done.

If another war is inevitable, it would be a fine thing to put all the war profiteers, secret agents, official and unofficial war propagandists and generals in the front rank shock troops.

Robust lovers of conflict can find some way peacefully to arbitrate international differences.

Industrial kings, diplomats, and generals die in bed!

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Mexico and the Monroe Doctrine

Mexico accepted memberships in the League of Nations and at the same time repudiated the Monroe Doctrine. The Monroe Doctrine was adopted so as to assure to our smaller national neighbors on the North American continent peace and freedom from molestation or exploitation by European Imperialists.

Unfortunately, because of the way our government and private American interests have used the Doctrine as a smoke screen to do some high handed concession grabbing on their own account, our fast awakening Latin-American brothers fear exploitation and American economic domination far more than any foreign power.

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Our Record of Despotism

When one knows something of the truth about how we annexed the Panama Canal under Roosevelt, or the truth about Cuba, Mexico, and now Haiti, the Virgin Islands and the Philipines, there is much in the record for which we should be ashamed.

"Benevolent" despotism is not even a beautiful phrase. It is generally ugly, mean, and oppressive in practice.

The need for the Monroe Doctrine has passed. It has outgrown its usefulness.

The United States of America justly takes a leading role in the affairs of the universe but there are many wrongs to be righted, and many blots to be cleansed from the records of our conduct here at home!

As long as smaller nations are exploited, corrupted and oppressed; American citizens robbed, segregated and lynched because of color or creed, our government and all its forces stands indicted of malfeasance before the bar of international justice, and must have the finger of derision pointed at it by other nations it seeks to advise and lead.

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